

port Air Force flight training operations at Pueblo Memorial Airport. The committee notes that the report required by section 346 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364) has not been delivered to the congressional defense committees.

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

OVERVIEW

The committee commends the Secretary of Defense for proposing to permanently increase the authorized end strength for the active Army to 547,000, and to 202,000 for the active Marine Corps by fiscal year 2012. However, the President's request only contained funding for an increase of 7,000 for the Army and an increase of 5,000 for the Marine Corps in fiscal year 2008. The committee remains concerned that the budget request for the active components of the Army and the Marine Corps is too low for the current requirements placed on those services by the national security strategy. The committee continues to recommend active end strength levels greater than those requested. The committee's recommendation for fiscal year 2008 would increase the active Army end strength by 36,000 and the Marine Corps end strength by 9,000 above the budget request.

The committee is concerned that continued military-to-civilian conversions, particularly within the military medical community, are having an adverse impact on access and quality-of-care being provided to service members and their families. The committee heard directly from military families facing difficulties in accessing care at military treatment facilities during a hearing on total force readiness. In addition, the treatment of wounded warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and at other military medical treatment facilities requires a review of the assumptions and evaluations that were previously made in support of these conversions. Therefore, the committee proposes to prohibit further military-to-civilian conversions in the military medical community in section 703 of this Act, and proposes to restore the end strength and associated funding for the conversions, as well as restore the proposed manpower reductions as directed in program decision memorandum four for Navy medicine for fiscal year 2008.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—ACTIVE FORCES

Section 401—End Strengths for Active Forces

This section would authorize the following end strengths for active duty personnel of the armed forces as of September 30, 2008:

Service	FY 2007 authorized	FY 2008		Change from	
		Request	Committee recommendation	FY 2008 request	FY 2007 authorized
Army	512,400	489,400	525,400	36,000	13,000
Navy	340,700	328,400	329,098	698	– 11,602
USMC	180,000	180,000	189,000	9,000	9,000

Service	FY 2007 authorized	FY 2008		Change from	
		Request	Committee rec- ommendation	FY 2008 request	FY 2007 authorized
Air Force	334,200	328,600	329,651	1,051	-4,549
DOD Total	1,367,300	1,326,400	1,373,149	46,749	5,849

The authorizations contained in this section for the Army and Marine Corps exceed the end strengths for those services requested in the fiscal year 2008 budget by 36,000 and 9,000, respectively, because the budget request did not provide adequate manning levels for the Army and Marine Corps to meet current operational requirements. Additional funding for this end strength increase is recommended in Title XV of this Act.

The authorizations contained in this section for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force end strengths include 489 for the Navy to restore the reduction in end strength in Navy Medicine, and it would also restore the military end strength for the Navy by 209 and the Air Force by 963, which was reduced to accommodate the military-to-civilian conversions programmed for fiscal year 2008 as directed by Program Budget Decision 712. The proposed increase in Army end strength would accommodate the restoration of 723 military positions within the Army.

In addition, the committee understands that the Air Force plans to modernize and upgrade only 56 of the total 76 B-52 aircraft in the inventory. The committee strongly opposes a strategy to reduce capability in present day conventional long-range strike capability without a replacement platform and recommends an authorization increase of 88 enlisted manpower personnel for the B-52 bomber fleet and provides \$5.3 million for the additional end strength.

Section 402—Revision in Permanent Active Duty End Strength Minimum Levels

This section would establish new minimum active duty end strengths for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force as of September 30, 2008. The committee recommends 525,400 as the minimum active duty end strength for the Army, 329,098 as the minimum active duty end strength for the Navy, 189,000 as the minimum active duty end strength for the Marine Corps, and 329,563 as the minimum active duty end strength for the Air Force.

Section 403—Additional Authority for Increases of Army and Marine Corps Active Duty End Strengths for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010

This section would authorize additional increases of active duty end strength for the Army and for the Marine Corps in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 above the strengths authorized for those services in fiscal year 2008. Over the two-year period, the Army would be authorized to increase active duty end strength above the fiscal year 2008 authorization up to a total of 22,000, and the Marine Corps would be authorized to increase active duty end strength above the fiscal year 2008 authorization up to a total of 13,000.

