

U.S. Military Forces in FY 2021

Army

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This is part of the CSIS series *U.S. Military Forces in FY2021*. The U.S. Army plans slow expansion through FY 2025, but a constrained budget environment will force it to choose between maintaining the units it has and building new kinds of structures. With modernization, the Army has increased production of proven systems and shifted billions into development of high-priority programs to prepare the Army for great power conflict.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- After a dip in personnel strength in FY 2019, both regular and reserve components have recovered. FY 2021 targets include: regular Army, 485,900; Guard, 336,500; and Army Reserve, 189,800.
- The regular Army and Army Guard project small increases through FY 2025; the Army Reserve will stay essentially level. This represents a substantial reduction to earlier growth plans, but probably the most expansion that can be done in the current budget and security environment.
- New air and missile defense units are entering the force. Security Force Advisory Brigades continue despite their focus on stability operations. Other new kinds of units, such as the widely discussed multidomain brigades, remain mostly conceptual.
- The active-reserve mix has stabilized at 52 percent Guard/Reserve, 48 percent active. There is now less tension between regular Army and its reserve components as a result of closer consultations, higher overall budgets, and shared recruitment challenges.
- Army modernization, which forms the basis for future forces, is a mix of good and bad news: the good news is that the Army continues production of proven systems and has a well-modernized force as a result. More good news is a few new systems are coming out of the research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) “primordial soup.” The bad news is that the Army is still several years away from having a new generation of systems in production to take it into the 2020s and beyond and set it up for potential combat against great power adversaries.
- In an environment of constrained resources, the Army will need to cut existing Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) if it wants to build new units and procure new systems. So far it has been unwilling to do this.

Force Structure in FY 2021

Table 1: Army End Strength – Regular and Civilians

	Regular Army		Civilian Full-time Equivalents (000s)
	Brigade Combat Teams	End Strength	
FY 2019 Authorized	31	487,500	194,800 (planned)
FY 2019 Actual	31	478,000	197,000
FY 2020 Authorized	31	480,000	194,900 (planned)
FY 2020 Actual	31	485,000	192,100
FY 2021 Request	31	485,900	197,600

Source: Department of the Army, *Army FY 2021 Budget Overview* (Washington, DC: February 2020), Military end strength and force structure on 8, 11, civilian FTEs on 12, https://www.asafm.army.mil/Portals/72/Documents/BudgetMaterial/2021/pbr/Overview%20and%20Highlights/Army_FY_2021_Budget_Overview.pdf.

Regular Army end strength recovered after a dip caused by recruiting and retention difficulties in FY 2019. In that year, the Army aimed for 487,500 but only attained 478,000. It moderated the goal for FY 2020 to 480,000 but was actually able to achieve 485,000. It proposes a small increase of 900 in FY 2021.

The pandemic has affected Army end strength. On the one hand, downturns make recruiting easier. On the other hand, recruiters must do most of their work online and thus have less personal contact. Also, pandemic related precautions such as social distancing limit the throughput in the training establishment. On balance, the effect seems to help end strength since the Army overachieved in FY 2020.

Civilian personnel levels dropped in FY 2020 but will return to their former level.

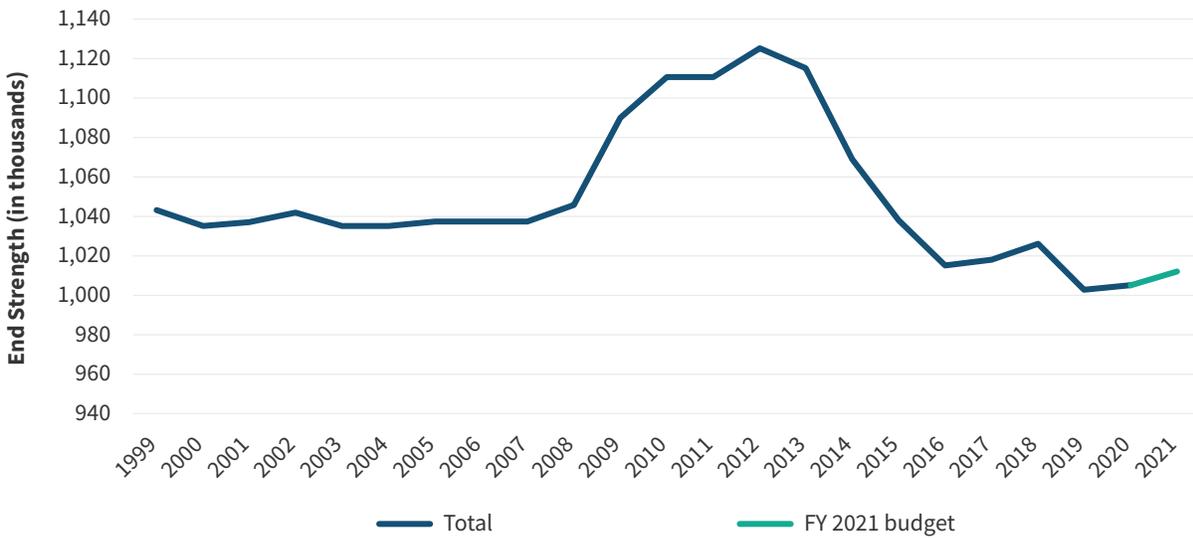
Table 2: Total Army End Strength – National Guard and Reserve

