



# WASHINGTON UPDATE



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 5 No 1

Published by the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare

January 1993

**LES ASPIN NAMED DEFENSE SECRETARY.** In a move that surprised no one, President-elect Bill Clinton announced Dec. 22 his choice of the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee as Secretary of Defense in the new administration. Rep. Les Aspin (D-WI) has chaired the HASC since 1985. He headed the personnel and compensation subcommittee from 1982 to 1985. Mr. Aspin has represented Wisconsin's 1st District in Congress since 1970.

Mr. Aspin received a B.A. from Yale University in 1960; an M.A. in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University in 1962; and a Ph.D. in economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1965. He entered Army active duty in 1966 and served as an economist in the Defense Department's Systems Analysis Office until released from active duty as a captain in 1968.

As House Armed Services chair, he has sought a radical restructuring of the armed forces by recommending the Bush Base Force be reduced from 12 active Army divisions to nine; the Air Force from 15 active wings to 10; and the Navy from a 450-ship (13 aircraft carriers) to a 340-ship force (12 carriers).

Next in line to succeed Aspin as chair of the HASC is Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-CA) who currently heads the Research and Development subcommittee.

**STAFF CUTS OF UP TO 20 PERCENT** are being studied by Army leaders. Language in the FY 1991 Defense Authorization Act required Army to cut management slots in headquarters and support activities by at least four percent each year through 1995. Decisions on recommendations of a special study report have not yet been announced. Army headquarters field operating agencies and support agencies are obvious targets, but all major Army HQ staff sections can expect to feel the ax.

**TRANSITION SWEETENERS ADDED** to FY91's four-year assistance package for military and civilian employees caught up in the defense drawdown. In addition to the much-publicized (but not yet implemented) 15-year military retirement authority made available to the Secretary of Defense, Congress has made the following changes to the transition package:

- The Secretary of Defense now has authority to offer separation bonuses of up to \$25,000 to DoD employees who resign or retire;
- Employees' health insurance benefits will be extended for a minimum of 18 months after they leave their agencies;
- Employees will be given 60 days' advance notice of pending reduction in force (RIF);
- Federal job training benefits will be available within one year of the closure of any base;
- Federal agencies are required to give full consideration to RIF'd DoD employees before hiring outside the agency.

**BIG CIVILIAN CUT AT AMC** slated to begin in February, with almost 12,000 separations, through retirements, normal attrition, transfers to other agencies or — as a last resort — reductions in force, by the end of FY93. Among Army Materiel Command's 10 major subordinate commands, Depot Systems Command will take the largest number of cuts with about 5,000 from a work force of 25,000. Other AMC commands affected include Armament, Munitions and Chemical (1,695 of 18,000 employees), Aviation and Troop (925 of 7,385), Communications-Electronics (983 of 7,510), Missile (993 of 6,693), Tank-Automotive (613 of 4,967), Test and Evaluation (1,070 of 8,751) and Army Research Laboratory (144 of 3,925). AMC headquarters and other small activities will account for 638 employee cuts in a civilian work force totalling 7,172.

**M1A2 ABRAMS MAKES DEBUT AT LIMA**, Ohio, production facility on Dec. 1. The General Dynamics-built 68.5-ton M1A2, the first of the Army's next generation of main battle tanks, provides both improved lethality and increased survivability for tank and crew. Among its state-of-the-art features are the Digital Information Processing System (part of the Intervehicular Information System linking tanks with other tanks) and the Commander's Independent Thermal Viewer, which allows the tank commander to view the surrounding battlefield and to identify and prioritize targets. The Army has ordered 62 M1A2s (at a cost of approximately \$4.5 million each) and plans to upgrade more than 1,000 early-model M1s to the M1A2 configuration. Described by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon Sullivan as the "first step into 21st century warfare," the M1A2 is expected to remain in the Army's inventory for 30 to 40 years.

**DEPOT CONSOLIDATIONS CONSIDERED** by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in an effort to reduce costs and eliminate redundancies among the military services. A plan proposed by the Defense Depot Maintenance Council and submitted to JCS through the Defense Production and Logistics chief, Colin McMillan, calls for establishment of a depot management agency to assign work orders throughout the depot system to achieve full capacity. The panel also recommended that a commission be set up to determine which depots could be closed to save money.

The Army is ahead of the game when it comes to streamlining depots: Since 1985 the service's civilian depot work force has decreased from to 42,000 to 25,000, with another 4,800 positions scheduled for elimination.

