



CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVE

3-29-17

CSMR IN FEDERAL AND STATE LAW

The California State Military Reserve (CSMR) is the state defense force of California. The mission of the CSMR is to provide an adequately trained and organized State military reserve force under the exclusive control of the Governor. The CSMR is meant to be capable of accomplishing those State emergency responsibilities normally assigned to the National Guard, when the Guard is federalized or otherwise not available.

The CSMR is a volunteer operational force upon which the California National Guard depends. Its members are subject to call to state active duty by the Governor.

CSMR members are considered uncompensated State employees, although when called to emergency State Active Duty, they become compensated employees at the same rate as National Guard members of the same rank.

The CSMR is authorized as a state defense force under the provisions of the Title 32, United States Code, Section 109(c). Its current mission is articulated in CA Military & Veteran's Code § 550:

M&V Code, Section 550

Whenever any part of the National Guard of this State is in active federal service, or when Congress so consents thereto, the Governor is hereby authorized to organize and maintain within this State during such period, under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense of the United States may prescribe for discipline in training, such military forces as the Governor may deem necessary to defend and for the security of this State; provided, however, the Governor may authorize the organization and maintenance of such forces at cadre strength at any time. Such forces shall be composed of officers commissioned or assigned, and such qualified citizens or aliens who have declared their intentions to become citizens as shall volunteer for service therein, supplemented, if necessary, by members of the unorganized militia enrolled by draft or otherwise as provided by law. Such forces shall be additional to and distinct from the National Guard and shall be known as the State Military Reserve. Such forces shall be uniformed under such conditions and subject to such regulations as the Governor may prescribe.

STRUCTURE

As of August 1, 2016, the CSMR has been reorganized. All of CSMR units have been directly embedded or attached to Regular National Guard units throughout California.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- CSMR performs such military duties as the Governor directs within the parameters of applicable federal and state law.
- Typically these additional military duties include:
 - Assisting civil authorities during domestic emergencies.
 - Assisting in the mobilization and demobilization process of the National Guard.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN

All citizens over the age of 18 who are not felons and possess a high school diploma or GED are eligible to apply for membership. Military veterans and those with special skills which materially contribute to the CSMR's mission are preferred.

TRAINING

Members of the CSMR are required to serve one Saturday per month plus 100 hours of training annually. Part of that time is spent at Unit Training Assemblies (drills or meetings) which are usually eight to twelve hours on one Saturday each month. Many units require 2-day drills or more depending on their mission. These drills are used for training sessions, activity coordination, and to work with their National Guard counterparts. CSMR soldiers embedded with National Guard units for training purposes will drill the full weekend with their National Guard counterparts.

UNIFORMS

CSMR members wear the standard service uniforms of the branch they augment (Army, Air Force, Naval). All uniforms have distinctive state insignia designating them as a member of the California State Military Reserve. All officers and enlisted members are responsible for purchasing their uniforms and accessories. This requires an initial investment of \$300 or more. A yearly \$125 uniform allowance has been authorized for all CSMR soldiers and airmen who have maintained 100% attendance in a twelve-month period.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Current personnel strength is about 1,300.
- The CSMR headquarters is located in the California Military Department.
- The Adjutant General of the California National Guard is in overall command of the CSMR.
- The CSMR is under the operational command of Brigadier General (CA) Frank D. Emanuel.
- Motto: Always ready, always there.
- Website: <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/CSMR>

HISTORY

State militias in California go back to the early days of the Golden State. Militiamen from California were dispatched to fight bandits and even took part in the American Civil War.

The “modern” CSMR can trace its history back to 1917, when the federal government called most National Guard units to service in World War I. To fill the gap, Congress authorized the Home Guard Act of 1917, authorizing the precursors of today’s state defense forces. Over 100 companies were formed and served from 1917 to 1920.

With World War II threatening, Congress authorized the creation of state military forces to replace those National Guard units called to service with the U.S. Army. The California State Guard included over 70,000 Soldiers from 1941-46, who provided security for important infrastructure and military installations, as well as performing other duties. There was also a more loosely-organized California State Militia, located generally in rural areas.

The California State Guard was renamed the California State Military Reserve, and during the Korean War went by the name California National Guard Reserve. The CSMR’s name was restored in the 1960’s, but the organization was disbanded in 1969. In 1976 the CSMR was revived by Gov. Jerry Brown, and it has since grown to a military force of about 1,300 Soldiers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA, PLEASE CONTACT:

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