



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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NEW PRESIDENT'S DEFENSE PRIORITIES are anxiously awaited by all ranks, all services. A view of some things that could be in store for the military can be gleaned from pre-election statements and post-election news reports. Here, at a glance, are some of President-elect Clinton's stated positions on issues impacting on the Army:

Defense Budget: \$1.36 trillion thru 1997, \$60 billion less than Bush.

Active-duty strength: 1.4 million by 1997, a 33 percent cut.

Reserve components: Greater emphasis on Guard and Reserve, no numbers yet.

Troops in Europe: Cut to 75,000-100,000; Bush said 150,000.

Women in combat: No position until commission reports.

Transition plans: Favors 15-year retirement. Grant one-year education leave with pay to train retirees in critical civilian professions. Set up National Police Corps to train vets as law officers.

Roles and missions: Supports Sen. Sam Nunn's plans for comprehensive review.

Homosexuals: Would lift ban on homosexuals in military.

FY94 BUDGET WILL BE ALL CLINTON because of a 1990 law change that slipped the president's deadline to the first Monday in February. Before the change, the budget was to be sent to Congress by the first Monday after January 3. On January 5, the Bush administration will submit a "budgetary statement {that} will review developments over the past four years; make near-, intermediate-, and long-term projections; show the effects of extending the President's policies; present spending control options; and display the effects of alternative technical and economic assumptions." The Clinton budget is not expected to reach Congress until late March or early April.

MANY NEW FACES IN CONGRESS, especially on the two committees with the most relevance to the military — the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. In the Senate, Readiness subcommittee chair Sen. Alan Dixon (D-IL) lost in the primary and will probably be replaced by Sen. Richard Shelby (D-AL). Sen. Tim Wirth (D-CO) is retiring; Sen. Al Gore (D-TN) becomes vice president; Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC) will be ranking minority member when he "bumps" Virginia Sen. John Warner. Another vacancy could be in the offing should committee chair Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) be tapped for a Cabinet position by President-elect Clinton; Sen. Jim Exon (D-NE) is next in line.

On the House side, committee chair Les Aspin (D-WI) is also the subject of speculation for a Cabinet post. Should that occur, Ronald V. Dellums (D-CA) would be next on the basis of seniority. At least 10 freshmen have already tossed their hats in the ring for seats on the House committee. There will be 13 vacancies because of retirements — Charles Bennett (D-FL), Dennis Hertel (D-MI), Bill Dickinson (R-AL), Larry Hopkins (R-KY), Robert Davis (R-MI), David Martin (R-NY), Andy Ireland (R-FL); election losses — Nick Mavroules (D-MA), Richard Ray (D-GA), Albert Bustamante (D-TX), Delegate Ben Blaz (R-Guam); one primary loss — Beverly Byron (D-MD); and Barbara Boxer's (D-CA) successful race for the Senate. Our next issue should provide the names of all their replacements as well as a list of the new members of the Appropriations subcommittees who deal with military issues.

MORE BASE CLOSURES COMING, with the 1993 commission to be named by Jan. 25. No word yet whether Defense Secretary Dick Cheney will do the honors or leave that task to his successor. The services' recommendations are due by March 15. Two previous commissions received congressional approval for 120 stateside base closures and 107 realignments.

BRADLEY MODERNIZATION PLANNED, to include production of new A2 fighting vehicles and upgrading the older A0s and some A2s to the A3 configuration, at an estimated cost of \$300 million a year. Details of the plan (including where the money is coming from) are still being finalized. Some of the funding could be obtained through foreign sales of the Bradley. A high priority for both Army and Congress, the upgrade will achieve several goals for the Army: correcting a shortfall of some 1,300 fighting vehicles and ensuring that the Bradley will be able to keep up with the M1A2 Abrams tank on the battlefield; also, keeping FMC Corp.'s production line warm after the current contract expires in October 1994. The A3 upgrade, which includes a Global Positioning System receiver, a laser range-finder and digitization of the Bradley's electronic core architecture, should get underway in FY97.

M1A2 TANK UPGRADE DELAYED while the Pentagon's Conventional Systems Committee reviews the Army's plan. OSD Tactical Systems Director Frank Kendall has expressed concern about premature contract placement, long-lead material buys, the limited scope of the initial operating test and evaluation plan and disparities between the Phase 1 upgrade plan and the Army's FY94-95 budget submission. Before he passes the plan on to Donald Yockey, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, for final approval, Kendall wants the Army to provide a production readiness review plan for hardware and software, as well as a cost and operational effectiveness evaluation of the modernization plan.

