



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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TOGO WEST NAMED ARMY SECRETARY.

President Clinton has announced his intention to nominate Washington attorney Togo Dennis West, Jr., to be the Secretary of the Army. West served as an Army judge advocate from 1969 to 1973; Navy General Counsel (1977-79); Special Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense (1979-80); and General Counsel of the Defense Department (1980).

The president also announced his intention to name Joseph R. Reeder to be Under Secretary of the Army. Reeder also began his law career in the Army. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1970, completed the Airborne, Ranger and Artillery Basic Courses, served in the 82d Airborne Division, earned a J.D. degree from the University of Texas (1975), was an honor graduate of the JAG School (1976), earned his L.L.M. degree from Georgetown University (1976) and completed the JAG Advanced Course in 1984.

CONGRESS CODIFIES POLICY ON GAYS.

Both houses of Congress have now written into law a policy regarding homosexuals in the military that is considered somewhat more restrictive than President Clinton proposed in July. The Senate (Sep. 14) and the House (Sep. 29) approved language that generally parallels the president's policy allowing homosexuals to serve in the military so long as they do not engage in homosexual acts or disclose their sexual orientation. But neither house included Clinton's proposal to stop the services from questioning recruits about whether they are homosexual. Rather, they say questioning should be stopped but could be resumed if the defense secretary deems it necessary to carry out overall objectives of the policy. Since the wording is the same in both versions of the Authorization Bill, the matter will not be discussed by the Joint Conference and thus becomes the law of the land when the president signs the bill, as he has indicated he will.

GEN. SHALIKASHVILI CONFIRMED. On Oct. 5 the Senate confirmed Army Gen. John Shalikashvili as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn (D-GA) noted at Gen. Shali's confirmation hearing that the only roadblock to the general's becoming chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the fact that he is indispensable in his current role as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command. "It may not be wise for the Senate to act on Gen. Shali's nomination until we are also ready to act on his replacement," said Sen. Nunn.

President Clinton has since nominated Gen. George A. Joulwan, Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command, to succeed Gen. Shali.

MORE ON ASPIN'S "BOTTOM-UP" REVIEW.

Defense Secretary Les Aspin reported to Congress that the force structure envisioned by his "bottom-up" review will be \$13 billion short of the president's five-year budget reduction goals. Aspin told the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee on Sep. 14: "We come out being short \$2 billion the first year, \$6 billion the second, \$6 billion the third, \$4 billion the fourth, and actually being ahead of the game on the fifth year." But he assured Congress that these sums could be made up in annual budget reviews as adjustments are made in defense spending.

There are several aspects of the review that are of particular concern to the Army. The task of deciding which two active divisions it will cut is especially perplexing because it means the Army will probably have to close at least one more major troop installation. Another Army concern relates to the review's call for creation of 15 "enhanced readiness" combat brigades in the Army National Guard. Not yet determined is what impact that will have on existing Army Guard divisions or on the National Guard's round-out brigades which now fill out active component divisions during a mobilization.

VP GORE'S NPR IMPACTS DEFENSE. Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review report calls for a government-wide streamlining effort that would cut 252,000 federal civilian jobs and could save from \$33 billion to as much as \$108 billion over five years. The report has a number of specific recommendations for the Defense Department that could result in as much as \$1.93 billion in savings. Among them:

- clarify policy directives and procedures;
- purchase best-value common supplies and services;
- contract out noncore functions;
- establish a productivity-enhancing capital investment fund;
- maximize efficiency of health care operations;
- reduce National Guard and Reserve costs;
- reorganize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

ARMY EXPECTED TO SWAP RDA FOR TROOPS. *Defense News* reports that Army draft budgets covering the period 1995 to 1999 show research, development and acquisition down from \$11.34 billion in 1995 to a low of \$10.21 billion in 1998 and \$10.7 billion in 1999. The alternative would be to make greater manpower cuts in order to save hundreds of millions of dollars to meet government spending targets for the next five years. Funding cuts of this magnitude could affect major programs such as the M1 Abrams tank upgrade, Comanche scout helicopter, Corps SAM missile, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and command and control programs.

WHERE THE FY94 DEFENSE BUDGET STANDS. Both the Senate (Sep. 14) and the House (Sep. 29) have voted approval of the **Authorization Bill**. The \$261 billion measure is expected to go to Joint Conference momentarily. The **Appropriations Bill** was forwarded to the full House by the Appropriations Committee on Sep. 22, and was undergoing markup by the Senate Appropriations Committee at press time. The **Military Construction Bill** was approved in the House on June 23 and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Sep. 23. Since we are already into FY94, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (Sep. 29) that funds the government at last year's levels through Oct. 21.

