

FURTHER FORCE AUGMENTATIONS AND RELATED PERSONNEL
INCREASES

If we are to be prepared to deploy additional forces to southeast Asia, some further augmentations of our forces and personnel strengths are required. The increases in forces and personnel now proposed are summarized in table 1. The first column shows the personnel increases approved in August 1965 and the second column the increases as revised in January 1966. A number of these changes require some explanation.

In the Army, the major change since last August is in the number of additional military personnel required for the support forces. Inasmuch as it appears desirable to be in position to deploy additional forces without calling up Reserves, these support units must be provided in the Active Force structure. In addition to that change, we have also added another large increment of Army aviation companies to the number approved in August.

The major increase in the Marine Corps over last August is an additional division force, together with a number of tactical helicopter squadrons, observation squadrons and an air support control unit.

In the Navy, we have added to the forces approved in August: 11 LST's and one refrigerator stores ship for logistic support, more SWIFT boats and a mother ship to augment our coastal patrol activities, a number of river control boats and yard craft, and one destroyer. We have also augmented the Navy construction battalions in the Pacific area and are adding four new construction battalions to the Navy structure.

The increases in the Air Force are related to the retention of B-57 and F-102 aircraft previously scheduled to be phased out, a major expansion in the rotation and training base and the logistic support required for the forces in Vietnam.

As shown on the bottom of table 1, a total of about 510,000 military personnel will be required to man the additional forces and support the increased training, rotation, and logistic base. Other adjustments in forces and activities will add another 17,000, but our decision to substitute some 58,000 civilian for 74,000 military personnel spaces will reduce the net increase over the original end fiscal year 1966 military personnel strength to about 453,000, some 113,000 more than the increase approved last August.

When I appeared before this committee last August, we had not as yet determined the number of additional drill pay spaces needed in the Army Reserve components to raise the manning of three division and six brigade forces to 100 percent, or how these spaces should be made available. The number of additional spaces required for this purpose is now estimated at 30,000—18,500 in the Army National Guard and 11,500 in the Army Reserve. The additional spaces needed in the Army Reserve have been provided by a redistribution from units for which there is no requirement in our plans. The 18,500 spaces needed for that purpose in the Army National Guard, plus 20,000 spaces needed to man other Guard units at their authorized strengths, have been added to the 380,000 spaces provided for in the fiscal year 1966 Defense Appropriation Act.