

Tailor forces for particular missions, operational environments, and tempos of activity.

Understand better the relationship between support functions (supply, maintenance, transportation, etc.) and combat functions (maneuver and firepower), thereby enabling us to achieve a better allocation of resources among them.

Calculate more precisely the personnel and materiel requirements of each unit.

While the concept still needs considerable development before all of the foregoing advantages can be fully realized, it has already proved of significant value in our force planning.

Army force structure

The integrated Active-Reserve Army force structure proposed for the fiscal year 1968-72 period is grouped under three main headings—division and brigade forces, major supporting forces, and combat and support battalions.

Division and brigade forces. Because of the temporary Vietnam augmentations to the Active Army, the force structure we are proposing at the end of fiscal year 1968 is the equivalent of $27\frac{1}{2}$ division forces in the active and Reserve structure combined ($18\frac{1}{2}$ Active and nine Reserve components).

You may recall that funds were included in the fiscal year 1967 budget to initiate procurement of long leadtime items for the conversion of a second division to the airmobile configuration, if experience proved this desirable. The existing airmobile division, the 1st Cavalry, proved its worth in Vietnam and I have, therefore, tentatively approved the conversion of an airborne division to an airmobile configuration. The actual timing of this action is subject to the preparation of a detailed conversion plan by the Army and the JCS, but for planning purposes we have scheduled it for early fiscal year 1969.

Major supporting forces. This grouping covers the major supporting forces, most of which represent the initial or sustaining support for the division and brigade forces. In fiscal year 1969 (when an airborne division is converted to airmobile), the Army will keep a portion of the airborne assets to form a new permanent airborne brigade, thereby establishing the brigade total at seven.

Combat and support battalions. We now propose to make a small increase in the number of maneuver battalions.

With respect to artillery battalions, the demands of the conflict in southeast Asia together with our continuing study of the peacetime force requirements have caused us to make a number of changes in the structure. First, we now plan to increase the number of artillery battalions in the active forces. Second, our experience in Vietnam has shown that the mix of separate artillery battalions could contain more heavy 8-inch howitzers and 175-mm. gun battalions. Accordingly, a significant portion of the increase in artillery battalions will be of these types.

The number of engineer combat battalions in the active forces has been temporarily increased in order to meet southeast Asia needs.

The buildup of aviation units in the Army will continue through fiscal year 1968.

We now plan to initiate in fiscal year 1968 a new development program designed to ensure that the Nike-Hercules can continue to