



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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TROOPS TO BOSNIA: A "NO-GO" at least for now. After many weeks of option-consideration, the Clinton administration appears to have ceded the Balkans initiative to Europe. So far the crisis in the former Yugoslavia appears to have most European leaders at odds over just how to proceed. Our own government's position at press time seems to be that U.S. troops would be available for a *peacekeeping* mission there, but any *peacemaking* role would be a European responsibility. Even so, Army planners are reported to be busy dusting off contingency plans and troop lists for another peacekeeping contingency. A Bosnia deployment could be expected to require up to 20,000 U.S. troops as part of a multinational peacekeeping force.

4,000+ U.S. TROOPS (MOSTLY ARMY) REMAIN IN SOMALIA to support the United Nations peacekeeping operation. The Army contingent is headed by the 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, and the 10th Forward Support Battalion, all from Fort Drum, NY, and the 42d Field Hospital, Fort Knox, KY. Medical, aviation, logistical and other support units from a dozen posts in the U.S. and Germany are also participating.

MARINES TO WRITE CLOSE AIR DOCTRINE. The job of developing close air support doctrine for all the services was given to the Marines Corps over both the Air Force and the Army, who wanted it, because of the Corps' fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft experience. The doctrine will be based on Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Colin Powell's recommendation, contained in his recent roles and missions report, that attack helicopters be included as CAS assets and that functions and doctrine be realigned and clarified to include CAS as a primary mission for all services. Each service will have primary responsibility for different aspects of the close air support mission. The Marine Corps is expected to call on the tri-service Air-Land-Sea Applications group at Langley AFB, VA, for assistance in formulating the doctrine.

NEW POLICY ON COMBAT ROLES FOR WOMEN was announced April 28 by Defense Secretary Les Aspin. The first step in opening more specialties and assignments — the one which will have the most immediate impact on the Army — requires the services to allow women to compete for assignments in combat aircraft. Also, both the Army and the Marine Corps have been instructed to look into opportunities for women to serve in positions such as field artillery and air defense.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan pointed out that "in the case of the Army ... women have participated and will participate in combat. Today the United States Army has 72,000 women on active duty. Ninety percent of our career fields ... and over 61 percent of our positions are open to women. ... This new policy will open almost 5,000 new positions — officer, warrant officer and enlisted ... for women." He went on to say that the Army will begin transition training to the Apache and Cobra helicopters "almost immediately" and that 100-130 of the Army's approximately 400 women aviators (more than 300 of them on active duty) are expected to ask to fly the Apaches or Cobras.

In fact, the first three female pilots selected to fly Army attack helicopters in combat began their transition training at Fort Rucker, AL, in May. 1st Lt. Angie Norman and WO2 Cathy Jarrell are scheduled to undergo 12 weeks of Apache training. 2nd Lt. Charlene Wagner is slated to attend a six-week Cobra course. (Several Army female aviators are maintenance test pilots and have already qualified to fly attack helicopters.)

A THREE-YEAR DEFENSE BUDGET? That's what the Odeen Panel is recommending in its report to Defense Secretary Les Aspin. Created by Aspin earlier this year to assess the financial health of the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP), the three-member panel advocates a defense acquisition plan covering three years at a time rather than the current year-by-year process.

VOLUNTEER ARMY TO SEE HARD TIMES, Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Carney told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee in early May. He cited a number of factors expected to undermine recruiting and retention in the foreseeable future, including:

- competition from the Clinton administration's National Service Program;
- the 1994 pay freeze and proposed COLA cuts;
- cutbacks in funding for recruiting advertising;
- lifting of the homosexual ban;
- increased chance of deployment to danger zones such as Bosnia.

Carney also expressed concern about declining enlistments of high school graduates in the first six months of FY93 — down to 89 percent from FY92's all-time high 100 percent. He urged the committee to support a proposed increase in the Army's recruiting advertising budget (from \$23 million to \$30 million) so that young people can be made aware that, despite the drawdown, the military is still hiring.

U.S.-GERMAN CORPS INTEGRATED as part of NATO's new force structure. The agreement between Defense Secretary Les Aspin and German Minister of Defense Volker Ruche was formalized in an April 22 ceremony in Wuerzburg, Germany. It combines Germany's 5th Panzer Division with the U.S. V Corps, headquartered in Frankfurt, and integrates the U.S. 1st Armored Division into the Ulm-based II German Korps.

In addition to liaison officers, each corps' primary staff will retain the services of six soldiers from the other nation. The divisions will remain under national control until contingencies require a transfer of authority to NATO. Logistical and medical support will remain a national responsibility, with duplications being eliminated where possible. Training will also remain a national responsibility, but the two corps will develop joint and combined programs and conduct exercises to promote interoperability. REFORGER 93 is the first major training exercise to occur under the new corps structure.

SULLIVAN ON TROOP CUTS: DON'T GO TOO FAR! Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan told the Senate's Defense Appropriations subcommittee recently that a downsized 10-division Army could not handle a mission comparable to Desert Storm. He noted that the Army's FY94 budget request is the smallest since before World War II and that with some two-thirds of the money related to soldiers and their training, little is left for such items as acquisition and research and development. Also, such missions as the Somalia relief effort must be supported at the expense of training, and some rear-based units must be kept under-strength to keep front-line units ready to go. Sullivan also pointed out that more than 25,000 soldiers (not including those already stationed in South Korea, Japan and Western Europe) are now deployed to 60 different countries; while the numbers in operational missions around the world are on the rise, resources continue to decline.

