



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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RESERVE CUTS RAISE HACKLES, mostly on Capitol Hill but also in many state capitals. When Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Colin Powell announced a reduction of some 830 Reserve and National Guard units across the land, the media, local interests and a number of governors were quick to respond. Cheney and Powell told a Pentagon press conference March 26: "Eighty percent of the Reserve and National Guard units that are being taken out on the list we're presenting to Congress today, specifically were part of that force that was intended to go to Europe in wartime and support the active force. Those active units are out. Now we've identified the reserve components that support them, and we're recommending they come out as well." The proposed cuts would affect 140,000 spaces in Guard and Reserve units of all services all across the country.

Some of the strongest criticism of the reserve component drawdown came from the Senate, especially among those who are former governors. A number opposed the Guard cuts as threatening the disaster relief capability in their home states. Also cited was the cost differential of maintaining part-time units compared to that of keeping up active-duty units. While DoD's Base Force Plan calls for 12 active and six reserve divisions in the Army, representatives of organizations supporting the Guard have proposed a plan that calls for 10 active and 10 Guard divisions. Whichever way the issue is resolved, it is expected to be the most controversial subject of the FY93 defense budget debates.

160 TOP NCOS TO BE RETIRED, the Army announced March 30. The Selective Early Retirement Board, which met in January, screened the personnel files of about 600 senior noncommissioned officers and selected 160 sergeants major and command sergeants major for early retirement. Those selected were personally notified in late March that they would be retired from the Army by Sep. 1, 1992. The NCOs have 25-28 years of service and at least one year in grade.

PENTAGON REPORT ON PERSIAN GULF WAR was released April 10, three months past the deadline. *Conduct of the Persian Gulf War* offers much detail but few surprises about the successes and shortcomings of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In his overview of the report, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney cited the length of time available for deployment, strong support from the host nations and other coalition members, Iraq's "near-total international isolation" and terrain "ideally suited to armor and air power and largely free of noncombatants" as major factors contributing to the allied victory. The study gave high marks to the well-trained troops and to the M1A1 Abrams tank, the Bradley fighting vehicle, the Multiple Launch Rocket System and the Army Tactical Missile System.

On the down side, analysts criticized the shortage of fast sealift, the inability of logistics support to keep pace with combatant forces, and slow, often incomplete and/or redundant intelligence reports.

Copies of *Conduct of the Persian Gulf War* are available through the Government Printing Office (202-783-3238) and the National Technical Information Service (703-487-4650).

CHENEY: MORE BASES WILL CLOSE "beginning in '93 and possibly again in '95." Speaking to the Associated General Contractors of America in Washington last month, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney warned (without naming specific installations) that additional base closures and/or realignments will be necessary and that the bipartisan Base Closure Commission process established in 1991 will likely be used again. He also suggested the possibility of dividing some bases targeted for closure into smaller parcels to make those portions not tied up by environmental concerns more readily available for conversion to commercial or other government activities. (DoD is obligated to clean up existing environmental hazards before converting military facilities to other uses.)

BUSH BUDGET WINS ONE IN SENATE with the April 10 passage of an FY 1993 budget resolution. The 54-35 vote calls for \$291.5 billion in national defense discretionary outlays, which is \$5.3 billion under the defense budget cap established in the 1990 budget summit agreement. The week before, Senate Budget Committee chairman Jim Sasser (D-TN) saw his proposals to cut defense spending by \$10 billion rejected by a committee vote of 12-9. Three Budget Committee Democrats (Senators Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, Jim Exon of Nebraska and Ernest Hollings of South Carolina) voted with the panel's nine Republicans against Sasser's plan. Although Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sam Nunn (D-GA) wants deeper defense cuts over the next five years, he has thrown his weight behind the president's budget request for FY 1993, warning that acceleration of the reductions would greatly intensify the impact on military personnel and defense industry employees.

NEW WEAPONS STRATEGY DRAWS FIRE from industry and think tanks following its recent unveiling in the FY93 DoD budget. The Pentagon's new approach to weapons acquisition calls for greater emphasis on research and development and prototyping, along with fewer production programs. Deputy Defense Secretary Donald J. Atwood says weapons will go into production only if replacements are needed for obsolete systems, if a system requires significant improvement, and if the production can be done cost-effectively.

One think tank brands the new approach a "disaster" that will mean the end of the defense industrial base. Yet another critic suggests that the plan will undermine the U.S. science and technology base as well and that the services must be very selective in terms of technology development when deciding where and how to spend R&D and acquisition funds.

