



WASHINGTON UPDATE



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 4 No 10

Published by the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare October-November 1992

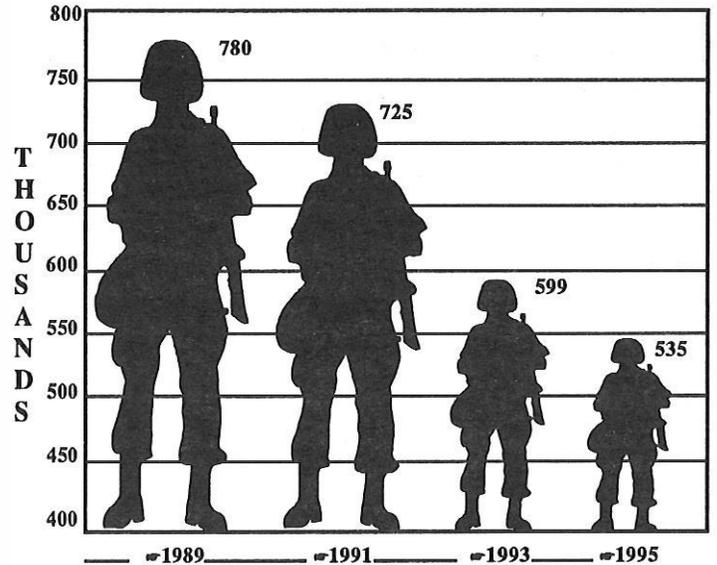
FY 1993 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, signed by President Bush Oct. 6, took a hard swipe at operating costs and at procurement for all the services. However, important Army programs such as the Abrams tank and Bradley fighting vehicle were given an extension on life. To upgrade earlier model M1 tanks with a larger main gun, heavier armor and night-fighting electronics, the bill provides \$161 million in new funds and \$197 million in proceeds from the sale of older tanks to other countries. Another \$125 million is included for new Bradley production and for improvements to older models. The total spending authority for the Army for FY93 is \$63.9 billion, broken down as follows:

Military Personnel	\$28.7B
Operations & Maintenance	19.4B
Research, Development and Acquisition	13.0B
Military Construction	2.8B

The total obligational authority for FY93 is six percent below FY92 and reflects a 17 percent reduction in real terms over three years. The FY93 appropriation is the last one in which defense budget cuts are limited by the 1990 Budget Summit agreement, so the new administration can be expected to make additional changes in the allocation of defense resources.

ARMOR MODERNIZATION PLAN SHELVED by the Army, but the required Defense Department approval for termination of two common-chassis contracts has not as yet been forthcoming. Army has recommended that DoD cancel one of the \$59 billion Armored Systems Modernization program's two common-chassis contracts and severely downsize the other. Cancellation of AVTA's \$286 million contract and curtailment of Teledyne Continental Motors' contract for \$342 million could result in layoffs of 600 to 700 employees.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SOLDIERS GONE?



ACTIVE ARMY END STRENGTH

The illustration above graphically portrays the reduced size of the Army as it makes the transition from a Cold War Army to the Base Force Army.

15-YEAR RETIREMENT AUTHORITY has been granted to the Defense Department by Congress despite lack of support among Pentagon officials. If funded and implemented by the services, the plan would allow soldiers with more than 15 but fewer than 20 years' service to retire with 2.5 percent of their final monthly basic pay for each of year of service. Unlike the Voluntary Separation Incentive annuity, 15-year retirement payments would be adjusted for inflation and would continue for the member's lifetime.

Military officials are studying the plan, but no decision has been announced regarding when or if it will be implemented. In the meantime, some observers have expressed concern that soldiers may be passing up the benefits of an early-out bonus to wait for a 15-year retirement option that may never come.

KUWAIT OPTS TO BUY AMERICAN following month-long desert trials in which the General Dynamics-built M1A2 Abrams tank handily defeated the Vickers Challenger 2. Details of the sale (including spare parts, training and ammunition packages) have not yet been finalized, but the initial purchase is expected to be 236 tanks at an estimated value of \$1 billion. The Kuwaitis have indicated that the total order may include between 600 and 760 M1A2s, which would provide a reprieve for the beleaguered GD tank production lines.

The M1A2 and the Challenger 2 are scheduled to meet again in field tests in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, where France's Giat-built Leclerc will join the politically-charged competition for tank orders.

