

2016: National Commission on the Future of the Army

Study: National Commission on the Future of the Army (*Department of the Army Historical Summary, Fiscal Year 2017*, CMH files.)

Purpose: Congress established the National Commission on the Future of the Army in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in large part over two concerns. The first concern addressed how the Army should best organize and employ its three components with declining resources. The second concern addressed whether the service should proceed with the transfer of AH-64 Apache helicopters from the reserve component to the Regular Army. Congress directed the commission to undertake a comprehensive study of the structure of the Army to assess the size and force mix of the Regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve and make recommendations in those areas where the commission thought appropriate. Additionally, Congress directed the commission to study the transfer of all the Army National Guard's AH-64 Apache helicopters to the Regular Army.

Outcome: On 28 January 2016, the commission released its final report which contained sixty-three recommendations, of which forty-three were directed in whole or part to the Army. For each of the commission's recommendations, the Army assessed the recommendations, identified and evaluated options, and coordinated with reserve component representatives. After review by the secretary of the Army and the secretary of defense, the Army submitted its final response to Congress on 6 September 2017. Only one recommendation applied specifically to the organization and workload of the Army headquarters—namely, that marketing functions be consolidated under the authority of the Army Marketing Research Group (AMRG), a field operating agency established in 2012 under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) to gain unity of effort. The NDAA for FY 2017 had already directed this action, which the Army implemented on 6 January 2017.

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