**IBM TO DEVELOP CLOSE COMBAT TACTICAL TRAINER (CCTT)** for the Army's Simulation Training and Instrumentation Command, with 49 prototype simulators to be delivered under the initial \$118 million contract. If the Army opts to purchase all 497 CCTTs called for under the program, the total value of the contract could exceed \$400 million. The CCTT, part of a larger family of simulators known as Combined Arms Tactical Trainers, will simulate a network of weapons systems, combat vehicles, dismounted infantry, and command and control elements in a virtual battlefield environment.

**RAND STUDY OF ACTIVE/RESERVE MIX** is critical of the Army's "Base Force" plan as well as Defense Secretary-designate Les Aspin's much-publicized "option C" proposal. The congressionally-mandated study also assesses a National Guard Association force structure plan as well as four new alternatives generated by RAND.

The report focuses on the ability of the Army forces to execute two contingencies and, specifically, the need for fully trained units for the first and a quick rebuilding capacity to respond to a second. None of the alternatives shown below actually measure up to this standard. The closest match was the RAND-designed plan titled *Enhanced Active Army Force*, and even this fails to fully meet the demands of a second contingency.

**Army Force Alternatives**

<b>Force Alternatives</b>	<b>Divisions (AC/RC/Cadre)</b>	<b>End Strength (AC/RC 000s)</b>
Army Base Force	12/6/2	550/542
National Guard Association	11/10/0	512/542
Aspin "option C"	9/5/2	483/570
Enhanced active force*	12/4/0	575/462
Alternative "i"*	12/6/0	525/669
Alternative "j"*	12/7/0	504/732
Alternative "k"*	10/6/0	465/635

\*RAND proposals

**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  
 Sandee Daugherty - Assistant Editor  
 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201  
 Phone: 703-841-4300 FAX: 703-525-9039

**EXIT PROGRAMS CREATE STRIPES WIND-FALL** in December, with more than 7,000 Army promotions in the top five NCO grades — up more than 1,500 over November and more than 6,000 over January 1992, when promotions were severely curtailed by the drawdown. The sharp climb was the result of a large number of voluntary separations in the NCO ranks, leaving vacancies to fill in a number of specialties.

Army NCO promotions for December included 5,472 to sergeant (a near record number), 1,010 to staff sergeant, 382 to sergeant first class, 228 to master sergeant and 136 to sergeant major.

**NO MAJORS, SOME CAPTAINS FACE RIF** in FY93 following strength reduction program modifications in several officer grades and specialties. Reductions-in-force for majors in both the Army competitive category and Medical Service Corps have been cancelled, as has the captains' Medical Service Corps RIF. The Army competitive category RIF board for captains, expected to convene in early February, will exclude those with more than 14 years' service as of Sep. 30, 1993. The board will consider for RIF those captains who are on the active-duty list with a date of rank of Sep. 2, 1986 to Feb. 1, 1989; have served at least one year on active duty as a captain as of Feb. 1, 1993; have less than 14 years' service as of Sep. 30, 1993; and are not on a promotion list. Army officials are encouraging all captains who meet the above criteria to consider taking advantage of voluntary separation bonuses (the Voluntary Separation Incentive or Special Separation Benefit); the higher the number who opt for early-out bonuses, the fewer RIFs will be required to meet the board's approximate goal of 1,400 separations.

**DOD-VA HEALTH CARE COOPERATION** took a step forward with a recent decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs (at the urging of Congress) to build a 243-bed facility adjacent to the David Grant Medical Center at Travis AFB, CA, rather than to build a hospital in nearby Martinez, CA, to replace a facility there which fails to meet earthquake safety standards. The VA hospital, scheduled for completion by 1998, and the Air Force medical facility will operate independently of each other but will share assets and training and may set a precedent for colocation of military and veterans' medical centers in the future.

**NCO PROMOTION BOARD SET** to convene on Jan. 20, to consider some 60,000 Army staff sergeants eligible for promotion to sergeant first class. To be eligible for promotion consideration, a staff sergeant must have entered active duty between April 12, 1973 and Jan. 20, 1987, and advanced to his/her current grade not later than Jan. 31, 1991. Eligibility requirements also include a high school diploma or the equivalent, as well as resident or nonresident Basic NCO Course credit where applicable. Soldiers in the promotion zone will also be considered for Advanced NCO Course attendance and will be screened for possible involuntary separation under the Qualitative Management Program for failure to meet service performance or behavior standards.

**DRAWDOWN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE** by almost a year, thanks to unexpectedly strong response to early-out incentives. The drawdown blueprint for FY92 called for Army strength to drop from 710,000 soldiers to 640,000; in fact, the Army ended the fiscal year with only 606,408 soldiers, almost 34,000 fewer than authorized by Congress and only about 8,000 over the authorized level for the end of FY93.

