



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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DEEPER EUROPE TROOP CUTS WEIGHED by Army and DoD officials, legislators and defense policy analysts in the face of declining budgets. The Senate is currently considering a measure already approved by the House to reduce the total number of U.S. military personnel in Europe to 100,000, with further cuts reportedly planned for a later date. Should the measure be approved, U.S. Army Europe's total strength would drop from the 92,200 envisioned by the administration to less than 75,000. Army officials, beset by budget pressures, are considering a troop level of only 50,000.

Two DoD-funded studies conducted by the Rand Corp. warn against reducing the U.S. military forward presence in Europe to less than 100,000. Analyst Richard Kugler says a force of 150,000 is necessary to achieve adequate U.S. forward presence, NATO support and out-of-area crisis response.

On the other hand, Don Snider of the Center for Strategic and International Studies argues in his *Residual U.S. Military Forces in Europe* (AUSA Land Warfare Paper No. 11, Aug. 1992) that a total force of 75,000 could, with careful planning, be sufficient to "provide a U.S. forward military presence in the region, fulfill U.S. NATO commitments and project U.S. military power out of the region in a contingency response role."

70 MORE OVERSEAS BASES TO CLOSE or reduce operations, bringing the total to 628 — a 38 percent reduction — since January 1990. The reductions in Europe include one site each in Belgium and the Netherlands, three in Turkey, six in Italy, nine in the United Kingdom, and 28 in Germany, as well as 21 petroleum tank farms and fuel pumping stations in France. U.S. Forces, Korea, will also end operations at Camp Isbell, a small installation in Seoul. The largest sites affected by the latest round of reductions are U.S. Army Europe's Dolan Barracks, Camp Pieri and Dragoner Kaserne, all in Germany.

NO ENLISTED RIF SEEN, thanks to the 49,000+ soldiers who have opted for early-out bonuses or the Voluntary Early Transition Program since last fall. Although the Army has named 160 sergeants major and command sergeants major for mandatory retirement this year, the service will reach its FY92 enlisted end strength of 541,000 by Sep. 30 without resorting to a reduction-in-force. The Army reportedly sees no enlisted RIF through the end of the drawdown in 1995.

By midsummer, 26,487 enlisted soldiers had been approved for the Voluntary Early Transition Program, which allows military members with three to six years' service to leave active duty — with no exit bonus — before the end of their enlistments. Among the 22,670 soldiers who applied for exit bonuses, the lump-sum Special Separation Benefit was the popular option, with only about 1,500 choosing the Voluntary Separation Incentive annuity.

JUNIOR ROTC TO BE DOUBLED, with more emphasis placed on providing at-risk inner-city youth with positive role models, alternatives to gangs and drug use, and an incentive to stay in high school and graduate. President Bush has announced that the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program will expand from about 1,500 to 2,900 units nationwide for all services. That would offer another 150,000 teen-agers education in civic responsibility, national and community service, and general military orientation. The costs of the current program, including salaries for the retired officers and NCOs who serve as instructors, are shared between the schools and DoD. When the expansion is completed, the annual cost (currently about \$70 million) is expected to be about \$150 million.

The Army JROTC program will increase from 856 to more than 1,680 units by school year 1997-98; the first increment of 150 new units is expected to be in place for school year 1993-94.

ARMY AIDS HURRICANE VICTIMS in Florida, Louisiana and Hawaii. Army troops from the 10th Mountain Division (Fort Drum, NY) and the 2d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division (Fort Bragg, NC) descended on southern Florida in late August to join other federal, state and local agencies in providing food, water, sanitation, shelter, medical assistance, communications, security and other basic services to some 250,000 residents left homeless by the devastation of Hurricane Andrew. Other units, including soldiers from Fort Campbell, KY, and Forts Stewart and McPherson, GA, have since arrived, bringing the number of Army troops engaged in the relief effort to more than 16,500 by Sep. 21. More than 5,300 National Guard personnel, some of whom lost their own homes to Andrew, are also involved.

Soldiers from Fort Polk, LA, delivered MREs to hurricane victims in several small towns in the southern part of that state, while an engineer unit used generators to provide emergency electrical power. Some 1,400 National Guard personnel engaged in other relief activities.

Less than three weeks later, when Hurricane Iniki swept across the Hawaiian island of Kauai, the Army was again quick to respond, sending about 1,000 soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) to join other personnel (including 1,100 Hawaii National Guard troops) in assisting Kauai's 52,000 residents.

TANK UPGRADE FUNDS RELEASED, paving the way for conversion of about 168 of the Army's 3,000+ M1 tanks to the M1A2 configuration. This will involve the replacement of the 105mm gun on the M1 with a 120mm gun, plus many other state-of-the-art improvements. The cost of the full upgrade is estimated at about \$3.8 million per tank. The Army had strongly recommended upgrading the newer M1A1 tanks, at roughly \$3.2 million per tank, but this is being overridden by congressional directive language in FY 1993 budget actions.

