



# WASHINGTON UPDATE



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**MAJOR CHANGES TO NATO** organization and role include a shift of emphasis from nuclear deterrence to one of crisis management, according to Gen. John R. Galvin, the alliance's supreme commander. The current restructuring will result in fewer and smaller headquarters, the creation of new forces for the new missions, and the withdrawal of about half the U.S. forces in Europe. Under the new streamlined command structure, Allied Command Channel is expected to be eliminated, leaving Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and Allied Command Atlantic as the two major military commands. The three regional commands — Allied Forces Northern Europe, Central Europe and Southern Europe — will remain in being with some shifting of boundaries and possible relocation of one or more headquarters. The creation of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps highlights the move toward highly mobile, rapidly deployable forces to meet possible future security contingencies both in Europe and beyond the NATO realm. While military cutbacks are inevitable, all members have expressed the intent to maintain their commitment to NATO as the guarantor of European peace and security.

**CFE TREATY PASSES SENATE** by a 90 to 4 vote, just one year after President Bush, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the leaders of 20 other nations signed the pact in Paris. The conventional forces in Europe (CFE) treaty limits the amount of military equipment to be deployed between the Ural Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean by NATO member nations and former members of the defunct Warsaw Pact. Some senators expressed reservations that the Russian Republic or other break-away republics might opt not to abide by the terms of the treaty, so the Senate resolution of ratification was amended to address that possibility. The treaty, seen on Capitol Hill as the precursor of major nuclear arms reductions, is expected to be formally ratified by the president.

**KOREA WITHDRAWAL ON HOLD** after 1992, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announced last month following the 23rd Security Consultative Meeting in Seoul between the U.S. and South Korea. Under the present troop withdrawal plan, U.S. forces will be cut from 43,000 to 36,000 by the end of 1992. That will affect 5,000 U.S. Army and 2,000 Air Force personnel. Proposed cutbacks of an additional 5,000 to 7,000 troops through 1995 will be postponed indefinitely.

Cheney's decision came in response to increasing international concern regarding North Korea's nuclear capability and continuing refusal to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities. U.S. officials believe North Korea will have produced enough weapons-grade plutonium for at least half a dozen nuclear warheads by 1993.

**ARMORED MODERNIZATION PLAN UNDER REVISION** in response to DoD and congressional pressure to give the Advanced Field Artillery System (AFAS) a higher priority than the Block III main battle tank. The original Armored Systems Modernization (ASM) plan called for spending \$59 billion to develop and fund six new armored vehicles built around two common chassis. The Block III tank, Future Infantry Fighting Vehicle, Combat Mobility Vehicle and AFAS would use a heavy chassis, while the Future Armored Resupply Vehicle-Ammunition (FARV-A, the resupply vehicle for AFAS) and Line-of-Sight Antitank (LOSAT) system would use a medium chassis. Under the restructured ASM program, the Army will delay the Block III and accelerate development of AFAS and FARV-A to improve range deficiencies in current field artillery. The new plan also calls for FARV-A to be built around the heavy chassis, leaving only LOSAT to use the medium chassis (a Bradley fighting vehicle derivative). The Army says the LOSAT program will continue as planned and a new command and control vehicle will also be developed.

**SOLDIER HOT LINE**, sponsored by the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, offers service members and others an opportunity to make recommendations concerning clothing, equipment and food issued for use in a tactical environment. Suggestions for improvement in other areas such as command and control, survivability, sustainment and soldier mobility are also welcome. Until a toll-free line can be established, call the 24-hour hotline at DSN 835-1245 or (404) 545-1245.

**NEW THEATER MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM** appears to be moving ahead aggressively now that Congress has given the Army the nod to buy a series of ground-based radars. Additional impetus was given to the THAAD (Theater High Altitude Area Defense) system by way of agreement between Army Assistant Secretary Stephen Conner and Strategic Defense Initiative Director Henry Cooper. The latter agreement clears the way for release of industry solicitations for development of both a new theater defense missile and the ground-based radars. Both systems are vital elements of the limited missile defense directed by Congress in approving the FY 1992 defense budget.

**CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN**, some four years in the making, was passed by House voice vote and sent to the president on November 26. The bill would impose trade sanctions on foreign governments using chemical weapons and on companies selling the materials to make them. Sanctions to be imposed immediately on nations found to be using or stockpiling chemical or biological weapons would include the termination of U.S. arms sales and other high-technology exports as well as withdrawal of foreign aid. If such use or acquisition continued 90 days after the imposition of initial sanctions, that nation would be prohibited from exporting goods to the U.S. and from receiving U.S. bank loans. Further restrictions on high-technology exports would be imposed and diplomatic relations downgraded. Companies found to be selling the materials to make chemical or biological weapons would be prohibited from exporting goods from the U.S. and from selling products or services to the U.S. government. President Bush is expected to sign the bill, which contains an administration-requested amendment allowing the president to waive sanctions on affected imports deemed essential for national security.

**WRAPUP OF FIRST SESSION** of the 102d Congress reveals that the Army fared rather well considering the shift by members away from major strategic programs. The Army's weapons budget was sweetened to include:

- \$340 million for Patriot;
- \$225 million for M1 tank upgrade;
- \$183 million for OH-58D helicopter improvement;
- \$110 million for Bradley fighting vehicle improvement;
- \$90 million to buy 60 new M1A2 tanks.

Conversely, when it came to reducing Army strength, Congress refused to allow cuts in the National Guard and Army Reserve on a par with active force reductions. The request was to cut the Guard 46,600 and Reserves by 36,600. Congress allowed only 14,550 Guardsmen and 11,700 Reservists to be cut.

In most other accounts, the authorization, signed by the president on November 26, was within the range of the request.

**TANK SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA** is the largest Foreign Military Sales program to date involving U.S. Army Security Assistance. Currently valued at more than \$5.9 billion, the deal includes 465 M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks. Tank production for the Saudi purchase is scheduled to begin in 1993 and continue through 1995. This will constitute the major portion of Abrams production during that time, helping to keep the tank production lines open. The Saudi government has indicated an interest in purchasing an additional 235 M1A2s, for a total of 700, but no formal request has yet been received.

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Col. Tom Byrne, USA Ret. - Editor  
Santee Daugherty - Assistant Editor  
2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201  
Phone: 702-841-4300 FAX: 703-535-9039

**71 MORE EUROPE BASES TO CLOSE** or reduce operations by 1995, bringing to 381 the total of U.S. sites in Europe affected by the realignment action launched in January 1990. The Department of Defense announced last month that three sites in Germany will reduce operations, turning over some facilities on the installation to the host nation while retaining others for use by U.S. forces. Entire installations will be vacated by U.S. forces and returned to the host nation at 68 locations in Germany and one each in the Netherlands, Italy and the United Kingdom. The announced sites range in size from small communications facilities to two major installations, Daley Barracks and Bad Cannstatt Hospital (both in Germany).

**GULF CHOPPERS GET OVERHAUL** to repair damage caused by sand and salt corrosion and a lack of spare parts during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Some 990 modern helicopters—AH-64 Apaches, CH-47D Chinooks, OH-58D Kiowas and UH-60 Black Hawks—will be refurbished at a cost to the Army of \$156 million in 1992 and \$120 million in 1993. Project STIR (Special Technical Inspection and Repair) will take place at sites in the U.S., Europe and Korea and is expected to require 3.5 million manhours over two years. While readiness rates for helicopters exposed to the desert environment have dropped to their lowest levels since mid-1990, inspections have revealed no immediate safety problems.

**LAB CONSOLIDATION MOVING FORWARD**, despite problems of work force turbulence and possible loss of key technical personnel. Last month Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and the Federal Advisory Commission on Laboratory Consolidation approved Army, Navy and Air Force initiatives involving 66 laboratories and research centers.

Under the Army initiative known as Lab 21, seven labs in the current Laboratory Command are to be consolidated into one, the Army Research Laboratory at Aberdeen and Adelphi, Maryland. Some 1,000 civilians would lose their jobs under the \$177 million program. The Army's plan to build a \$78 million microelectronics research facility at Adelphi was rejected by the lab commission, which advocates a triservice government-owned and contractor-operated facility.

**ARMY RESERVE SHOOTERS WIN** five of six events at the recent Armed Forces Skill at Arms competition. Reserve marksmen prevailed over shooters from the National Guard, active Army, Marines, United Kingdom and Australia in the Combat Rifleman, Obstacle and Minuteman courses and in the Commander-in-Chief matches. The active Army placed in the top three in each event except the Combat Rifleman and Minuteman matches. The National Guard placed in each event except the Fire Team Assault and individual Commander-in-Chief matches. The competition, which took place at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, featured the M16 rifle, M9 pistol, M60 machine gun, squad automatic weapon and sniper weapons.

