

## **Understanding the Militia of the Northern States, 1861-1865**

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On the eve of the Civil War, the state militias were one of the two permanent components of the American military structure along with the Regular Army. In spite of their importance in the nation's force structure at the time, the state militias are not well understood today. They are primarily remembered for their disappointing role at the beginning of the war. Although this is an important chapter in the militia's Civil War history, it is not the entire story. A more comprehensive view will help to better understand the importance of the militia's role in the Union war effort.

### **Prewar development**

The state militias dated back to the establishment of the English colonies in North America. Each colony was given the right, and the obligation, to defend itself by summoning all able-bodied adult white males within its boundaries for periodic training in arms and for the defense of each colony against Indians, foreign foes, and internal disorder. Service in the militia was obligatory but limited to defined training periods and emergencies as defined by the legislature of each colony. Militiamen were not required to serve outside of their respective colonies. Limitations of time and location of service would remain as lasting elements of militia service; obligation to serve would not.

In the period of the American Revolution and the early Republic, the state militias were central to the debate over the political identity of the new nation. English political tradition going back to before the English Civil War saw standing armies as a tool of monarchical despotism. America's founding fathers saw the states as the guarantors of the rights of the people against a strong central government and saw the state militias as the proper military force to defend the new republic; a force controlled by the states, not the central government. The Constitution gave the Federal government the right to raise armies but anti-standing army sentiment kept the Regular Army small from its inception in the 1790s until the twentieth century. The Second Amendment and further legislation of 1792 authorized the President of the United States to call out the state militias to suppress insurrection and repel foreign invasion, but the call had to pass through the state governments and the state militias could only be in Federal service for up to three months in any given year.

During the War of 1812, the performance of the state militias left much to be desired. Commanders were faced with the choice of using untrained militia for field operations or letting them go home unused when their three month term was over. Vermont refused to let its militia serve outside the state and Massachusetts and Connecticut refused to call out their militias when requested by the President. In the period from 1815 to 1845, the old model of obligatory militia training and liability to service of all adult white males became inoperable in most of the Northern states. The demands of an increasingly commercial and industrial economy made men unwilling to give up their normal pursuits to participate in militia musters. The individualism of the period made any kind of compulsory obligation seem onerous and against the democratic spirit of America. By the mid-1840s most Northern states had officially abolished compulsory militia service. The Mexican War was fought by the Regular Army and war volunteers enlisted for one year terms of service. The state militias took very little part in the war effort.

With the passing of compulsory militia service in the North, the state militias did not disappear, but their nature was fundamentally altered. Beginning in the eighteenth century, military amateurs had formed voluntary organizations devoted to military drill and preparedness. At first, these voluntary companies were composed of the wealthy and socially prominent, frequently in the larger urban areas of the northeast. By the 1820s, artisans and ethnic groups joined the movement. These volunteer weekend soldiers voluntarily supplied their own weapons and uniforms, drilled frequently, and were prominent in local civic events and affairs. With the demise of the traditional compulsory militia, these companies became the only part-time citizen soldiers in the states and many companies agreed to become part of the official state militias in exchange for government support and weapons. By the 1850s, the new "volunteer militia" companies had become the backbone of the Northern state militias. They formed a small, but not insignificant body of partially trained volunteer citizen soldiers who could be called into Federal service in case of emergency.

## **The Call of 15 April 1861: the Militia as the Union's Main Front Line Force**

When the Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter on 12 April 1861, the Lincoln administration had made no real preparations for conducting a war to bring back the seceding states. The Regular Army was inadequate to the task because of its small size, its far-flung deployment on the western frontier, and its unpopularity with most Americans. The decentralized nature of governance in the early republic meant that most resources of money and men were more easily tapped by the state governments than by the Federal government, and the states possessed the only other permanently organized military forces in the country, their state militias. The President was authorized by law to call on the state governments for militia to put down civil insurrection. By calling on the states to supply the necessary force, the administration was mobilizing the popular energies of the people to achieve its goal. On 15 April, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 militiamen to be supplied by the states to serve for no longer than three months, the term prescribed by the law of 1792 governing Federal service for the militia. It was also hoped that the small number called for and their limited term of service would not preclude a possible political solution by intimidating the Border and Upper South states still in the Union.

