

Defense Posture at a Glance

Edited by Colleen A. Bollard, STAFF EDITOR

The Pentagon defines military capability as consisting of four "pillars"—force structure, modernization, readiness, and sustainability. By all of these measures, the defense posture of the United States improved steadily in the 1980s,

filling in the gaps and shortfalls of the 1970s. Now, though, defense budgets are being cut back severely. The services are faced with holding onto as much capability as they can with declining resources.

Major Strategic Systems

	FY '80	FY '84	FY '86	FY '87	FY '88	FY '89
Land-Based ICBMs						
Titan	52	32	7	—	—	—
Minuteman	1,000	1,000	998	973	954	950
Peacekeeper	—	—	2	27	46	50
*Strategic Bombers						
B-52D	75	—	—	—	—	—
B-52G/H	241	241	241	234	234	234
B-1B	—	—	18	58	90	90
FB-111A	56	56	56	52	48	48
Fleet Ballistic Launchers (SLBMs)						
Polaris	80	—	—	—	—	—
Poseidon (C3 and C4)	336	384	320	336	368	400
Trident	—	72	144	192	192	192
*Strategic Defense Interceptors						
Active Duty	127	90	76	54	36	36
Air National Guard	165	162	198	195	216	216

*Primary Aircraft Authorized

Airlift and Sealift Assets

	FY '80	FY '84	FY '86	FY '87	FY '88	FY '89
*Intertheater Airlift						
C-5A	70	70	66	66	66	66
C-5B	—	—	5	14	32	44
C-141	234	234	234	234	234	234
KC-10A	—	25	48	57	57	57
C-17	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Intratheater Airlift						
Air Force						
C-130	482	520	504	559	521	513
C-123	64	—	—	—	—	—
C-7A	48	—	—	—	—	—
Navy and Marine Corps						
Tactical Support	97	85	88	88	92	92
Sealift Ships, Active						
Tankers	21	21	24	20	20	20
Cargo	23	30	40	41	41	41
Reserve**	26	106	122	135	144	151

*Primary Aircraft Authorized

**Includes useful National Defense Reserve Fleet ships and the Ready Reserve Force.

The Evolution of Tactical Forces

	FY '80	FY '84	FY '86	FY '87	FY '88	FY '89
Army Divisions						
Active	16	16	18	18	18	18
Reserve	8	8	10	10	10	10
Marine Corps Divisions						
Active	3	3	3	3	3	3
Reserve	1	1	1	1	1	1
Air Force Attack/Fighter Aircraft						
Active	1,608	1,734	1,764	1,812	1,762	1,746
Reserve	758	852	876	900	894	876
Navy Attack/Fighter Aircraft						
Active	696	616	758	752	758	792
Reserve	120	75	107	101	120	118
Marine Corps Attack/Fighter Aircraft						
Active	329	256	333	331	334	341
Reserve	84	90	94	96	94	96
Naval Forces						
Strategic Forces Ships	48	41	45	43	42	42
Battle Forces Ships	384	425	437	445	439	443
Support Forces Ships	41	46	55	58	61	65
Reserve Forces Ships	6	12	18	22	28	30
Total Deployable Battle Forces	479	524	555	568	570	580
Other Reserve Forces Ships	44	24	21	21	20	18

