



[Home](#) -> [Answers](#) ->
[Constitutional Law](#)-> [Posse Comitatus](#)

Posse Comitatus Act

Limits on federal use of the military for law enforcement



The Posse Comitatus Act is a United States federal law (18 U.S.C. § 1385) passed on June 16, 1878 after the end of Reconstruction. The Act was intended to prohibit Federal troops from

supervising elections in former Confederate states. It generally prohibits Federal military personnel and units of the United States National Guard under Federal authority from acting in a law enforcement capacity within the United States, except where expressly authorized by the Constitution or Congress. The Posse Comitatus Act and the Insurrection Act substantially limit the powers of the Federal government to use the military for law enforcement.

The remainder of this article is for registered users only. To read the complete article, please [register for free access](#).

You will also gain free access to **USLaw.com**'s legal answers service.