	Army National Guard		Army Reserve
	Brigade Combat Teams	End Strength	Authorized End Strength
FY 2019 Authorized	27	343,500	199,500
FY 2019 Actual	27	336,000	190,700
FY 2020 Authorized	27	336,000	189,500
FY 2020 Actual	27	336,000	189,500
FY 2021 Request	27	336,500	189,800

Source: BCT data in Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller), *Defense Budget Overview: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request* (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, 2020) Appendix A, Table A-4, A-6, https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2021/fy2021_Budget_Request_Overview_Book.pdf. End strength data in *Army FY2021 Budget Overview*, 8.

End strength for the Army reserve components showed a dip in FY 2019 similar to that seen in the regular forces but not the subsequent recovery. They have stayed at the lower end strength level but seem able to hold that.

Chart 1: Total Army End Strength FY 1999–FY 2021



Note: This and several other historical charts begin with the year 1999 because it is before the 9/11 buildup but after completion of the post-Cold War reductions.

Source: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), *National Defense Budget Estimates for FY 2021* (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, April 2020), Table 7-5: Department of Defense Manpower, 286-288, https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2021/FY21_Green_Book.pdf; and Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), *PB 21 Budget Roll Out Brief* (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, February 2020), 13.

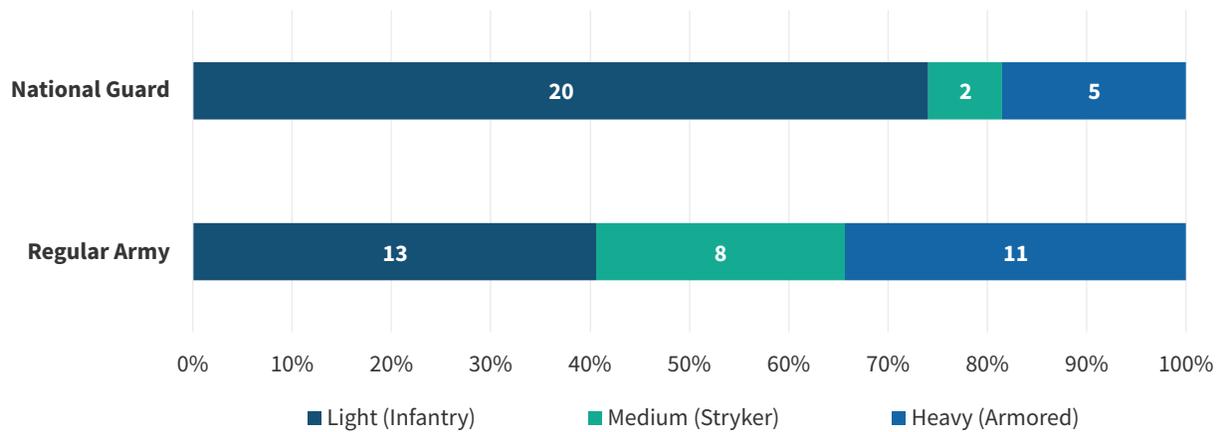
Chart 1 shows the Army’s growth in the 2000s for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and its subsequent drop as the wars wound down. The total Army today is 30,000 soldiers below its pre-9/11 level.

The Army had fought hard against plans in the Obama administration to drop to 980,000 soldiers, regular and reserve, or lower. FY 2019 plans called for expansion to 1,040,000 by FY 2023, and Army officials had talked about even higher levels. However, such talk has nearly disappeared as the Army has struggled to maintain its current strength.

There are no major force structure changes in FY 2021. The regular Army maintains 31 Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), and 11 Combat Aviation Brigades (CABs), with no net change from FY 2020 to FY 2021. The Army National Guard will maintain its current force of 27 BCTs and 8 Combat Aviation Brigades (CABs). The Army Reserve, which consists mostly of support units (“enablers”), retains two Theater Aviation Brigades (TABs).

There is a major difference in the BCT balance between the components. The National Guard is mostly infantry (74 percent). This reduces the need for vehicle maintenance, which is difficult with part-time personnel. The regular Army is more equipment intensive, with 58 percent of BCTs being medium or heavy.