Each state was assigned a quota based on the size of its population. The governors in turn issued proclamations stating that a certain number of regiments had been requested for Federal service. The volunteer militia companies were the only real militia organizations in the states and they supplied most of the men for the 75,000 man force. In states where the volunteer militia was well organized, the governors selected specific units for service. These units, being volunteers, were asked for their consent to serve outside of their home states (an important aspect of Federal service) for the specified three month term and individuals were allowed to withhold their consent and remain at home. Most volunteer militia companies were under strength so the governors also called for volunteers with no previous militia experience to fill up the ranks. When the required numbers had been mobilized or enlisted, the units were mustered into the service of the United States for three months and left for the seat of war, with responsibility for their maintenance and supply being assumed by the Federal government.

These first units of what would become the Union army suffered from several disadvantages. Except for New York and Massachusetts, most states were unable to supply complete regiments of volunteer militia from their pre-war volunteer militia. They made up their quota of regiments by combining existing volunteer militia companies to form new organizations. Some states, like New Hampshire, were unable to provide more than one or two existing companies willing to serve as units and had to form their new regiments from a combination of individual pre-war volunteer militiamen and brand new recruits. All units formed under this call went to the front with varying numbers of totally inexperienced men alongside of the only partially trained prewar militiamen. The result was regiments with little or no experience of service as whole regiments, and a resulting lack of unit cohesion and identity. In many cases, the Federal government was unable to supply arms and equipment fast enough with the states providing the necessaries and being reimbursed for their costs later. This resulted in a wide variance of weapons and equipment being used, frequently even within the same regiment.

But the worst drawback of the militia regiments of the call of 15 April was the short term of service which was part of their very definition as militia. The three month term reflected not just a belief that the war would soon be ended, but was the maximum term of Federal service allowed by law for militia. By the end of April, with the secession of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas, the administration realized that the war could not soon be ended and that longer serving troops would be required. On 3 May, President Lincoln called for the expansion of the Regular Army, and for the raising of Volunteer regiments to serve for three years or the duration of the war, whichever came first. These Volunteer units would also be supplied and organized by the states, but would not be militia, i.e. state troops limited to only three months of Federal service in a given year. Instead, they would be mustered into the service of the United States, and would serve their three-year terms under control of the War Department.

The field forces which fought the first engagements of the war in June and July 1861 were a mixture of three-month militia of the call of 15 April and the first Volunteer units of the call of 3 May, but the militia played a prominent part. They made a valuable contribution to the war by supplying the first armed force available to restore the Union. Short-term militia would never again play such an important role in the front lines of the Union army during the Civil War.

## **The Militia as a Second Line Reserve: August 1861-April 1865**

With the completion of the three-month terms of the militia regiments of the call of 15 April 1861, the state militias became a second line reserve force which would be called upon to fill many roles for the remainder of the war. These new roles fell into two basic categories: *reinforcement* of Regular and Volunteer forces and *replacement* of Regular and Volunteer forces. In both of these, the state militias would be hampered by a basic organizational dilemma.

### **The Militia as Reinforcement**

The state militias served as reinforcements to Regular and Volunteer units in the field armies in several ways. The first was as a pool of partially trained men who could be added to units newly forming or already serving. After the end of the three-month term in August 1861, many of the individuals who had served, and some whole units, were inspired to reenlist and add their albeit limited experience of wartime soldiering to the new armies. Similarly, some men who served with short term units later in the war also reenlisted when their initial short terms were completed. Also at various times during the war, individuals who had served in the state militias before or during the war decided to make a more long-term commitment to the military and volunteered for the Regular Army or for one to three year Volunteer units. Although militiamen volunteering for longer service made up only a small fraction of the total serving in the Volunteer forces, they brought with them to that service their previous experience and many pre-war militiamen went on to become officers and leaders in the Volunteer force.

