

## **1969-1971: Parker Panel**

**Study:** Parker Panel (Center of Military History files)

**Purpose:** In September 1969, General William C. Westmoreland, Chief of Staff of the Army, established the Special Review Panel on Department of the Army Organization, headed by Maj. Gen. David S. Parker. Westmoreland directed the panel to examine the functions, organization, and procedures of Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), Continental Army Command, Combat Development Command, and Army Materiel Command. In January 1971, the panel made 34 recommendations concerning management improvement and 34 concerning organizational changes. The latter included establishing on the Army Staff a Deputy Chief of Staff for Materiel Systems; disestablishing the Army Staff's Office of the Chief of Research and Development; disestablishing the Army Staff's Office of the Chief of Support Services; consolidating certain personnel functions and activities in a new Army Personnel Center; transferring command of the Military District of Washington from Continental Army Command to HQDA; and establishing a new Combat Developments and Schools Command by merging the Combat Developments Command with the service schools belonging to Continental Army Command.

**Outcome:** General Westmoreland only approved disestablishing the Army Staff's Office of the Chief of Support Services and transferring command of the Military District of Washington from Continental Army Command to HQDA.

Dr. William Donnelly

Approved by: Dr. Peter Knight, GS-15