

1953–1954: Davies Committee on Army Organization and the Slezak Plan

Study: Advisory Committee on Army Organization [Davies Committee] and the Secretary of the Army's Plan for Army Organization [Slezak Plan] (James E. Hewes, Jr., *From Root to McNamara: Army Organization and Administration, 1900-1963*. U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1975)

Purpose: On 18 September 1953, at the request of Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens appointed an Advisory Committee on Army Organization to study ways to improve the effectiveness of Army organization. Secretary Stevens selected Paul L. Davies to chair the committee and charged it with studying all elements of the Army, including field commands and departmental organization in Washington, D.C. The committee was to focus particularly on the organization of the Army's top management through the lens of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Reorganization Plan No. 6. The committee submitted its report to Secretary Stevens on 18 December 1953, proposing four major changes in the organization of the Army: 1) strengthen the Secretary of the Army's fiscal control by adding an Assistant Secretary for Financial Management; 2) increase the authority of the Chief of Research and Development within the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Research by transferring research planning responsibilities from the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4; 3) remove the Army staff entirely from operations by creating two new field commands, a Continental Army Command and a Supply Command, and relieving G-3 and G-4 of their responsibilities for supervising Army training and controlling the technical services respectively; and 4) have the Secretary of the Army actively participate in the creation of national policies and strategies affecting the Army by attending National Security Council meetings, replacing the Under Secretary with a Deputy Secretary, and adding a third Assistant Secretary.

Outcome: On 14 June 1954, the Army announced the Secretary of the Army's Plan for Army Organization, also known as the Slezak Plan, which the Secretary of Defense approved on 17 June. The plan largely followed the recommendations of the Davies Committee except with regards to logistics, rejecting the creation of a Supply Command. Instead, a new Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, under the Assistant Secretary for Logistics, would have oversight of the technical services.

Dr. Jamie Goodall

Approved by: Dr. Peter Knight, GS-15