The second way in which the state militias reinforced the field forces was as short-term front-line units. At critical points in the course of the war Federal strategists believed that a short-term concentrated effort would bring about final victory. One measure used to bring about this short-term increase in military strength was to issue a call for short-term units from the state militias. The Call of 4 August 1862 for 300,000 militia was based on the presumption that renewed efforts by reinforced Federal armies could win the war before mid-1863. Using a provision in the Militia Act of 17 July 1862 which extended the maximum term of service for militia to nine months, this call raised new regiments of militia in ten states. These regiments served in the field in the campaign against Port Hudson and in the Gettysburg campaign where Vermont regiments raised under this call played a decisive role in repelling Pickett's charge on the third day. As with the three month regiments of 1861, however, when their nine month term of enlistment ended in the summer of 1863, the militia regiments of the Call of 4 August 1862 left for home and were mustered out of the service. The government had gambled that short term reinforcements could give the added boost needed to end the war before the end of their term of enlistment, but the war continued and another body of experienced troops was lost to the field armies. In the spring of 1864, with Grant's overland campaign in Virginia and Sherman's advance on Atlanta about to get underway, another mobilization of militia for 100 day terms of service occurred. Once again, some of these troops saw heavy fighting, and once again, most left the service after their terms of enlistment were over. In both these instances, the states called upon existing state militia units where available and filled up their ranks with temporary volunteers. Where existing units were not available wholly new units were formed from short-term volunteers. Some of the men sent to the front had previous experience in units of the call of 15 April 1861 and August 1862 or had even served in Volunteer units and been mustered out at expiration of term.

### **The Militia's Replacement Function**

The militia's role as replacements for Regular and Volunteer units was central to the militia's contribution to the Union war effort from 1862 to 1865. The state militias served as replacements in several different contexts.

One replacement function of the militia was to take the place of Regular and Volunteer units in rear echelon duties such as guarding prisoners and garrisoning military installations and lines of communication in quiet sectors. As early as April 1861, New England states called out state militia troops to garrison coastal fortifications in the absence of Federal troops. These units remained under state control and were not mustered into Federal service. In the spring of 1862, Illinois and Indiana offered three-month troops to the War Department for the purpose of releasing Volunteer units for front line service. As the war continued, many similar calls and offers were made (see Table II below). New York responded to no fewer than four such calls. Harbor fortifications in the northeast and

prisoner-of-war camps in the Midwest were staffed with short-term militia when major offensives were planned for field forces in 1863 and 1864. War Department planners always believed that the next round of offensives would be decisive and that replacing rear service three year troops with short term militia would provide the extra numbers needed for decisive results at the front. The state governors, still the main source of new men for the armies throughout the war, found it easier to recruit short term militia and offer it to release already existing Volunteer units for the front than to recruit new three year Volunteers.

A second replacement function provided by militia troops was “assisting the civil power.” This was a traditional role for state and local militia forces, both in the United States and in European countries. Riots were a not uncommon feature of antebellum urban life and occurred during the war both for long-standing and war-related reasons. Protests against the draft were the most dramatic and occurred in Wisconsin, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts as well as in New York City where the worst urban riot in American history to that time occurred in July 1863. State militias were called out to deal with these disturbances. Less dramatically, militia units were frequently called out to aid in draft enrollment and administration, for surveillance and breaking up of anti-war activities by political opposition groups and Southern sympathizers. In border states like Missouri and Kentucky, civil disturbance took the form of guerilla activities by Confederates and local feuds exacerbated by the political divisions of civil war. Both of these states maintained Union home guard and militia units which could be called out to deal with local situations requiring the use of armed force to protect civilians or military installations.

