A national security strategy that recognizes the nature of the challenges facing the nation and the military is essential. The National Guard is a critical component of our national defense structure, providing a unique combination of capabilities that can be tailored to meet the needs of the nation in times of peace and war.

The Guard’s mission is to protect the homeland in peacetime and defend the nation against foreign aggression. During times of conflict, the Guard can be called upon to provide critical support to federal and state authorities.

In the 1990s, the National Guard faced significant budget cuts and personnel reductions. Despite these challenges, the Guard continued to provide valuable support to the nation.

In the years since, the Guard has demonstrated its ability to adapt to changing circumstances and remain a vital part of America’s defense posture.

Today, the National Guard is better funded and better equipped than ever before. It is ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century and continues to serve as a valued member of the U.S. military and the communities it serves.