MATERIEL COMMAND SENDS RIF WARNINGS. Nearly 1,500 Army Materiel Command employees have been notified that they are vulnerable to a reduction in force that will take place in January 1994. Letters were sent to employees at seven AMC sites as part of the command's ongoing drawdown. At the beginning of this year, AMC had looked at possible separations of around 11,000 employees. A total hiring freeze and normal attrition, coupled with Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Separation Incentive programs, reduced the number of employees to be cut.

ROTC PROGRAM GETS SMALLER along with the military. Army ROTC, which last year had 350 programs in all 50 states, is down to 294 programs for the 1993-94 school year. Air Force and Navy ROTC programs are being similarly reduced; however, the House has approved a provision in the FY94 defense authorization bill requiring at least one ROTC program in each state to remain operational.

MILITARY MEDICAL UNIVERSITY UNDER GUN. Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review report recommends closing the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, located at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. The 17-year-old facility, threatened with closure a number of times in the past, has so far been successfully defended by military leaders, university officials and students, who argue that the expense (currently about \$40 million annually) is more than justified by the specialized training provided. Each year some 165 physicians and 30-40 health sciences professionals, trained in combat casualty care and a wide range of other specialties with particular application to military medical services, graduate from USUHS and enter the Army, Navy, Air Force or U.S. Public Health Service.

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Col. Tom Byrne, USA Ret. - Editor
Sandee Daugherty - Assistant Editor
2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703-841-4300 FAX: 703-525-9039

HILL, WHITE HOUSE AT ODDS ON PAY RAISE. Thanks to the insistence of Congress, the 2.2 percent Jan. 1 military pay raise appears secure, but that doesn't mean that future raises or cost-of-living adjustments are free from administration or congressional tampering. Both House and Senate rejected Clinton's plan to cancel the 1994 pay raise. Still, military retirees will lose income because of delays in their COLAs over the next five years. And there are frequent utterings from the White House Office of Management and Budget as to where the cuts will be made to meet the president's pledge to slash another \$15 billion from the federal budget.

RUSSIANS TO TRAIN WITH U.S. FORCES. Defense Secretary Les Aspin and Russian Federation Minister of Defense General of the Army Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that sets up a framework for further cooperation, dialog and contacts between the U.S. and Russian defense establishments. Among other provisions, the agreement promotes plans for U.S.-Russia peacekeeping training and exercises, beginning with a sharing of lessons learned by both countries in previous UN peacekeeping operations.

CONGRESS AXES 35 BASES; ONLY ONE ARMY. With the Senate approval of the third round of base closures in five years, the fate of 35 major bases and 95 minor facilities has been sealed. The only major Army base approved for closure this time around is Vint Hill Farms, VA. Realignment was approved for Fort Belvoir, VA, Fort Monmouth, NJ, and the Army depots at Tooele, UT, and Corpus Christi, TX. It is estimated that this latest round of closings will save about \$2.3 billion a year after 1999.

USACOM IS NEWEST JOINT COMMAND under the joint force package concept endorsed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by Defense Secretary Les Aspin. USACOM (U.S. Atlantic Command, formerly known as LANTCOM) consists of Air Combat Command, CINCLANT Fleet, Army Forces Command and Marine Forces Atlantic and will have primary responsibility for training U.S.-based forces for joint missions.

TROOPS EYE CLINTON HEALTH CARE PLAN. Military health care beneficiaries still lack sufficient details of the president's health reforms to answer their two primary concerns—availability and affordability of health care in the future. Active duty members will continue to receive free care as they do now. For dependents and retirees there can be major changes, which Assistant Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Edwin Dorn says “will be for the better.” A program to be known as TRICARE will be phased in over the next two to seven years and will offer health care provided by military hospitals backed up by a network of civilian hospitals and doctors. No one could be denied care, Dorn said.

VIRGINIA GUARD UNIT IS TOPS. The Virginia Army National Guard's 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry, 29th Infantry Division (Light), has won the annual Walter T. Kerwin Reserve Components Readiness Award for most combat-ready National Guard unit in the Army for Fiscal Year 1993. The award was established in 1977 to recognize outstanding Army Reserve and Army National Guard units. This year's award will be presented by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan on Oct. 19 during AUSA's Annual Meeting.