LIVE-FIRE TESTING DEBATED, with some Pentagon officials charging that the program is too often an expensive and time-consuming hindrance to the weapons acquisition process. Critics on Capitol Hill and elsewhere charge that the Pentagon is engaged in a plot to diminish the role of live-fire testing and is attempting to weaken the statutory requirement for major acquisition programs to successfully complete live-fire testing before proceeding to production. A classic example now at issue in DoD is the degree to which the new and very expensive C-17 airlifter should be subjected to live-fire testing. At this time, at least four groups — including the National Academy of Sciences — are looking into live-fire testing procedures to determine if they should be strengthened, relaxed or continued as present.

VICE CHAIRMAN GETS FULL MEMBERSHIP IN JCS under a provision of the FY93 Defense Authorization Bill signed Oct. 23 by President Bush. This was recommended by JCS chairman Gen. Colin Powell and supported by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. Previously, the JCS vice chairman was designated a full member only in the chairman's absence or incapacity to fulfill his duties. Now, the vice chairman will participate fully in JCS activities and will serve as the chairman's representative to the Interagency Deputies Committee as well as chairman of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council.

JOINT CAREER ACADEMIES TO BE ESTABLISHED by the Departments of Defense and Education to provide at-risk high school students with leadership, vocational and academic training. Urban school districts in Los Angeles, CA, Washington, DC, Indianapolis, IN, Louisville, KY, Buffalo, NY, Charlotte, NC, Dayton, OH, and Philadelphia, PA, have been chosen to participate in the program, modeled after the Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps. Initial cost is estimated at \$6 million.

TUG-OF-WAR OVER SEALIFT CONTROL features the joint U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM) on one side and the Navy on the other. Earlier this year Defense Secretary Dick Cheney named TRANSCOM's commander-in-chief as the single manager for common-user transport systems, including both air- and sealift as well as surface rail. Since that time OSD has designated the Navy as executive agent for sealift acquisition programs. What this means is that TRANSCOM sets sealift priorities but Navy controls the funding. The Army, as the single largest user of military sealift, is highly dependent on successful execution of the program outlined in the Joint Chiefs of Staff's mobility requirements study.

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2D ARMORED DIVISION IS BACK, in the form of the inactivated 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized). More than 3,000 troops of the 5th Infantry Division had already relocated from Fort Polk, LA, to Fort Hood, TX, before the inactivation ceremony on Nov. 24. Re-flagged as the 2d Armored Division on Dec. 2, the unit will continue to move soldiers (and their families and household goods) from Polk to Hood through the end of 1993.

“PEOPLE” PROGRAMS LEAD ’93 AUTHORIZATIONS. Included in the FY93 Defense Authorization Act, signed Oct. 23 by President Bush:

- 3.7 percent active-duty pay raise effective Jan. 1, 1993;
- expansion of the Active Duty Dependents Dental Plan;
- reduction to \$7,500 of CHAMPUS catastrophic cap for retirees, effective July 1, 1992;
- extension to 10 days of the Temporary Lodging Expense allowance in areas directly affected by the drawdown;
- retention on active duty of enlisted members within two years of retirement eligibility;
- retroactive entitlement for VSI and SSB recipients to be able to “buy into” the Montgomery GI Bill;
- VSI payments not reduced by Reserve drill pay;
- VSI recipients’ military service to count toward Federal Civil Service retirement.

CONGRESS EXPANDS DENTAL CARE for the families of active duty service members — and backs it up with a \$50 million appropriation. The Active Duty Dependents Dental Plan (DDP Delta) will now cover such services as braces, bridges, dentures, crowns, gold fillings and other procedures considered appropriate by the defense secretary. As with the current plan, there will be no charge to families for standard preventive care and only a 20 percent co-payment for certain restorative procedures. The defense secretary is directed to provide expanded services at a cost of not more than \$20 per month per family and also has the option to reduce the monthly premiums for enlisted members in pay grades E-1 through E-4. It will also be possible, should the Defense Department and the services so choose, to reduce monthly premiums and/or copayments for all families. The new dental plan is expected to take effect in April 1993.

NO ’93 NCO SELECTIVE EARLY RELEASE BOARD, Army officials announced recently. Sufficient numbers of senior noncommissioned officers will retire in 1993 to meet the Army’s senior NCO drawdown goal of 300 for the year, making a Selected Early Release Board unnecessary. (The same goal for 1992 was met by a combination of 160 SERB actions and participation of 140 eligibles in a special voluntary retirement program.) However, cancellation of the 1993 board does not preclude use of the SERB option in 1994 and 1995 if the Army’s force reduction goals are not met through other means.

Normal attrition and greatly reduced recruiting are expected to make a 1993 enlisted reduction in force (RIF) unnecessary as well, although RIF actions might be taken in 1994 and 1995 if other efforts to reduce active strength are unsuccessful.

