



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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THE FY92 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BATTLE will heat up in September when the House and Senate reconvene. The biggest differences between House and Senate actions were on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and the B-2 stealth bomber. DoD's major complaint about the authorization bills, in addition to the handling of SDI and the B-2, is that the legislators failed to cut reserve component end strength while making major reductions in the active forces.

Significant changes to Army systems from the president's budget proposal include (\$ in millions):*

PROGRAM	PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE ACTION	SENATE ACTION
Procurement			
OH-58D Kiowa Warrior	183.0	+200.0	—
Patriot PAC-2 Missiles	107.1	+200.0	—
Stinger Missiles	37.5	+ 75.0	—
M1A2 (Procurement)	43.7	+ 46.7	+ 46.7
M1A2 (Modifications)	79.0	+225.7	+225.7
Bradley (Modifications)	185.5	+150.0	- 75.0
Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles			
	161.0	—	+ 85.0
RDT&E			
AAWS-Medium	120.4	—	- 70.9
AH-64 Apache (Longbow)	233.2	—	+ 34.5
JSTARS	48.7	—	+ 25.0

*Differences will be ironed out in a House/Senate joint conference.

1991 BASE CLOSURE LIST IS A DONE DEAL with the July 30 House vote (364 to 60) to accept the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's recommendations as endorsed by President Bush. Major Army closings include Fort Ord, CA; Sacramento Army Depot, CA; Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN; and Fort Devens, MA.

Army installations slated for realignment include Fort Chaffee, AR; Fort Polk, LA; Fort Dix, NJ; and Aviation Systems Command and Troop Support Command, St. Louis, MO. Realignment of the Army Corps of Engineers civil works program, as recommended by a 1991 study, was also conditionally approved, to be initiated July 1, 1992 unless Congress provides for an alternative plan before that date.

The House vote makes the 1991 base closure process final regardless of any Senate action, since **both** chambers must vote disapproval to halt implementation of the commission's recommendations.

STATUS OF DOD BUDGET, as of the August recess:

- **FY92 Defense Authorization Bill:** The bill has passed both House and Senate, with major differences with respect to strategic forces. The joint conference, expected to begin shortly after Congress returns, could be lengthy.
- **FY92 Defense Appropriations Bill:** The bill has passed in the House. The SAC Defense Subcommittee has scheduled markup for Sep. 17, followed by full SAC mark and reporting out on Sep. 19. The schedule could slip depending on the progress of the **Authorization** conference.
- **FY92 Continuing Resolution:** It's virtually assured we will start FY92 under a **CRA**.

The Senate reconvenes on Sep. 10, the House on Sep. 11.

GULF BENEFITS MAY BECOME PERMANENT

under the 1991 National Defense Authorization Act. The House Armed Services Committee has recommended that many of the benefits enacted under the Persian Gulf Supplemental Authorization and Personnel Benefits Act of 1991 be made permanent. Among them are:

- increase imminent danger pay from \$110 per month to \$150;
- increase family separation allowance from \$60 per month to \$75;
- double death gratuity pay to survivors from \$3,000 to \$6,000;
- allow soldiers to accrue up to 90 days' leave while serving in a contingency operation;
- pay reserve soldiers and recalled retirees for any leave accrued while on active duty.

ROTC UNITS WILL BE CUT

at 62 colleges and universities around the nation by the end of FY91, as the Army attempts to reach its 1995 end strength goals. Some of the major schools to lose the ROTC program: Dartmouth, Saint Norbert, Nevada-Las Vegas, South Florida and Washington and Lee. The criteria used to select units for disestablishment are based on program production, enrollment, the quality of officers produced (ROTC camp performance, grade point averages and order of merit rankings), and the degrees of the commissionees. Initial cost savings from the reductions is anticipated at more than \$20 million.

GULF RESERVISTS ARE WRAPPING UP

and coming home, with only 8,050 of the nearly 140,000 Army Reservists and National Guardsmen mobilized worldwide for Operation Desert Shield/Storm remaining on active duty as of mid-August. Most of the reservists (about 25 percent of whom are volunteers) are performing transportation, maintenance, supply, medical and military police duties, as well as helping with reconstruction efforts in Kuwait.