Chart 2: Army BCT Balance by Component



Source: Department of the Army, *Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget Estimates: Operation and Maintenance, Army Justification of Estimates* (Washington, DC: February 2020), 2, https://www.asafm.army.mil/Portals/72/Documents/BudgetMaterial/2021/Base%20Budget/Operation%20and%20Maintenance/OMA_VOL_1_FY_2021_PB_Army_Volume_1.pdf; Department of the Army, *Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget Estimates: Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard Justification Book* (Washington, DC: February 2020), 35, https://www.asafm.army.mil/Portals/72/Documents/BudgetMaterial/2021/Base%20Budget/Operation%20and%20Maintenance/OMNG_VOL_1_FY_2021_PB_Army_National_Guard_Volume_1.pdf.

As Table 3 shows, the total Army has also been getting heavier, which is unsurprising since it has reoriented itself from a focus on counterinsurgency, which needs infantry, to a focus on great power conflict, which needs firepower.

Table 3: Army BCT Balance by Type

	Light (Infantry)	Medium (Stryker)	Heavy (armored)
FY 2017	33	9	14
FY 2021	33	9	16

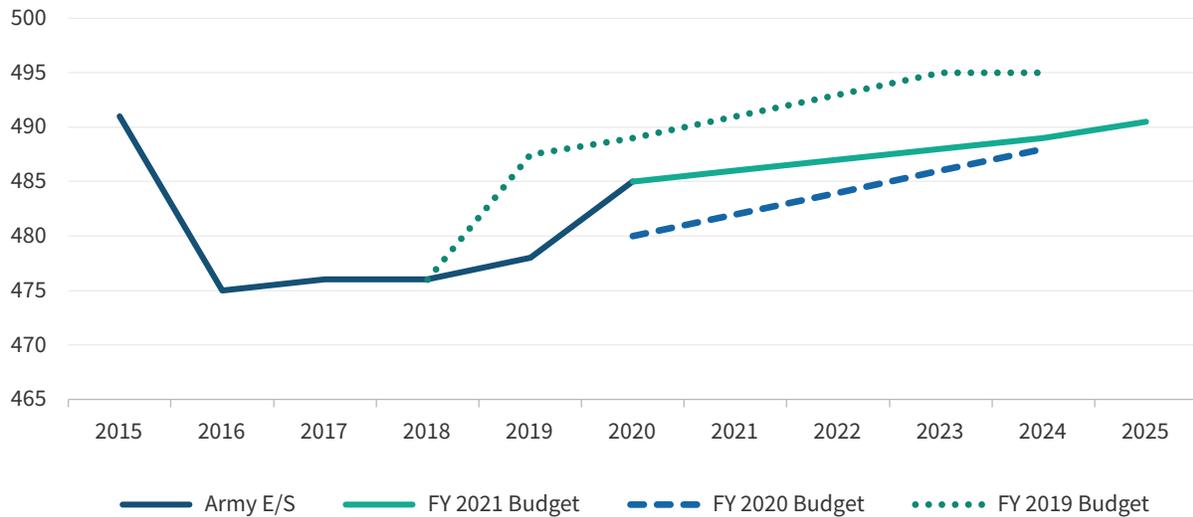
Source: Department of the Army, *Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget Estimates*, 2, Department of the Army, *Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget Estimates*, 35; Department of the Army, *Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget Estimates: Operations and Maintenance, Army Justification of Estimates* (Washington, DC: February 2016), 2, <https://www.asafm.army.mil/Portals/72/Documents/BudgetMaterial/2017/base%20budget/operation%20and%20maintenance/Army%20Vo%201%20-%20Justification%20Book.pdf>; Department of the Army, *Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget Estimates: Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard Justification Book* (Washington, DC: February 2016), 52, <https://www.asafm.army.mil/Portals/72/Documents/BudgetMaterial/2017/base%20budget/operation%20and%20maintenance/Army%20National%20Guard.pdf>.

The Army has finished establishing the Security Force Advisory Brigades (SFABs), five in the regular force and one in the National Guard. SFABs train, advise, assist, enable, and accompany operations with allied and partner nations, thus reducing the burden on BCTs, which would otherwise have to deploy in pieces for this mission. The Army argues that SFABs support the National Defense Strategy (NDS) by enabling allies and partners, which is one of the NDS's three major tenets. However, they have principally focused on irregular warfare and stability operations, to which the NDS gives a lower priority. Continuing all six SFABs indicates that the Army is maintaining some balance in its capabilities.

SFABs could also provide the basis for future BCTs if the Army needed to expand.

The Future Size of the Army

Chart 3: Evolution of Regular Army End Strength Plans, FY 2019–2021 (000s)



As shown in Chart 3, improved recruiting and retention have allowed the Army to get back on a growth slope that is higher than FY 2020, though not as high as what had been projected in FY 2019 and earlier. If the planned growth in the active and reserve components occurs, the Army will get back to its pre-9/11 level. In the long term, the regular Army hopes to get to 495,000.