SAUDI ARMS SALE ON HOLD after months of mounting opposition in Congress. A decision on the administration's plans to sell 72 state-of-the-art F-15Es to Saudi Arabia, a sale valued at around \$13 billion, must be made soon because the McDonnell-Douglas production line is about to be shut down. Restarting the production line at a later date could be too costly and could prompt the Saudis to seek other sources — mainly European — in their modernization efforts.

2 WASHINGTON UPDATE, April 1992

ABRAMS UPGRADES IN DOUBT considering that DoD has asked Congress to rescind some \$225 million appropriated in the FY 1992 budget to convert tanks to M1A2 models. Congress is being asked to forego conversion of M1A1 tanks, which means the total M1A2 inventory will consist of the 62 prototype tanks authorized in the 1991 Army budget. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney is on record in opposition to the \$225 million upgrade expenditure, calling it "neither necessary nor affordable."

The rescission request places in doubt the order for 465 M1A2 models from the government of Saudi Arabia. The Saudis have reportedly sought DoD's commitment that the U.S. Army's fleet of M1A2s would be large enough to guarantee the production line and spare parts for their order. Possible alternatives for the Saudis include purchase of M1A1s now for later upgrade to M1A2 or turning to the British, who are anxious to market their new Challenger II tank.

COMANCHE PLANS UP IN THE AIR, according to testimony given to the House Armed Services subcommittees on R&D and procurement. Army assistant secretary for research, development and acquisition Stephen Conner said he had no plans to include RAH-66 Comanche procurement funding or OH-58 AHIP replacement money in the FY94 program objective memorandum (POM). In his testimony, Conner alluded to a distaste for having proposed funding rejected and the money then taken from the Army budget as was the case when the Office of the Secretary of Defense blocked Comanche production in January. So far the Army has money to fund three prototype aircraft which, according to Conner, is enough to prove out the airframe, the stealth requirement, upgraded engineering and the Longbow targeting radar. With the earliest initial operational capability date for Comanche being 2001, the Army could conceivably wait for the FY 1994 budget cycle to argue for Comanche production funds.

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ADDED TRANSITION AID FOR EUROPE RETURNEES was the focus of a recent meeting between U.S. European Command officials and senior Pentagon personnel administrators. European Command is asking DoD for longer house- and job-hunting trips for Europe-based soldiers leaving the military, payment for air travel to and from the United States for job-hunting trips and earlier notification to people selected for early retirement. EUCOM officials also seek provisions to allow relocation of separating service members back to the United States for their last three months of active duty. One request — for more telephone lines and FAX machines in job counseling centers — was filled immediately. Most of the others will require congressional authority.

ARMY WOMEN WIN BASKETBALL TITLE in the 1992 Armed Forces Women's Basketball Championship tournament, held March 15-18 at Mayport Naval Station, FL. The Army team won the championship game of the double-elimination tournament by defeating Navy 88-59. Standouts among the Army women included Tonia Stubbs (U.S. Army Europe), Doris Moncrief (Fort Bragg, NC), Sharon Lyons (Fort Hood, TX), Cassandra Howard (Eighth Army), Paula Bennett (Fort Irwin, CA), and Deidre Bailey (Fort Benning, GA), winner of the tournament's sportsmanship award. The soldiers were coached by Johnnie Pickett and Cem Burgazli, both of Fort Dix, NJ.

SOURCE TAX ISSUE is coming to a boil with the March 12 Senate passage of a tax bill amendment which would make it illegal for states to tax the retired pay of former residents who now reside in other states. Military retirees, who have generally resided for periods of several years in several different states in the course of their military careers, are particularly vulnerable to source taxation, which is legal in about 40 states but currently actively enforced in only eight — California, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Oregon and Vermont. AUSA has joined forces with a number of other military and private sector organizations to urge passage of federal legislation to outlaw the source tax, which has been characterized by critics as taxation without representation since the former resident — who receives no benefits in return for his taxes — cannot vote his disapproval in the levying state.

HOUSING, SCHOOL SHORTAGES AT SOME ARMYPOSTS are creating major hardships for soldiers and their families returning from Europe or transferring from closing bases. Officials at Fort Huachuca, AZ, report a 400-name waiting list for housing, with an additional 700 military and civilian employees expected to transfer from Fort Devens, MA, with the U.S. Army Intelligence School. With the local civilian community unable to provide sufficient affordable housing for the influx of soldiers, lower-grade enlisted personnel with families are the hardest hit by the shortfall. Fort Monmouth, NJ, and Fort Campbell, KY, both report significant shortages of child-care and school facilities for the families of soldiers affected by the military draw-down in Europe.

