HOW BIG SHOULD THE ACTIVE ARMY (AND AIR FORCE) BE?

Second of Two Articles

Petton Jr., Omar N. Bradley or George C. Marshall know that they struggled through this period of rather low levels of activity and certain modest levels of combat readiness. This occurred because neither the Command nor the bulk of the military during those years deemed it necessary to fund a large or very combat-ready Army. The Guard of the period didn’t fare much better, it should be added.

While the unpreparedness of the Total Force of that era has been widely criticized in many writings, no one has called attention to the way in which the Army, as a whole, was understaffed by the Persian Gulf War. They were concerned and very aware that when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

Today, the administration pursues them as if nothing had happened in Southwest Asia in 1990 and 1991. GUARD is as if there had been no mobilization of the Guard and Reserve in 1990 and 1991 as if that mobilization had been unsuccessful, which no one asserts.

General Sullivan and the Army leadership, recognizing the public support that follows a mobilization of Guard and Reserve units, seem open to rethinking the inclusion of certain combat support and combat service support units in the contingency plans that previously had been envisioned as all "regular." We feel this is to be commended and that the national crisis can be handled by the active Army.

As noted above, between 1919 and 1941, the active Army was small. Actually, it was about 33 percent of the Total Army (a term not used today). The Army Guard was 42 percent. And the USAR was 24 percent. The total numbers were 135,000 active, 180,000 Guard and 100,000 Reserve.

If we accept General Sullivan’s suggestion that the 1 million figure for the Total Army is about right, then 800,000 on Active and about 200,000 on Guard and Reserve would be the 1 million total shown today. This number is more in agreement with wartime personnel during the big wars of the past, the Guard time to begin large unit maneuver for World War I.

The National Guard in World War I

The National Guard was very important in World War I just following the Mexican War. The question then was how should we have to fight in 1917? This article is a study of the Mexican War in Peace 

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COVER: In Dakar, Senegal, Sgt Theodore Misuye, 114th Engineer Battalion, Missouri Army Guard, and Sgt Alune Diop, Senegal army, were just one pair of many who served in the two armies to combine their experience to improve life in Senegal, Africa. Photo, MSG Jerry Batten, MOARNG Design, Johnson Design Group.