

112<sup>th</sup> Congress National Guard Empowerment Legislation

**Section by Section**

1. Makes the bill's short title, "National Guard Empowerment and State-National Defense Integration Act of 2011".
2. Reestablishes the position of the Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau at the three star level while rescinding the two star position of Director of the Joint Staff of the National Guard Bureau.
3. Adds the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
4. Directs the Administrator of FEMA to continue the Task Force for Emergency Readiness program. Further directs the Administrator of FEMA to coordinate with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau in establishing planning standards and guidelines for states. Further directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to coordinate with state-level planning groups, through the State Adjutant General, to assist in the development and production of state-level plans. Requires an annual report on plans produced by the program.
5. Directs the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to draft and sign a memorandum of understanding on federal-state unity of effort for military forces (Title 10, Title 32, and State Active Duty forces) jointly operating in response to domestic emergencies. Requires the Secretaries to consult with the Council of Governors on the development of the MOU. Requires a report to be submitted to Congress with the completed MOU.
6. Requires a report to be completed by the Department of Defense on the costs of National Guard and Reserve units compared to Active Component units of similar type and occupational specialty when activated and when in reserve duty. Requires the report to include an analysis of the benefits and risks of increasing the share of the Total Force comprised by Guard and Reserve force structure. Requires the GAO to produce an independent and concurrent report on the same matters.
7. Requires the Department of Defense to separately delineate equipment procurement requests for the Guard and Reserve components of the military services in the President's budget request.
8. Authorizes appropriations for the Department of Defense for National Guard continuity of operations, continuity of government, and consequence management in connection with response to terrorist and other attacks and catastrophes; emergency preparedness and response activities; and staffing of joint operations coordination centers in response to terrorist and other attacks and catastrophes.
9. States that the United States Northern Command and the United States Pacific Command shall be the combatant commands principally responsible for the military support of civil authorities in the United States. Requires the Commander of each Command and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to enter into a memorandum of understanding setting forth the operational relationships and individual roles and responsibilities during responses to domestic emergencies among such Commands and the National Guard Bureau.

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10. Requires the officers serving as Commander of Army North Command and Commander of Air Force North Command to be officers in the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, respectively. Expresses the sense of Congress that, in assigning officers to such positions, the President should afford a preference to officers who have served as a State Adjutant General.
11. Authorizes the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP) to conduct relevant international engagements in areas that focus on National Guard core competencies, for example disaster response and mitigation, defense support to civilian authorities, consequence management and installation protection, and chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear event (CBRNE) response among others. Pursuant to the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, these engagements take place only with joint approval by the concerned Chief of Mission and Geographic Combatant Commander.