

1945-46: Patch-Simpson Board & Eisenhower Reorganization

Study: Patch-Simpson Board & Eisenhower Reorganization (James E. Hewes, Jr., *From Root to McNamara: Army Organization and Administration, 1900-1963*. U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1975)

Purpose: The War Department reorganization implemented in 1942 had been authorized by the War Powers Act of 1941, which permitted those changes to remain in place for only six months after the war ended. Therefore, in August 1945, the War Department established a board of officers, first chaired by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch and then Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, to study and recommend the Army's peacetime organization. The board made its recommendations in December 1945. After approval from General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Chief of Staff of the Army, they became effective in June 1946.

Outcome: Army Service Forces was abolished and its functions distributed among elements of the War Department General Staff. The technical and administrative services returned to their prewar autonomy. The other two major commands established in 1942, Army Ground Forces and Army Air Forces, were retained, although the latter was by now a quasi-separate service, a status made official when the National Security Act of 1947 established a separate U.S. Air Force. Army Service Force's service commands in the continental United States were replaced by six Zone of the Interior army headquarters; these and the Military District of Washington were subordinated to Army Ground Forces for training and troop issues, but responsible to the War Department for supply and administrative functions. The General Staff was reconfigured as six coequal directorates: Intelligence; Organization and Training; Plans and Operations; Services, Supply, and Procurement; Personnel and Administration; and Research and Development. The wartime Operations Division, which had become a "super staff" over the General Staff, was abolished, with its functions parceled out among the directorates.

Dr. Bradley Sommer

Approved by: Dr. Peter Knight, GS-15