

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 9, 2015

**INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

**SUBJECT: Army Announces Force Structure Decisions and Stationing Plans**

Today, the Department of the Army announced force structure decisions and stationing plans for the reduction of the Regular Army from 490,000 to 450,000 Soldiers. Driven by fiscal constraints resulting from the Budget Control Act of 2011 and defense strategic and budgetary guidance, this reduction amounts to a cumulative cut of 120,000 Soldiers from the Regular Army, or 21 percent, since 2012.

The reduction of force structure will occur in fiscal years 2016 and 2017; the reduction of 40,000 end strength will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2018, and will be accompanied by the reduction of 17,000 Department of the Army Civilian employees. These cuts will impact nearly every Army installation, both in the continental United States and overseas.

As part of these reductions, the number of Regular Army brigade combat teams, the basic deployable units of maneuver in the Army, will continue to reduce from a wartime high of 45 to 30 by the end of fiscal year 2017. The Army will convert both the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia and the 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska into maneuver battalion task forces by the end of fiscal year 2017. Additionally, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii will convert to a two-maneuver-battalion infantry brigade combat team and the Army is analyzing a proposal to use its equipment to convert an Army National Guard brigade combat team in the Pacific Northwest to Stryker configuration.

The Army selected these brigade combat teams for reorganization based on a variety of factors including strategic requirements and the inherent military value of the installations where they are based. The force structure decisions announced today best posture a smaller Army to meet global commitments.

While the Army does not desire to make reductions, they are necessary to preserve warfighting capability and avoid a hollow force as the Army reduces end-strength due to continuing fiscal pressures. In addition to reorganizing the operational force, the Army is reducing the size of two-star-and-above headquarters, shrinking the generating force, and cutting the civilian workforce.

If current law budget caps, commonly referred to as sequestration, are not addressed, the Army's end-strength will be further reduced to 420,000 Soldiers by the end of fiscal year 2019. This will result in a cumulative loss of 150,000 Soldiers from the Regular Army – a 26 percent cut over a seven year period. The resulting force would be incapable of simultaneously meeting current deployment requirements and responding to the overseas contingency requirements of the combatant commands.

For more information please contact Mr. T.C. Williams, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison at 703-697-9690 or Captain Azizi Wesmiller at 703-695-4810 for Appropriations offices.

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