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Letter from the Secretary of War, in response to a resolution of the House of Representatives relative to troops in Arizona.

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TROOPS IN ARIZONA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN RESPONSE TO

A resolution of the House of Representatives relative to troops in Arizona.

MAY 4, 1882.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, May 3, 1882.

In response to the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 28th ultimo, requesting the Secretary of War to inform the House of the number of United States soldiers there are now in the Territory of Arizona, and whether the military force stationed in that Territory is sufficient to guarantee full protection to the people, and also whether any legislation is necessary by Congress for the prompt and efficient security of the people against the destruction of life and property by hostile Indians, the Secretary of War has the honor to submit a report bearing date the 2d instant, from the Adjutant-General of the Army, from which it will appear that, on the 31st day of last March, the strength of the troops serving in Arizona was 52 officers and 1,186 enlisted men, and that, in consequence of the recent outbreak of the Apache Indians, additional forces have been ordered into that Territory, so as to make in all a force of 2,377 officers and enlisted men, nearly all of which have now reached the Territory.

All the troops which have been asked for by the commanding general, Department of Arizona, have been sent to him, and the General of the Army has officially reported to the Secretary of War that it will be difficult to employ in Arizona more troops than will be there after the reinforcements already ordered have arrived.

In response to that part of the resolution inquiring whether any further legislation is necessary "for the prompt and efficient security of the people against the destruction of life and property by hostile Indians," the Secretary of War has the honor to invite the attention of the House to the following extract from the last annual message of the President:

The accompanying report of the Secretary of War will make known to you the operations of that department for the past year.

He suggests measures for promoting the efficiency of the Army without adding to the

number of its officers, and recommends the legislation necessary to increase the number of enlisted men to 30,000, the maximum allowed by law.

This he deems necessary to maintain quietude on our ever-shifting frontier; to preserve peace and suppress disorder and marauding in new settlements; to protect settlers and their property against Indians and Indians against the encroachments of intruders, and to enable peaceable immigrants to establish homes in the most remote parts of our country.

The Army is now necessarily scattered over such a vast extent of territory that whenever an outbreak occurs re-enforcements must be hurried from many quarters, over great distances, and always at heavy cost for transportation of men, horses, wagons, and supplies.

I concur in the recommendations of the Secretary for increasing the Army to the strength of 30,000 enlisted men.

The views above expressed are still entertained.

In further response, the Secretary of War respectfully invites the attention of the House of Representatives to his communication transmitted by the President to Congress, on the 6th ultimo, recommending an appropriation of \$501,331.04, to supply deficiencies in the appropriation for the transportation of the Army and its supplies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882.

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

To the SPEAKER
of the House of Representatives.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 2, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith House resolution of April 28, calling for information as to the number of troops in the Territory of Arizona; whether said troops are sufficient in number to guarantee protection to the people of that Territory, &c.; and to state that the strength of the troops serving in Arizona at the time of the outbreak was (return dated March 31, 1882): Sixth Cavalry, 28 officers, 631 enlisted men; Twelfth Infantry, 24 officers, 429 enlisted men; Indian scouts, 126 enlisted men; total, 52 officers, 1,186 enlisted men.

Since the outbreak General Willcox's command has been re-enforced by Captain Harris's troop (M), First Cavalry, from the Department of California; effective strength, 3 officers and 51 enlisted men.

A column of troops from the district of New Mexico, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Forsyth, Fourth Cavalry, consisting of six troops of the Fourth Cavalry and a force of scouts, numbering in all some 350 men, are in active co-operation with the troops belonging to the Department of Arizona. Orders have been given for the transfer to Arizona, as soon as practicable, of the First Infantry from the Department of Texas, and the Third Cavalry from the Department of the Platte; and the Fourth Infantry in the latter department is also held in readiness, if needed.

The latest returns received here show the strength of the regiments ordered to Arizona (deducting the companies serving at the school of application, Fort Leavenworth), as follows: First Infantry, 19 officers, 430 enlisted men; Third Cavalry, 30 officers, 606 enlisted men. When

these re-enforcements reach Arizona the number of troops in that department will be as follows:

Regiment.	Officers.	Enlisted.	Total.
Third Cavalry	30	606	636
Sixth Cavalry	28	631	659
First Infantry	19	430	449
Twelfth Infantry	24	429	453
Troop M, First Cavalry	3	51	54
Indian scouts		126	126
Total	104	2,273	2,377

An aggregate force of 2,377, in addition to the force under Lieutenant-Colonel Forsyth.

On the 29th of April, General Willcox telegraphed that his effective strength for field operations on the border was 613 cavalry and 487 infantry enlisted.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF WAR.