Of the 14,400 soldiers remaining in the Persian Gulf region, 4,500 are reservists. More than 106,000 Army reservists were deployed to Southwest Asia at the height of the war.

DOD VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE

proposed to Congress by Secretary Dick Cheney falls far short of the Army version, called the Selective Early Annuity (SEA). Designed to reduce the number of involuntary separations needed to meet FY92-95 personnel reduction goals, DoD's Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) proposal would offer financial inducements to personnel with more than six but less than 20 years of military service who volunteer to leave active duty. The plan would most likely be offered only to members in overstrength specialties, pay grades or year groups and would expire at the end of the drawdown in 1995.

Under VSI, the annual payment amount would be equal to 2.5 percent of annual base pay multiplied by the member's years of service. Incentive payments would be made in equal annual installments for a period equal to twice the number of years of service of the member.

The Army plan would have gone a giant step beyond the provisions of Cheney's VSI, offering COLA protection and full retirement benefits (medical, PX, commissary). The VSI plan's lack of such benefits is particularly serious, with Army comments from the field indicating that the loss of medical coverage is probably the biggest worry among career enlisted troops.

M1 TANK LINE TO STAY OPEN

thanks to a \$768 million contract to build 641 M1A1 Abrams tanks for the Army. Combined with co-production orders for 555 M1A1s for Egypt and 465 M1A2s for Saudi Arabia, the contract is expected to keep the General Dynamics tank production line open well into the mid-1990s.

Congress is pushing both continued production of new M1A2 tanks and the M1A2 conversion program, a \$4 billion, ten-year plan to upgrade more than 3,000 M1 tanks to the M1A2 configuration.

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

CONGRESS CALLS FOR MORE CUTS IN EUROPE, recommending deeper and faster troop reductions than DoD had planned. Defense officials had opted for a drawdown to 150,000 troops — the minimum they feel is required to maintain a credible U.S. presence in Europe — by 1995. That's slightly less than half the number of U.S. troops maintained in Europe in recent years. Both the House and Senate have included in their FY92 defense authorization bills a nonbinding recommendation that strength levels be cut to 100,000. The House version would cut 65,000 troops in 1992, while the Senate bill would reduce U.S. forces in Europe by 60,000 as of Oct. 1, 1992, when a new troop ceiling of 235,700 would apply. Differences over U.S. troop strength in Europe will be worked out by conference committee when Congress reconvenes in September. The unsuccessful coup in Moscow will no doubt have major impact on the congressional deliberations.

DOD ANNOUNCES REFORGER 91, a strategic mobility exercise to be conducted from late August through October of this year in areas of northern Germany and The Netherlands. REFORGER 91, designed to emphasize U.S. capability to rapidly reinforce Europe, will be followed by CERTAIN SHIELD.

U.S.-based units participating in REFORGER 91 and the follow-on exercise include elements of III Corps Headquarters and the 13th Corps Support Command from Fort Hood, TX; III Corps Artillery, Fort Sill, OK; the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) from Fort Carson, CO; and the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) from Fort Drum, NY. Numerous smaller combat support and combat service support units will also take part in the exercises.

ARMY TO CLOSE 33 BASES IN EUROPE, and reduce operations at six others, as part of the Department of Defense overseas drawdown. The 33 Army facilities slated for closing, part of 79 DoD sites in Europe to be closed or reduced, range from training and housing areas to gas stations and laundry facilities. Key closure locations, all located in Germany, include Camp Eschborn (Frankfurt), Cooke Barracks (Goepfingen), Artillery Kaserne and Wharton Barracks (Heilbronn) and O'Brien Barracks (Nurnberg). Operations are to be reduced at Bleidorn Kaserne (Ansbach), Flak Kaserne and Reese Barracks (Augsburg) and Pendleton Barracks (Giessen).

THE INACTIVATION OF VII CORPS, announced Aug. 15, will leave only one U.S. Army corps (V Corps) in Europe by next April. V Corps will also see major changes as the 8th Infantry Division is inactivated and the 3d Armored Division is returned to the United States. This will leave only two divisions in Europe — the 1st Armored Division, whose designation and colors will move from Ansbach to Bad Kreuznach, and the 3d Infantry Division, which will remain in Wuerzburg. The 3d Infantry has taken over three brigades from the 1st Armored Division, raising its strength from 17,000 to more than 30,000 troops. Now the largest infantry division in the Army, the 3d consists of eight brigades (a temporary condition), including a newly-formed engineer brigade (a first for U.S. Army Europe). One of USAREUR's two armored cavalry regiments will likely be eliminated as well before the drawdown is completed in 1995.