Although the finalization of a FY93 appropriations bill is still in process, the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee fully funded the M1-to-M1A2 upgrade program, and other authorization and appropriation committees appear to be in full agreement.

ARMY RAPID DEPLOYMENT PLANS will require upgraded logistics facilities, organization of rapid-reaction combat units and increased training exercises, says Army strategic mobility director Col. William Crowder. With 16 of 20 divisions based in the continental United States, one in Hawaii, one in Korea and two in Europe, the Army plan calls for tripling its deployment capability by 1999. To send five divisions anywhere in the world within 75 days, the Army must be able to airlift one light infantry brigade within four days and a light infantry division within 12 days. It also must transport a 120-tank brigade by ship within 15 days and two additional CONUS-based divisions by ship within 30 days.

Implementation of the plan, outlined in draft Field Manual 100-17, will depend heavily on increased sealift capability (20 fast transport ships) and acquisition of 120 C-17 heavy transport planes. With the Navy seeking to buy fewer new cargo ships and take up the slack with converted civilian transport vessels, and Congress wanting to cut the Air Force's C-17 budget request, availability of the required sea- and airlift is by no means a sure thing.

NEW U.S. ARMY SPACE & STRATEGIC DEFENSE COMMAND, to be made up of elements of Army Strategic Defense, Missile and Space Commands, will be headquartered in Arlington, VA. (Other elements of Strategic Defense and Missile Commands are being assigned to a newly established Strategic Defense Initiative Organization office.) The new command, under the direction of former Training and Doctrine Command deputy commanding general and chief of staff Lt. Gen. Donald M. Lionetti, will be the Army component of the U.S. Space Command.

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MOVING REIMBURSEMENTS EXPANDED, effective Sep. 10, to include an allowance for two vehicles for service members with at least one dependent. Payments to military members who drive to their new duty stations rather than using commercial or military air service were previously limited to one car per move, a restriction that has frequently created difficulties for military families who own more than one vehicle. At the current rate of 15 to 20 cents per mile (depending on the number of passengers), the DoD Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee's decision to expand payments could mean an additional \$600 mileage payment for a 3,000-mile cross-country relocation.

TAX BREAK FOR BONUS TAKERS has been proposed by Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK). Murkowski's bill, the Military Separation Retirement Benefits Act of 1992, would allow service members to roll their Special Separation Benefit (SSB) early-out bonuses into tax-exempt Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). The plan, which would apply retroactively to those who have separated since Dec. 5, 1991, would give veterans 60 days after separation to put all or part of the lump-sum SSB in an IRA, where both the deposit and the interest earned would be tax-exempt until withdrawal. Murkowski's proposal, strongly endorsed by AUSA and other military associations, does not apply to the Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) annuity.

ARMY ANNOUNCES FY93 VOLUNTARY EARLY RELEASE and Early Transition Programs. Applications are now being accepted for the FY93 Voluntary Early Release Program, with Voluntary Separation Incentives and Special Separation Benefits. Eligible soldiers will have at least six years' service as of Dec. 5, 1991, but less than 20 years at time of separation, and must have served five years' continuous service as of the date of separation. Additionally, soldiers in 39 specialties may apply for the Voluntary Early Transition Program. Under this option, eligible soldiers with at least three years of active service may request release dates as early as Nov. 1, 1992, but not later than Sep. 29, 1993. Unlike the Enlisted Voluntary Early Release Program, which offers either the VSI annuity or the lump-sum SSB, there is no monetary incentive associated with this program. For more information on eligibility, transition benefits and application procedures, soldiers should contact the local personnel service center.

OCTOBER PROMOTIONS CONTINUE UPWARD TREND. The Army authorized 5,926 promotions to the ranks of sergeant through sergeant major in October, 404 more than in September. Promotions include 43 to sergeant major, 140 to master sergeant, 600 to sergeant first class, 1,362 to staff sergeant and 3,781 to sergeant. The large numbers continue the upward trend started three months ago and are directly attributed to voluntary separation incentives brought on by the drawdown.

EXIT BENEFITS FOR RESERVISTS SOUGHT. Congress is being asked to provide separation benefits similar to those offered to active-duty personnel for Reserve and National Guard members whose positions are cut as a result of the drawdown. The Reserve Officers Association also seeks early-out bonuses in the form of lump-sum Special Separation Benefits or Voluntary Separation Incentive annuities for Guardsmen and Reservists on active duty in support of the reserve components. The plan is not supported by Pentagon personnel officials, who contend that the impact of the drawdown is not as severe for reservists on active duty temporarily or involved with the military on a part-time basis as it is for full-time active-duty military members. AUSA supports ROA in this effort.

