

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

OVERVIEW

The "Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Overview" states that the President's request is guided by the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) strategy. However, the QDR does not reflect the breadth or complexity of the ongoing, simultaneous security challenges and crises, which further exacerbates the mismatch between the threat, strategy, and resources. This means a smaller Active Duty force, with a Reserve Component capable of continuing to operate as an operational reserve to maintain strategic depth, which is reflected in the President's request. The requested funding levels would allow the military to protect and advance U.S. interests and execute the updated defense strategy, but with somewhat increased levels of risk for some missions. The budget included further reductions in the Active Component end strength in the Army and the Marine Corps, while increasing the Navy's and the Air Force's end-strength levels to preserve capability. The committee notes the services plan for more drastic reductions in end strength and force structure in fiscal year 2017 absent a change to the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25).

The Reserve Components will make minor reductions in fiscal year 2016. The Department has continued to commit to funding an Operational Reserve Component, but the discretionary caps established in Public Law 112-25 will impact the size of the Reserves. Based on the fiscal year 2020 end state, the continued use of the Reserve Components will remain an integral part of the strategy and force. As the Active Components reduce end strength, the committee encourages the military services to ensure the proper force structure and resourcing is provided to the Reserve Components in order to preserve an operational reserve. The committee also recommends that as missions, such as cyber security, space operations, and unmanned aerial systems, continue to grow, the military services incorporate the Reserve Components into these force structure requirements to capitalize on the expertise of the Reserve Component members.

The committee is aware of the constraints that the Army and Marine Corps face in the current budget environment, and remains concerned with the planned force reductions for the Army and Marine Corps, as well as with the Navy's continued challenges manning the fleet while combat and contingency commitments continue. This continued stress on the force, coupled with potential further reductions as a result of the discretionary caps established in Public Law 112-25, may have serious implications on the capacity and capability of the All-Volunteer Force and the ability for the military services to meet the National Defense Strategy.

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, 2016:

Sec. 401

Service	FY 2015	FY 2016	Committee Recommendation	Change from	
	Authorized	Request		FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Athorization
Army	490,000	475,000	475,000	0	-15,000
Navy	323,600	329,200	329,200	0	5,600
USMC	184,100	184,000	184,000	0	-100
Air Force	312,980	317,000	320,715	3715	7,735
DOD	1,310,680	1,305,200	1,308,915	3715	-1,765

Section 402—Revisions 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, 2016. The committee recommends 475,000 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Army, 329,200 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Navy, 184,000 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Marine Corps, and 317,000 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Air Force.

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, 2016:

Sec. 411

Service	FY 2015	FY 2016	Committee Recommendation	Change from	
	Authorized	Request		FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	350,200	342,000	342,000	0	-8,200
Army Reserve	202,000	198,000	198,000	0	-4,000
Navy Reserve	57,300	57,400	57,400	0	100
Marine Corps Reserve	39,200	38,900	38,900	0	-300
Air National Guard	105,000	105,500	105,500	0	500
Air Force Reserve	67,100	69,200	69,200	0	2,100
DOD Total	820,800	811,000	811,000	0	-9,800
Coast Guard Reserve	7,000	7,000	7,000	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, 2016:

Sec. 412

Service	FY 2015	FY 2016		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	31,385	30,770	30,770	0	-615
Army Reserve	16,261	16,261	16,261	0	0
Navy Reserve	9,973	9,934	9,934	0	-39
Marine Corps Reserve	2,261	2,260	2,260	0	-1
Air National Guard	14,704	14,748	14,748	0	44
Air Force Reserve	2,830	3,032	3,032	0	202
DOD Total	77,414	77,005	77,005	0	-409

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, 2016:

Sec. 413

Service	FY 2015	FY 2016		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	27,210	26,099	26,099	0	-1111
Army Reserve	7,895	7,395	7,395	0	-500
Air National Guard	21,792	22,104	22,104	0	312
Air Force Reserve	9,789	9,814	9,814	0	25
DOD Total	66,686	65,412	65,412	0	-1,274

Section 414—Fiscal Year 2016 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, 2016:

Sec. 414

Service	FY 2015	FY 2016		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Air National Guard	350	350	350	0	0
Army Reserve	595	595	595	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 2016 to provide operational support. The personnel authorized here do not count against the end strengths authorized by section 401 or section 412 of this Act unless the duration on Active Duty exceeds the limitations in section 115(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

Sec. 415

Service	FY 2015	FY 2016		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	17,000	17,000	17,000	0	0
Army Reserve	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Navy 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

SUBTITLE C—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Section 421—Military Personnel

This section would authorize appropriations for military personnel at the levels identified in the funding table in section 4401 of division D of this Act.