



Peace Action Fund of New York State

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DE-FEDERALIZE THE NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

It's No Longer "One Weekend a Month, Two Weeks A Year"

The National Guard is our first line of defense within our borders.

- Immediately after the 9/11 attacks, the New York Army and Air National Guard mobilized over 8,000 personnel to secure the area, rush in supplies and assist in rescue and recovery.
- Since 2003 more than 6,000 members of the New York State National Guard have been deployed to Iraq. 11% of U.S. troops now in Iraq are National Guardsman, but that number was as high as 40% in 2005.
- It is not just our Guardsmen, but our equipment that is being sent overseas. Today, New York only has 40% of the equipment that it needs readily available. Only 72% of engineering equipment, 35% of trucks and other vehicles, and 19% of chemical detectors and alarms are available.
- New York City has to spend hundreds of millions of dollars from its own budget every time it goes on high alert for police and overtime pay because the New York State National Guard and its equipment is in Iraq.
- Bottom line: the use of New York's National Guard in the Iraq occupation has made New Yorkers less safe (as the use of the Louisiana's state guard made New Orleans less safe after Katrina) by depriving us of the resources we need to defend ourselves and respond to emergency.

But there is something we can do to keep New Yorkers safe.

- As residents of New York State, we are calling on Gov. Paterson to resist the federalization of additional members of the New York State National Guard.
- The National Guard falls under command of the President only during wars or national emergencies. At all other times, the Governor is the commander-in-chief.
- The President's permission to use our National Guard system as his reservoir for maintaining an increasingly desperate military situation is over. The mission that Congress authorized in 2002 under the Authority for the Use of Military Force against Iraq (AUMF) has been completed and no further orders have been issued that allows the President to use our men and women.
- Community leaders in Vermont, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin are working on similar campaigns.

How can you help?

- Sign the petition to Gov. Paterson to bring our National Guard troops home. (An electronic version is available at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/NYS/>)
- Ask your Assembly Member or State Senator to support resolutions to bring the guard home. The resolutions will be introduced in both houses in January 2009.
- Call Peace Action New York State at 646-723-1749 to find a peace group working in your neighborhood.

The campaign to bring the New York guard home is supported by Iraq Veterans Against the War, Military Families Speak Out, Peace Action, United for Peace and Justice, and Vets for Peace.

In the same good faith and patriotism with which they serve, let's issue the orders to bring them home.

www.nysavetheguard.com