

1961: Project 80

Study: Project 80 (James E. Hewes, Jr., *From Root to McNamara: Army Organization and Administration, 1900-1963*. U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1975)

Purpose: Shortly after Robert S. McNamara became Secretary of Defense in 1961, he initiated Project 80, which directed the Army to review its functions, organizations, and procedures. The Project 80 study recommended abolishing the offices of the chiefs of the technical services, although technical service personnel would retain their branch insignia and units their branch designation. All active Army personnel management would be consolidated in a new Office of Personnel Operations. The combat development function would be consolidated in a new agency. Regarding HQDA, the study made several recommendations. These included the addition of a Director of the Army Staff, while retaining the Office of the Secretary of the General Staff, and splitting the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations into a Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy and International Affairs, and a Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Programs, and Systems. The Adjutant General's Office would be abolished with its personnel functions going to Office of Personnel Operations and Continental Army Command, while its administrative functions would be reorganized under a new Chief of Administrative Services.

Outcome: The Secretary of the Army approved eliminating five technical service chiefs (Quartermaster, Transportation, Signal, Chemical, and Ordnance) and transferring their research, development, production, and supply functions to a new Army Materiel Command. He also approved establishing the new personnel and combat developments organizations. The Secretary rejected all recommendations regarding Army Staff reorganization. Transferring functions and personnel from the Staff to the new materiel, personnel, and combat developments organizations, however, reduced its strength from approximately 13,700 to 10,500.

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