**ARMY RECRUITING COMMAND MOVING TO FORT KNOX**, Kentucky, from Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in 1992. Some 640 military and civilian U.S. Army Recruiting Command Headquarters positions will be transferred to Fort Knox beginning in April; the move is expected to be completed by November. When Fort Sheridan was identified for closure in 1988, the Army planned to relocate USAREC headquarters to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. That plan was scrapped when the 1991 base closure commission directed the closing of the Indiana post.

**PROPOSED ETHICAL CONDUCT RULES** relating to participation of military personnel and other federal employees in association activities won't be part of the new government standards of conduct to be issued in 1992. Last summer, the Office of Government Ethics had proposed what many associations considered some overly-restrictive rules concerning involvement with professional associations. Nearly a thousand official protests received during the 60-day comment period convinced OGE to revisit the subject at a later date. Meanwhile, the Office of Personnel Management is reminding government agencies that excused absences to participate in professional association activities "generally should be limited to situations in which the activity is directly related to the agency's mission, will enhance the professional development or skills of the employee ... or is officially sponsored/sanctioned by the head of the agency."

**AUSA AND 1ST SESSION, 102D CONGRESS.** In 1991, AUSA — sometimes independently, often in coordination with other members of the Military Coalition — pursued on Capitol Hill a number of issues of special interest to our members. The following is a status report of some of the issues on which the Chapters and staff of AUSA were active:

*Pay Raise* - FY 1992 Authorization Bill has a 4.2 percent military pay increase effective January 1, 1992.

*Danger and Family Separation Pay* - Same bill increases Imminent Danger Pay to \$150 per month, Family Separation Pay to \$75 per month and lump sum Death Gratuity Payments to Eligible Survivor to \$6,000.

*Enhanced VSI* - Provides incentives for voluntary separation on par with those for involuntary separations.

*Desert Storm Overpayment Relief* - Calls temporary halt to collections and orders a review of the process. DoD directed to insure equitable treatment of all involved personnel, to waive interest and penalties and to have the Inspector General investigate.

*Open Season/SBP* - Open season (April 1, 1992 to March 21, 1993) for Survivor Benefit Plan enrollment includes option to increase the survivor annuity at age 62 by 5, 10, 15 or 20 percent.

*CHAMPUS Expansion* - CHAMPUS coverage extended to include some disabled Medicare participants under age 65.

*Sharing Health Resources (DoD-VA)* - Would provide Medicare reimbursement to Veterans Affairs or DoD medical facilities for treatment of Medicare-eligible beneficiaries.

*Dependents' Dental Insurance Program Expansion* - Sets program of additional dental care for active duty dependents (with payment of added premium).

*Unemployment Compensation Extension* - Former military members will now be authorized to receive unemployment compensation for 26 weeks rather than the 13 weeks previously allowed. Reservists now receive benefits after 90 days of active duty rather than 180 days.

*Vets' COLA* - Veterans' disability compensation and survivor benefits were increased by 3.7 percent effective December 31, 1991. Proposal to tie future adjustments to increases in the Consumer Price Index still in the works.

*Ethics Reform* - Proposed rules that would seriously restrict federal employee and military personnel participation in professional association activities to get another look.

**AUSA JOB FAIRS**, conducted this year at Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Stewart, Georgia, attracted a total of 5,150 personnel. The events, designed to assist transitioning soldiers, Army civilians and family members, were so successful that AUSA is organizing several more for the coming year.

AUSA Job Fairs for 1992 are scheduled to take place in March at Fort Hood, Texas; in April at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; in June at the Presidio of San Francisco; and in September at Fort Meade, Maryland. A fair is also tentatively planned for Fort Riley, Kansas. Specific dates for these events, conducted in cooperation with local AUSA chapters and host units and installations, will be announced later.

#### **ILW'S MOST RECENT EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS:**

- *Defense Against Theater Ballistic Missiles* (Landpower Essay #91-6, December 1991), by Gen. Glenn K. Otis, USA Ret., an AUSA Senior Fellow;
- *Ballistic Missile Protection* (Background Brief #36, December 1991);
- *A Bibliography of AUSA Books for Professional Reading* (Background Brief #37, December 1991), a selection of books addressing strategy, tactics, operational art, weaponry, leadership, historical lessons learned, technology, history of the military art, contemporary military topics and the future of warfare.

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