



WASHINGTON UPDATE



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 3 No 5

Published by the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare

June 1991

DOD FY92 APPROPRIATIONS BILL passed the House June 7 looking a lot like the earlier FY92 authorization package in many respects. Major adjustments include: the restoration of reserve strength cuts to FY91 levels; transfer of O&M medical funding from the services to OSD; cut of \$2.9 billion from B-2 bomber procurement funding; and a \$1.91 billion reduction of the president's SDI request. Army emerged fairly well overall in the appropriations bill (HR 2521), as shown in this summary:

<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Budget Request (\$ bil)</u>	<u>HR 2521 (\$ bil)</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Mil Pers Army (to preclude involuntary force-outs)	24.23	24.53	+ 300 million
Reserve Pers Army (to restore structure to FY91 level)	2.19	2.32	+ 130 million
NG Pers Army (to restore structure to FY91 level)	3.2	3.4	+ 200 million
O&M Army (\$3.32 billion in medical programs shifted to OSD)	21.87	18.36	- 3.51 billion
Procurement	7.96	8.31	+ 350 million
RDT&E	6.31	6.24	- 70 million

Some procurement and RDT&E highlights:

- Black Hawk procurement (60) (+ \$334 million);
- AHIP production (add'l 36) (+ \$200 million);
- MLRS rockets (add'l 16,000) (+ \$58 million);
- M1 tank upgrade program (+ \$266 million);
- Stinger missiles (add'l 1,800) (+ \$75 million).

Significant offsets:

- Delay in Armor System Modernization program (- \$121 million);
- Deletion of all funds for Armored Gun System (- \$43 million).

NATO REORGANIZATION, approved May 28 at the defense ministers' meeting in Brussels, would more than halve U.S. forces in Europe if approved later this year by the 16 heads of alliance governments. The centerpiece of the new NATO defense structure will be a 50,000-70,000-man rapid-reaction corps under British command. Troops for the force will come from Belgium, Britain, Germany, Italy, Greece, The Netherlands, Spain and possibly Turkey. U.S. forces, now numbering about 320,000, will provide tactical air power and capacity to deploy the rapid-reaction force by air and sea. The extent of U.S. ground force participation in the new structure is still to be determined. First reports of the reorganization gave U.S. forces a major role in manning a seven-corps main ground force that would back up the rapid-reaction force. In any event, U.S. military strength in Europe will definitely decline over the next five years — some say to as few as 75,000 troops.

BASE CLOSURE LIST EXPANDED to give the deciding panel more options, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission announced June 1. Nine Army facilities were among the 36 military installations added to Defense Secretary Cheney's earlier list. A commission spokesman said some of the added bases will be considered as alternatives for Cheney's list, but most will probably not be recommended for closure.

Included on the addendum are five major Army training areas (Fort McCoy, WI, Camp Pickett, VA, Fort A. P. Hill, VA, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico) and two command and control installations (Fort Hamilton, NY and Fort Totten, NY). Fort Drum, NY and Fort Richardson, AK were originally on the addendum, but both bases have since been removed by the commission.

THE ROLE OF RESERVE COMPONENTS in the smaller U.S. military of the future has become a political hot potato in the ongoing DoD budget debates. Defense Secretary Cheney has proposed a cut of 107,000 Guard and reserve personnel in the FY92 budget. To the contrary, the House voted May 24 to restore almost all the reserve cut. Between now and 1995, DoD proposes to drastically restructure the Total Force by making major cuts in both active and reserve components. House and Senate champions of the reserves argue that cutting 270,000 Guard and reserve slots by the end of FY95 (out of a present strength of 1.176 million) fails to recognize the reduced costs of maintaining reserve units as compared to active forces. Cheney counters that failure to make these cuts would mean that the Army would have to absorb about \$11 billion in unwarranted expenses in the next six years. The Senate plans to tackle the problem after the July 4 recess.

HASC WANTS ARMY TO LEAD THEATER MISSILE DEFENSE technology programs. Last month the House Armed Services Committee voted to transfer overall TMD responsibility from the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization to a new joint Pentagon office managed by the Army. Army Strategic Defense Command, SDIO's executive agent for TMD research and development, already manages about \$350 million of the \$400 million budget for theater missile defense in 1991. The committee also voted to cut the \$5.2 billion SDI request for FY92 to \$2.7 billion and to eliminate all funding for Phase 1 space-based programs.

