

Arkansas National Guard Facts & Talking Points

- 1825 soldiers and airmen currently on State Active Duty.
- More than 10,000 soldiers and airmen in the Arkansas Guard, about 900 deployed for military operations overseas, about 1800 activated for Hurricane Katrina, leaving more than 7,000 personnel available for additional needs.
- Many of these activated personnel have been on extensive deployments since 9/11.
- Our personnel are extremely capable and well trained. Most units recently completed an intense annual training period over the summer.
- Arkansas was one of the first states on the ground with equipment in Mississippi and Louisiana.
- The Arkansas Guard opened several armories as shelters starting Monday, August 29.
- The Arkansas Guard opened 59 armories in 58 counties to register incoming evacuees.
- Arkansas Guardsmen mobilized to support operations in Louisiana and Mississippi include combat engineers, transportation specialists, military police, medics, communications specialists, aviation personnel, air traffic controllers, and general support staff.
- Arkansas Guardsmen rescued more than 750 patients and hospital staff from the VA Medical Center in New Orleans.
- About 300 members of the 39th Brigade have been providing support at the Superdome and the New Orleans Convention Center since Tuesday, August 31.
- Arkansas Guardsmen arrived in affected areas prepared to be completely self sustaining for up to two weeks so as not to depend on other units or the local communities.

Supplies delivered by the Arkansas National Guard:

- Over 5,000 blankets
- Over 1200 Cots
- More than 26,000 MREs

Air National Guard, 189th Airlift Wing:

- 59 tons of supplies delivered
- 80.7 hours flown
- 64 sorties flown
- 424 military PAX flown
- 626 evacuees flown
- 59 patients flown

35th Aviation Brigade, 149th MEDEVAC:

- Two UH-60 MEDEVAC helicopters arrived Tuesday, August 31.
- Rescued more than 75 people including people ranging in age from 3 weeks to 91 years old.
- 70 re-supply sorties flown carrying medical supplies, food, water, etc.
- Our air traffic service personnel are responsible for all rotary wing aircraft at Naval Air Station New Orleans.

Fort Chaffee

- Approximately 9,000K evacuees processed through Fort Chaffee in about three days.
- Over 500 Arkansas National Guard personnel assisted at Fort Chaffee.
- More than 30 non-military official agencies participated (police, fire, first responders, etc.).

- Nearly 20 social services volunteers (Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, etc.).
- More than 1,000 volunteers (general support, medical, etc.)
- 25% of evacuees seen by medical professionals at Fort Chaffee.
- Over 50 medical professionals staffed the clinic at its busiest times.
- 20 semi-loads of donated goods (food, water, clothing, toys, diapers, etc.).
- Beverly Enterprises provided 25 computers for an internet café.
- SBC provide 100 outbound telephone lines with free long distance and internet access for internet café.
- Cingular continues to provide expanding cell coverage and installed a temporary cell tower.