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PRESIDENT ORDERS HOMOSEXUAL POLICY REVIEW. On Jan. 29, President Clinton announced that he had directed the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of the current Department of Defense policy excluding homosexuals from military service and to prepare a draft executive order based upon that review by July 15, 1993.

In the meantime, current policies will remain in effect, subject to the following:

- Questions regarding sexual orientation will be removed from future versions of the enlistment application and will not be asked;
- The Department of Justice will seek continuances in pending court cases involving former service members discharged on the basis of homosexuality who are seeking reinstatement;
- Commanding officers will continue to process cases under the current laws and regulations related to homosexuality.

SEN. NUNN SETS HEARINGS ON HOMOSEXUAL BAN, beginning in March. The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee announced Jan. 27 that his committee would receive testimony from the senior civilian and military leadership of the Department of Defense on the policy excluding homosexuals from service in the armed forces. "I also want to hear directly from the people who would be most affected by any change in the current policy, the men and women serving in the ranks of all the military services." He also stated: "A thorough airing of these matters is essential before any final action is taken by the Department of Defense or the Congress."

NOTE: AUSA has prepared an issue paper stating the Association's views in support of the ban against homosexuality in the armed forces. To obtain a copy, call 1-800-336-4570, ext. 308.

NEW ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the Senate include Democrats Bob Graham (FL), Charles Robb (VA) and Joseph Lieberman (CT), with Sam Nunn (GA) continuing as chairman. New Republican members are Dirk Kempthorne (ID) and Lauch Faircloth (NC), both freshmen; Strom Thurmond (SC) has replaced John Warner (VA), who remains on the committee, as ranking minority member.

On the House side, new majority members, all freshmen, include: Don Johnson (GA), Frank Tejeda (TX), David Mann (OH), Bart Stupak (MI), Marty Meehan (MA), Robert Underwood (GU), Jane Harman (CA), Paul McHale (PA), Elizabeth Furse (OR) and Pete Geren (TX). New minority members, also all freshmen, include: James Inhofe (OK), Steve Buyer (IN), Peter Torkildsen (MA), Tillie Fowler (FL), John McHugh (NY), James Talent (MO), Terry Everett (AL) and Roscoe Bartlett (MD).

1993 DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE COMMISSION nominees were announced recently by Congress. Three members of the 1991 commission have been tapped for a return engagement: James A. Courter, former Republican representative from New Jersey, who will again serve as chairman; Arthur Levitt, Jr., of New York, corporate executive and former stock exchange chairman; and Robert D. Stuart, Jr., president of Conway Farms of Illinois and former U.S. Ambassador to Norway. The five new members include Captain Peter B. Bowman, U.S. Navy Retired, former commander of the Navy shipyard at Portsmouth, NH; Beverly B. Byron, former Democratic representative from Maryland; Rebecca G. Cox, vice president of governmental affairs for Continental Airlines; General Hansford T. Johnson, U.S. Air Force Retired, former commander of U.S. Transportation Command; and Harry C. McPherson, a Washington lawyer. The Defense Department's recommendations are due for submission to the eight-member commission by March 15.

CLINTON DEFENSE BUDGET CUTS could reduce the Pentagon's FY94 budget authority by as much as \$10 billion if the new administration follows through on pre-election proposals. The Bush administration's defense plan, which called for \$280.5 billion in FY94, addressed only future projections and near-term spending-control options (including previously-suggested military retired pay and health care reforms), leaving policy decisions and the attendant partisan wrangling to Clinton. While the Pentagon waits for the ax to fall, the services are reportedly reviewing their programs to determine where further cuts might be made.

ARMY MODERNIZATION PLAN, recently unveiled by the Army staff, focuses on capabilities, with emphasis on five major strategic missions:

- rapid transport of U.S.-based forces overseas;
- protecting the forces at their destination;
- disruption of enemy command, control and communications systems;
- weakening the enemy by inflicting heavy casualties;
- engaging in combat only after enemy forces have been sufficiently weakened; the attack must be swift and decisive.

The plan, which encompasses the Army's six-year, \$75 billion research, development and acquisition program, calls for upgrading existing weapon systems such as the M1 Abrams tank and the Bradley fighting vehicle to increase both longevity and effectiveness. Particular emphasis is placed on enhancement of battlefield digital electronic command, control and communication capabilities.

