

Organization of the Army Over Time

PURPOSE: This paper provides background information on the current and planned size and composition of the Army's three components and how they have evolved over time.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Army must have a versatile mix of capabilities, formations and equipment that is lethal, agile, adaptable and responsive to meet the defense strategy. The 1993 Active/Reserve Component (AC/RC) Leaders Offsite Agreement led to what has become the accepted structure composition of the Guard and Reserve. The Guard is structured with a balanced mix of combat and support assets, while the Reserve is structured almost exclusively on combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) capabilities, fielding the bulk of the RC's echelon above brigade (EAB) support units.

Prior to 9-11, the Army was sized and shaped consistent with strategic guidance from the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) to shape, respond, and prepare to meet an uncertain future. The Army consisted of 1.035 million Soldiers (480K Regular; 350.1K Guard; 205.3K Reserve). The Army was organized under the division-based Army of Excellence (AOE) construct, including 4 corps and 10 divisions with 33 combat brigades in the Regular Army, 8 divisions with 42 combat brigades (15 of which were Enhanced Separate Brigades (ESBs)) in the Guard, and the 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry in the Pacific in the Reserve. Each component was structured with an Operating Force (OF) to deploy to fulfill combatant commander requirements, and a Generating Force (GF) to perform necessary Title 10 institutional functions that support the OF.

In 2000, the component composition was:

Component	Operating Force	Generating Force	TTHS
Regular Army	303.3 K	114.3 K	63K
Army National Guard	315.8 K	34.2 K	0
US Army Reserve	144.8 K	60.5 K	0

In the years after 9-11, Congress increased Army end strength by nearly 100K Soldiers, while the Army converted its maneuver forces from the division-based AOE construct to the brigade combat team (BCT)-based modular construct to provide ready and relevant landpower in an era of persistent conflict. At the height of this growth in 2010, the Army consisted of 1.1 million Soldiers (570K Regular; 358.2K Guard; and 206K Reserve). This included a Temporary End Strength Increase (TESI) of 22K in the Regular Army to allow for over-manning formations for

deployment to offset the number of non-deployable Soldiers due to injuries, illness, and other causes.

Under its new BCT-based configuration, the principal maneuver forces of the Army included:

Component	Corps	Divisions	Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs)
Regular Army	4	10	45 ¹
Army National Guard	0	8	28 ²

By 2010, the composition of the components had also changed:

Component	Operating Force	Generating Force	TTHS
Regular Army	404.7 K	91.2 K	74.1 K
Army National Guard	320.7 K	37.5 K	0
US Army Reserve	162.5 K	43.5 K	0

Consistent with the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 and the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, the Army accelerated (from the end of FY17 to the end of FY15) the reduction of approximately 80K Regular Army Soldiers from a wartime high of 570K in 2010 to 490K. The Guard will reduce from 358.2K to 350.2K, and the Reserve will reduce from 206K to 205K by the end of FY15.

By the end of FY15, the Army will consist of 1.045 million Soldiers:

Component	Operating Force			Generating Force	TTHS
	End Strength	Divisions	BCTs		
Regular Army	334.4 K	10	32 ³	91.2 K	74.1 K
Army National Guard	313.3 K	8	28 ²	36.9 K	-
US Army Reserve	149.2 K	-	-	43.5 K	-

The 2014 QDR directed the Army to further reduce its end strength in all components to 450K Regular, 335K Guard, and 195K Reserve.

In the event of full sequestration, the Army will continue to reduce end strength in all components to 420K Regular, 315K Guard, 185K Reserve by the end of FY19. These reductions would not enable the Army to fully execute 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance requirements to defeat an adversary in one major combat operation while simultaneously denying the objectives of an adversary in a second theater. Additionally, it is unlikely that the Army would be able to defeat an adversary quickly and decisively should it be called upon to engage in a single, sustained major combat operation.

The following provides a snap shot of recent/planned Army downsizing:

Component	Fiscal Year & Army End Strength by Component					PB 16 Cuts Relative to Different Base Years	
	2000 Pre-Wars	2011 War-time End Strength High	2015	2017 President's FY 16 Budget	2019 If Return to Sequestration	2000 Base Year	2011 Base Year
Regular Army	480K	570K	490K	450K	420K	-30K -6.25 %	-120K -21.1 %
Army National Guard	350K	358.2K	350K	335K	315K	-15K -4.29%	-23.2K -6.48%
US Army Reserve	205K	206K	205K	195K	185K	-10K -4.88 %	-1K -5.34 %
Totals	1035K	1134.2K	1045K	980K	920K	-55K -5.31 %	-144.2K -12.7 %

SOURCE: National Defense Authorization Acts, G3/FM, and PB 16

ARMY PERSPECTIVE:

The modest growth in Army forces over the past decade to fulfill the expanded operational demands in two overseas theaters of war is now being reversed. By the end of FY 15, the Guard and Reserve will be at their FY 00 end strengths, while the Regular Army will be just 10K larger, after reducing from a war-time high of 570K Soldiers in less than 5 years.

As directed by the 2014 QDR and included in the President's FY 16 Budget Request, Army end strength in all components will continue to decrease to levels not seen since the 1930s for the Regulars and the 1950s for the Reserve and Guard: 450K Regular Army, 195K Reserve, and 335K Guard.

The Army will continue to adapt its capabilities and force mix to best meet the evolving operational demands of our combat commanders within prescribed resource levels, including end strength and funding.

FOOTNOTES:

¹ 36 modular, 2 AOE, 6 Stryker BCTs, 1 Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR)

² 7 Armored BCTs, 20 Infantry BCTs, and 1 Stryker BCT

³ 9 Armored BCTs, 15 Infantry BCTs, and 8 Stryker BCTs