

## **2001-2002: Realignment Task Force**

**Study:** 2001 Realignment Task Force (Center of Military History files)

**Purpose:** The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2000 mandated a 15 percent headquarters reduction at a rate of 5 percent per year for three years. Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White authorized a task force to create a leaner and more streamlined Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), that would address the NDAA mandate, comply with Title 10 regulations, reduce layers of review and approval, apply business techniques to Army processes, integrate staff redundancies, reduce manpower, and eliminate “shadow staffs” in the U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

**Outcome:** In Fiscal Year 1999, the Army had a headquarters baseline of 15,601 personnel (not counting joint and Special Operation Forces headquarters personnel). A 15 percent reduction over three years would have amounted to cuts of 2,340 personnel from the headquarters staff. In response to the Realignment Task Force recommendations, the Army implemented a staff reduction of 617 personnel between 2001 and 2003, which was well short of the 15 percent goal. The remaining 1,723 personnel cuts were wedged against Major Army Commands. While the cuts did not fulfill the NDAA mandate, the task force did result in other changes. The Executive Office of the Headquarters, comprised the Secretary of the Army, Under Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff of the Army, and Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, was established to eliminate the existence of separate decision-making channels, clearly delineate responsibilities within the headquarters, and streamline the flow of information. Furthermore, the Director of the Army Staff gained increased power and became responsible for tasking and coordinating the entire HQDA staff. The Army Staff also returned to historical G-staff designations and civilian manpower offices moved from ASA (M&RA) to the Army G-1. Additionally, the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison became the sole directive agency for Department of the Army legislative affairs, and the Army established a new U.S. Army Installation Management Command to shift installation management operations to a centralized operation with separate budget lines. Yet, for all of these sweeping changes, the task force did not achieve significant cost savings.

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