Demographic Characteristics of
Selected Reserve Component and
Active Army Commanders

By:
Irving Heymont

Prepared for:
Office of the Director for
Planning and Evaluation
Department of Defense

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**Report Documentation Page**

**Report Title:** Demographic Characteristics of Selected Reserve Component and Active Army Commanders

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**Abstract:**
An analysis of official biographical data on State Adjutant Generals, Army National Guard and Active Army Division Commanders, USAR ARCOM Commanders, and Reserve and Active Army separate brigade commanders. The analysis covers these characteristics: age, military and civilian education, active duty experience, and sources of original commission.
I. PURPOSE

To analyze demographic characteristics of selected classes of active Army and reserve component commanders that are (1) indicative of general qualifications and that are (2) completely objective.

II. SCOPE

A. Characteristics

The characteristics examined are:

- Age
- Military and civilian education
- Active duty experience
- Source of original commission

B. Selected Classes of Commanders

1. Classes of Commanders. These are:

- State Adjutant Generals and equivalent
- Army National Guard (ARNG) and Active Army division commanders
- Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) commanders
- Commanders of separate reserve component and active Army separate combat brigades and active Army assistant division commanders

2. State Adjutant Generals. In effect, they command the Army National Guard for their respective governors in peacetime.* This responsibility includes peacetime training which is carried out in accordance with guidelines (but not orders) issued by the active Army (Forces Command).

The normal rank of a state Adjutant General is major general. Currently, the federally recognized ranks of 53 adjutant generals include 42 major generals, 4 brigadier generals, 6 colonels and 1 lieutenant colonel.

3. ARCOM Commanders. They are responsible for the direction and

* The District of Columbia is an exception. The nature of the exception is not germane to this analysis.
supervision of the training of their subordinate units in accordance with the orders issued through the active Army chain of command. ARCOMs are organized on a geographical basis. There are 19 ARCOMs.

The authorized rank of an ARCOM commander is major general. Currently, all ARCOM commanders are major generals except two who are brigadier generals.

4. Separate Combat Brigade Commanders. There are 24 reserve separate combat brigades with three in the US Army Reserve and the remainder in the Army National Guard. The authorized rank for a separate combat brigade commander is brigadier general. Currently, three brigades are commanded by colonels (one in the USAR and two in the ARNG).

In the active Army there are only three separate combat brigades authorized with a general officer as a commander. For comparative purposes, the active Army assistant division commanders (all brigadier generals) are considered as equivalent to separate brigade commanders. There are 28 active Army assistant division commanders.

C. Data Sources

The data used in this analysis are as of 1 March 1977 and cover all incumbents of positions in the classes of commanders previously listed. The specific data items were obtained from official biographies made available by the National Guard Bureau, the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve, and the Office of the Chief of Staff, US Army.

III. FINDINGS

The principal findings for each class of commanders are listed below. Detailed data are in Table 1.

A. State Adjutant Generals (53)

1. Age
   - The range in age is from 44 to 63 years with 26 percent 60 years or older and 63 percent 55 years or older.

2. Education
   - 53 percent are college graduates and 15 percent (8) indicated no college attendance.
   - All have credit for either the Army or Air Force Staff College through resident or non-resident courses.
### Table 1
SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>All State AGs (53)</th>
<th>ARNG AGs (41)</th>
<th>ARCOM Cmdrs (19)</th>
<th>Div Cmdrs</th>
<th>Sep Bde Cmdrs &amp; Equiv</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AGE (AGs) (53)</td>
<td>AGE (ARNG) (41)</td>
<td>AGE (ARCOM) (19)</td>
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<td>52-59</td>
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</table>

*12 of the 53 state AGs are Air National Guard officers.

*Includes 2 retired active Army generals and an officer with about 19 years active service.

*Active duty as advisors or members of study groups not counted.

*Combat and combat support units only. All active Army separate brigade commanders have also commanded divisional brigades. All active Army assistant division commanders have commanded brigades.
3. **Experience**

- Twelve of the 53 Adjutant Generals (about 23 percent) are Air National Guard officers. Two are retired active Army generals and one other was an active Army officer for about 19 years.

