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CONGRESS RETURNED TO A FULL PLATE following a five-week recess, with defense issues high on the list of items to be hashed out before the end of the session. Some major sticking points to be worked out between House and Senate conferees:

- **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).** The Senate's defense authorization bill allows \$4.6 billion for SDI, while the House proposes \$3.54 billion for missile defense research. The House will attempt to slow the Senate bill's momentum toward deployment of an anti-missile system and to narrow the changes sought in the ABM Treaty.
- **B-2 stealth bomber.** The Senate (and the White House) propose purchasing four more B-2s, while the House would allow no funding to build additional B-2s.
- **Reserve personnel reductions.** (See article elsewhere in this edition.)

The Gulf War is over, but its presence lingers on as Congress debates the war's implications for future defense spending and how to control the flow of arms to the Middle East.

On the issue of women in combat, both legislative bodies propose repeal of the combat exclusion law for women in aircraft crews. The Senate bill also calls for a presidential commission to study possible deployment of women in other types of combat.

QUALITY OF VOLUNTEERS STILL RISING, according to a DoD report released Aug. 22. The report indicated that 97 percent of the people recruited into the military services in the first three quarters of FY91 were high school graduates; 99 percent scored in the top three categories on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). For the same period in FY90, 92 percent were high school graduates and 96 percent scored in the top three AFQT categories.

SOVIET UPHEAVAL STIRS U.S. DEFENSE DEBATE with members of Congress split over how the collapse of the Soviet Union should impact on our defense spending. One side calls for deeper cuts in the DoD budget. Some, like Congressman Aspin, have proposed using FY92 defense funds to provide emergency economic assistance to the Soviet Union. The other side argues that the administration already proposes to cut defense some 25 percent by 1995 and these cuts fully consider the reduced threat of a Soviet attack against Europe. The dissolution of the Soviet political structure, they add, should not prompt us to hastily dismantle our defenses.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Colin Powell both have argued caution in going beyond the planned reductions in defense. Cheney reminds interviewers that "even with all the very positive developments in the Soviet Union, I'm still faced with 30,000 nuclear warheads in the Soviet inventory ... almost a third of those targeted against the United States." Gen. Powell warns Congress that additional cuts in active strength and in operations and modernization — over those already planned — will only lead us back to a "hollow" force.

HONORARIA BAN RELIEF sought by AUSA and others may be in sight. Earlier this year, AUSA submitted testimony to the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee supporting a bill that would change some provisions of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989. That law forbids government employees, including military members, to accept honoraria for appearances and articles, even those unrelated to their official duties. A House Judiciary subcommittee recently marked up a compromise bill that would lift the honoraria ban for all career and noncareer employees with salaries below executive level 5, which includes all ranks in the armed forces. The compromise is expected to receive full committee approval in the next few weeks.

CONGRESS POSES RESTRICTIONS to the Army personnel drawdown plan. The Army plan would involve a combination of normal attrition, recruiting cuts, higher reenlistment standards, an early-retirement incentive program and, as a last resort, involuntary separation. With continued readiness as the top priority, the Army seeks to manage the reduction by using all the above tools to provide a continuing balance of skills, grades and service experience.

Congressional committees, however, have imposed some awkward restrictions on involuntary separations. The House Appropriations Committee does not want any involuntary separations in FY 1992 while the House Armed Services Committee would accept end strength flexibility. Senate Armed Services Committee report language prohibits involuntary separation of certain career personnel who are not eligible to retire. The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to accept use of all available options while hoping that involuntary separations would be kept to a minimum.

DoD contends that achievement of the mandated military drawdown (while maintaining current capabilities and readiness) is not helped by the legislative proposals, and that Defense should be allowed more of a free hand to implement its program without interference.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR MILITARY RETIREES could be substantially improved with passage of legislation introduced by Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) on Sep. 20. Cunningham's proposal, the Military Retirees' Health Care Access Act, would guarantee military retirees access to VA and military health care facilities. The measure also allows military health facilities to bill Medicare and the military's CHAMPUS health insurance system directly. An Army study indicates that Medicare saves 40 percent when military retirees use their benefits at military hospitals rather than at public or private facilities.

AUSA, as a member of the Military Coalition, was instrumental in proposing this legislation. Col. Erik Johnson, USA Ret., AUSA's Director of Legislative Affairs, will testify before members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in support of similar legislation on Oct. 2.

