Morrison and others seek US military cuts

(Continued from page 3)

The authors declare that the US would be in a much better position against a poorly-armed enemy. The carriers are "useful primarily against a poorly-armed enemy." The authors believe that these vessels are "useful primarily against a poorly-armed enemy." They therefore propose a reduction of carriers from 13 to 3, and a cut in other major surface ships from 142 to 123, mainly ships now included in carrier task forces.

With the accelerated development of smart weapons, Morrison and Walker believe the number of US Army heavy divisions could be prudently reduced from 10 to 8 1/2, and the number of light divisions from 7 1/3 to 3. Two of the present 3 Marine light divisions could be eliminated. Total US military manpower could be cut from 2,100,000 to 1,400,000. They advise only small reductions in tactical aircraft.

In the 1980s, however, the authors believe NATO will be able to buy a much cheaper defense of Europe because of the development of precision guided munitions (PGMs), or so-called "smart weapons" in the period since the Vietnam war. The combination of "small and sensitive sensors of many kinds" coupled with guidance based on miniaturized circuits "offers the incentive for a soldier or small team of soldiers the odds-on probability of being able to deliver one shot at a tank, an airplane, or even a ship. The hit rate has risen by orders of magnitude," the authors declare, and "tactical smart weapons will give US and allied forces a new weapon of war." Morrison and Walker quote a current $42 billion budget goes in EPA, R&D, and "tactical smart weapons will give US and allied forces a new weapon of war."

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