Home defense was a third, and critical replacement function of the state militias. This role harkened back to the purpose of the original colonial militias. Since Federal field armies fought primarily on the strategic offensive, the major fighting of the war took place mainly on the soil of the rebel states. Therefore, no large Regular or Volunteer forces were kept at home to repel incursions or invasions. This task was left to the state militias. At the beginning of the war, Illinois sent Chicago volunteer militia companies to occupy Cairo, Illinois and hold it until more long-term Federal troops could arrive. Indiana and Ohio called out their respective militias when Confederate forces invaded Kentucky and threatened Cincinnati in September 1862 and again during John Hunt Morgan’s raid across the Ohio River in July 1863. The state most active in this regard was Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania militia forces were called up in September and October 1862, June and July 1863, and July 1864 to repel feared and actual Confederate raids and invasions. Other states were also called upon to provide short-term units to repel Confederate incursions. The threat and reality of Confederate raids across the Canadian border called for the services of the state militia forces in New York and Vermont in 1863 and 1864. Conflicts with Indians on the western frontier had been handled by the Regular Army before the Civil War, but with most Regular troops fighting the Confederates, state militias had to take the lead during the war. Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota all called out militia troops to deal with Indian activity, most notably during the Sioux Rebellion in the fall of 1862.

### **The State Militias’ War-time Organizational Dilemma**

After the spring of 1861, the state governments faced a military organizational dilemma: most states lacked a functioning militia system once their pre-war volunteer militiamen had volunteered to serve in three-year Volunteer units. How could the state militias continue to supply short-term units to assist the field armies, replace Regular and Volunteer units for rear echelon duties, and provide home defense when their only existing forces were the shells of the pre-war volunteer militia companies? States with well-functioning pre-war systems were able to continue to maintain their volunteer militia units and form new ones. Massachusetts and New York were able to respond to the many calls for short-term troops by calling out already existing regiments composed of militia veterans, filling their ranks with short-term volunteers, and then returning the units to inactive status when the emergency passed. Other states with weak pre-war militias but low demand for short-term troops during the war muddled through by trying to revive existing volunteer militia companies or create new ones for the occasion. The dilemma was worst for states where the threat of invasion or unrest was constant, particularly Indiana and Ohio. Both states responded by passing new militia legislation designed to provide forces capable of dealing with massive events such as invasions, but also circumstances requiring smaller numbers but more military proficiency. Indiana and Ohio legislation provided for two forces: a traditional militia including all able-bodied adult males who could be called out to deal with situations requiring large numbers, and a volunteer militia force which drilled regularly, whose members were armed and paid by the state, capable of being called on at short notice for any of the duties

required of the war-time militia. In Indiana this latter force was known as the Indiana Legion and in Ohio was first called the Ohio Volunteer Militia and later (from March 1864) the Ohio National Guard. Both of these “active” militia forces responded to Morgan’s Raid in 1863 and supplied partially trained troops to the 100 days units of the summer of 1864.

### **The Militias’ Contribution: a summary**

Before the Civil War, the state militias were viewed by anti-central government believers as the main line of the nation’s defense and by most civilian and military leaders as a reserve force only. The political/military situation in the spring of 1861 led to the Union’s use of state volunteer militia forces as the foundation of its first field armies and the state militias were there when they were needed. Federal authorities quickly recruited a three-year Volunteer force which took over front-line duties from the three-month militia units but the state militias continued to play important, if supplementary roles in the Union military effort. The short-term nature of militia service relegated the state militias to this secondary role, but the partial training received by militiamen both before and during the war made them valuable soldiers, both as individuals and (when available) as units. Pre-war militia organization proved unable to meet the challenges of war-time circumstances (with few exceptions) but some states rose to the organizational challenges of war-time requirements and provided valuable short-term forces when called upon. While the state militias did not live up to traditional views of their importance, they remained an important element in the force structure of the Union armies throughout the war.

### **A Glossary of Concepts and Terms**

Active Militia Militia: Units with regular muster and drill requirements, usually volunteers.

Common Militia: A militia system based on universal adult male obligation to serve (same as Enrolled Militia.)

Enrolled Militia: A militia system based on universal adult male obligation to serve. The term came from the requirement for the names of obligated adult males to be kept on a roll for training and mobilization (same as Common Militia.)

Federal Service: Call up of state militia forces by the President of the United States for service under Federal commanders outside of their home states. Originally limited to three months in any given year, in July 1862 expanded to nine month limit.