"ROUND-OUT BRIGADES ARE HERE TO STAY," says Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan. Addressing a general conference of the National Guard Association of the United States earlier this month, Sullivan cited the Gulf War contributions of three round-out combat brigades (the 48th, 155th and 256th who, in their first full call-up, "demonstrated higher readiness than any reserve combat formation ever." As the Army draws down, said Sullivan, force structure will be sacrificed to maintain readiness, and the active and reserve components must restructure together as a Total Army. "The role of the National Guard in the future Army can be summed up in one phrase — One Total Army Team, One Fight."

CONGRESS REJECTS DOD STRENGTH PLAN for reserve components. While the DoD plan for strength reduction in the active force has received general acceptance on the Hill, several congressional committees have directly opposed the reserve component reductions.

DoD proposed cutting some 105,000 reserve component personnel in FY 1993, (82,400 of these to be Army Guard and Reserve). Instead, the House Armed Services Committee agreed to cut only 37,500, the Senate Armed Services Committee 32,500, and the House Appropriations Committee proposed no cut (keep at the FY 1991 level). The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet completed its report but is expected to be in general agreement with the Senate Armed Services mark. All this must be worked out by conference committees, but the final answer for FY 1992 will undoubtedly be a compromise of about 35,000 below the FY 1991 level. This is only one-third of the cut DoD requested. More important is what will happen beyond FY 1992, as major budget dollars are at stake if significantly larger reserve strengths are to be maintained through FY 1995.

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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

ARMY, USAF AGREE ON AIRLAND OPERATIONS ROLES in a meeting earlier this year between General John W. Foss, then Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and General John H. Loh, Commander, U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Command. Under the provisions of the agreement, the air campaign is planned and executed by a single joint force air component commander designated by the joint force commander. The two commanders also discussed other Airland Operations issues, including the need to refine and update the Concept of Operations and Employment of JSTARS (Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System) based on Desert Storm experience, and the need to work the friendly ground force fratricide problem both individually and collectively.

ARMY ASKS FOR JSTARS SPEED-UP following that system's outstanding Gulf War performance. According to Air Force statistics, Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft flew more than 49 sorties (500+ hours of combat time), providing air and ground commanders a common battlefield picture simultaneously. Impressed with the system's benefits for ground forces, the Army has proposed dedication of two JSTARS to a new contingency force in advance of the Air Force's scheduled 1997 fielding. The Office of the Secretary of Defense has indicated strong interest in the plan to accelerate the program. Funding is also included in the Senate version of the Defense Authorization Bill for three JSTARS ground stations for the Marine Corps.

ARMY ISSUES RFP FOR AGS following a two-month delay while the questions of funding and redundancy were hashed out with Congress. The request for proposals, a solicitation of industry bids to build the Armored Gun System, was held up when the House Appropriations Committee eliminated \$37.9 million earmarked for AGS engineering development from its version of the FY92 budget. Some members of Congress have urged the Army to consider a joint Army-Marine program using the assault-gun variant (LAV 105) of the Marines' Light Armored Vehicle to fill the AGS requirement. The Army's argument that the LAV 105 does not meet the AGS program's specifications for mobility, transportability or protection has resulted in a compromise which will require contractors to use the LAV 105's EX-35 gun in their designs.

THE LAST NATIONAL GUARD UNIT to return from Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm arrived in the United States on Tuesday, September 17, 1991. The 85 members of the 111th Ordnance Group returned for demobilization at Fort Stewart, GA. A welcome home celebration was held on Saturday, September 21, in the unit's hometown of Opelika, AL.

DRAGON 2 LEADS IN ANTITANK TESTS to determine the Army's need for a stopgap portable antitank missile in the early 1990s. The controversial tests, conducted this summer at Fort Benning, GA, pitted the U.S.-built Dragon 2 against Sweden's Bofors Bill missile. Both weapons proved reliable, but preliminary results indicate the Dragon 2 scored hits on moving and stationary targets about 75 percent of the time, while the Bofors Bill — already considered by the Army to be both too heavy and too expensive — scored less than 50 percent.

