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NEW ARMY WEAPONS EARN HIGH MARKS

from commanders and soldiers for their performance in the Persian Gulf war. The M1A1 Abrams tank, the Bradley fighting vehicle, the Apache attack helicopter and other recent additions to the inventory far outfought anything Iraqi forces could throw against them.

The M1A1 maintained a significant edge over Soviet-built T72 tanks in survivability, engagement range and lethality. Crews had high praise for the M1A1's depleted uranium ammo and for its thermal sight. Only four of 1,956 M1A1s were disabled in the 100-hour ground war and only two crew members were killed in the numerous tank engagements of Desert Storm.

Like the Abrams, the 2,200 Bradley fighting vehicles also maintained an overall operational readiness rate of 90 percent or better before and during combat. The Bradley's thermal sight proved highly effective and crews reported that the 25mm Bushmaster cannon was more lethal than they expected.

AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the 101st Aviation Brigade fired the first shots of the war on Jan. 17. The Apache's Hellfire missiles proved to be highly effective against radar sites, bunkers and tanks.

One of the most visible technological heroes of the war, the Patriot missile made 45 successful Scud interceptions in 47 launches. The overall performance of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) was also rated outstanding, as was the Army Tactical Missile System, introduced for the first time in the Gulf.

Although final reports are not complete, the outstanding performance of these systems during Operation Desert Storm serves to validate Army research, development and acquisition programs over the past years.

STONE, VUONO SEEK DRAWDOWN ADJUST-

MENTS to deal with increased Army strength levels brought on by the Persian Gulf war. Before Operation Desert Shield began in August 1990, Army Secretary Michael Stone and Chief of Staff General Carl Vuono were faced with the difficult task of reducing strength down to 702,000 by the end of FY91. Because of the reserve component callup, the stop-loss program and other aspects of Desert Shield/Storm, current Army strength is about 897,000, which includes about 140,000 reserve and stop-loss personnel. According to LTG William H. Reno, Army DCSPER, the Army "will not be able to attain the congressionally mandated {active} end strength of 702,000 by the end of FY91."

Appearing before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Secretary Stone said: "In '92, our end-strength number will have to be at 660,000 so we have to cut the better part of 100,000 people from the force in the next 15 months. We can't do that and preserve the quality of the force."

Citing the decreased morale and readiness that would result if returning Gulf war veterans were immediately forced out of the service, Stone and Vuono have requested a waiver of the military personnel ceilings established in last year's budget agreement.

"What we ask of the committee is relief from meeting the '91 end strength. We will also need assistance in '92 because, in order to meet the current end-strength figure in '92, we would have to make cuts that are not in the best interest of the readiness or quality of the force," Vuono told the subcommittee.

Desert Storm emergency funding legislation contains provisions to revoke the Oct. 1, 1991 ceiling that would have forced the reduction.

DESERT STORM SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BILL, passed by Congress and sent to President Bush on March 22, provides \$15 billion in new appropriations and authority to use up to \$42.6 billion of funds deposited in the Defense Cooperation Account. Allied coalition contributions to that account are to be used first. (Allies have pledged a total of \$54.5 billion toward the cost of the war, of which \$28.9 billion has been paid in cash or services.)

The Army's portion of the supplemental appropriation includes \$166.2 million for procurement of 283 Patriot missiles, plus an additional \$146.2 million for various projects related to Patriot production and improvement.

SPECIAL DESERT SHIELD/STORM MEDAL has been authorized by President Bush for presentation to all active and reserve service members deployed to the Persian Gulf region since August 1990. The Southwest Asia Service Medal was created by a March 13 Executive Order to honor more than a half-million active and reserve service members for their contributions to the Persian Gulf War. Each service will publish its eligibility criteria for the award.

At the same time, Defense Secretary Cheney has authorized award of the National Defense Service Medal to all members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving on active duty since Aug. 2, 1990. The termination date for eligibility will be determined later. The medal, denoting creditable participation in a particular campaign, war, national emergency or expedition, was previously authorized for honorable active service for any period between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 and between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974.

MEDIUM ANTITANK WEAPON DEVELOPMENT has been delayed as a result of technical problems that have more than doubled the estimated development costs. In early March the Army System Acquisition Review Council directed that development of the Advanced Antitank Weapon System-Medium (AAWS-M) be extended from 36 to 48 months after costs increased from \$170 million to more than \$340 million. Texas Instruments, joint developers (with Martin Marietta) of AAWS-M, attributes the cost increase to problems in mass-producing the missile's unique focal plane array seeker.