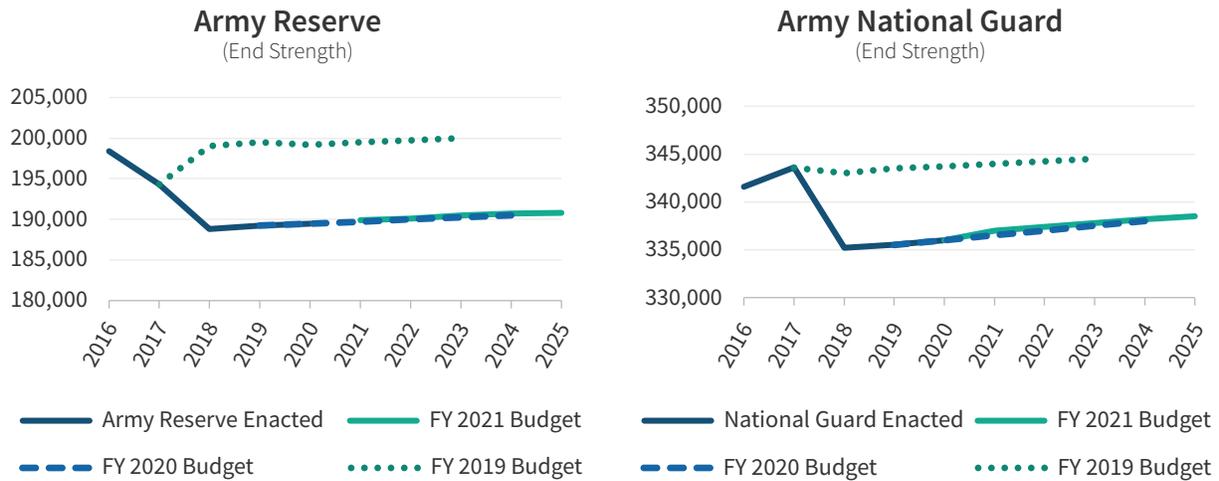
Three opposing dynamics pull the future size and shape of the Army. One is the guidance in the NDS to focus on great power conflicts with Russia and China. That implies a force equipped with advanced, and likely very expensive, technologies paid for by cuts to structure, if necessary. Another is the day-to-day demand for forces to deploy to Afghanistan, Europe, and elsewhere. That implies a larger force that may not need the most advanced technologies. Finally, difficulties in recruiting and retention, as described earlier, may drive force size regardless of strategy.

The Army continues to note its global engagement: “187,000 soldiers deployed worldwide in 140 countries on six continents.”¹ However, neither the Army posture statement nor any budget documents complain about stress. This likely occurred because demands in the Middle East have declined substantially from their peak in the 2000s. That was the situation in February 2020. In October, the Army announced a reduction in rotations to combat training centers and in “heel-to-toe deployment rotations” because of “unsustainable operational tempo.”² What caused this change in attitude toward stress is unclear. Also unclear is the effect it will have on readiness.

1. Paul Chamberlain, “Army Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Overview,” U.S. Army, February 10, 2020, https://www.asafm.army.mil/Portals/72/Documents/BudgetMaterial/2021/pbr/Overview%20and%20Highlights/Army_FY_2021_Budget_Overview.pdf. The Army posture statement by Secretary Ryan McCarthy and General James McConville has a similar citation.

2. Haley Britzky, “The Army to Cut Down on Rotations to Brigade Level Training Centers to Give Soldiers More Time at Home,” Task and Purpose, October 13, 2020, <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-training-rotations-ausa>.

Chart 4: Army Reserve and Army National Guard End Strength



Source: Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller), *Defense Budget Overview: Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request* (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, 2018), 7, https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2019/FY2019_Budget_Request.pdf; Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller), *Defense Budget Overview: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request* (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, 2019), 12, https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2020/fy2020_Budget_Request.pdf; Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller), *Defense Budget Overview: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request*, 13.

As Chart 4 shows, the Army Reserve had planned to increase to 200,000 and the Army National Guard to 343,000. Instead, both now aim for only small increases to their 2020 end strength.

Rather than increase size, the reserve components have opted to increase readiness. For example, the number of National Guard rotations to Combat Training Centers has continued at four. Nevertheless, both reserve components will suffer from understrength units, as force structure has not declined with the end strength plans.

Readiness is important because the reserve components need to sustain their status as an operational reserve. On average, about 25,000 Army Reserve and Guard personnel are mobilized at any time, mainly supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.³ With high force demands on the Army continuing, this level of mobilization will likely persist indefinitely.