**15 MORE EUROPE BASES TO CLOSE/CUT BACK**, the Defense Department announced recently. Operations will cease at one installation in the Netherlands — Twistenden Ammunition Area, Hinsbeck, where more than 200 workers will be affected — and at nine small sites (less than 200 workers) in Germany. U.S. presence will be reduced at five locations in Germany, the two largest of which are Neubruecke Hospital in Hoppstaedten and Hutier Kaserne in Hanau, each involving more than 1,000 workers.

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS BUILDING DOWN** from 11 to six divisions nationwide, with plans to cut some 2,600 jobs by FY95 as part of a reorganization to save an estimated \$115 million annually. Closing Army Corps of Engineers divisions include Chicago, Dallas, New York, Omaha and San Francisco. The six restructured divisions will be headquartered in Portland, OR (Western Division), Cincinnati (North Central Division), Boston (North East Division), Atlanta (South East Division) and Vicksburg, MS (South Central Division). Policy review functions will be handled by Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**ARMY READIES NEW AVIATION PLAN** calling for a 22 percent reduction in its helicopter fleet (from 7,483 aircraft to 5,834) by FY 2010. Expected to be presented to Congress this month, the proposal revolves around six rather than eight helicopter types, with a follow-on reduction to only four or five types. Included in the plan are RAH-66 Comanches, AH-64C and AH-64D Longbow Apaches, UH-60 Black Hawks, an advanced CH-47 Chinook and possibly a light utility helicopter. Selection of a light utility helicopter to replace the UH-1 has reportedly been postponed, as has full-scale development of an advanced cargo helicopter to replace the CH-47D Chinook. According to Army officials, this plan is not an updated version of the 1988 aviation modernization plan but rather a totally new program designed to reflect major international and domestic changes in the post-Cold War era.

**HIGH-TECH SOLDIER GEAR DEMONSTRATED** at Fort Benning, GA, ending a three-year research project. The field demonstrations, which took place over a ten-week period this fall, showcased the Soldier Integrated Protective Ensemble (SIPE). SIPE, as described by the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center, is a "modular, head-to-toe, integrated fighting system" which provides the individual soldier protection against ballistic, chemical/biological, directed energy and flame/thermal warfare, as well as acoustic and environmental hazards and surveillance. SIPE's most useful and successful components, including the M16A2-mounted thermal sight, soldier-to-soldier communications equipment and integrated body armor clothing, will be incorporated into The Enhanced Integrated Soldier System, with development scheduled to begin in FY94 and fielding expected by FY99.

**NEW TRAINING HELICOPTER SOUGHT** to replace the UH-1H Iroquois currently used for the Initial Entry Rotary-Wing course at Fort Rucker, AL. Although the "Huey" has a good record for both safety and effectiveness as a trainer, its size, weight and design make it expensive to operate and maintain. Officials at the Fort Rucker Aviation Center hope to begin training aviation students in smaller, lighter and less costly rotary-wing aircraft by September 1994.

**SEALIFT CONTROVERSY HEATS UP.** Army, with the greatest need for sealift, argues for action based on the January 1992 JCS Mobility Requirements Study. Navy, citing a draft General Accounting Office report that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have overstated the sealift requirement, says it is premature to commit funds now.

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Program Analysis and Evaluation David Chu has recommended that Army and Navy either come up with the full amount of funds to pay for the sealift program or tell JCS that the program is unaffordable and should be scaled back.

Apparently the full-funding/scaling-back decision rests with Deputy Defense Secretary Donald Atwood, who could decide to put it off until the new administration takes over.

**ARMY MAPS ENVIRONMENTAL COURSE** for preventing environmental problems in the future. The approved strategy, developed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment, will be implemented by the Army Environmental Center. Elements include: (1) a contract instrument which would allow one contractor to handle a restoration project from feasibility study through design to implementation; (2) an environmental training master plan, now in the final stages of development; (3) the Environmental Compliance Assessment System whereby installations are audited at least every four years for compliance with environmental regulations.

**AUSA TELEVISION SERIES** "Why An Army" takes a look at the Army's Junior and Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, including the planned expansion of JROTC. The ninth program in the 12-part series features Maj. Gen. Wallace C. Arnold, Commanding General, U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command. Moderator Peter Hackes is joined by panelists Bernard Adelsberger (*Army Times*) and James Hyde (*Armed Forces Journal International*). The show will air in the Washington area on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. on WNVC-56, and on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:00 p.m. on WNVT-53. For more information, contact Sandra Daugherty at 1-800-336-4570, extension 317.