15-YEAR RETIREMENT GIVEN “WAIT-OUT” by Pentagon and White House officials, who have opted to defer decisions about implementation of the program to the Clinton administration. Congress has already approved the plan for use as a drawdown tool despite its lack of popularity among Defense Department officials, and President-elect Bill Clinton has indicated his support. However, even if he and his newly-appointed defense secretary decide right away to go ahead with the 15-year retirement program, it will take some time for the service secretaries to work out the funding details and determine eligibility criteria.

FY92 DEFENSE FORCE REDUCTION LARGEST SINCE ’72, and the drawdown is actually ahead of the game, with about 57,000 fewer military personnel (all services) than the authorized end strength for the end of FY92. The total numerical strength of the U.S. armed forces decreased by 178,024 (100,371 Army) from Sep. 30, 1991, to Sep. 30, 1992, leaving an active force of 1,807,531 (610,450 Army). During FY72, which saw the end of the Vietnam War, the armed forces decreased by about 391,000. Pentagon officials attribute the success of the drawdown to such separation incentives as the Special Separation Benefit and Voluntary Separation Incentive bonuses (about 52,000 separations), to selective early retirement (about 3,000 retired) and to normal attrition and decreased accessions.

FIRST U.S. ARMY UNIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, 150 soldiers from the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) in Wiesbaden, Germany, arrived in Zagreb, Croatia, on Nov. 10. They were followed within days by a second contingent of 160 soldiers, including medical personnel from the 7th Medical Command in Wiesbaden. Their mission: to operate a newly-constructed 60-bed hospital unit at Zagreb's Pleso Airport in support of 15,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The deployment, known as Operation Provide Promise, was authorized Oct. 2 by President Bush at the request of United Nations officials and is expected to last not more than 179 days.

INTENT TO LIFT THE HOMOSEXUAL BAN, as restated in President-elect Clinton's first public comments after the election, has resulted in a flurry of calls from AUSA members asserting their opposition to the ban removal. For those who missed it, the AUSA position was made clear in the following resolution, passed at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 14, 1992:

"Homosexuality is incompatible with military service. The presence of homosexuals adversely affects the ability of the Armed Forces to maintain good order, discipline and morale, foster mutual trust and confidence among service members, ensure integrity of the system of rank and command, facilitate assignment and worldwide deployment of soldiers, recruit and retain soldiers, and maintain public acceptability of military service. The current DoD and DA homosexual exclusion policy is sound and fully supportable.

"Military service must not be treated as just another job. Military service is not a right. The impact of a policy change would have unpredictable and tragic consequences to soldiers and units.

"The presence in the Armed Forces of homosexuals impairs the accomplishment of the military mission. This is clearly a readiness issue.

"WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to urge the Administration and Congress to:

- **Uphold current DoD policy on homosexual exclusion."**

BENNING BACKS ROBO-GRUNT following a recent meeting involving the battlefield robotics program manager, Pentagon acquisition personnel, and representatives from the Battle Laboratories, the Armor School, and the Army Infantry School. The meeting was held to generate support for the three-year-old Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) Joint Project Office and its principal program, the Tactical Unmanned Ground Vehicle (TUGV), a system designed to provide battlefield reconnaissance and surveillance beyond the front lines. Maj. Gen. Jerry White, commandant of the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA, gave his official support to the plan in a Sep. 17 letter to the commander of Army Missile Command, Maj. Gen. Joseph Rigby. Implementation of the program at Fort Benning has been vested in the recently established Dismounted War Fighting Center Battle Lab.

NEW ILW PUBLICATIONS:

- *Louisiana Maneuvers Revisited* (Background Brief No. 45) discusses the modern-era counterpart to the 1941 maneuvers which will help the Army identify operational and organizational problem.
- *1985 Afterthoughts* (Landpower Essay No. 92-5), by the late General William E. DePuy, USA Ret., is a reprint of General DePuy's postscript to an oral history interview. The postscript brings to bear the unique insight, candor and clarity that were so characteristic of General DePuy.

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.

AUSA TELEVISION SERIES "Why An Army" takes a look at the Army Medical Department — its contributions to medical research and its future in the shrinking post-Cold War Army. The eighth program in the 12-part series features Lt. Gen. Alcide LaNoue, The Surgeon General. Moderator Peter Hackes will be joined by panelists Nancy Tomich of *U.S. Medicine* and Tom Donnelly of *Army Times*. The show will air in the Washington area on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7:00 p.m. on WNVT-53, and on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. on WNVC-56. For more information, contact Sandra Daugherty at 1-800-336-4570, extension 317.