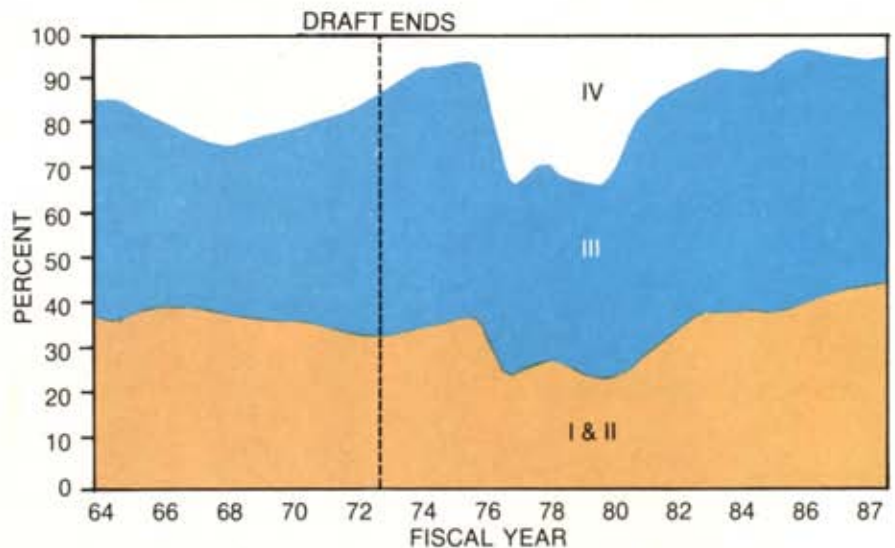
Mission-Capable Rates

	FY '80	FY '82	FY '84	FY '86	FY '87	GOAL
Army (FMC)						
Aircraft	66	68	71	75	76	75
Fire Support Artillery	88	90	89	92	92	90
Fire Support Missile Systems	91	96	94	96	97	90
Tanks	86	87	87	85	85	90
Combat/Combat Support Vehicles	88	85	88	89	90	90
Navy and Marine Corps Aircraft (MC)						
Total Aircraft	59	63	70	74	73	73
Fighter/Attack Aircraft	53	57	63	70	70	70
Air Force (MC)						
Total Aircraft	66	67	71	78	80	75
Fighter/Attack Aircraft	62	66	73	77	79	74
Marine Corps (FMC)						
Artillery	88	86	89	84	94	85
Missile Systems	94	93	92	88	89	85
Tanks	86	88	87	86	83	85
Combat Vehicles	84	82	82	81	89	85

Equipment is rated "mission-capable" (MC) if it can perform one of its primary missions and "fully mission-capable" (FMC) when it can perform all of them. For single-mission ground force systems, only FMC is measured. The averages obscure the peak readiness of first-line combat units. USAF fighter squadrons, for example, often achieve FMC rates in the range of eighty-five to ninety percent.

Brighter Recruits

Only five percent of the recruits joining the armed forces today are in mental Category IV (the lowest) as measured by the Armed Forces Qualification Test. They are brighter than enlistees and draftees of the past—and also ahead of the general US youth population, thirty-one percent of which falls into Category IV. Last year, forty-one percent of the recruits scored in one of the two top mental categories.



Lower Manpower Levels

(Fiscal year end-strength in thousands)

	FY '88	FY '89
Military Active Duty		
Level originally planned	2,172	2,184
Army reduction	-9	-9
Navy reduction	0	-9
Marine Corps reduction	-2	-3
Air Force reduction	-23	-25
Total Active-Duty Reductions	-34	-46
Level Now Planned	2,138	2,138
Selected Reserves		
Original Plan	1,190	1,213
Reductions	-18	-40
Plan Now	1,172	1,173
Civilians		
Original Plan	1,123	1,125
Reductions	-11	-23
Plan Now	1,112	1,102

The wave of budget reductions last winter forced the Defense Department to cut back the manpower levels planned for in its original budget submission. At the end of FY '89, the active-duty military will be down 35,917 people since 1987. Civilian strength will be 30,884 below 1987. Planned growth in the Guard and Reserve has been slowed, but these forces will achieve a net gain of 22,045 over 1987.

The Tempo of Training

	ACTUAL					PROJECTED	
	FY '80	FY '84	FY '85	FY '86	FY '87	FY '88	FY '89
Flying Hours per Crew per Month							
Army Tactical	N/A	13.5	13.1	13.6	15.1	14.5	15.8
Navy/Marine TacAir/ASW	24.5	25.0	24.9	25.0	24.9	24.9	24.8
Air Force TacAir	15.6	19.1	19.0	18.8	19.5	18.2	19.3
Air Force Strategic	18.1	18.2	18.2	17.3	18.2	17.1	17.6
Steaming Days/Quarter							
Deployed Fleets	56.6	60.0	53.6	50.5	53.2	50.5	50.5
Nondeployed Fleets	28.6	28.2	27.4	26.9	27.0	29.0	29.0
Army Tank Mileage per Tank per Year							
	—	—	850	830	800	725	850

In FY '89, the Defense Department will make sacrifices in other budget accounts to restore the operational tempo of training lost in the recent cuts. Army tank mileage figures for years before 1985 were not available.