The drawdown actions, designed to create a single corps in Europe, reflect the Army's plan for most of its forces to be based in the U.S., ready for rapid deployment to Europe, Korea, Southwest Asia or elsewhere in the world in support of the national interests of the United States.

ARMY'S PLAN TO ENHANCE CONTINGENCY FORCES, announced in July, involves the relocation to the U.S. of 57 combat support and combat service support units (about 12,000 soldiers) from the U.S. Army Europe. Another dozen units (2,000 soldiers) who will beef up the contingency forces are presently assigned to U.S.-based units previously identified for inactivation. These units will now be retained in the force. The plan is designed to improve the Army ability to respond to and sustain military operations by quickly projecting power in response to distant military crises.

TWO U.S. DIVISIONS WILL SERVE IN NEW NATO FORCE, according to Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Colin Powell. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Powell said nearly 160,000 U.S. troops (about half the number now in Europe) will serve in NATO's planned Rapid Reaction Corps, using equipment stored and sealed in European warehouses. Powell also indicated that the U.S. will continue to train and equip ground, air and supporting naval forces for rapid deployment back to Europe as necessary.

ARMY RULES ON ENLISTED SEPARATION PAY were announced July 25. To receive half or full separation pay, soldiers involuntarily discharged after June 20, 1991, must meet five criteria:

- at least six but fewer than 20 years' active service;
- honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions;
- complete initial term of enlistment;
- agree to serve at least three years in the Ready Reserve;
- involuntary separation or denial of reenlistment.

The formula for computing separation pay is 10 percent of base pay times the number of years served on active duty. Determination to award full or half separation pay — or none at all — depends on how and why the individual soldier is selected for separation.

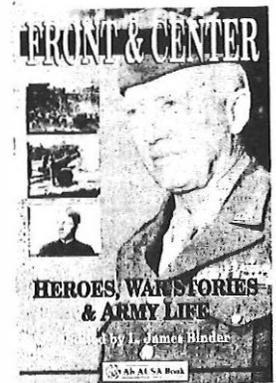
TRANSITION HEALTH BENEFITS SAFETY NET for soldiers held on active duty for Operation Desert Storm and those caught up in force reductions has been announced by the Pentagon. Former soldiers and their families can receive health care on the same basis as active duty families for up to 120 days following discharge, with the length of entitlement based on the soldier's status on leaving the Army.

Soldiers affected by the "stop-loss" policy imposed for the Persian Gulf War are entitled to 30 days of military health care after leaving the service. Reserve soldiers activated for Desert Storm are also entitled to 30 days of health benefits following release from active duty.

Soldiers separated from the service as a result of reductions in the armed forces during a five-year period beginning Oct. 1, 1990, will receive up to 120 days of military health care. The length of transition health benefits entitlement depends on the number of years of active service: involuntarily discharged soldiers with more than six years' active service will receive 120 days, while those with less than six years' active service will receive 60 days' care. Family members are also covered under the plan.

A 4.2 PERCENT MILITARY PAY HIKE is virtually guaranteed, since the Senate Armed Services Committee approved the raise as part of the 1992 Defense Authorization Bill. The House version of the defense bill, passed in May, also includes the raise. The issue is not expected to be a subject for debate this fall when details of the defense budget are finalized.

FRONT & CENTER: HEROES, WAR STORIES & ARMY LIFE is the latest volume in the AUSA book series to be published. Edited by L. James Binder, editor-in-chief of *Army* magazine, *Front & Center* is a selection of articles that have appeared in *Army* over the years. To order *Front & Center*, call Brassey's (US) at 1-800-257-5755. Give the ISBN number (hardcover, ISBN 0-08-040586-X, \$32.00/AUSA members, \$26.50; softcover, ISBN 0-08-041063-4, \$15.95/AUSA members, \$12.75).



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- *Army Base Closures: A Status Report* (Background Brief #35), an overview of the base closure and realignment process from the early 1960s through the recent congressional vote on the 1991 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act.

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