JSTARS PROVED ITS WORTH in the "ultimate live-fire test," according to Army acquisition chief Stephen K. Conner. The Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, still in the development stage when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, was ordered to the Persian Gulf in late December. Eight weeks later both the Army and the Air Force were lauding the first operational use of the Grumman radar surveillance aircraft. Originally designed as the primary sensor for NATO's follow-on forces attack strategy, JSTARS had come under fire from members of Congress who argued that the system had no application outside central Europe. This was countered by glowing performance reports for JSTARS during Operation Desert Storm.

In the Gulf war, JSTARS was used primarily to spot the movement of Iraqi forces inside Kuwait, reportedly with great success. Two examples: in the battle of Khafji, the system revealed that the enemy was not bringing in reinforcements, allowing allied commanders to plan accordingly. And, on Jan. 22, the radar plane spotted a convoy of 60 Iraqi vehicles headed for Kuwait; 58 tanks were subsequently destroyed in an allied airstrike.

DOD PLANS TO HALVE U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE over the next five years were recently related to the Senate by Gen. John R. Galvin, Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command. Citing the fading threat of war with the Soviet Union, Galvin told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he is proceeding with plans to achieve the initial reduction goal of 261,000 U.S. troops of all services in Europe by the end of fiscal 1991. But the deployment of 90,000 Europe-based U.S. military personnel for Operation Desert Storm will probably cause some slippage in reaching that objective. Current plans call for troops who deployed to the Persian Gulf from Europe to be returned to those bases to take care of family and other personal matters even if their units are scheduled for later inactivation.

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RESERVE/GUARD DEMOBILIZATION PLANS call for 7,305 members of Army Reserve and National Guard units from 20 states to be released from active duty by the end of April. Another 14,000 Individual Ready Reserve soldiers activated since the first of the year to support Operation Desert Storm will also be released as quickly as possible. (Some IRR soldiers identified as mission essential may not be released right away.) Pentagon officials decline to speculate on how long it will take to demobilize the entire Operation Desert Storm reserve contingent, which includes about 227,500 personnel.

FIRST IN MAY NOT ALWAYS BE FIRST OUT as the troops return from the Persian Gulf, according to a March 25 Department of the Army news release. Redeployment policy is based not only on length of time in theater but also on operational requirements as determined by the theater commander and on the need to reestablish the Army's capability to respond to contingencies worldwide.

With that in mind, the Army has put CONUS-based quick response forces, along with selected reserve component units, at the top of the redeployment list. As the contingency response capability is reestablished, activated RC units will be redeployed and demobilized. Active forces based in Europe and scheduled for inactivation in 1992 and 1993 will be next in line to leave, followed by some units that have been deployed to the Gulf region the longest. Officials warn that, while the soldiers in the Gulf will be returned as quickly as possible, redeployment may last longer than the seven months it took to deploy the force.

ARMY ASSISTANCE SITES OPEN to provide a comprehensive system of transition and job assistance to personnel — soldiers, civilians and family members — leaving the Army. Effective Jan. 15, 1991, Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) facilities opened at these locations: Fort Myer VA; Fort Knox KY; Fort Polk LA; Fort Carson CO; St. Louis MO; Hanau, Germany; and Yongson, Korea. Additional ACAP sites are projected to open later this year.

DESERT VETS' BENEFITS BILL was passed by Congress and sent to President Bush on March 21. The \$655 million package of benefits for Operation Desert Storm participants and their families includes the following:

Special pay and allowances:

- Increases imminent danger pay from \$110 to \$150 per month, retroactive to Aug. 2, 1990;* **
- Increases Family Separation Allowance from \$60 to \$75 per month, retroactive to Aug. 2;*
- Doubles Servicemen's Group Life Insurance to \$100,000, retroactive to Aug. 2;
- Doubles death gratuity payment to \$6,000, retroactive to Aug. 2;
- Increases Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits by \$50 per month for three-year enlistments, \$25 for two-year terms, effective Oct. 1, 1991;***

Medical transition benefits:

- Delays CHAMPUS deductible increase until Oct. 1 for Persian Gulf war veterans' families;
- Delays scheduled cut in reimbursement for inpatient dependent mental-health care until Feb. 15, 1992;
- Provides 45 days of post-service medical care for mobilized reservists, recalled retirees, members affected by stop-loss;

Reserve benefits;

- Makes reservists mobilized for 90 days or more eligible for veterans' home loans;
- Makes unmarried reservists eligible for Basic Allowance for Quarters from the time they were mobilized;
- Provides financial assistance for mobilized reservists who are farmers and ranchers;
- Allows reservists called to active duty to defer repayment of government-backed student loans.

