

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Active Forces

End strengths for active forces (sec. 401)

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize active-duty end strengths for fiscal year 2012, as shown below:

	Fiscal year		
	2011 authorization	2012 request	2012 recommendation
Army	569,400	562,000	562,000
Navy	328,700	325,700	325,700
Marine Corps	202,100	202,100	202,100
Air Force	332,200	332,800	332,800

The committee remains concerned about the proper size of the active forces as we reduce our forces in Iraq this year and in Afghanistan over the coming years. The committee supports the Army's plan to reduce by the end of fiscal year 2013 its Temporary End Strength Increase (TESI), the 22,000 additional soldiers requested by the President and approved by Congress in 2009. TESI has allowed the Army to overcome the effects of its large non-deployable population and to end its use of the stop loss authority. The committee also supports the Army and Marine Corps plans to reduce permanent end strength in a responsible and considered manner through fiscal year 2017, but would urge the Department to continually update plans and projections to stand ready to accelerate the planned reductions if conditions warrant.

While the committee supports in principle the reduction of permanent end strength in the ground forces, and an acceleration of that reduction if possible, we remain concerned in the near term about insufficient dwell time. As Secretary McHugh and General Casey testified recently before the committee, "soldiers require at least 2 to 3 years to fully recover, both mentally and physically, from the rigors of a 1 year combat deployment." As of March of this year, active component dwell time stood at 1 to 1.6, far short of the goal of 1 year to 2 or 3. Additionally, the committee believes future reductions in force, while necessary, must be accomplished in a responsible manner, taking into account the wartime service and contribution of service members, particularly those with over 15 years of service. The nation owes it to our service members and their families, especially after enduring the challenges of 10 years of war, to carefully balance many factors in deciding how to draw down responsibly and fairly.

The committee supports the administration's request and recommends active-duty end strengths for fiscal year 2012 for the

Army of 562,000, the Navy of 325,700, the Marine Corps of 202,100, and the Air Force of 332,800.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

End strengths for Selected Reserve (sec. 411)

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize Selected Reserve end strengths for fiscal year 2012, as shown below:

	Fiscal year		
	2011 authorization	2012 request	2012 recommendation
The Army National Guard of the United States	358,200	358,200	358,200
The Army Reserve	205,000	205,000	205,000
The Navy Reserve	65,500	66,200	66,200
The Marine Corps Reserve	39,600	39,600	39,600
The Air National Guard of the United States	106,700	106,700	106,700
The Air Force Reserve	71,200	71,400	71,400
The Coast Guard Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000

End strengths for Reserves on active duty in support of the Reserves (sec. 412)

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize full-time support end strengths for fiscal year 2012, as shown below:

	Fiscal year		
	2011 authorization	2012 request	2012 recommendation
The Army National Guard of the United States	32,060	32,060	32,060
The Army Reserve	16,261	16,261	16,261
The Navy Reserve	10,688	10,688	10,688
The Marine Corps Reserve	2,261	2,261	2,261
The Air National Guard of the United States	14,584	14,584	14,584
The Air Force Reserve	2,992	2,992	2,992

End strengths for military technicians (dual status) (sec. 413)

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize end strengths for military technicians (dual status) for fiscal year 2012, as shown below:

	Fiscal year		
	2011 authorization	2012 request	2012 recommendation
The Army Reserve	8,395	8,395	8,395
The Army National Guard of the United States	27,210	27,210	27,210
The Air Force Reserve	10,720	10,720	10,720
The Air National Guard of the United States	22,394	22,394	22,394

Fiscal year 2012 limitation on number of non-dual status technicians (sec. 414)

The committee recommends a provision that would establish limits on the number of non-dual status technicians who may be employed in the Department of Defense as of September 30, 2012, as shown below:

	Fiscal year		
	2011 authorization	2012 request	2012 recommendation
The Army National Guard of the United States	1,600	1,600	1,600
The Air National Guard of the United States	350	350	350
The Army Reserve	595	595	595
The Air Force Reserve	90	90	90

The committee recommends maintaining Army National Guard non-dual status technician end strength at 1,600, consistent with prior years. The committee notes that under a Presidential waiver of end strength limitations, the Army National Guard currently employs over 3,000 non-dual status technicians, many of whom serve at State headquarters rather than supporting operational units. Further, in section 513 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383), Congress provided temporary hiring authority for non-dual status technicians necessary to replace deployed dual status technicians. This provision should alleviate short-term shortages caused by deploying technicians. The committee considers the end strength limitations of this section sufficient to meet permanent peacetime requirements. The committee urges the Department to meet any additional long-term civilian personnel needs through existing civilian personnel hiring processes, rather than through the non-dual status technician program.

Maximum number of Reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support (sec. 415)

The committee recommends a provision that would establish limits on the number of Reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, as of September 30, 2012, as shown below:

	Fiscal year		
	2011 authorization	2012 request	2012 recommendation
The Army National Guard of the United States	17,000	17,000	17,000
The Army Reserve	13,000	13,000	13,000
The Navy Reserve	6,200	6,200	6,200
The Marine Corps Reserve	3,000	3,000	3,000
The Air National Guard of the United States	16,000	16,000	16,000
The Air Force Reserve	14,000	14,000	14,000

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

Military personnel (sec. 421)

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize funds to be appropriated for military personnel accounts of the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2012.

Budget Item

Military personnel funding changes

The amount authorized to be appropriated for military personnel programs in section 421 of this Act includes the following changes from the budget request:

[Changes in millions of dollars]

Reduction of Army referral bonus	- 25.0
Hostile fire pay proration	- 30.0
Reduction of unobligated military personnel balances	- 325.6
Total	- 380.6

The committee recommends allowing the authority for the health professions referral bonus and the Army referral bonus to expire. The administration's budget request did not include funding for the health professions referral bonus, and given the favorable recruiting environment and the Army's plan to reduce end strength beginning this year, the committee recommends reducing the Military Personnel budget by the \$25,000,000 budgeted for the Army referral bonus.

The committee recommends a provision contained elsewhere in this Act that would require the Department to prorate hostile fire/imminent danger pay by the day. Accordingly, the committee recommends reducing the budget for hostile fire/imminent danger pay by \$30,000,000.

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimate indicates that the services continue to under execute their Military Personnel accounts each year. The committee recommends reducing the Military Personnel accounts by a total of \$325,620,000, which reflects the average potential impact identified by GAO based on historical rates of unobligated balances.