

Nearly 60,000 Face Dismissal from U.S. Army over Budget Constraints



Washington, July 15 (RHC)-- The United States Army is poised to lay off nearly 60,000 of its staffers over the next two years to save money, a report says. The troop cut comprises 40,000 soldiers and an additional 17,000 Army civilian employees, according documents obtained by USA Today, which said in a report that the plan would "affect virtually all of domestic and foreign posts."

As a result, the U.S. military would have 450,000 soldiers by the end of the 2017 budget year on September 30, 2017. According to the Pentagon's budget, released in February, the cut to 450,000 troops was envisioned to take effect on September 30, 2018.

An unidentified U.S. defense official confirmed the report to AFP, although there has not yet been an official reaction to the document obtained. The U.S. Army would have to dismiss another 30,000 soldiers, said the document, if the automatic budget cuts known as sequestration, set to begin in October, take place.

As part of the cut, the number of troops at Fort Benning in Georgia and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska would be reduced to 1,050 from units of about 4,000 soldiers.

The report was disclosed after U.S. President Barack Obama said on Monday that Washington was planning to "intensify" its fight against the ISIL Takfiri terrorists, wreaking havoc in Syria and neighboring Iraq.

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