



How The Army Plans To Thin The Ranks

Monday, March 31, 2014 | Tony Lombardo *The Army Times*

If you've been hoping for a chance to voluntarily end your contract and collect a payout, don't hold your breath. Even as the Army braces for a potential drop to 420,000 soldiers, leadership is intent on avoiding the use of voluntary separation incentives that the service has offered in the past. "The mandate that



we've been given from leadership is, to the maximum extent possible, the Army will keep the best and brightest," said Roy Wallace, the assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel in a sit-down with reporters at the Pentagon.

The latest budget plan calls for the Army to drop to 440,000 to 450,000 soldiers by about 2017. If Congress forces more cuts through sequestration, that number could drop to 420,000. Officials are confident, if they have until about 2019 to hit 420,000, that the Army can meet these force

limits through attrition, adjusting its recruiting mission and the force-shaping measures already in effect: The Qualitative Management Program, which forces out retirement-eligible senior NCOs with blemished records — for example, soldiers with a letter of reprimand, a relief for cause or a substandard NCO evaluation report. The Qualitative Service Program boards, which target senior NCOs in over-strength specialties and can trigger an involuntary separation or early retirement. Separation and selective early retirements for officers ranked captain through colonel. The Army has no plans to expand its 15-year retirement option, known as Temporary Early Retirement Authority, beyond those soldiers flagged for involuntary separation.

The Army also has no plans to reduce the three-year service obligation required for all officers and soldiers promoted to colonel, lieutenant colonel and the senior NCO ranks. The 36-month requirement for NCOs was established in 2012 and "intended to provide for NCO leader development," Platt said in an emailed response to questions. Law dictates officer obligations. "It's important to note," Platt added. "The Army considers requests for waiver of Active Duty Service Obligation regularly on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with both the needs of the Army and of the soldier. That is the intent for the future as well." The key to the Army's force-shaping measures is that leadership has a say in who gets to leave early. The decision comes directly from Army Secretary John McHugh and Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, Wallace said, and it's based on lessons learned. "We are a learning organization. And some of us were around here in the '90s during the last drawdown," said Wallace, a retired colonel. "We learned quite a few lessons there." In the 1990s, incentives such as voluntary separation pay and voluntary early retirements were offered. These enabled soldiers to earn big bucks for bailing out and convinced plenty of high-quality soldiers to trade in their uniform for a civilian job. This time, the Army is seeking to retain as many of the best as possible.

Cost is another huge factor in deciding against voluntary incentives, Wallace said. Voluntary incentives in the 1990s cost the Army about \$4 billion, Wallace said, and he's still paying off some of it today. In 2014 dollars, Wallace estimated it could cost about \$11 billion. "I can't afford [that expense] inside the United States Army right now," he said. The Army is still tweaking its recruiting goals, Platt said, so he could not provide projected goals as the service continues to reduce its end strength.

"The Army is developing recruiting and retention missions based upon future manpower requirements, budgetary constraints, and historical trends in order to construct a force capable of conducting the wide array of operations required of it," he said.

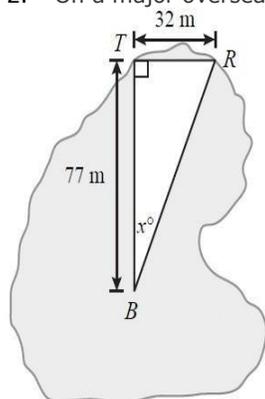
1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the similarities and differences synonymous with the infamous aforementioned drawdown of the nineties and the proposed forthcoming personnel changes across the United States Army. What professional ramifications might these reductions have upon an aspiring service member? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence *not* limited solely to article above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets.

(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)

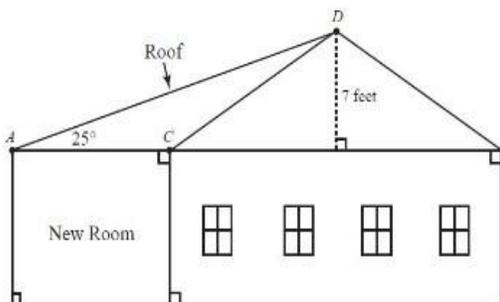
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2. On a major overseas military installation, the commissary and exchange are located on the shore of American Lake and located approximately 32 meters (m) apart. Military sea craft avidly patrolling the lake is heading toward the commissary is a total distance of 77 meters. Provided the diagram, where point T represents the location of the commissary, point R represents the location of the exchange, and point B represents the location of the boat. The operator of the boat wants to change direction to sail toward the exchange. Identify the measure of the angle at x ? Using the Pythagorean Theorem, find the length of the hypotenuse of the given right triangle and determine if a Pythagorean Triple exists. Identify the formulas as well as specifically what information one may derive from obtaining the following measurements via the following trigonometric ratios when applied to the sculpture: tangent, sine, and cosine. Explain your reasoning and determine whether the solution(s) is reasonable in the context of the original situation. **(MA.912.G.5.1; MA.912.G.5.4; MA.912.T.2.1)** Ref: <http://www.ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/Math/MA912T21>



3. Legendary Warrior, 39-year United States Army veteran, Post Commander Lieutenant General Jabroni has contracted civilian services charged solely with remodeling his house via incorporating an additional component, as shown in the diagram below. Extensive experience suggests a meticulous attention to detail generally equates to a monumental savings; therefore, he has employed trigonometric ratios in an attempt to derive the following. In order to determine the length of the boards he needs for the roof of the room, he must calculate the distance from point A to point D . What is the length, to the nearest tenth of a foot, of segment AD ? **(MA.912.G.5.1; MA.912.G.5.4; MA.912.T.2.1)** Ref: <http://www.ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/Math/MA912T21>



4. PFC Fatchops possesses approximately \$1000 in his Navy Federal Credit Union personal retirement account and has boldly initiated saving an additional \$250 per week to ensure retirement prior to death do him part. Motivated by his roommate's ambitious endeavor, Corporal Alphabet has \$100 in his account and contributes \$300 weekly to his USAA IRA. Unbeknownst to them now, either soldier is authorized to make any withdrawals prior to the age of 59.5 in absence of substantial financial penalties. Excluding interest accrued, after how many weeks will Fatchops and Alphabet have the same amount of money? At this point, how much will each service member possess? Define a variable and identify as the solution to a system of linear equations via employing the substitution, graphing, and elimination methods. Explain which of the three methods you find most conducive to solving this inquiry. Tell whether the system has *one solution*, *no solution*, or *infinitely many solutions* as well as the unique criteria which constitutes each individual category in terms of slopes and y-intercepts. Make a general statement about the solutions obtained when solving by graphing the results with that derived from solving by substitution. **(LA.910.3.1.3; MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.10; MA.912.A.3.8; MA.912.G.1.4; MA.912.A.3.12; MA.912.A.3.13)**
5. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *Incentives*, *mandate*, *sequestration*, *attrition*, *reprimand*, *blemished*, *tweaking*, *constraints*, *array*, *retention* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
6. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward the inevitable reduction of forces: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the intended purpose of this article and identify any indicators or supporting evidence, which suggest the author may possess a bias for or against service members susceptible to involuntary discharge. Provide an inference troubled soldiers and their families may derive from this material. The point of view employed throughout the passage is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and thirsd person. Explain specifically how the image above contributes to the validity of the aforementioned passage. **(RI.9-10.1 – 10.6)**
7. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Provided the fact that the passage is incomplete, create an updated concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above incorporating the italicized term: *Ambiance n.* General Atmosphere. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Vivat Daughtry tempora. Qui est in omnibus. | Due Monday, April 7, 2014

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