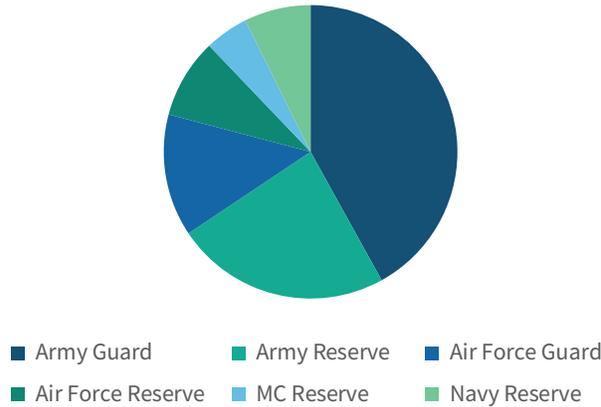
Balance of Regular and Guard/Reserve Forces

Bottom line up front: the Army as a whole seems to have reached equilibrium at 48 percent regular, 52 percent reserve components, a level attained in FY 2015 and projected to continue through at least FY 2025. Although the active/reserve mix has frequently been a source of tension in the Army, those tensions have eased in recent years as a result of closer consultation arising from a 2016 commission, higher budgets that benefit both components, and the difficulty that both components have in recruiting and retaining additional soldiers.

Nevertheless, given the different cultures, missions, and histories of the two components, the active-reserve mix is a tension that must be managed, not a problem that can be solved.

3. “Weekly Reserve Activation Reports,” Military Manpower Data Center, [limited distribution, not publicly available].

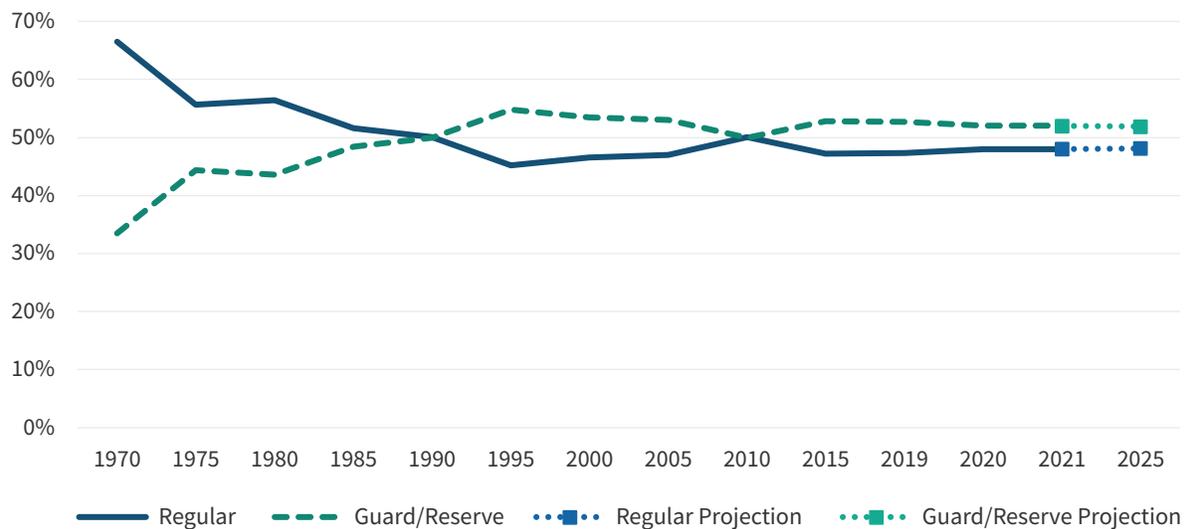
Chart 5: Reserve Component Size



Tensions between regulars and reservists have existed since the beginning of the United States. This tension is particularly an issue for the Army because it has, by far, the largest reserve component, both in relative and absolute terms. For example, 52 percent of the total Army is in the reserve components, but only 35 percent of the total Air Force, 18 percent of the total Marine Corps, and 15 percent of the total Navy are in reserve components. As Chart 5 shows, Army reserve components (green) are nearly twice the size of all the other reserve components put together (in FY 2021, 525,000 versus 275,000).

As Chart 6 shows, the active/reserve balance has shifted over time. Establishment of the Total Force Policy in 1970, which called for increased reliance on the reserves, the initiation of the Volunteer Force in 1973, which raised the cost of military personnel, and the end of the draft in 1973, which cut off an easy supply of active-duty personnel, caused the ratio to move away from an active-heavy force to parity between the components.

Chart 6: Army Force Mix Ratio 1970–2021



Source: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), *National Defense Budget Estimates for FY 2021*, Table 7-5, 286-288; and Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), *PB 21 Budget Briefing* (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, February 2020), 13, https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2021/fy2021_Budget_Request.pdf.

With the end of the Cold War, the ratio changed to a reserve-heavy force as the regular force decreased more rapidly than the reserves.

The ratio reached parity again with expansion of the regular force during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan but has returned to what appears to be a strategically stable level: 48 percent regular, 52 percent

Guard/Reserve. Instead of large growth in either the regular or Guard/Reserve force, the Army, and the Department of Defense in general, has turned to contractors, as discussed in a later section.