Section 404—Increase in Authorized Strengths for Army Officers on Active Duty in the Grade of Major

This section would increase the number of Army officers authorized to serve in the grade of major by approximately 2,850 from 13,300 to 16,150.

Section 405—Increase in Authorized Strengths for Navy Officers on Active Duty in the Grades of Lieutenant Commander, Commander, and Captain

This section would increase the number of Navy officers authorized to serve in the grades lieutenant commander, commander, and captain as indicated below:

- (1) Lieutenant commander by approximately 480 from 9,550 to 10,030;
- (2) Commander by approximately 300 from 6,000 to 6,300; and
- (3) Captain by approximately 130 from 2,620 to 2,750.

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE FORCES

Section 411—End Strengths for Selected Reserve

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Selected Reserve personnel, including the end strength for reserves on active duty in support of the reserves, as of September 30, 2008:

Service	FY 2007 authorized	FY 2008		Change from	
		Request	Committee recommendation	FY 2008 request	FY 2007 authorized
Army National Guard	350,000	351,300	351,300	0	1,300
Army Reserve	200,000	205,000	205,000	0	0
Navy Reserve	71,300	67,800	67,800	0	-3,500
Marine Corps Reserve	39,600	39,600	39,600	0	0
Air National Guard	107,000	106,700	106,700	0	-300
Air Force Reserve	74,900	67,500	67,500	0	-7,400
DOD Total	842,800	837,900	837,900	0	-9,900
Coast Guard Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0

Section 412—End Strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in Support of the Reserves

This section would authorize the following end strengths for reserves on active duty in support of the reserves as of September 30, 2008:

Service	FY 2007 authorized	FY 2008		Change from	
		request	Committee recommendation	FY 2008 request	FY 2007 authorized
Army National Guard	28,165	29,204	29,240	36	1,075
Army Reserve	15,416	15,870	15,870	0	454
Naval Reserve	12,564	11,579	11,579	0	-985
Marine Corps Reserve	2,261	2,261	2,261	0	0
Air National Guard	13,291	13,936	13,944	8	653
Air Force Reserve	2,707	2,721	2,721	0	14
DOD Total	74,404	75,571	75,641	44	1,211

Section 413—End Strengths for Military Technicians (Dual Status)

This section would authorize the following end strengths for military technicians (dual status) as of September 30, 2008:

Service	FY 2007 authorized (floor)	FY 2008		Change from	
		Request	Committee rec- ommendation (floor)	FY 2008 request	FY 2007 authorized
Army National Guard	27,615	26,502	26,502	0	- 1113
Army Reserve	7,912	8,249	8,249	0	337
Air National Guard	23,255	22,553	22,553	0	702
Air Force Reserve	10,124	9,909	9,909	0	- 215
DOD Total	68,906	67,213	67,213	0	- 289

Section 414—Fiscal Year 2008 Limitation on Number of Non-Dual Status Technicians

This section would establish the maximum end strengths for the reserve components of the Army and Air Force for non-dual status technicians as of September 30, 2008:

Service	FY 2007 authorized	FY 2008		Change from	
		Request	Committee recommendation	FY 2008 request	FY 2007 authorized
Army National Guard	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Army Reserve	595	595	595	0	0
Air National Guard	350	350	350	0	0
Air Force Reserve	90	90	90	0	0
DOD Total	2,635	2,635	2,635	0	0

Section 415—Maximum Number of Reserve Personnel Authorized to be on Active Duty for Operational Support

This section would authorize, as required by section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, the maximum number of reserve component personnel who may be on active duty or full-time national guard duty during fiscal year 2008 to provide operational support. The personnel authorized here do not count against the end strengths authorized by sections 401 or 412.

