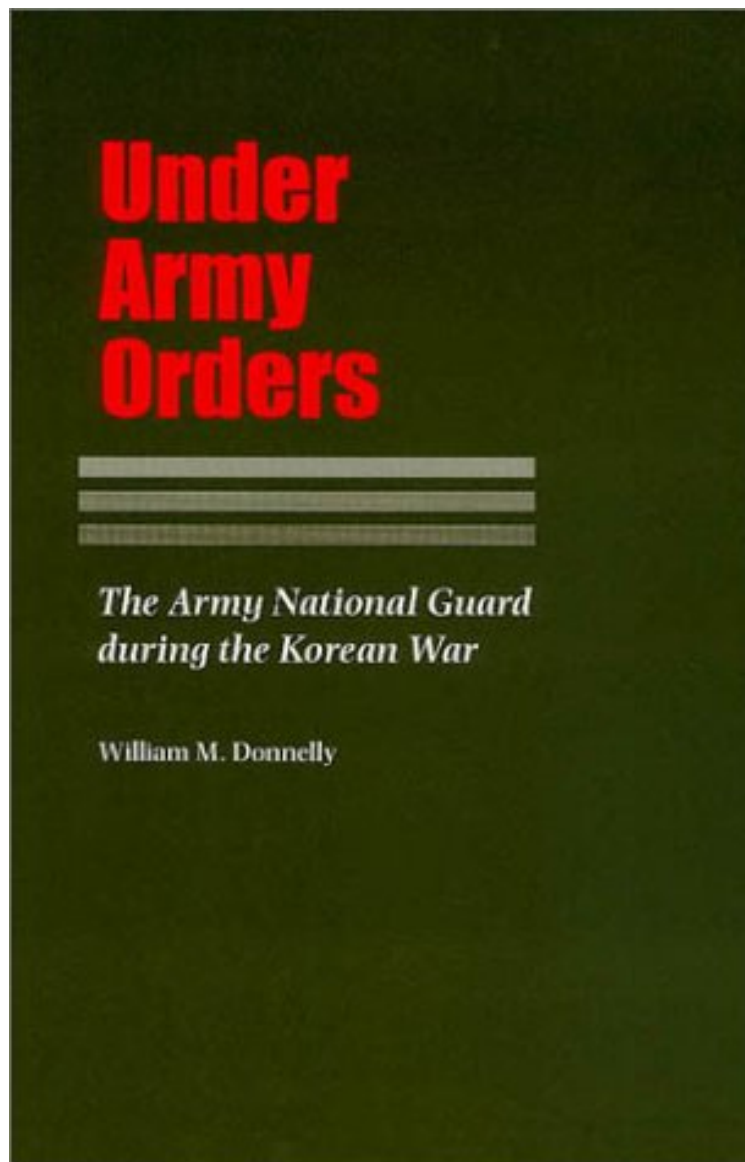


(Download) Under Army Orders: The Army National Guard during the Korean War (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series)

## **Under Army Orders: The Army National Guard during the Korean War (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series)**

*William Donnelly*

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#4432006 in Books 2001-04-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.57 x 1.08 x 6.391, .0 #File Name: 1585441171320 pages | File size: 52.Mb

**William Donnelly : Under Army Orders: The Army National Guard during the Korean War (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Under Army Orders: The Army National Guard during the Korean War (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. One Long Weekend  
By Nicholas E. Sarantakes  
William M. Donnelly, is a historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, and he has written an interesting study on the National Guard during the Korean War. Given the current heavy use of Guardsmen and Reservists in Iraq and Afghanistan, this book has a lot more relevance today than when it was first published. Donnelly is interested in exploring the contribution and effectiveness of the Guard during this war. Only about a third of the Guard was mobilized during the war, and only half of these soldiers ended up in Korea. Even then, most Guard units were deployed only as reserve units and saw little fighting. The 45th Infantry Division, a Guard unit out of Oklahoma, was the only division sized unit that sent into combat. Even then, Gen. J. Lawton Collins, the Army Chief of Staff, had to force Eighth Army commander General Matthew B. Ridgway to use this unit. Collins feared the damage to Guard-Regular relations that might otherwise come about if the turmoil of mobilization never resulted in actual deployment in combat. Donnelly finds that the Guard did well during the Korean War. The units that went to Korea performed the best, according to U.S. Army training tests and formal evaluations. The units that went to Europe to backfill regular formations in Korea also turned in solid performances, while those that were on active duty but remained in the United States performed poorly since they were raided for quality personnel to make good losses in active duty units. The main factors determining success for Guard units were the same things for those of regular units: amount of training, quality of units, and adequate supplies. This book is quite interesting. The writing is solid and adequate. The coverage is more institutional than personal and there are few anecdotes to enliven the text. The topic is hardly sexy and exciting, but Donnelly clearly shows its importance.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Federalization of the State National Guard Units- Korean War  
By jane vera  
The Author selects four of the State Guard units called into federal service to follow in depth through training and assignment. I found his treatment of the controversial purge of the African-American officers of the 272nd Field Artillery Battalion from Massachusetts excellent. In this age of 'political correctness' he presented all the facts without taking sides in the controversy, letting the reader come to his or her judgment as to whether the purge was necessary to make the unit operational. The White Col. involved was over-ruled in part after the Pittsburgh Courier, a leading African American newspaper, sent a telegram to Secretary of the Army, Pace. However, after the Col's transfer, the Army disbanded all Black units and racially integrated all units. (note: Truman's Exe. Order regarding integration was 4 yrs. prior in 1948). To quote the Author, "In the end, what the story of the 272nd's..federal service demonstrates above all, is the eternal military truth: good units are based on good troops, good training, and good leadership." The politics involved with all the State Guard units contributed to the tensions and in-fighting among the WWII regulars, the governor appointed officers (frequently not qualified), the assigning to the units draftees from other states, and the 'raiding' of the units of skilled personnel to assign to units fighting in Korea. The Author also covers in detail the lack of training and the inadequate equipment which most all the State Guards shared. As a taxpayer with my eyes on the Federal "Defense" Budget, I only hope someone in charge in the Pentagon will read this book and learn from the mistakes made during the 'call-up' of the State Guards during the Korean Conflict.

Between 1950 and 1953, 138,600 Army National Guardsmen -- 43 percent of the force -- were called up for federal service. In *Under Army Orders* William M. Donnelly illuminates one of the more obscure aspects of U.S. involvement in the Korean conflict, focusing on what it meant to be a citizensoldier caught up in an international struggle that raged both hot and cold. Donnelly begins by examining the reconstitution of the guard after World War II. Next he offers the first indepth look at the army's use of the guard during the Korean conflict, detailing the experiences of guard units mobilized during this period by following them from the alert notice to postmobilization training and then through their use by the army for the remainder of their federal service. Previous attention given to the guard during the Korean War has focused on the units sent to Korea; while those units provided critical reinforcements for the Eighth Army in 1951, they amounted to only 14 percent of mobilized units. *Under Army Orders* also sheds light on what it was like to live in America during the early Cold War. The National Guard's dual state-federal status, its strong local ties, and its powerful lobbying organization made it a force at all levels of American society during this period. And through the mobilization of guard units, the costs of the Truman administration's decisions were passed on to many American communities and homes. The partial mobilization of the guard for the Korean War raised questions of equity of sacrifice that would foreshadow events fifteen years later. Military historians and general readers alike can mark the halfcentury that has passed since the Korean War by reading Donnelly's study. Military planners and political leaders will consult this book when charting the guard's role in conflicts yet to come.

About the Author  
WILLIAM M. DONNELLY, a staff historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., received his Ph.D. in history at Ohio State University.