Tensions between the components peak during drawdowns, when constrained resources force difficult trade-offs. Thus, there was a crisis in the late-1990s during the post-Cold War drawdown and another in 2014 during the post-Iraq/Afghanistan drawdown. Key to easing recent tensions was the 2016 National Commission on the Future of the Army. The commission looked broadly at all the components and the total Army's needs and published a set of recommendations that all components could accept.⁴ The recent budget increases have helped implement the commission's recommendations and eased tensions generally, as the Army does not need to make trade-offs between the components.

However, a budget downturn might bring these tensions to the surface again. Further, a national defense strategy that requires rapid reaction—as the NDS comes close to doing—would also increase tension by moving capabilities from the reserve components to the active components.

The reserves, particularly the National Guard, are politically powerful because of their connection to home-state political establishments. If they feel slighted, they can—and often do—bypass the Army hierarchy and take their concerns directly to Congress.

The Future Structure of the Army: New Kinds of Units

Consistent with the NDS, Army statements focus on great power conflict and moving beyond the regional conflicts of the last 20 years. However, these Army statements place relatively more emphasis on Russia, identifying it as the principal near-term threat, with China as a longer-term threat.⁵ That is not surprising since the Western Pacific theater consists mainly of ocean and long distances. The European theater would have greatest need for ground forces with advanced weapons. The Army is not ignoring the Pacific. It is working to develop capabilities that would be applicable there, such as long-range anti-ship missiles. Further, a conflict in Korea would require large U.S. ground forces.

This high-end conflict implies a force, perhaps a smaller force, that has advanced systems for ground combat, fires, and aviation. It also implies a force that has different kinds of capabilities such as cyber, electronic warfare, anti-ship/sea control fires, cruise and ballistic missile defense, and very long-range precision fires. *Creating this force in an environment of constrained end strength will require cutting some existing capabilities, such as BCTs, a step the Army has not yet been willing to take.*

A few new kinds of units are taking shape.

Cyber: Cyber expansion seems to be complete since it has mostly disappeared from Army statements. The Army created cyber units quickly to get this new capability into the field and experiment with it, though there was criticism that the Army did not have enough personnel with the right skills. Although cyber receives a lot of attention, the Army component numbers only several hundred personnel.⁶ Longer-term, the Army intends to build integrated intelligence/cyber-electronic warfare units as part of the multidomain forces.

4. National Commission on the Future of the Army, *Report to the President and Congress of the United States* (Washington, DC: January 2016), <https://fas.org/man/eprint/ncfa.pdf>.

5. For example, see "Army FY 2021 Posture Statement" and Chamberlain, "Army Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Overview."

6. Sydney Freedberg, "Army Struggles To Man New Cyber/EW Units: GAO," *Breaking Defense*, August 16, 2019, <https://breakingdefense.com/2019/08/army-struggles-to-man-new-cyber-ew-units-gao/>.

Air and missile-defense: These units will be the first new kinds of combat units fielded. The Indirect Fire Protection Capability, designed to defend fixed points against cruise missiles and UAVs, will be fielded in FY 2022. The Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense is being procured now and will be fielded in FY 2023.

Multidomain units: These remain conceptual, although the Army has published concepts and conducted experiments using artillery brigades as the base unit. Multidomain units would integrate space, cyber, air, ground, and maritime “to execute simultaneous and sequential operations using surprise and the rapid and continuous integration of capabilities across all domains to present multiple dilemmas to an adversary.”⁷ The Army’s overall concept is called AimPoint, and the current thinking is that the major changes will occur at higher echelons, division and above.⁸

Pre-positioned equipment: The Army is building an additional set in Europe, thus increasing its rapid reinforcement capability. Extra funding from the European Deterrence Initiative has been key in building/rebuilding pre-positioned unit sets. The Army is examining additional pre-positioning in the Pacific.⁹

The Future Structure of the Army: New Capabilities

Looked at broadly, Army modernization is a “good news, good news, bad news” story: the good news is that the Army continues production of proven systems and has a well-modernized force as a result. More good news is that a few new systems are coming out of the RDT&E “primordial soup.” The bad news is that the Army is still several years away from having a new generation of systems in production to take it into the 2020s and beyond and set it up for potential combat against great power adversaries.

MODERNIZING THE CURRENT FORCE

In the near term, the Army is sensibly plugging its most serious capability gaps by upgrading the major systems it has and producing these systems at relatively high rates. As CSIS acquisition experts Andrew Hunter and Rhys McCormick point out, focusing on capabilities through upgrades rather than developing major new systems avoids the technical, budgetary, and political risk of relying on a few costly, high-profile programs.¹⁰

Thus, the Army FY 2021 budget funds the latest versions of existing systems. These programs run smoothly, produce equipment at known costs and on predictable schedules, and avoid acquisition scandals that in the past embarrassed the Army in front of Congress and the public.

