

Readiness

10-09 Resetting the Force

The Army's increased operational tempo due to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, combined with harsh operating environments, combat damage and attrition, have taken a heavy toll on the Army's equipment fleet. That fleet (aviation, wheeled and tracked vehicles, and weapon systems) supports every facet of military operations. Assured fleet readiness is critical for full spectrum Army mission success. After years of insufficient modernization investments, many Army units are under equipped and not immediately ready for deployment, especially in the Reserve Component. Our current operating tempo has only added to that problem. To meet the Regional Combatant Commanders' wartime needs, the Army has been forced to pool equipment from across the force to equip those Soldiers deploying into harm's way. This practice adversely impacts timely response to mission requirements across the full spectrum of military operations.

Aviation and ground equipment are often left behind in theater to support subsequent unit rotations. Redeploying units thereby lack sufficient equipment to properly train for their next rotation. The capability of Reserve Component units to support homeland defense and homeland security missions is being significantly diminished. Deploying Army units often are not outfitted with their full equipment authorization until just prior to their deployment or when they arrive in theater.

The Army's Reset Program is designed to restore degraded equipment and return it to optimum combat capability. Reset is a cost of war and must be properly resourced. This program is synchronized with unit training and deployment schedules. Currently, the program is being funded with appropriations in support of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). Since the Army began the program, over 630,000 items of equipment have been repaired. This represents only a portion of the real requirement which will continue as long as we have forces deployed, and for several years thereafter.

To ensure that the Army is fully prepared to continue combat and stability operations and to support synchronization of deployments, future contingencies, homeland security, and defense missions, the Army must be fully resourced to reset, recapitalize and repair the equipment fleet. This includes procurement for replacing combat losses. As our operations continue we are experiencing a need for reset of equipment in our industrial areas, specifically ammunition production. Increased and consistent funding will reduce the backlog and restore full production capability to the depot program. Our Soldiers placing their "Boots on the Ground" deserve to perform wartime missions and train for programmed operational deployments with fully capable weaponry and equipment.

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to urge the Administration and Congress to:

- Provide timely funding for equipment reset throughout the current conflict and for several years thereafter to restore units to levels of readiness required to successfully execute programmed operational deployments, future contingencies and homeland defense missions; the Army's request for reset funding ranges between \$13-\$18 billion depending on the equipment returning, and the requirements to replace battle losses, worn out theater provided equipment, selected Army Pre-positioned Stocks items, and reserve component equipment left in theater
- Provide timely, non-offsetting OCO appropriations to ensure a consistent work flow through our depot and industrial base to effectively support equipment reset operations

- Provide timely funding for equipment modernization initiatives concurrent with equipment reset operations where opportunities exist to enhance the equipment fleet with improved capabilities: reset equipment forward; not backward to their legacy design capability
- Provide timely funding for equipment procurement for all combat losses in addition to those replacements whenever battle damaged and worn out equipment are not economically repairable