JCS CONSIDERS JOINT TRAINING CENTERS in the aftermath of successful joint service operations in the Persian Gulf War. In an effort to improve joint service training and weapons testing, the Joint Chiefs of Staff is evaluating a proposal to combine Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force facilities in Arizona, California and Nevada into a Joint Training Theater somewhere in the Southwest. Implementation of the plan could affect several existing facilities, including the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA.

The proposal, one of a number of studies on joint service training, is not without its critics, some of whom voice environmental and legal concerns regarding the land and airspace requirements necessary for implementation of the plan.

MORE TROOPS DEPLOY TO PERSIAN GULF even as thousands are coming home. The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Fulda, Germany, sent elements of three squadrons (some 3,700 military personnel) to Doha, Kuwait earlier this month. They will remain in Kuwait until Sep. 1, allowing 3d Armored Division forces currently on station to return to their home bases. At the same time, the 1173d Army Reserve Transportation Terminal Unit will deploy from its Boston base to Saudi Arabia to assist with the packing and loading of military supplies and equipment for shipment home.

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. Central Command, told Congress June 12 that the permanent U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf will not include ground-based troops. The force, totaling about 16,000 military personnel, will consist of one command ship, five warships, an aircraft carrier battle group and a ship-borne Marine expeditionary unit.

NEW UTILITY CHOPPER SOUGHT to replace some 1,000 Vietnam-era UH-1 Hueys. The Army has included funding in its 1992-97 program for a more modern light utility helicopter and aircraft manufacturers are lining up to offer their candidates. While awaiting senior Army approval of a Utility Aircraft Requirements Study, service officials are already assessing some options, including the MDX, a commercial transport helicopter being developed by McDonnell Douglas Helicopter; a UH-1H helicopter equipped with T800 engines by Southern Aero Corp.; the Panther 800, developed by a consortium of LTV's Aircraft Products Group, IBM's Systems Integration Division, Aerospatiale and LHTEC; the UH-58E, a major modification to Bell Helicopter's OH-58D Kiowa scout aircraft; and the British Lynx, built by Westland Helicopter.

WASHINGTON UPDATE is published monthly by the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare to highlight current events of significance to the Army and defense from the Washington perspective. Further reproduction and distribution of this newsletter is encouraged.

Col. Tom Byrne, USA Ret. - Editor
Santee Daugherty - Assistant Editor
2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703-841-4300 FAX: 703-525-9039

THE TANK BATTLE ON THE POTOMAC rages on, with the House Armed Services Committee rejecting the defense decision to mothball the M1 production line. Instead, the committee added to its FY92 defense authorization bill \$225 million to convert 3,000 early M1s to the M1A2 configuration (larger cannon, stronger armor, better night-fighting equipment) plus \$64 million to develop training devices and to fully test the M1A2. To keep the tank production line operational while the conversion program gets underway, the committee also authorized \$90 million to build 60 new M1A2s.

The Army had originally tried to include funding for upgrading M1 tanks to the M1A2 configuration in their FY92 budget, but this was denied by OSD on the basis of affordability. Pentagon officials are expected to oppose the tank upgrade plan, which they perceive as a threat to the new generation Block III tank the Army hopes to field soon after the turn of the century.

DEFENSE MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT to the president, released April 25, calls for the elimination of nearly 20 percent of the million civilian jobs in DoD over the next few years. Implementation of the Defense Management Report is expected to save the Pentagon \$70 billion over the next seven years. The Army anticipates some 14,892 civilian reductions under DMR between FY92 and FY97.

U.S. ARMS TO BE PREPOSITIONED IN ISRAEL, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announced May 31. He did not specify the types of weapons to be stored on Israeli soil. The Army had earlier proposed the prepositioning of one heavy division's equipment in the Persian Gulf theater. A heavy division of five mechanized and five armored battalions normally includes: 290 tanks; 270 Bradley fighting vehicles; 72 M109 self-propelled howitzers; nine Multiple Launch Rocket Systems; and an assortment of trucks and helicopters. Because helicopters require constant use and maintenance, the Army plan excluded the aviation element. Concurrently, the Saudi Arabian government has agreed to preposition U.S. aircraft support equipment and maintenance facilities at Saudi airstrips and to improve port facilities for possible U.S. use.

SHORT-TOUR CREDIT FOR LONG DESERT DEPLOYMENTS was announced April 30 by Army DCSPER. As an exception to policy, the Army will award credit for unaccompanied short tours to soldiers who spent at least six months of temporary duty (TDY) in Southwest Asia before and during the Gulf war. Overseas short-tour credit will be awarded to soldiers who served at least six months' TDY in the Middle East. Soldiers serving 12 months or more in Southwest Asia get credit for two short tours. Soldiers deployed to any overseas location in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm for six months or more will be credited with a short tour.

