

# JTF-ES



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## *Fact Sheet*

# **New York National Guard Joint Task Force Empire Shield**

### **Description of the Organization**

Joint Task Force Empire Shield is the state's standing military organization that plans and prepares for defense support to civil authority missions throughout the New York City area.

The unit is commanded by a colonel and jointly staffed with Army and Air National Guard personnel along with members of the New York Naval Militia and New York Guard. The governor employs the task force through the adjutant general.

The unit is state resourced and sustained from the New York National Guard to support state and city emergency management and law enforcement officials with a rapid response force of National Guard members for homeland security missions.

At the end of 2023 there were 707 personnel assigned to the mission of augmenting local, state, and federal law enforcement entities at major transportation hubs.

### **Mission and Organization**

The New York National Guard has had a security force supplementing civilian police and security forces on State Active Duty since September 11, 2001. With thousands of Citizen Soldiers rotating through security missions, The Adjutant General formally established a standing task force in April of 2003 to command and control New York's homeland security missions for the National Guard.

The size and composition of that Joint Task Force Empire Shield force has varied depending on the mission requirements. Approximately 700 Army and Air National Guard members as well as members of the New York Guard, the state defense force, and the New York Naval Militia now serve on the task force.

The task force is organized to provide the City of New York with a response company that provides a flexible and responsive random anti-terrorism measure throughout critical locations and times in New York.

Soldiers and Airmen augment Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police at Penn Station and Grand Central Station in New York City and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department at John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia Airports.

Joint Task Force Empire Shield is capable of employing a variety of National Guard enablers to civil authorities, including the Guard's Civil Support Team to quickly identify and assess Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High Explosive (CBRNE) threats, a CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package to assist with casualty extractions, decontamination and triage, the New York State Military Emergency Boat Service on waterways around New York City and the multitude of National Guard core capabilities

The task force is based at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., a federal installation for the U.S. Army that hosts the New York National Guard's 24<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team and a Soldier Readiness Center for area Army National Guard organizations.

### **General**

Joint Task Force Empire Shield is constantly planning to meet security threats in conjunction with New York State and municipal emergency and security managements, providing surge forces much more rapidly for New York City law enforcement and first responders.