Militia: Short term, partially trained troops primarily used for home defense.

Sedentary Militia: Militia to be used primarily for local defense. Received little or no training.

State Service: Call up of state militia for service within their state. Terms of service varied.

Volunteer Militia: Militia units created and manned on a volunteer basis. *(Editor’s note: in this article, the word “volunteer” is usually not capitalized when it refers to these militia units not mustered into the service of the United States.)*

Volunteers: Units created in war-time from paid volunteers willing to serve for periods of a year or more wherever required. These units were mustered into the service of the United States, and served their terms of enlistment under control of the War Department. *(Editor’s note: in this article, the word “Volunteer” is usually capitalized when it refers to these Volunteer units.)*

### **A Few Words About Militia Unit Designations**

#### **- Pre-war Militia Unit Designations**

In the early days of the volunteer militia movement, most new organizations were of company size (50 to 100 men

and officers) and were not part of the state enrolled militia systems. As independent organizations, they chose their own names which could include the city or county where the unit was recruited (Salem Zouaves [Salem, Mass.]) or the name of a prominent local person (Martin Guards [named for a governor of New Hampshire]). As the movement grew, many of these independent companies became part of the official state militia organization in their states but continued to be known to their members by these self-chosen and colorful names. In those states with regimental structures, these companies could also be assigned company letters within a regiment. In states where traditional enrolled militia hierarchies still existed, the companies could be given additional designations as part of the hierarchy (see next paragraph). In most other states there was no higher level of organization and these company names were the only pre-war militia official designations.

The Federal Militia Law of 1792 required that states establish “well-ordered militia[s]” based on the obligation of all adult white males for militia service. The adult male population of each state was to be organized into local companies, these were then to be combined to form county or regional regiments, and those in turn to be organized into brigades and divisions. All these organizations were to be provided with officers of suitable rank and the higher organizations with generals and staff officers. In the period from 1792 to about 1845, each state had such an organization for its common or “enrolled” militia. When the traditional enrolled militia ceased to function, some states retained the hierarchy of regiments, brigades, and divisions even though in many states the largest functioning militia units existed only on the company level. The volunteer militia companies in some states were integrated into this obsolete hierarchy and sometimes designated as parts of paper regiments, brigades, and divisions. For example, the Bangor Light Infantry and the Grattan Guards, both volunteer militia companies located in Bangor, Maine, were officially part of the 1st Division, 1st Regiment, Maine Volunteer Infantry. States like New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, where the old hierarchy had been abolished with the end of compulsory militia service, a more efficient system which combined the volunteer militia companies into regiments was instituted and the companies were assigned letter designations within the regiment to which they were assigned. For example: the Lowell City Guards of Lowell, Massachusetts were officially designated as Co. D of the 6th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia.

#### **- War-time Militia Unit Designations: Companies**

When the war began and militia units entered Federal service, they rarely served as individual companies. In most states, militia companies were usually cobbled together into brand new regiments. They gave up their colorful militia titles and were given company letters in the new regiments. New companies formed in 1861 for three-month service frequently adopted colorful names in the style of the pre-war volunteer militia when they formed and then received company letters when added to regiments. These companies are sometimes indistinguishable from pre-war companies.

#### **- War-time Militia Unit Designations: Regiments**

Civil War regiments composed of short-term troops were not usually easy to identify as such. Their designations often made them indistinguishable from longer term units. Here are some cases.

1) The pre-war volunteer militias of New York and Massachusetts had been organized into efficient regiments with pre-assigned companies which drilled together and maintained a regimental identity. When these regiments were called out under the call of 15 April 1861, they were called out as regiments and mustered into Federal service under their militia titles, 6th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, 7th Regiment New York State Militia, etc. At the completion of their three-month terms, they returned to inactive status, maintaining their regimental identities until subsequent calls when they again entered Federal service for short terms under these permanent titles. Thus, the 6th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia served under that title for three months Federal service in 1861, nine months 1862/63, and 100 days in 1864. In New York, longer term regiments were assigned numbers in a separate volunteer sequence and the 12th Regiment New York State Militia and the 12th Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry were not the same regiment and had no connection to each other. In Massachusetts, a single sequence was used. Thus the 6th Massachusetts refers only to the militia regiment of that number and not to any three-year Volunteer regiment. However, some Massachusetts militia regiments serving short terms of Federal service later in the war found their militia number already being used by a long term Volunteer regiment

and received new numbers for their Federal service terms: e.g. the 7th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, when called out in August 1862, received the designation 50th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry for the duration of its nine-month Federal service because there was already a 7th Volunteer Infantry in service.

