



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

9 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (M&RA)

SUBJECT: Request for Comment

Mr. Ellsworth has learned informally that Brookings Institution has formulated the following Defense-cut suggestions:

a. An overlarge personnel pipeline. One out of six military personnel are taking **classroom instruction** or other training, at a cost of \$10 billion a year. The turnover rate is too high. By increasing terms of enlistments one year, at least \$1 billion a year can be saved.

b. The teacher-student ratio is 1.5 to 1. By changing it to 2 to 1, 45,000 slots a year can be saved **with further** changes bringing commensurate savings.

c. By reducing rotations **and extending** tours, "dead time" in troops would be reduced. By keeping personnel on the job longer, new people would not be needed.

d. There are too many people in higher rank. "Grade **creep**" for both enlisted men and officers should be reduced.

e. Increase actual salary as a substitute for fringe benefits leading to an all salary no fringe benefit position.

Mr. Ellsworth would like your assessment as to the validity and feasibility of these items. He would like your response by noon on Tuesday, 13 July.

Harold S. Coyle

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