7. “Multi-Domain Operations,” U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, October 4, 2018, <https://www.army.mil/standto/2018-10-04>.

8. Devon Suits, “Futures and Concepts the Center Evaluates the Future for Structures,” Army New Service, April 22, 2020, https://www.army.mil/article/234845/futures_and_concepts_center_evaluates_new_force_structure; and Andrew Feickert, “The Army’s AimPoint Force Structure Initiative,” Congressional Research Service, May 8, 2020, <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/IF11542.pdf>.

9. Sydney Freedberg, Jr., “Army Adding New Arms Stockpile in Europe: Gen. Perna,” Breaking Defense, February 4, 2020, <https://breakingdefense.com/2020/02/army-adding-new-arms-stockpile-in-europe-gen-perna/>.

10. Rhys McCormick and Andrew Hunter, “The U.S. Army’s Next Big 5 Must Be Capabilities, Not New Platforms,” Defense One, July 25, 2017, <https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2017/07/us-armys-next-big-5-must-be-capabilities-not-new-platforms/139714/?oref=d-river>.

Table 4: Major Army Procurement in FY 2021

System	First fielded	Current version	Procurement proposed for FY 2021
Abrams tank M-1	1981	M1A2 SEP V2	89
Bradley Fighting Vehicle M-2/3	1981	M2A4	73
Stryker fighting vehicle	2003	Double V-Hull, 30mm gun	154
Paladin self-propelled howitzer M-109	1963	M109 PIM (A7)	30
Blackhawk UH-60	1978	M model	36
AH-64 Apache	1987	E model	52
CH-47 Chinook	1962	F-model	7

Source: Department of the Army, *Army FY 2021 Budget Overview*, 16.

Two relatively new programs are also in production: the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, an armored light truck and replacement for the up-armored HMMWVs, and the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle, a replacement for the M113 armored personnel carrier.

The effect of this approach, combined with the large wartime procurements and rebuilds/upgrades funded by Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) reset during the 2000s, is that the Army’s force structure is filled with relatively new equipment. For example, the Apache fleet averages 8 years and the Chinook fleet 10 years.¹¹ Gone are prewar concerns about aging equipment fleets.

Finally, the Army’s FY 2021 budget, like the other services, continues robust funding for munitions, for example, the Guided MLRS rocket, the Hellfire antitank missile, and Patriot missiles (MSE). This reflects preparation for the intense combat that conflict with a great power would entail.

CREATING NEW CAPABILITIES

A long-standing concern about Army modernization is that there are few new systems coming online to replace the existing generation. This was the result of a “triple whammy”: a missed procurement cycle due to program failures, a focus on near-term systems for wartime operations, and modernization funding reductions in the postwar drawdown.¹²

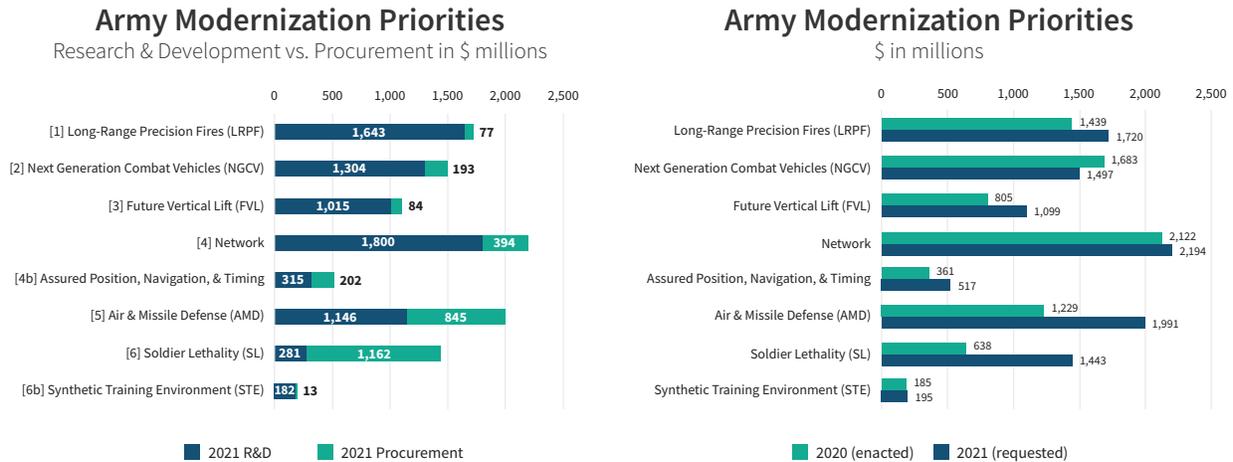
The Army has divided its development effort into six major priorities (sometimes known as “the big six”): Long Range Precision Fires (artillery), Next Generation Combat Vehicle (armor), Future Vertical Lift (aviation), Army Network, Air and Missile Defense, and Soldier Lethality (infantry). The Army has added two more capability areas—Assured Positioning, Navigation, and Timing and Synthetic Training Environment—so the modernization effort is now “6+2.”