RESTRUCTURED COMANCHE GETS DOD'S OK, along with restoration of \$1.5 billion (removed from the Army budget last year) for the final three years of development. Funds totaling \$120 million for initial production of the RAH-66 Comanche scout helicopter were also included in the plan. With production expected to begin in 1999, an estimated additional \$38 billion will be required to field the 1,200 fully-equipped Comanches the program calls for. Following Defense acquisition chief Donald Yockey's approval of the restructured plan, the Army awarded a \$30 million demonstration/validation contract to the Comanche development team of Boeing Helicopter and Sikorsky Aircraft.

OPERATION RESTORE HOPE, the second major humanitarian assistance mission the Army has undertaken in recent months, was launched in early December to restore order to famine- and civil war-ravaged Somalia. By the end of January, more than 9,200 soldiers had joined some 7,000 Marines on the ground in Somalia, with another 4,000 sailors and Marines on ships offshore. U.S. soldiers' activities in Somalia have ranged from securing airfields and truck routes and confiscating weapons caches to hand-feeding emaciated children. Army units have provided water purification, food distribution, power generation, and construction and maintenance services to the rescue operation. Nineteen other countries are involved in the rescue effort, and negotiations are underway for many of the required support services to be taken over by civilian companies.

ARMY ROLE IN SPACE TO GROW, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis Reimer said at a recent AUSA-sponsored Space and Strategic Defense Symposium. That role includes space-related missions and increased space support of operational forces. According to Gen. Reimer, "Space is an integral component of the Army's technological evolution."

At the same meeting, Gen. Reimer said the Army's long-range plan includes retention of such air defense systems as Hawk, Patriot, the Extended Range Interceptor and Theater High Altitude Area Defense, despite attempts by the Air Force to assume responsibility for all air defense above 10,000 feet. He made it clear that the Army belief is that every force has the right of self-protection so the Army does not intend to give up its capability to provide its own air defense (including missile defense) in support of ground forces.

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CHOICES NARROW FOR FINANCE HOME as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) prepares to make final recommendations for locations of future consolidated finance and accounting centers. The consolidation initiative will result in fewer but better equipped finance and accounting centers.

DFAS evaluated 216 proposals before announcing the top 20 contenders: Huntsville, AL; San Bernadino, CA; Denver, CO; Pensacola, FL; Macon, GA; Evansville and Indianapolis, IN; New Orleans and Shreveport, LA; Bangor, ME; Southbridge, MA; Saginaw, MI; Jackson, MS; Cleveland, Columbus and Youngstown, OH; Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, OK; and Lubbock, TX. After site inspections and final proposals, DFAS will forward its recommendations to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

TWO SFC BOARDS ARE LIKELY IN '93, the first convening Jan. 20 and the second expected in October. The promotion zone for the January board includes some 60,000 Army staff sergeants who entered active duty between April 12, 1973 and Jan. 20, 1987, and were promoted to their current rank Jan. 31, 1991, or earlier. They will be considered for promotion to sergeant first class, Advanced NCO Course attendance or possible involuntary separation. Early scheduling of the sergeant major promotion board (for September 1992 rather than January 1993) to fill shortages in some career fields resulted in postponement of the 1992 SFC board until early 1993. The promotion board schedule is expected to return to normal in 1994.

892 SELECTED FOR SERGEANT MAJOR (more than twice the number recommended in January 1992) by the promotion board in session at Fort Ben Harrison from Sep. 9 to Oct. 29. The board also recommended 313 for appointment to command sergeant major and selected 807 for the resident Sergeants Major Course at Fort Bliss, TX, and 284 for the nonresident course.

The board was convened four months ahead of the usual January schedule because some career fields are experiencing shortages of sergeants major and command sergeants major in the wake of an unexpectedly large number of voluntary retirement applications early in 1992.

FY92 TRANSITIONS TO RESERVE COMPONENTS from active duty through the RC Transition Program placed 14,192 enlisted soldiers in Army Reserve units and 13,295 in Army National Guard units, some 141 percent above the assigned mission. In addition, a total of 448 officers and warrant officers transitioned into the two reserve components, while another 21,636 soldiers transitioned into the Individual Ready Reserve.

The RC Transition Program mission for FY93 is to assign 16,000 enlisted soldiers (38 percent of all eligibles) into USAR and ARNG units.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES GET TRANSITION HELP. The FY93 Defense Authorization Act included a number of initiatives to aid Army and other federal civilians who lose their jobs as a result of the military drawdown. Among them:

- separation incentives up to \$25,000;
- continued health benefits up to 18 months;
- statutory 60-day RIF notification;
- vacancy list publication;
- priority consideration for federal employment up to 24 months;
- grants to states for job training, adjustment assistance and employment services;
- unlimited annual leave accumulation for those at bases scheduled for closure between Oct. 1, 1992, and Dec. 31, 1997;
- Thrift Savings Plan (may withdraw in lump sum or leave in plan);
- skill training, up to one year;
- teacher/teacher's aide placement program;
- Interstate Job Bank.

