

DELIVER TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR



Background: Attached is a report of Secretary Floyd's report on the War Department that was published in *The New York Times* in December of 1860. Secretary Floyd's report specifically discusses the current occupation of many American forces with Indians in the West, as well as his recommendations regarding the tasks which the War Department should consider imperative in the coming months. It is important to note that this report was published shortly before the secession of South Carolina and was therefore submitted to the Secretary of War today as both as a source of information and for the purpose of helping him to re-evaluate his military priorities for the coming months.

Secretary John Floyd's Report on the Department of War
As Reported in the *New York Times*, December 6, 1860

Hon. J.R. FLOYD, Secretary of the War Department, reports that the actual and authorized strength of the Army remains substantially the same as last year. The troops available for service against the Indians have been engaged in campaigns of the greatest activity, and the Army has been constantly in the field, and upon an active war footing. The Department of Texas has been restored to tranquility; the Rio Grande frontier from Fort Fillmore to Fort Brown is well protected, and a very active campaign has been carried on against the Kiowa and Comanche Indians, upon the head waters of the Arkansas and the Canadian, resulting in breaking them up and dispersing them in every direction. To chastise the Indians in New-Mexico a large part of the troops have been stationed in Utah southward to New-Mexico, and there seems to be every prospect that they will meet with the punishment which they deserve. Allusion is then made to the battle with the Pah-Utes in Carson Valley, in which Mr. ORMSBY was killed, and to the subsequent overwhelming defeat of these Indians by Col. HAYS. The Snake Indians in Washington Territory, on the road between Forts Bridger and Walla-Walla, have been hostile during the past season, and have not yet been reduced to subordination. All these operations have been carried on when the appropriations were made only to maintain the Department on a peace footing, and have rendered necessary an unforeseen expenditure of about half a million dollars. Secretary FLOYD urges the necessity of restoring the superintendence and control of the Indians to the War Department, since it is impossible to keep them in subjection in any other way than by a display of military power. He thinks much might be saved to the Treasury by devolving on officers of the Army duties which are now discharged by others at high rates of compensation.