

With the greatly increased flow of traffic to South Vietnam, a further early increase in our airlift capability is indicated. We plan to approximately double our existing capability for sustained operations through higher rates of utilization of present airlift aircraft. The more modern MATS aircraft, which now have a planned utilization rate of 5 hours per day, will be raised and held at 8 hours per day. The C-130E troop carrier aircraft in Tactical Air Command and in the Pacific, which now have a planned operating rate of 1½ hours per day, will be raised and held at 5 hours per day. More personnel will be needed.

The increase in the number of Air Force military personnel will require an expansion of the training establishment, which together with other support activities, principally the logistics base, will require a total increase in the Air Force end fiscal year 1966 military personnel strength of 40,000.

In total, 340,000 military personnel will be added to the active forces. To provide this additional strength, the current draft call rate of about 17,000 per month will be approximately doubled.

5. INCREASED READINESS FOR THE RESERVE COMPONENTS

As I noted earlier, we must be prepared to deploy additional forces to southeast Asia over and above those now planned. Furthermore, we must also be prepared to deal with crises elsewhere in the world. Accordingly, steps should be taken now to raise still further the readiness of selected Reserve component forces so that they could be quickly deployed if the need should arise.

There are a number of steps which could be taken towards this end. The units could be manned at full strength, the number and duration of the paid drills could be increased, additional tours of active duty for training could be provided, the equipment required for movement could be identified and earmarked, etc.

Shown on the table are the selected Reserve component forces whose readiness we believe should be raised over the next few months. The Army forces (three divisions and six brigades) will require additional personnel to raise their manning to the desired levels. These personnel can be obtained by enlisting additional men from civilian life or by reassigning men from Reserve units for which there is no military requirement.

The required increase in Reserve Force readiness could be greatly facilitated by the realignment of Reserve Forces which we proposed in the fiscal year 1966 budget. The realignment would permit us to concentrate men, equipment, and civilian technicians in the units we need for our contingency plans, instead of spreading them over a large number of units for which there is no military requirement. This was the primary objective of our realignment proposal and the events of the last few months have demonstrated the soundness of that objective. In my judgment, the realignment should go forward without further delay.

For the Marine Corps Reserve, we propose to add 2,500 paid drill training spaces to raise the manning of the 4th Division/Aircraft Wing (nine battalions and nine attack/fighter squadrons).

About 4,000 additional paid drill spaces will be provided to the Air Force Reserve components to raise the manning of nine fighter