2) In some states, the regiments formed in April 1861 from volunteer militia companies were given totally new numbers and designated as “Active Militia” “Detached Militia” or “Volunteer Militia,” titles which reflected their short-service nature and militia origins. In these states, new three-year regiments formed after 3 May 1861 were usually assigned numbers following on from those of the April call but with the designation “Volunteers.”

3) In most states, the short-term regiments of the call of 15 April 1861, and the longer-term regiments of the call of 3 May 1861 and subsequent calls were all numbered in a single sequence and designated “Volunteers” whether they were short-term or long-term. For example, the 13th Vermont Volunteer Infantry was a nine-month militia regiment made up entirely of Vermont volunteer militia companies even though it bore the designation “Volunteer” the same as a three-year Volunteer regiment. In such cases, the only way to distinguish between militia and Volunteers is to look at the term of enlistment. Terms of up to nine months signify militia units, those of one to three years refer to Volunteer units.

4) It is also important to realize that designations were based on whether a unit was in state service (usually called out by the state governor and restricted to service within the state) or Federal service (organized under a call from the President and liable for service anywhere as needed). In Pennsylvania, short-term infantry regiments raised for Federal service were given numbers in the general state sequence: the 151st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was composed of nine-month militia although bearing the designation “Volunteer” and being numbered in the same sequence with three-year organizations. Pennsylvania units created for state service only were given designations in their own ad hoc series, e.g. 19th Regiment Pennsylvania Militia Infantry (15 days, 1862). Existing militia units in many states exchanged their militia numbers for Volunteer numbers when called out for Federal service. Such was the case when the 1st Regiment Rhode Island National Guard was called into Federal service for nine months as the 10th Regiment, Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry.

#### **Footnote: The State Militias and Federal Conscription**

The idea of the militia as a pool of reinforcements for active service also served as a stepping stone to the appearance of Federal conscription in the loyal states. Under the Militia Law passed by Congress on 17 July 1862, the President was authorized to carry out, through the state authorities, “a draft on the enrolled militia” should there be a shortage of volunteers to meet the quotas set for each state by the Calls of 2 July and 4 August of that year. This provision assumed the continued existence in each state of the old enrolled militia system and the states’ ability to call eligible adult males into military service as needed. The state-administered militia draft in the Northern states in the fall of 1862 yielded few recruits for the armies but its very failure again highlighted the militia’s inadequacy in wartime conditions. Just as realization of the inadequacy of the three month militia regiments to win the war led to the creation of a three year Volunteer force, so the inadequacy of the state administered militia draft led to the Enrollment Act of March 1863. Under this law, the Federal government was empowered to carry out a draft of “the national forces,” the first Federally conducted conscription in United States history.

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**Table I: Composition of Militia Regiments of Call of 15 April 1861**

State	Complete Pre-War Regiments	New Regiments Of Pre-War Companies	Mix of Pre-War and New Companies	From all New Volunteers
Connecticut		3 of 4 regiments		1 of 4 regts
Delaware			1 regiment	
Dist of Columbia		8 battalions		
Illinois			2/3rds existing cos.	
Indiana			5 regiments	
Iowa			1 regiment	
Maine		1 regiment		
Massachusetts	5 regiments			
Michigan			9/10ths existing cos.	
Minnesota		2 regiments		
Missouri				4 regiments
New Hampshire				2 regiments
New Jersey	2 of 4 regiments	2 of 4 regiments		
New York	11 regiments			
Ohio			5 of 14 regiments	9 of 14 regts
Pennsylvania	6 of 25 regiments	5 of 25 regiments	4 of 25 regiments	10 of 25 regts
Rhode Island		1 regiment		
Vermont			1 regt (90% pre-war)	
Wisconsin		1 regiment		