ARMY RESERVE COMMAND IS OFFICIAL, the Army announced recently. No longer a provisional entity, the U.S. Army Reserve Command is now an operational major subordinate unit of Forces Command. By Oct. 1, the command, operating out of temporary headquarters at Forts McPherson and Gillem in Georgia, will have assumed all responsibility (currently vested in First, Second, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Armies) for Reserve units in the United States. The individual Army headquarters will monitor Reserve training, operations and mobilization and deployment functions and will retain control of Reserve Special Forces. The Reserve Command staff is expected to grow from its current level of about 300 personnel to 732 (70 percent civilians, 21 percent active Guard and Reserve and nine percent active soldiers) by Oct. 1.

TRANSCOM AUTHORITY EXPANDED under a DoD directive signed recently by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. U.S. Transportation Command, the unified military organization previously designated as the wartime provider of air, sea and land mobility systems, will assume full ownership and operational responsibility for transportation assets in peacetime as well. All the services will assign their transportation assets — with some exceptions, such as motor pools, intelligence, training and maintenance functions — to the TRANSCOM commander (currently Air Force Gen. Hansford Johnson), who will work directly with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to establish transportation requirements and mobility priorities.

AUSA TELEVISION SERIES "Why An Army?" will air monthly beginning in May. AUSA, in cooperation with Northern Virginia Public Television station WNVT-53, is producing a 12-part series of panel discussions designed to address the need for a trained and ready Army in the post-Cold War era. Veteran TV commentator Peter Hackes will be the program moderator.

AUSA's guest for the first program will be Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army. Panelists will be Col. Harry Summers (USA Ret.), syndicated military affairs correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, and Susanne Schafer, Pentagon correspondent for the Associated Press.

The 30-minute programs will be made available to public television stations across the country. Check local listings or contact your local station manager for broadcast schedules. For more information about the series, contact Sandra Daugherty at 1-800-336-4570, extension 317.

SERVICES WANT RESERVE COMMISSIONING LAW REPEALED. Under a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993, all officers, including service academy graduates, will initially be appointed as reserve officers (with no tenure guarantee) and must serve at least one year before receiving regular officer appointments with their attendant career guarantees. The provision is scheduled to take effect on Oct. 1, 1996, to avoid penalizing cadets and midshipmen enrolled in or recruited for the service academies under the old rule.

The services contend that competition for the limited number of regular officer appointments actually begins with the application process for appointment to the academies and that the new law disregards the rigorous program of education, training, self-discipline and sacrifice required of midshipmen and cadets. Service personnel officials predict that the law, in concert with the new six-year minimum service obligation required of academy graduates, would erode both the numbers and quality of future applicants for service academy appointments.

20,000 SOLDIERS TAKE BONUSES, CPTS RIF CANCELLED. LTG Thomas Carney, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel, told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee on March 25 that more than 17,000 soldiers have already taken advantage of the Special Separation Benefit while nearly 3,000 have opted for the Voluntary Separation Incentive. For all services, more than 90 percent of those accepting the early-out option have chosen the lump-sum SSB over the VSI annuity.

Carney said the number of volunteers for the early-out programs was so high that the Army was able to cancel the reduction-in-force (RIF) board for captains in the 1982 year group, although he still anticipates the need to RIF 400 majors from year group '78. The bonus application period for majors has been extended to May 1; the number to be RIFed will be reduced one-for-one by the number who opt for one of the voluntary separation programs.

AUSA'S YEAR-END ASSESSMENT, just released, provides country-by-country highlights of the events that impact, directly or indirectly, on the national security interests and defense posture of the United States. *Our Changing World; A Global Assessment 1991* addresses the major political events of the year, beginning with the Persian Gulf War and proceeding through the failed Soviet coup and its startling aftermath.

From the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, to the first tentative steps toward a working relationship between the two Koreas, to the death throes of apartheid in South Africa, the report examines the evolution of peoples, governments, economies and relationships around the globe in a year of cataclysmic change.

To receive a copy of *Our Changing World: A Global Assessment 1991*, write to AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201, or call ILW (toll-free) at 1-800-336-4570, extension 308.