- Of the remaining 38 Adjutant Generals
  - 28 (about 74 percent) were last on active service during World War II.
  - 24 (about 63 percent) were lieutenants or captains when last on active duty, 10 were major or lieutenants colonels, and four were enlisted men.
  - 22 were commissioned through active Army Officer Candidate Schools, eight by direct National Guard appointments, seven through the ROTC, and four from other sources.

**B. ARCOM Commanders (19)**

1. **Age**
   - The range in age is from 52 to 59 years with about 90 percent between ages 52 and 55.

2. **Education**
   - About 80 percent are college graduates. Only one indicated no college attendance.
   - All have credit for the Army Command and General Staff College either through resident or non-resident attendance.

3. **Experience**
   - About 85 percent (16 of 19) were last on active duty during World War II.
   - During their last active duty, the highest rank held by 13 was lieutenant or captain and six were majors or lieutenant colonels.
   - About 58 percent (11 of 19) received their original commissions through active Army Officer Candidate Schools. The remainder, except for one, were commissioned through the ROTC program.

**c. ARNG and Active Army Division Commanders**

1. **Age**
   - The range in age for the eight National Guard division commanders is from 54 to 58 years. The range for the 16 active Army division commanders is 48 to 54 years.
2. Education
- Three of the National Guard division commanders are college graduates and two indicated no college attendance. All the active Army division commanders are college graduates with 88 percent holding advanced degrees.
- All National Guard Division commanders have credit for the Army Command and General Staff College either through resident or non-resident attendance. All active Army commanders are war college graduates.

3. Experience
- Six of the National Guard division commanders were last on active duty during World War II, one during the Korean War, and one during the Berlin Crisis of 1961/62.
- During their last active duty, the highest rank held by four of the National Guard division commanders was lieutenant, one was a captain, and three were majors. While on active duty, the company was the largest unit commanded by four of the eight National Guard division commanders and the platoon was the largest unit commanded by the other four. All this active duty command experience was during World War II. In the Reserves, the largest unit commanded by the National Guard division commanders, prior to their present assignment, was brigade or equivalent for four, battalion for one, company for two, and one did not command a combat or combat support unit. All active Army division commanders have been commanders of brigades or equivalent.
- All National Guard division commanders received their original commissions through active Army Officer Candidate Schools. Of the 16 active Army division commanders, 11 are USMA graduates, three are ROTC graduates, one was originally commissioned through an active Army Officer Candidate School, and one received a direct commission in the Army National Guard.
- Four of the National Guard division commanders are full-time National Guard employees.

E. Separate Combat Brigade Commanders and Equivalent

1. Age
- The range in age for the Reserve Component commanders is from 46 to 60 years with 25 percent between the ages of 56-60; 58 percent between
50-55, and 17 percent 49 years old or younger. The range for the Active Army commanders is from 43 to 52 with 90 percent 49 years old or younger.

2. Education
- 50 percent of the Reserve Component commanders are college graduates and four (17 percent) indicated no college attendance. All active Army commanders are college graduates with 84 percent holding advanced degrees.
- All Reserve Component commanders have credit for the Army Command and General Staff College either through resident or non-resident attendance. All active Army commanders are war college graduates.

3. Experience
- 54 percent (13) of the Reserve Component commanders were last on active duty during World War II, and 29 percent (7) during the Korean War.* One individual has not had any active duty.
- During their last active duty, 18 of the Reserve Component commanders held the rank of lieutenant or captain, four were enlisted men, and one served as a colonel. While on active duty, the largest unit commanded by the Reserve commanders ranged from brigade (one in 1968) to company (four), platoon (nine), and ten did not command a combat or combat support unit. Virtually all this command experience, except for the brigade level, was during World War II or the Korean War. In the Reserves, all have commanded battalions except for four who have not commanded any combat or combat support units. In the active Army all separate brigade commanders have also commanded battalions, divisional brigades, and all assistant division commanders have been commanders of battalions, and brigades or equivalent.
- Nine of the 24 Reserve Component commanders received their original commissions through active Army Officer Candidate Schools, seven were commissioned directly from the National Guard and three were commissioned through the ROTC program. Nineteen of the active Army commanders are USMA graduates, eight are ROTC graduates, and four were commissioned through active Army Officer Candidate Schools.

*Active duty tours as advisors or as members of study groups not counted (two individuals).