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**Table II: Call Ups of Northern State Militia During the Civil War**

Call Date	Number Called	Term	States	Function
15 April 1861	75,000	3 months	Ct, De, DC, Ill, Ind, Ia, Me, Mass, Mich, Minn, Mo, NH, NJ, NY, Oh, Pa, RI, Vt, Wis.	Front line troops
May & June 1862	No quota	3 months	Indiana, Illinois	Rear Echelon
4 August 1862	300,000	9 months	Ct, De, Me, Mass, NH, NJ, NY, Oh, Pa, RI, Vt, Wis.	Front line troops
15 June 1863	100,000	6 months	Md, Pa, Oh, WV	Home defense
23 April-18 July 1864	No quota	100 days	Mass, NY, Pa, Oh, Ind, Ill, Wisc, Ia	Rear Echelon

**Table III: Overview of Northern State Militias 1861-1865**

STATE	Pre-War Organization	15 April 1861 Mobilization	War-Time Organization	War-Time Mobilization(s)
Connecticut	Active Militia	quota of 1 regt., 2 others raised. Old militia regts not mobilized as such  Regts made up of pre-war cos + newly raised cos	Pre-war regts and cos continued to exist	7 regiments for 9 months (1862): cadres from existing regiments
District of Columbia	Independent companies of volunteer militia	9 Apr 61: 33 cos of inf, 2 cos cav, org into 8 prov btls, later regts	Pre-war independent cos. continued	
Delaware	Independent	1 regt of inf to be	Independent	2 regiments 9

	companies of volunteer militia; no higher org	detached from militia. 1st Inf (3 mos) & 2nd made up of militia cos.	volunteer militia companies	months (1862) 1 regt. 30 days (1864) 1 regt 100 days (1864-5)
Illinois	Moribund enrolled militia + indep cos vol mil.; no higher org	6 militia regts for 3 mos; available cos org into regts with newly raised cos.	Volunteer militia companies continued	25 May 62: 67th-71st for 3 mos, considered militia. Apr 64: 132nd-143rd, 145th, Alton Btl. for 100 days
Indiana	Vol militia cos, no higher org	6 regts for 3 mos, made up of vol militia + newly raised cos (6-11)  May 61: 12th-17th, for 1 yr., excess cos from first regts for state defense = militia	11 May 61: Indiana Legion - uniformed, org, part-time militia avail for emergencies  Jul 63: Minute Men-newly raised cos	Indiana Legion saw intermittent service: 2 regts: 3 mos (1862) 1 regt: 30 days (1862) 1 regt: 60 days (1862) 13 regts: Jul 63 4 regts: 6 mos (1863-4) 8 regts: 100-days (1864)
Iowa	Vol militia cos	1 regt militia for 3 mos  First 4 regts formed from existing cos	Oct 61: Home Guard cos on Mo border  1862: Southern and Northern border brigades - part-time  Mar 64: Enrolled militia	1864: five 100-day regts for garrison duty
Kansas	Enrolled militia + Vol militia cos	many vol militia cos vol for 1st & 2nd Vol Inf	Enrolled militia = vol militia cos continued	1864: 1 regt of 100- days Oct 64: militia mobilized against