U.S., KUWAIT AGREE ON TROOP PRESENCE, call for American ground, sea and air forces to rotate in and out of Kuwait for joint training exercises. The number of troops to train in Kuwait, as well as the amount and types of U.S. military equipment to be prepositioned there, will be negotiated later. The agreement, signed Sep. 19, does not call for a permanent base for U.S. ground forces and will not prolong the presence of the 40,000 U.S. military personnel still serving in the region. The U.S. is negotiating similar agreements with the governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

SOLDIERS BAG 25 MEDALS IN PAN AM GAMES, held Aug. 3-18 in Cuba. First Lieutenant Michael Anti, Ft. Benning, GA, led the 21 Army participants with four gold medals in shooting. Other Army multiple medalists, all in shooting, included:

- Spec. Thomas Tamas, Ft. Benning, three gold, one silver and one bronze;
- Capt. David McNally, Ft. Benning, two gold;
- USAR Sgt. Elizabeth Callahan, Ft. Meade, MD, one gold and two silver;
- USAR 1st Lt. David Johnson, Colorado Springs, CO, one gold and one bronze;
- USAR Spec. Ben Amonnett, Dublin, VA, two silver.

AUSA ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 13-16.

Here is an abbreviated program for AUSA's 37th Annual Meeting, to be held at the Sheraton-Washington and Omni Shoreham Hotels in Washington, D.C.:

Sunday, October 13

0800 - AUSA 7th Annual Army Ten-Mile Race

Monday, October 14

0730 - Sergeants Major Conference

0930 - Opening Session/Keynote Address:

Michael P. W. Stone,

Army Secretary

1230 - Sergeants Major Luncheon

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan,

Army Chief of Staff

1230 - ROTC Luncheon

Gen. Carl W. Stiner, CINC,

U.S. Special Operations Command

1230 - Corporate Members Luncheon

Gen. George A. Joulwan, CINC,

U.S. Southern Command

1430 - U.S. Forces Command Presentation

Gen. Edwin H. Burba, Jr., CINC

1830 - Secretary of the Army/Chief of Staff Reception

Tuesday, October 15

0715 - Sergeant Major of the Army's Conference

0730 - ROTC Seminar

1000 - U.S. Army Materiel Command Presentation

Gen. William G. T. Tuttle, Jr., CG

1245 - Dwight D. Eisenhower Luncheon

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan,

Army Chief of Staff

2000 - U.S. Army Soldier Show - "Celebration '91"

Wednesday, October 16

0930 - Army Civilian Seminar

0930 - Presentation of Land Warfare Papers

1230 - Department of the Army Civilian Luncheon

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan,

Army Chief of Staff

1230 - Sustaining Members Luncheon

Gen. Frederick M. Franks, Jr.,

CG, Training and Doctrine Command

1400 - AUSA Business Meeting

1800 - George Catlett Marshall Memorial

Reception and Dinner

MILITARY STRENGTH LOWEST IN FOUR DECADES,

according to the latest DoD figures. Total numerical strength of the U.S. armed forces on July 31, 1991, was 2,018,361. This represents the lowest number since 1950, when active duty strength figures stood at 1,459,462. (These figures represent full-time military personnel -- regulars, reserves on extended active duty, officer candidates and cadets at the three military academies. The number does not include members of the Ready Reserve called up for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.)

Army strength as of July 31, 1991, was reported at 725,569, also the lowest point since 1950, when active Army personnel numbered 593,167. The July figure shows decreases of 4,968 since June 30 and 9,072 since July 31, 1990.

ILW INITIATES ESSAY SERIES to supplement its book and research paper writing programs. The Landpower Essay Series is designed to provide an outlet for original essays on topics that will add to public understanding of the landpower aspects of national security. Three essays have been published to date:

- *The Impact of Desert Storm and the Growing Soviet Military Dissatisfaction with Defensive Doctrine* (No. 91-1, March 1991), by MG Edward B. Atkeson, USA Ret., a Senior Fellow of the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare.

- *Desert Storm Fire Support: Classic AirLand Battle Operations* (No. 91-2, June 1991), by BG Paul F. Pearson, USA Ret., vice president of CYPRESS International, and Gen. Glenn K. Otis, USA Ret., a Senior Fellow of the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare and corporate vice president of Coleman Research Corporation.

- *Today's Victories and Tomorrow's Army* (No. 91-3, July 1991), by Gen. Maxwell R. Thurman, USA Ret., a Senior Fellow of the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare. The paper points out how the changes in the Army, begun in the 1970s, were the seeds of victory in Desert Storm.

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