GEN. DENNIS J. REIMER IS HEADED TO FORSCOM to replace the retiring commander Gen. Edwin H. Burba, Jr. Nominated for appointment to general and to replace Reimer as Army vice chief of staff is Lt. Gen. J. H. Binford Peay III, currently serving as deputy chief of staff for operations and plans (DCSOPS). Maj. Gen. John Harold Tilelli, Jr., assistant deputy chief of staff for operations and plans, has been nominated as the new DCSOPS and appointment to lieutenant general.

RESERVISTS/GUARDSMEN QUALIFY FOR VA HOME LOANS if they have at least six years' service in the Selected Reserve. Under the provisions of Public Law 102-547, the six years need not have been consecutive and can include participation in weekend drills and annual training. Previously, continuous active duty for at least 90 days during the Persian Gulf War or up to two years during other periods was necessary for home loan eligibility.

The Selected Reserve includes units of the Reserve and National Guard of any of the armed forces, as well as members of the Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program; service in the Individual Ready Reserve does not count toward home loan eligibility.

1992 RECRUITING SUMMARY reflects the continued high quality of soldiers being recruited for the Total Army. Of 77,783 active component enlistments, all 76,095 nonprior-service accessions were high school diploma graduates, with almost 78 percent scoring in the upper half (Categories I-III A) of the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). The Army Reserve recruited 53,151 soldiers, 95 percent of them high school diploma graduates; 67 percent scored in AFQT Test Score Categories I-III A. The Army National Guard reported 71,700 accessions, including 13,395 active component soldiers placed in ARNG units through the Reserve Component Transition Program; nonprior-service enlistees included 83 percent high school diploma graduates, with 58 percent in Test Score Categories I-III A. All three components exceeded their recruiting missions.

ARMY SPORTS 1992 concluded with the Armed Forces Soccer Championship, topping off an outstanding year in which the All Army Boxing Team regained the Armed Forces Boxing Championship from the Marine Corps and went on to win the national championship. The All Army Women's Softball Team captured its seventh consecutive championship, and the All Army Golf Team took the Armed Forces Golf Championship. Of 53 Army athletes who qualified to participate in the Olympic Trials, 18 made the Olympic Team, including six alternates and two administrative personnel (one doctor and an Army Marksmanship Unit officer). SPC Rodney Smith, Fort Benning, GA, brought home a bronze medal in Greco-Roman Wrestling.

1993 AUSA JOB FAIRS have been scheduled for four locations — Fort Bliss, TX (March 19-20); TAACOM, Detroit, MI (April 22); Fort Riley, KS (May 6-7); and The Presidio, San Francisco, CA (Aug. 9) — with a total of six planned for the year. Written requests from post commanders, in coordination with their local chapters, should be directed to Gen. Jack N. Merritt, President, AUSA, 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201.

AUSA TELEVISION SERIES "Why An Army" features Sergeant Major of the Army Richard A. Kidd. Moderator Peter Hackes and panelists James Kitfield (associate editor, *Government Executive* magazine) and Vago Muradian (*Defense News*) question SMA Kidd about the concerns of enlisted soldiers and their families. Among the topics discussed are the lifting of the homosexual ban, the drawdown, promotion potential in a downsized Army, and educational requirements and opportunities. The show will air in the Washington area on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7:00p.m. on WNVTV-53, and on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 7:30p.m. on WNVV-56. For more information, contact Sandra Daugherty at 1-800-336-4570, extension 317.

AUSA'S PROFILE OF THE ARMY - A Reference Handbook describes the organization and missions of the Army and provides some insight into the role of the Army in our national security strategy. Just published in its third edition, the handbook is intended for briefing purposes but will also serve as a ready reference on the constitutional basis for our armed forces, the organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the functions, components and branches of the Army. It describes how the Army currently allocates its human and financial resources and provides information on the Army's future direction. At the back of the handbook are descriptions of Army rank insignia, a list of major Army installations by congressional district, and some demographical information about soldiers. To obtain a copy, call the Institute of Land Warfare at 1-800-336-4570, extension 308.