Service	FY 2007 authorized	FY 2008		Change from	
		Request	Committee recommendation	FY 2008 request	FY 2007 authorized
Army National Guard	17,000	17,000	17,000	0	0
Army Reserve	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Naval Reserve	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Marine Corps Reserve	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0
Air National Guard	16,000	16,000	16,000	0	0
Air Force Reserve	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0
DOD Total	69,200	69,200	69,200	0	0

Section 416—Future Authorizations and Accounting for Certain Reserve Component Personnel Authorized to be on Active Duty or Full-Time National Guard Duty to Provide Operational Support

This section would require that by March 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense conduct a review of the long term operational support missions being performed by reserve component personnel under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, and submit the results of that review to Congress. Section 115(b) authorizes reserve component personnel to be on active duty, or full-time national guard duty, for more than three consecutive years, or for more than three years cumulatively out of four. The intent of the review is to determine whether missions that require such long-term personnel commitments should continue to be manned under the authorizations of section 115(b), or under other manning authorizations. This section would also require that future budget justifications materials provided to Congress illuminate the use of the reserve components under section 115(b).

Section 417—Revision of Variances Authorized for Selected Reserve End Strengths

This section would increase the flexibility of the Secretary of Defense to vary the end strength of any component of the Selected Reserve by up to three percent above or below the authorized end strength for the component. The current variance authorized by title 10, United States Code, is two percent.

SUBTITLE C—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Section 421—Military Personnel

This section would authorize \$115,416,839,000 million to be appropriated for military personnel. This authorization of appropriations reflects both reductions and increases to the budget request for military personnel that are itemized below:

Military personnel

	<i>Amount (in thousands of dollars)</i>
H401 Navy: Restore Navy medical personnel cut of 498	45,800
H401 Navy: Restore military to civilian conversion	45,450
H401 Air Force: Restore military to civilian conversion	67,707
H401 Army: Restore military to civilian conversion	33,100
H401 Air Force: Add 88 military personnel for B-52 bomber	5,300
H634 Shipment of second privately owned vehicle to non-foreign overseas locations	22,000
H624 Army: Increase monthly rate of Hardship Duty Pay	79,000
H516 National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program	73,000
Army National Guard: personnel 36 for WMD-CST teams in New York and Florida	3,800
Air National Guard: personnel 8 for WMD-CST teams in New York and Florida	800
Title XIV: Wounded Warrior Assistance Act	66,000
Unexpended military personnel obligations	-987,230
Navy under-execution of FY07 end strength	-32,000
Navy Reserve under-execution of FY07 end strength	-7,000
Leg. Proposal not adopted: Enhanced Authority for Reserve Gen- eral & Flag Officers to Serve on Active Duty	-480
Leg. Proposal not adopted: Flexible Management of Deployment of Members	-102,000

Section 422—Armed Forces Retirement Home

This section would authorize \$61.6 million to be appropriated for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home during fiscal year 2008.

Section 423—Offsetting Transfers from National Defense Stockpile Transaction Fund

This section would transfer \$150.0 million from unobligated balances of the National Defense Stockpile Transaction Fund to the Miscellaneous Receipts of the United States Treasury to pay for direct spending costs arising from section 702 in this Act.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

OVERVIEW

The committee remains concerned that support for our troops and their families continues to remain a priority, particularly as we enter another year of highly demanding military operations in the Middle East. Many soldiers are facing their third deployment, and Marines have seen four or even five deployments over the past several years. The committee is concerned about the toll these continued deployments have on our armed forces and their families.

As part of the Army's effort to grow the force, the committee proposed to increase the annual limit on the number of Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarships that may be awarded to cadets who serve in the reserve components. The committee is aware that the Department had proposed a provision that would eliminate the annual limit. However, the proposal generated significant mandatory spending that the committee could not overcome to accommodate the request. As a result, the committee proposes a modest increase in the annual limit to help the Army reserve components to grow their officer force to meet the increased demand being placed on the reserve components.

The committee remains committed to ensuring that the personnel policy guidelines established in law remain current, valid, and effective. Accordingly, the committee includes a series of provisions that would improve the process for appointing and accessing officers, clarify mandatory separation and movement policies for senior officers, and facilitate the transition of officers to enlisted status.

The committee also proposes to consolidate the educational assistance programs for service members. The committee recommends that the oversight and administration of the educational assistance program for reserve members be transferred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Currently, the committee maintains authority for the reserve educational assistance program, while the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs maintains authority for the active duty educational assistance program. This has led to disparate treatment in educational benefits between the active and reserve forces. This difference has become a notable point of contention as the reserve components have moved from a reserve strategic force to an operational reserve force. Combining the oversight and responsibility of the active and reserve edu-