WEAPON SYSTEMS PROGRESS is being reported on several fronts:

- Congress has approved more than \$300 million in FY93 for the Army's Apache helicopter upgrade, which involves modification of 811 aircraft to include the Global Positioning System (the AH-64+ configuration), retrofitting 227 of those AH-64+s with the Longbow radar system, Hellfire missiles and other improvements (the AH-64D configuration) and upgrading the remaining 584 to the AH-64C configuration (basically the same as the AH-64D but without the radar); however, a \$1 billion shortfall has been predicted for the upgrade program if out-year funding is not forthcoming.

- The Army plans to divert \$332.2 million from the cancelled Armored Systems Modernization program into modernization of field artillery systems.

- The Pentagon has approved the Hughes Santa Barbara Research Center to produce focal plane arrays for the Army's Javelin antitank missile, clearing the way for a flight testing program for 167 missiles.

- Negotiations between the Army and Boeing-Sikorsky on the RAH-66 Comanche helicopter's \$1.99 billion restructured demonstration/validation program are expected to be completed by the end of the year, with a design review for the airframe scheduled for October 1993 and for the T800 engine in June 1994.

REVISED WARFIGHTING MANUAL BEING READIED for publication next spring, with changes expected to focus more on "multiple threats, on a power-projection Army, and on the ability to deploy," says Army vice chief of staff Gen. Dennis Reimer. The updated version of Field Manual 100-5, *Operations*, "really will not be a revolutionary change for the Army. We think the basic doctrine that we executed in Operation Desert Storm is fairly sound."

The draft FM 100-5 reflects lessons learned from Operations Just Cause and Desert Storm, the demise of the Soviet Union, budgetary constraints and the changes in military operations contained in the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986. It will emphasize the Army's role as a team player in joint-service operations and will also address such peacetime activities as counternarcotics and humanitarian operations.

NONLETHAL WEAPONS STUDIED for possible use on the battlefield of the future. The Army's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), located at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ, is looking at a number of munitions technologies aimed at producing weapons that effectively disable, disorient, temporarily blind or incapacitate the enemy while minimizing collateral damage to populations, infrastructures and the environment. Included in the Low Collateral Damage Munitions study, announced Oct. 9 by ARDEC, are such measures as sensor-blinding lasers, machinery-disabling chemicals and microwave weapons for destroying electronic systems. The Army is expected to invest about \$100 million in the program over the next five years.

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

TAXBILL VETOED, leaving separating soldiers without the option to roll lump-sum Special Separation Benefit bonuses into tax-deferred Individual Retirement Accounts. The IRA provision was part of a \$27 billion tax and economic incentives bill which Congress delayed sending for signature until after the election in hopes that President Bush would change his mind about his threatened veto. However, the president vetoed the bill as promised, thus fulfilling his “no new taxes” campaign pledge and requiring bonus takers to “wait ‘til next year” for a possible tax break.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES GET “TIME OFF AWARD” based on achievements, under a new Army policy sanctioned by the Office of Personnel Management and the Defense Department. The award is similar to the existing Special Act or Service Award except that time off is given instead of a monetary award. Supervisors may grant employees up to 80 hours of time off per year. The maximum one-time award for a single achievement is 40 hours off. Immediate supervisors may approve one day off on their own authority; higher level supervisors must approve awards of more than one day. All direct-hire appropriated fund Army civilian employees are eligible.

GI LIFE INSURANCE LIMITS DOUBLED as part of a congressional plan to improve survivor benefits for service-connected deaths. Effective Dec. 1, active-duty soldiers will have 120 days to sign up for the new maximum coverage of \$200,000. They can purchase Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance in increments of \$10,000, at a cost of 80 cents per month per \$10,000. A \$100,000 increase in coverage would raise a soldier’s monthly payroll deduction from \$8 to \$16.

RECRUITING: NUMBERS DOWN, QUALITY UP. The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel reports that FY92 active-duty Army recruiting figures were reduced from last year’s 78,241 to a 20-year low of 77,583 — a desirable trend in the midst of the military drawdown. ODCSPER also reports that **100 percent** of the FY92 recruits are high school graduates (up from last year’s 98 percent) and that 77.7 percent of them scored in the top half of the Armed Forces Qualification Test (up from FY91’s 75 percent).

PANEL VOTES NO WOMEN IN BATTLE. A presidential commission empaneled to study the controversial policy barring military women from combat roles announced its recommendations Nov. 3. Although the panel recommended allowing women to serve aboard combat vessels such as destroyers and aircraft carriers, they voted to continue barring women from flying combat aircraft, engaging in ground combat or serving on amphibious vessels and submarines. The nonbinding recommendations will be passed on to the White House.