Soldiers receiving short-tour credit under this policy exception will go to the bottom of the eligibility list for future overseas short tours. Those who did not deploy for the operation would be considered first for possible short-tour assignments.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST ETHICS LAWS are scheduled to be heard in U.S. District Court on July 16. At issue is fine print in the 1989 Ethics Reform Act that prohibits payment to active-duty officers for articles, appearances or speeches. The ban is being challenged — on First Amendment grounds — by several federal employee unions and the ACLU. The intent of Congress was to prohibit payment to federal officers and employees for outside activities that are related to their government jobs. The regulation writers have interpreted the law to bar all honoraria; thus, military officers cannot be paid for articles published in professional journals such as AUSA's *Army*, even if written on their own time.

TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES are the focus of a second major competition — worth more than \$500 million — between BMY and General Dynamics. The potential sale to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of either M1A1 or M1A2 main battle tanks is currently bogged down in the freeze on Middle East arms sales, giving both manufacturers ample opportunity to make a strong case for their recovery vehicles. The Army is currently using BMY's M88A1, originally designed to haul 58-ton M60 tanks. However, Desert Storm commanders have complained that the M88A1 is both slow and unreliable, and that it cannot effectively tow the 70-ton M1A1 without a second braking vehicle.

NEW VCSA, DCSOPS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED by President Bush and are now awaiting Senate confirmation. Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, presently Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, has been nominated as Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, and for appointment to general. He will replace Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, who assumes his duties as Army Chief of Staff this month.

Maj. Gen. J. H. Binford Peay III has been nominated for reassignment as DCSOPS and appointment to lieutenant general. He is presently Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY.

KIDD TO BE NEW SMA, succeeding Sergeant Major of the Army Julius W. Gates. CSM Richard A. Kidd, a 29-year Army veteran, is presently assigned as Command Sergeant Major of I Corps at Fort Lewis, WA. In his new position, he will serve as senior enlisted advisor to the Army Chief of Staff on matters pertaining to enlisted personnel.

GEN. COLIN L. POWELL'S RENOMINATION as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was announced May 23 by President Bush. The president nominated the Army general to a second two-year term more than five months before the end of his first term "to demonstrate my great confidence in his ability and the tremendous respect that I have for him." Easy Senate confirmation is expected.

ILW EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE for distribution include:

- *The U.S. Army in Operation Desert Storm: An Overview*, a special report on the Army's role in the Persian Gulf War;
- *Divisions of the United States Army (1991 Edition)*, which contains not only a chart of the forces of the Total Army but also photographs and narrative descriptions of major weapon systems. (Distribution of this publication is limited to one copy per AUSA member.)

These and other ILW publications may be obtained by writing ILW or calling 1-800-336-4570, extension 308.

28,000 INVOLUNTARY SEPARATIONS FORECAST FOR FY92-93 as the Army begins a mandated drawdown of some 190,000 active-duty troops over the next five years. If present laws prevail, the active Army will be reduced by more than 90,000 soldiers during FY92-93. DoD estimates of officers and enlisted members to be forced out (not including those who would have been forced out after being passed over for promotion) are shown below:

	<u>FY91</u>	<u>FY92</u>	<u>FY93</u>	<u>Total FY91-93</u>
Enlisted	0	8,500	8,600	17,100
Officer	0	5,873	4,840	10,713
Total	0	14,373	13,440	27,813

The personnel reduction formula ordered by Congress in 1990 requires the services to use separation of mid-career service members who are not eligible for military retired pay only as a last resort. **Underlying all the above is a House Appropriations bill provision to add \$300 million to the FY92 budget to preclude involuntary releases.**

RESERVE COMPONENTS' G.I. BILL BENEFITS INCREASE effective Oct. 1. Congress raised the monthly educational benefits for Reserve and National Guard soldiers from \$140 to \$170 for a maximum benefit per soldier of \$6,210 over 36 months. Also, full-time National Guardsmen may now participate in the active force G.I. Bill. To qualify, Guard soldiers must have two years of continuous active duty service after Nov. 29, 1989. Additional benefits being considered for reserve force soldiers include \$2,000-6,000 bonuses for six-year enlistments in critical skill areas and an affiliation bonus increase from \$50 to \$100 for first-term active duty soldiers departing for the reserve force.

The House subcommittee for veterans' education, training and employment has also passed legislation to restore lost education benefits to Persian Gulf veterans. The measure would extend the 10-year period in which GI Bill benefits must be used by the amount of time a reservist spent on active duty and would restore to service members any benefits lost if their education or training was interrupted by the call-up.