

Good Afternoon Commissioners, My name is COL Kurt Weinand and I will present findings on the scope of what is commonly called OFF RAMPs for units. Reserve units are notified well in advance to plan for a deployment to do missions for the Combatant Commanders. An Off-Ramp is defined as – unit mission is cancelled due to change in operational requirements prior to mobilization or while at the mobilization station but not yet deployed.

On several trips the offramp topic was raised as an issue to the commissioners. The Staff analyzed the data, considered for information purposes and data not directly linked to any one proposal. The Active Component is not affected as much as the Reserve units by the changes to and cancellation of missions that requires deployments.

Off-ramps are received via redeployment orders from the combatant commands and the decision to offramp is carefully reviewed due to the potential hardships for individual Soldiers. For Reserve Component Soldiers offramp of units has potential problems where leaders attempt to mitigate the potential and actual hardships.

Unit off-ramps occur due to the following four reasons:

(1) theater capability reductions,

(2) personnel reductions for a specific Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) or Deployment Manning Documents (DMD),

(3) theater force cap reductions such as the mandated drawdown in Afghanistan, and

(4) combatant command decisions. Off-ramps are received via redeployment orders (REDEPORD) from the combatant commands (CCMDs), typically in a classified document or email, and include all compositions for the affected Force Tracking Numbers

Findings: FY 13 Decisions to reduce budget and force manning levels in theater directly impact the number of unit off-ramps. As a result, the offramp impacted Soldiers, families, and employers. The numbers of offramp units increased significantly in conjunction with the drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the associated theater manning level caps. Command mitigation efforts reduced the number of hardships reported to this staff.

FY 14, a smaller number of RC units offramp were for the support AFRICOM's mission in Liberia (Ebola). By Dec , the situation on the ground had changed significantly allowing AFRICOM to begin curtailing forces in theater and cancelling its requests for follow on forces. This action led to RC offramp prior to mobilization.

In some cases, RC soldiers and officers confused the terminology for mission changes with offramp. The Terminology used in changes to operations are as follows:

Curtailment – unit mission is shortened due to change to operational requirements after deployment.

Decrement – unit is directed to reduce the number of Soldiers required for mission.

Hardship – a negative impact on a Soldier and/or dependents resulting from early REFRAD due to change in operational requirements (unit curtailment, decrement, or off-ramp).