* *Payments will revert to former rates 180 days after the president declares the end of the Persian Gulf war.*

** *Applies to anyone receiving imminent-danger pay during the Desert Shield/Storm time frame, not just those serving in the Persian Gulf area.*

*** *Applies to anyone using the veterans' education program, even if he or she was not on active duty during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.*

STOP-LOSS POLICY WILL PHASE OUT over about four months, to prevent sudden drops in unit readiness. Here are some highlights of the demobilization plan:

- On March 9 stateside commanders began separating Regular Army soldiers whose terms of service had expired.
- On March 24 overseas commands began returning their stop-loss people for separation.
- Officers whose regularly scheduled separation is earlier than July 7 may be granted a delay (not to extend beyond July 7) to prepare for an orderly transition to civilian life. Officers whose separation date is July 8 or later will separate as scheduled.
- Enlisted soldiers who want to remain on active duty can extend their service until Sep. 30. Soldiers who want to stay on active duty beyond that date must reenlist, provided they are qualified. (Those stationed in the Persian Gulf who are eligible for Selective Reenlistment Bonuses and intend to reenlist should do so before they deploy back to their home stations; the tax-free military pay benefit — activated when combat began Jan. 17 — applies only while they are overseas.)
- Reserve soldiers on temporary tours of active duty will leave when their original orders expire. Reservists who have gone beyond expiration dates will be released before July 7. All reservists on active duty for more than 179 days in FY91 will be released by Sep. 27.
- Soldiers with approved retirement dates of Oct. 1, 1991 (or earlier) will arrange a new date in FY91. (Soldiers with transition leave to use or lose will be allowed to move their retirement dates into FY92.)

THE BASE CLOSING COMMISSION now has its fourth and fifth nominees, Gen. Duane Cassidy, USAF Ret., former Military Airlift commander, and William L. Ball III, former Secretary of the Navy. The two will join commission chairman James A. Courter, former Republican representative from New Jersey; former Army Secretary Howard H. “Bo” Callaway; and James C. Smith II, a former Senate Armed Services Committee staff member and member of the 1988 base closing commission.

AUSA THIRD REGION DEFENSE FORUM has been scheduled for May 2, 1991, at MacDill AFB, FL. The theme is “Public and Industry Support to Joint Commands (CENTCOM and SOCOM).” The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Susan Livingstone, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment, who will address “The State of the Army.” The morning session will include briefings by representatives from CENTCOM and SOCOM on missions, organization and current activities. The afternoon session will involve industry and small business working groups addressing CENTCOM and SOCOM acquisition requirements and procurement procedures. Interested Third Region members should call Col. Pete Dieck, Vice President, Suncoast Chapter, at (813) 343-1486.

BOTH U.S. TANK PLANTS MAY CONTINUE in existence, despite Defense Secretary Dick Cheney’s termination of M1A1 production in the 1991 Pentagon budget. Army Secretary Michael Stone says that while assembly operations at the Detroit plant will be suspended, machining and production of vehicle parts will continue there. The only U.S. tank assembly line will be at the Lima, OH plant. This plan is reportedly based on sufficient foreign orders for the M1 series tank to keep one production line in operation and the need to maintain the tank production base into the late 1990s.

DESERT STORM CASUALTY DEMOGRAPHICS for the 182 servicemembers killed as of March 8 are listed below by gender and race (does not include those killed in accidents):

Group	No. of Deaths	% of Total Deaths	% of Total Desert Storm Population
Male	176	97%	94.0%
Female	6	3%	6.0%
Caucasian	142	78%	66.1%
Black	27	15%	24.5%
Hispanic	8	4%	5.0%
Asian	1	less than 1%	2.1%
Others	4	2%	2.3%