POST-SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. A \$100 million youth training program proposed by Sen. David Boren (D-OK) would offer employment to several hundred veterans retired from the military or forced out by the drawdown. The Civilian Community Corps, or CCC, would be directed by the National Guard Bureau. The CCC camps would be located on closed or underutilized military installations in 10 states, where the ex-military staff would teach basic skills to approximately 3,000 young people (ages 16 to 23), supervise their physical training, and engage them in various conservation projects. Boren's plan, attached to the FY93 defense authorization bill, has already received considerable support from leaders in the Senate.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS TREATY CLOSER. After 24 years the Geneva Conference on Disarmament Sep. 3 approved a draft accord prohibiting the use, production or stockpiling of chemical weapons and requiring all signatories to destroy existing supplies of poison gas by 2005. The draft treaty now goes to the U.N. General Assembly for a resolution of adoption.

ILW'S RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

- *U.S. National Security, the Pacific and China* (Landpower Essay No. 92-4, September 1992), by Gen. Jack N. Merritt, USA Ret.;
- *Defense Symposium on Industrial Preeminence for National Security* (Background Brief #44, September 1992), a summary of presentations made during a recent defense symposium on the U.S. defense industry and its future capabilities in the post-Cold War era;
- *Hitler's "Watch on the Rhine": The Battle of the Bulge* (Land Warfare Paper No. 12, September 1992), by Maj. Thomas W. Dworschak, USA.

To obtain copies of Institute of Land Warfare publications, write to ILW at 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201, or call 1-800-336-4570, extension 308.

8TH ANNUAL ARMY TEN-MILER set for Sunday, October 11. Ranked for three consecutive years by the Athletic Congress as the largest U.S. 10-mile road race, the Army Ten-Miler draws civilian and military athletes from around the world to "run the river bridges." The course, which takes the runners across the Potomac River into Washington, D.C., begins and ends at the Pentagon. A revolving Commander's Cup trophy will be awarded to the top military team, with awards also going to the top teams in 12 specific categories, as well as to top finishers in several individual categories.

LAND WARFARE PAPER PRESENTATIONS at AUSA's 38th Annual Meeting are scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 0930-1130 hours, in the Richmond Room (Virginia Suite) of the Sheraton Washington Hotel. The topics and authors, are:

Residual U.S. Military Forces in Europe, by Col. Don M. Snider, USA Ret.;

Hitler's "Watch on the Rhine": The Battle of the Bulge, by Maj. Thomas W. Dworschak, USA;

Operational Logistics in the Gulf War, by Lt. Gen. William G. Pagonis, USA, and Col. Michael D. Krause, USA Ret., PhD.



UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF



August 7, 1992

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

America's Army has responded to unprecedented change by implementing far-reaching initiatives to reshape the Total Force and bring us to a more flexible, global power projection footing -- an essential posture to protect and defend this great country in the uncertain, unstable years ahead. The Association of the United States Army, as a nonprofit, independent, professional, unofficial organization, serves as a powerful advocate, and continues to contribute significantly to the U.S. Defense Policy and to the quality of life and professional development of our soldiers.

The AUSA contributes to public education about the international situation confronting the country and the vital role the Army plays in securing America's global enduring interests. The Association is a powerful voice advocating positions and policies that directly affect the quality of life of our Total Force -- Active, Guard, Reserve, civilian, and family members -- officers and enlisted. Finally, the Association is an organization of dedicated professionals banded together in common purpose -- fostering teamwork in service to the Nation.

Membership in the Association of the United States Army is authorized by the Department of Defense and is a matter of personal consideration. Any efforts to solicit participation must scrupulously avoid actual or perceived coercion. Adhere to the standards of conduct as you discuss the merits and benefits of membership and active participation with members of the Total Force. The Association will sell itself to professionals who choose voluntarily to pursue their common interests and speak with one clear voice.



GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

AUSA TELEVISION SERIES "Why An Army" takes a look at the peacetime missions and modernization of U.S. Special Operations Command. The sixth program in the 12-part series features SOCOM's commander-in-chief, Gen. Carl W. Stiner. The show will air in the Washington area on Thursday, October 15, at 7:00 p.m. on Northern Virginia Public Television station WNVTV-53.

"Why An Army" is available via satellite to public television stations across the country and is also broadcast on the Armed Forces Network in Europe and the Far East. Check local listings for broadcast schedules outside the Washington area. Tapes of the shows are also available from AUSA.

At the Annual Meeting, Oct. 12-14, you may view the shows at the ILW display or order your own copies at the AUSA sales booth. For more information, call Sandra Daugherty at 1-800-336-4570, extension 317.