			Summer 1862-63: regts of Indian Home Gds in US serv.	Price
Kentucky	Volunteer militia companies  State Guard - all vol cos required to join	May 61: Home Gds - not pt of State Gds	Home Guards  1863/4: State Troops for 6 mos to protect capital	
Maine	Vol militia companies in enrolled militia framework	Two 3-mo regts absorbing militia companies	Independent cos until 1863  Home Guards (1863)  Coast Guards (1864)  Volunteer militia companies = State Guards	8 regts of 9-mo militia (1862)
Maryland	Vol militia cos org into paper regts.		Home Guard companies	
Massachusetts	Vol militia regts	Whole volunteer militia regiments mobilized, filled up with cos from other regiments	Pre-war militia units maintained	Seventeen 9-mos regts existing units + newly raised (1862) 5 regts for 100-days: existing units (1864)
Michigan	Vol militia cos supported by state	1 regt for 3-mos; 1st-3rd all from vol militia cos	Volunteer militia companies  2 militia regts - State Troops - never embodied	3 militia cos active during war, responded to 2 emergency calls
Minnesota	Vol militia cos	Call for vol cos, preference for existing ones. 2 regiments for 3 months	Independent cos for frontier serv, state duty	Volunteer units to fight Indians
Missouri	Vol militia cos State Gds	4 regts of 3-mo vols	Aug 61: 6-mos militia	

		US Reserve Corps: part-time home guard, 3- mos  Home Gds, 3-mos	Dec 61: MO State Militia, war serv in state  Fall 62: Active Militia = Enrolled MO Militia	
Nebraska	Vol militia cos		Volunteer militia companies  Units raised for frontier service  Militia Home Gds for Indian fighting	Indian fighting 1864
New Hampshire	Volunteer militia companies	1 regt of militia for 3-mos	Volunteer militia companies	Two 9-mo regts Aug 62
New Jersey	Active Militia companies; regts & btls only in northern counties	4 regts of militia inf; existing militia cos org into new regts	1861: Enrolled/Reserve Militia  Active Militia reverted to cos: never mobilized again as units	1862: 11 regts for 9- mos  1863: emergency militia, 10 inf cos for 30-days  1864: 1 regt for 100-days
New York	Volunteer militia organized into regiments	Eleven 3-mos militia regts; existing regts mobilized  4 militia regts vol for the war	Active militia remains in exist; No emergency militia or special reserve forces.	1862:12 regts for 3 mos  1863/6: 26 regts Fed service one month  1864: 13 regts and 8 cos Fed serv for 100-days
Ohio	Enrolled Militia (Militia of the Reserve) + Volunteer militia companies	Thirteen 3-mos regts from militia cos; extra cos of 3- mos men turned into nine more 3- mo regts	Paper recreation of enrolled militia; pre-war cos absorbed into vols.  14 Apr 63: Ohio Vol Militia,	23 Apr 64: ONG men org into 130th-172nd Inf for 100-days (ONG units too uneven to be called up as units)

			<p>uniformed, armed, paid, able to respond</p> <p>Mar 64: ONG</p>	
Pennsylvania	Volunteer militia companies in enrolled militia framework	Twenty-five 3-mos regts (11 of them completely from pre-war companies)	<p>Philadelphia Reserve Brig of vol militia cos</p> <p>Philadelphia Home Gd: sedentary</p> <p>Units in rest of state dissolved</p> <p>Aug 64: State Gd never org; vol militia cos revived</p>	<p>Aug 62: 9-mos; drafted militia given vol #s</p> <p>Sep 62: 25 regts of militia org from scratch</p> <p>Jun 63: 90-days militia (26th-60th) incorp existing militia units</p> <p>Jul 64: 100-days militia</p>
Rhode Island	Enrolled Militia + Active Militia companies (chartered)	1 regt for 3-mos, Detached Militia (from existing Active Militia cos)	<p>Pre-war units continue to exist</p> <p>National Guard (semi-official, unchartered)</p>	1862: 2 regts for 3-mos; 2 regts for 9-mos
Vermont	Vol militia cos	One 3-mos regt made up of vol militia cos	<p>Pre-war cos continue to exist to Dec 62</p> <p>1864/5: Provisional cos (31 inf, 14 cav)</p> <p>Volunteer militia companies recreated Nov 64</p>	1862: Five 9-mos regts
Wisconsin	Vol militia cos	One 3-mos regt made up of vol militia cos	<p>Vol militia maintained during war</p> <p>1863: 1st-5th Militia Regts to defend state</p>	Apr 64: 100-days troops (39th-41st) tried to raise from militia, had to recruit direct