

# Militia

Most of us don't even know what a militia is. As stated below, there are two types – organized and unorganized. Members of the Guard and Reserve constitute the Organized Militia, but the common Citizen is a member of the Unorganized Militia, whether they know it or not.

It was the Unorganized Militia who stood at Concord and Bunker Hill. Although Washington led an army during the Revolution, the true strength of the American defense was the citizens – the Unorganized Militia - who left their farms and shops and stood with the army as the British troops came near.

Latter-day Saints are familiar with the Nauvoo Legion – this was a community militia organized by charter from the state government. It was armed and trained by the state, and its officers appointed by the state.

There are a growing number of gun-control advocates who interpret Amendment 2 to say that only the Militia should be allowed to bear guns. They do this with the very mistaken idea that the Militia means the Military, Guard, and Reserve. Let's read U.S. law as to who makes up the Militia:

US CODE, Title 10, Subtitle A, Chapter 13: The Militia

Sec. 311. Militia: composition and classes

(a) The militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and, except as provided in section 313 of title 32 [quoted below], under 45 years of age who are, or who have made a declaration of intention to become, citizens of the United States and of female citizens of the United States who are members of the National Guard.

(b) The classes of the militia are -

(1) the organized militia, which consists of the National Guard and the Naval Militia; and

(2) the unorganized militia, which consists of the members of the militia who are not members of the National Guard or the Naval Militia.

Sec. 312. Militia duty: exemptions

(a) The following persons are exempt from militia duty:

(1) The Vice President.

(2) The judicial and executive officers of the United States, the several States and Territories, and Puerto Rico.

(3) Members of the armed forces, except members who are not on active duty.

(4) Customhouse clerks.

(5) Persons employed by the United States in the transmission of mail.

(6) Workmen employed in armories, arsenals, and naval shipyards of the United States.

(7) Pilots on navigable waters.

(8) Mariners in the sea service of a citizen of, or a merchant in, the United States.

(b) A person who claims exemption because of religious belief is exempt from militia duty in a combatant capacity, if the conscientious holding of that belief is established under such regulations as the President may prescribe. However, such a person is not exempt from militia duty that the President determines to be noncombatant.

US CODE, Title 32, Chapter 3, Sec. 313.

Appointments and enlistments: age limitations

(a) To be eligible for original enlistment in the National Guard, a person must be at least 17 years of age and under 45, or under 64 years of age and a former member of the Regular Army, Regular Navy, Regular Air Force, or Regular Marine Corps. To be eligible for reenlistment, a person must be under 64 years of age.

(b) To be eligible for appointment as an officer of

the National Guard, a person must -

- (1) be a citizen of the United States; and
- (2) be at least 18 years of age and under 64.

By examining these laws, one can interpret it as our duty to bear arms in order to be called upon to defend our homes and community and rights.

Some states have laws fining citizens who will not own arms or otherwise defend their community – and these laws are currently being enforced in states where gun-control advocates are pushing for tighter control laws.