Chart 7 shows funding for the modernization priorities. Most funding is still in R&D, with only air and missile defense and soldier lethality showing significant procurement. Changes from FY 2020 to FY 2021 are modest, except for increases in air and missile defense and soldier lethality to cover procurement.

11. Congressional Budget Office, *Cost of Replacing Today’s Army Aviation Fleet* (Washington, DC: May 2019), Table A-1, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-05/55180-ArmyAviation.pdf>.

12. Rhys McCormick, “The Army Modernization Challenge: A Historical Perspective,” CSIS, March 31, 2016, <http://fysa.csis.org/2016/03/31/the-army-modernization-challenge-a-historical-perspective>. For description of Army acquisition failures, see John M. McHugh, *Army Strong: Equipped, Trained, and Ready, Final Report of the 2010 Army Acquisition Review* (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, January 2011), http://www.rdecom.army.mil/EDCG%20Telecoms/Final%20Report_Army%20Acq%20Review.pdf.

Chart 7: Funding for Army Modernization Priorities



Source: Sydney Freedberg, “Army Boosts Big Six 26% but Trims Bradley Replacement,” Breaking Defense, February 10, 2020, <https://breakingdefense.com/2020/02/army-boosts-big-six-26-but-not-bradley-replacement/> reprinted with permission. Used with permission from Breaking Defense.

The Army points to 31 systems in development (the RDT&E “primordial soup”), far more than it can afford to procure and field. The Army’s chief resource manager warned, “[a]s those 31 signature systems come to maturation and it’s time to put things through a production line, that’s where we’re going to be making some difficult choices.”¹³

Shown below are major initiatives in development. The list gives a sense of systems that might enter the force in the future.¹⁴

13. Sydney Freedberg, “Army Needs a Bigger Budget to Build Big Six: Lieut. Gen. Horlander,” Breaking Defense, February 18, 2020, <https://breakingdefense.com/2020/02/army-needs-bigger-army-budget-to-build-big-6-lt-gen-horlander/>. Others have made the same point. Sydney Freedberg, “Shyu to Army: ‘You Can’t Have It All’ with 31 Modernization Priorities,” Breaking Defense, December 11, 2019, <https://breakingdefense.com/2019/12/shyu-to-army-you-cant-have-it-all-with-31-modernization-priorities/>; and Sydney Freedberg, “Army Study Asks: How Much Modernization Can We Afford?,” Breaking Defense, June 9, 2020, <https://breakingdefense.com/2020/06/army-study-asks-how-much-modernization-can-we-afford/>.

14. List comes from Andrew Feickert and Brendan W. McGarry, *Army’s Modernization Strategy: Congressional Oversight Considerations*, CRS Report No. R46216 (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, February 2020), <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R46216.pdf>.

Table 5: Army Development Priorities

<p>Long Range Precision Fires</p>	<p>Strategic Long-Range Cannon Precision Strike Missile Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA)</p>	<p>Because of the NDS emphasis on long-range precision strike, these programs have received high priority. Several will enter procurement soon. However, they may engender a roles and missions debate with the Air Force because of their range. The fortunes of the artillery have turned around substantially in the last decade. During the stabilization conflicts of the 2000s, artillery was considered a “dead branch walking” because there was less need for firepower.</p>
<p>Next Generation Combat Vehicle</p>	<p>Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle Robotic Combat Vehicle: 3 variants Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) Mobile Protected Firepower Decisive Lethality Platform</p>	<p>AMPV is in production. The other programs are further in the future. The ground combat vehicles will likely face some challenges because of their high cost and appearance of being legacy capabilities.</p>
<p>Future Vertical Lift</p>	<p>Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft Future Attack Unmanned System Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft</p>	<p>These are major, longer-term programs that will go into production in the late-FY 2020s.</p>
<p>Air and Missile Defense</p>	<p>Maneuver Short-Range Air defense (M-SHORAD) Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC)</p>	<p>Air defense has received a lot of attention recently because of its applicability to great power conflicts. IFPC and M-SHORAD are in production now. Near-term capabilities will use missiles; longer-term capabilities may use directed energy.</p>
<p>Soldier Lethality</p>	<p>Next Generation Squad Weapons – Automatic Rifle Next Generation Squad Weapons – Rifle</p>	<p>The Army is fielding many small improvements in this area. New weapons may use a 6.8mm round (as opposed to the current 5.56 mm) but are still in the testing phase.</p>

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