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Folder "NATO 320.2 (Jan.-Mar) 1975" #42

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SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

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Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 07 SEP 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. §552
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MDR: 18-M-2056

8 JAN 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Army Plan to Increase Combat Capability in Europe Through FY 76 (U)

The Program Decision Memorandum (PDM) requires the Army to submit to OSD by 1 January 1975 its plan for increasing combat capability in Europe the equivalent of two-thirds division, while at the same time reducing headquarters and non-divisional support elements by 12,000 spaces. These combat increases and support reductions must be completed by 30 June 1976. Contained here, in outline form, are finalized Army plans to comply with the Nunn Amendment and PDM for FY 75 and a general plan for compliance in FY 76.

During FY 75, the Army will increase the combat strength of forces in Europe by 6,550 spaces. Of this total, 6,000 spaces are suitable for Nunn Amendment credit. An equal reduction in support spaces will be achieved during the same period.

a. The Authorized Level of Organization (ALO) of selected Armor, Cavalry and Air Defense units will be increased 1,991 personnel spaces. Equipment increases include tanks, armored personnel carriers, helicopters and armored vehicle launched bridges.

b. One Engineer Construction Battalion in Europe, 780 spaces, will be converted to an Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy). This new Combat Engineer Unit will include increased firepower and communications. Its mission statement will incorporate all aspects of the current Combat Engineer Battalion to include attack of fortified positions, barrier preparation and performance of infantry combat missions when required.

c. A Mechanized Infantry Heavy Brigade from Fort Hood with special anti-tank augmentation will be deployed to Europe (3,779 spaces). The brigade will consist of two

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Mechanized Infantry Battalions, a Tank Battalion, Field Artillery Battalion, Support Battalion, Cavalry Troop, Engineer Company and Brigade Headquarters. The unit will deploy as a forward-based element of the 2d Armored Division.

d. In order to comply with the desires of Congress to reduce dependents in Europe, all elements of the deploying brigade except the headquarters and support battalion will be stationed in Germany on a TDY basis. The period of TDY will be six months, after which units will be replaced by a like element from the CONUS base.

e. The deploying brigade will be stationed in the major training areas until permanent facilities can be arranged. CINCUSAREUR is now negotiating with CINCUSAFE in order to obtain permanent stationing at Wiesbaden Air Base.

f. Headquarters and non-divisional support reductions are being achieved by the elimination of headquarters, inactivation of selected units, reduction of strength in some units and finally, civilianization of suitable military positions (Incl 1).

~~(S)~~ In FY 76, the Army again plans to increase its combat forces in Europe approximately 6,550 spaces. An equal support reduction will insure constant Army strength in the NATO guidelines area.

a. A second Mechanized Infantry Heavy Brigade will be deployed to Europe in early calendar year 1976. This brigade will consist of the same elements as found in the brigade to be deployed in FY 75. Although initial stationing is again planned for the major training areas, we are entering into discussions with the FRG to permanently locate the brigade in the NORTHAG area. Stationing in this area will provide improved tactical flexibility for US forces. It will, however, present certain logistical difficulties. Elements of this brigade will also be sent to USAREUR on a TDY basis in order to preclude the addition of dependents in Europe.

b. Two more Engineer Construction Battalions in Europe will be converted to Engineer Combat Battalions (Heavy) (1,190 spaces).

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c. Several other combat units will also be deployed to Europe. Included are a Field Artillery Battalion (155mm), A Field Artillery Battalion (8 inch), and an Attack Helicopter Company. (Total 1292 spaces).

d. ALO increases in the M60A2 Tank Battalions (289 spaces) will complete the FY 76 combat increase package.

e. Support reductions will be similar in nature to those taken in FY 75. (Incl 1) These reductions, however, will begin to impair USAREUR's ability to support itself during the initial stages of any conflict.

(U) Crediting the formation of three engineer combat battalions (heavy) from three existing engineer construction battalions has been viewed with some skepticism by both Senator Nunn and Mr. Sullivan, SASC, as not being a true conversion of support to combat. However, the Army believes strongly that additional engineer combat battalions are an improvement of our combat capability. We would plan to continue with the conversion whether or not Nunn Amendment credit is granted.

(U) With the spaces made available by headquarters and non-divisional support reductions in Europe, new combat units will be formed in CONUS. Included are four mechanized infantry battalions, two tank battalions, four artillery battalions, and other division level units (Incl 2).

(U) Of the total 7,000 indirect hire civilians authorized in FY 76 by the PDM to offset support reductions, it now appears that less than half that number will be required. Included in the 3,488 spaces required are personnel replacements for AG activities, drivers, wholesale and retail supply, finance and accounting, combat equipment group functions, facilities engineering, medical, community support and maintenance activities (Incl 3).

(U) The PDM requires an increase of at least 1,500 TOW/DRAGON. A plan has been devised to add TOW/DRAGON weapons systems to forces in Europe in the required quantity. The deploying brigade units, although basically organized under standard H-Series TOE, will be configured to incorporate their slice of increased anti-tank weapons envisioned for future USAREUR forces.

(U) A portion of the European prepositioned stocks (POMCUS), authorized to contain equipment for two and two-thirds divisions,

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