NEW “COLA UNIQUE” FORMULA, in effect since Oct. 1, reimburses all service members for unusual expenses connected with overseas tours, with reimbursements based on the average costs of the unique items or services during a typical tour in a specific location. COLA Unique was established by the Defense Department as more equitable than the previous cost-of-living allowance formula, by which reimbursement for such location-driven necessities as heavy winter clothing in colder climates was based on the service member’s basic pay. Under COLA Unique, higher-ranking soldiers may find their COLA payments reduced while lower-ranking soldiers may receive an increase, depending on duty station, number of dependents and pay grade.

IMPROVED DENTAL COVERAGE for military families is contained in the FY93 Defense Appropriations and Authorization Acts, with \$50 million earmarked to get the new program going by April. The plan will pay most of the cost of some procedures not covered under the current plan. Premiums, currently set at \$10 per month per family, are expected to be about \$20 a month. The legislation gives the Defense Department the option to set lower premiums for dependents of lower-ranking military members.

GI BILL BENEFITS TO INCREASE annually to keep up with inflation, under a plan recently approved by Congress. Beginning April 1, 1993, service members with three years or more of active service would receive a \$50-a-month raise (to a maximum of \$400 a month) in Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits. Benefits for reservists would increase by \$20 a month, to a maximum of \$190. Effective Oct. 1, 1993, the increase would be based on the rise in inflation.

KOREA DRAWDOWN ON HOLD, EUROPE MARCHES HOME. On Oct. 8, following a meeting with the Minister of National Defense of South Korea, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announced that phase two of the drawdown of U.S. forces in South Korea will not proceed as long as concerns remain about development of nuclear weapons in North Korea. Under phase one of the drawdown, U.S. forces in Korea have been reduced by almost 7,000 since 1990, leaving about 37,400 (27,000 Army). Phase two called for a further reduction of 6,500 by the end of 1995.

In the meantime, U.S. forces continue to depart from Europe in record numbers. U.S. Army Europe has already sent 72,500 soldiers home to the United States, with an additional 33,700 soldiers scheduled to leave by the end of FY 1993. The White House and Capitol Hill are still wrangling over how many troops of all services must remain in Europe to provide an effective U.S. presence. The FY93 Defense Authorization Bill limits the number to 100,000 by the end of FY96. The Bush administration favors a force of 150,000.

NONDEPLOYABLES WON'T GET BOOTED, says an Army Staff study conducted in response to a U.S. General Accounting Office report on the problems caused by nondeployable personnel. Results of the study indicate that nondeployability is not a serious problem despite some field commanders' views to the contrary. A 97 percent deployability rate during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm provided sufficient numbers of trained and ready forces, indicating that worldwide deployability should not be a criterion for retention in the Army. No recommendation for changes in medical deployability and retention standards will be made to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

NEW ARMY CHEMICAL DEFENSE AGENCY to be established in response to the increasing chemical and biological warfare threat around the globe. The agency, which will report directly to Army Materiel Command, will oversee spending for all Army research, development and acquisition for chemical and biological defense, including such programs as the XM21 Remote Chemical Agent Detector and the M93 Fox Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Reconnaissance System.

AUSA TELEVISION SERIES "Why An Army" takes a look at the Army's role in disaster assistance in Florida and Louisiana following Hurricane Andrew and in Hawaii after Hurricane Iniki. The seventh program in the 12-part series features Maj. Gen. John C. Heldstab, the Army's Director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization. The show will air in the Washington area on two Northern Virginia Public Television stations: WNVC-56 (Saturday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m.) and WNVT-53 (Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m.).

The eighth program in the series, featuring Lt. Gen. Alcide LaNoue, The Surgeon General of the Army, will explore the Army Medical Department's contributions to medical care and research. The show will air in the Washington area on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. on WNVT-53, and on Saturday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. on WNVC-56.

NO YEAR-END ASSESSMENT. AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare will not be publishing a global assessment of the events of 1992. Issued annually for the past 19 years, the AUSA Special Report has lately become a project that requires a disproportionate amount of effort on the part of ILW's limited staff. Under consideration for the future is a series of regionally-oriented papers that could be issued periodically during the year.

TWO NEW LAND WARFARE PAPERS RELEASED:

- *Hitler's "Watch on the Rhine": The Battle of the Bulge* (Land Warfare Paper No. 12) by Major Thomas W. Dworschak, USA, is a World War II Commemorative research paper on this most famous battle;
- *Operational Logistics and the Gulf War* (Land Warfare Paper No. 13) by Lieutenant General William G. Pagonis, USA, and Colonel Michael D. Krause, USA Ret., focuses on the integration of logistics into the operational level of planning for the conduct of the Gulf War.

To obtain these publications, write to the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201, or call 1-800-336-4570, extension 308.