SENATE WANTS SAY IN DEPLOYMENTS. On Sep. 9 the Senate voted 90-7 in favor of a nonbinding resolution urging President Clinton to obtain congressional approval for continuing the deployment of U.S. forces in Somalia. The resolution, precipitated by West Virginia Democrat Robert Byrd's proposal to force the administration to pull U.S. forces out of Somalia by the end of October, calls for the president to consult Congress on U.S. policy toward Somalia and requests that the administration report to Congress by Oct. 15 on its goals and objectives with regard to Somalia.

DUMBEST IDEA YET!!! The Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the 1994 defense budget contained a provision that would limit prisoner of war pay. Somebody said the reason was to take away any financial incentive for American troops to surrender to the enemy. It certainly wasn't any combat veteran who surmised that there could be American soldiers, sailors, airmen or marines who would give up for \$130 a day.

GENERAL POWELL, WE'LL MISS YOU! We can only hope that those who follow the just-retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will continue to remind the public and the press just why it is that we have an Army. Gen. Colin L. Powell said to the assembled Pentagon press corps during one of his last press conferences: **“Let me begin by giving a little bit of a tutorial about what an armed forces is all about. Notwithstanding all of the changes that have taken place in the world, notwithstanding the new emphasis on peacekeeping, peace enforcement, peace engagement, preventive diplomacy, we have a value system and a culture system within the armed forces of the United States. We have this mission: to fight and win the nation’s wars. That’s what we do. Why do we do it? For this purpose: to provide for the common defense. And who do we do it for? We do it for the American people. We never want to lose sight of this ethic, we never want to lose sight of this basic underlying principle of the armed forces of the United States. We’re warriors.”**

“**AMERICA’S ARMY**” departs from the panel-discussion format in November as host Peter Hackes ventures into the world of “The 21st Century Warrior.” The 30-minute program features Gen. Jimmy Ross, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, and SSG Louis R. Olivera, USA Ret., now a civilian employee of the Army’s Natick (Massachusetts) RD&E Center. Ross and Olivera discuss and demonstrate the experimental Soldier Integrated Protective Ensemble (SIPE), which includes modular subsystems ranging from integrated headgear and advanced protective clothing to a 386SX/80Mb-hard drive individual computer. SIPE is a forerunner of Land Warrior, a modular head-to-toe fighting system aimed at improving soldier performance and survivability; Land Warrior is scheduled for fielding in FY 2000.

“The 21st Century Warrior” will air in the Washington metropolitan area on Thursday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. on WNVN-TV.

“America’s Army” is available via satellite to public TV stations across the country. Check local listings for broadcast schedules outside the Washington area. Tapes of the programs are also available through AUSA. For more information, call 1-800-336-4570, extension 317.

ANOTHER ATTACK ON COMMISSARIES is getting off the ground in the Pentagon. In a Sep. 21 memorandum, OSD’s Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation included a tasking to “prepare an analysis and make recommendations for closing CONUS commissaries operating in areas well served by private sector grocery stores, supermarkets, or discount stores where prices are comparable.” This is simply another attempt to close stateside commissaries — an initiative that AUSA has fought for many years.

In *The Bottom-Up Review*, Defense Secretary Les Aspin stated: “A key element of maintaining forces ready to fight is to **maintain the quality of our people** {his emphasis} so that they remain the best fighting force in the world. This means keeping our personnel highly motivated by treating them fairly and maintaining their quality of life.”

Act now to remind Aspin of his pledge by letting your elected representatives know how you feel about another attempt to close down commissaries in the name of a peace dividend and to balance the budget on the backs of service members.

ILW PUBLICATIONS:

America’s First Cold War Army, 1945-1950 (Land Warfare Paper No. 15), by Maj. William W. Epley, USA Ret., documents the events and policies which precluded a rapid deployment and buildup of Army forces in Korea.

The Impact of the Presidential Nuclear Initiative on Deterrence and the United States Army (Land Warfare Paper No. 16), by Capt. Daniel S. Roper, USA, examines the implications of facing a nuclear-armed adversary with no organic capability to respond in kind.

Reserve Forces in the Contingency Era: Issues and Answers (Land Warfare Paper No. 17), by Dr. Lewis Sorley, explores long-term methods the Army’s active and reserve leadership can implement to achieve an effective total Army.

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