

End Strength: Support Strategic and Operational Requirements

ROA urges Congress to restore end strength so the Reserve Components can continue to meet strategic and operational requirements.

Recent cuts have reduced end strength to below FY2000 levels; the last peacetime level before the September 11, 2001 attacks. Ten years later, former members who issued the original 9/11 *Commission Report* provided an update:

“The struggle against terrorism is far from over—rather, it has entered a new and dangerous phase. Al Qaeda-affiliated groups are now active in more countries than before 9/11. The world has become more dangerous over the past few years.” <http://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/default/files/BPC%209-11%20Commission%20One%20Pager.pdf>

This proposal would provide end strength levels that enable operational support in the face of Active Component reductions and emerging RC missions. It would also reduce the risk when the services need to surge for contingencies. A stronger RC delivers increased access to trained members in the Selected Reserve, in contrast to the non-participating Individual Ready Reserve members who are not current in their military specialty.

Military Personnel End Strengths – Reserve Components

Component	FY2000	FY2016	FY2017 Requested*	2000 vs 2017*
Army National Guard	350,000	342,000	335,000	-15,000 / -5%
Army Reserve	205,000	198,000	195,000	-10,000 / -5%
Navy Reserve	90,288	57,400	58,000	-32,288 / -35%
Marine Corps Reserve	39,624	38,900	38,500	-1,124 / -3%
Air National Guard	106,678	105,500	105,700	-978 / -1%
Air Force Reserve	73,708	69,200	69,000	-4,708 / -6%
Coast Guard Reserve	8,000	~7,000	~7,000	-1,000 / -13%

*Reflects president’s budget request

Recommended End Strengths for Fiscal Year 2018

Army National Guard	350,000
Army Reserve	200,000
Navy Reserve	60,000
Marine Corps Reserve	39,500
Air National Guard	106,678
Air Force Reserve	75,000
Coast Guard Reserve	8,000

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