

# U.S. Army Forced to Reduce Force by 24,000 Amidst Massive Recruiting Shortfall

February 27, 2024



The U.S. Army is facing recruitment challenges and is now reducing its force by approximately 24,000 as part of a restructuring aimed at enhancing its preparedness for future conflicts.

Approximately 5% of positions being eliminated will primarily impact vacant roles rather than active-duty personnel, as outlined in a recent Army report released on Tuesday.

Many of the positions being eliminated are linked to counterinsurgency roles that expanded during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan but are no longer sought after.

Approximately 10,000 positions will be eliminated from cavalry squadrons, Stryker brigade combat teams, infantry brigade combat teams, and security force assistance brigades, which are responsible for training foreign forces.

The current service structure allows for a maximum of 494,000 soldiers, yet the actual number of active duty soldiers stands at approximately 445,000.

With the new strategy in place, Army officials are aiming to enlist sufficient troops by Fiscal Year 2029 to achieve a target of 470,000 active-duty soldiers.

In 2023, the U.S. military fell short of its recruiting targets by 41,000, entering the new year with a looming recruiting crisis.