RAND RECOMMENDS GUARD ROUNDOUT COMPANIES or battalions rather than the roundout brigade concept currently in use. According to the study *Assessing the Structure and Mix of Future Active and Reserve Forces*, presented by RAND's Bernard Rostker to the House Armed Services subcommittee on military forces and personnel, integration of reserve units at a lower echelon than brigade level would be less complex and therefore more efficient. The study indicates, however, that integration of roundout companies would cost nearly three times as much per division as integration at the battalion level.

Senior Army officials reportedly have reacted negatively to the idea of roundout companies or battalions, citing not only its impracticality from a tactical standpoint but also the potential negative impact on reserve component recruiting, retention and readiness.

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HEALTH CARE CHANGES ASSURED. The big question is one of form, and little will be known about that until the Clinton health care task force airs its plans, probably in July. The Defense Dept. is reported to be proposing to scrap the CHAMPUS program in favor of a new health maintenance organization (HMO) plan. As outlined in a DoD memo to the White House task force, the military HMO sounds a lot like the National Military Family Association's Health Benefits Program, which would (1) give eligible military beneficiaries the option of enrolling in one of the plans of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP); (2) establish a Military Health Plan centered around military treatment facilities and incorporated under FEHBP; and (3) provide a health care allowance for family members of active duty personnel. Unlike the DoD proposal, NMFA's plan would retain CHAMPUS; both plans would require premium payments by beneficiaries and both would need to be subsidized by the government.

All military health care beneficiaries have an abiding interest in the future of the system, and we will be closely following developments in this area.

7TH DIVISION DEACTIVATION UNDERWAY at Fort Ord, CA, with completion scheduled for Sep. 30, 1993. Two brigades — more than 8,000 troops — of the 7th Infantry Division (Light), along with some 900 nondivisional soldiers, are being affected. (The 1st Brigade is continuing its move to Fort Lewis, WA.) With Ord scheduled to close next year, Total Army Personnel Command is focusing on permanent change-of-station moves for all troops who have at least eight months remaining on their enlistments. Those with less than eight months who are not yet eligible for retirement could be released up to 90 days before expiration of their enlistment. Other possibilities are retirement or early separation for those who meet eligibility requirements.

ANOTHER OFFICER SERB IN THE WORKS, says Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Carney, deputy chief of staff for personnel. Carney recently told the House Armed Services military forces and personnel subcommittee that a Selective Early Retirement Board will meet this fall to identify 750 senior Army commissioned officers and warrant officers from all competitive categories for early retirement in 1994. This will bring the number of officers and warrants forced into retirement since January 1992 to almost 3,300.

46 MORE OVERSEAS BASES CUT, bringing the number of overseas installations where operations will be ended, reduced, or placed on standby to 748 for all services since January 1990. The 11th round of worldwide overseas site reductions, as announced by the Defense Dept. in early May, includes three locations in Italy, one in Morocco, 10 in the United Kingdom, 22 in Germany and 10 in the Republic of Korea. The largest Army site on the list is Taukkunen Barracks in Germany, where operations will be reduced and more than 1,000 billets affected.

ALL INITIAL HELICOPTER TRAINING TO RUCKER. Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Colin Powell's recent roles and missions report recommended a study to determine the cost-effectiveness of consolidating initial helicopter training for the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard with the Army's training program at Fort Rucker, AL. Defense Secretary Les Aspin then directed the Secretary of the Navy, assisted by the Secretary of the Army, to explore the feasibility of the consolidation. Rep. Frank Hutto (D-FL) and some senior Navy officials are resisting the idea, since it puts the future of Witing Field Naval Air Station (near Pensacola) at risk. However, concern over service redundancies — plus two earlier Pentagon studies indicating potential savings of \$80 million to \$90 million for FY93-FY97 — makes the consolidation program a pretty good bet.

VETS' BENEFITS MAY ALSO BE CUT, if a House Veterans' Affairs Committee plan is approved by Congress and the president. The program, part of the committee's effort to reduce spending by \$2.5 billion over the next five years, calls for:

- reducing a scheduled increase in GI Bill benefits;
- increasing fees for VA-backed home loans;
- freezing cost-of-living adjustments for widows of service members who died on active duty or as a result of service-connected illness or injury;
- restricting the number of children of veterans eligible for VA health care benefits;
- making permanent a \$2 fee for prescriptions filled at VA hospitals.

TEN OF 14 DIVISIONS CHANGE CGs this summer, according to announcements from Army headquarters. The newly named commanders are:

1st Armored Div. - **MG William M. Boice**

1st Infantry Div. (M) - **BG (P) Josue Robles, Jr.**

2d Infantry Div. - **BG John N. Abrams**

3d Infantry Div. (M) - **BG Leonard D. Holder, Jr.**

4th Infantry Div. (M) - **BG Thomas A. Schwartz**

7th Infantry Div. (Lt.) - **MG Richard F. Timmons**

10th Mountain Div. (Lt.) - **MG David C. Meade**

25th Infantry Div. (Lt.) - **BG (P) George A. Fischer**

82d Airborne Div. - **BG (P) William M. Steele**

101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault) - **BG John M. Keane**

LATEST ILW PUBLICATIONS:

Chemical and Biological Warfare Defense Under the Chemical Weapons Convention (Landpower Essay 93-3), by MG John K. Stoner, Jr., USA Ret., addresses the extent to which the United States can pragmatically rely on the CWC in light of the chemical threat.

OPFOR: Prerequisite for Victory (Landpower Essay 93-4), by MAJ John F. Antal, USA, focuses on the continuing need for realistic training at the National Training Center, where Army units can "fight" a competent opposing force (OPFOR).

Army Issue: Strategic Mobility, Sustainment and Army Missions (Background Brief #57) summarizes the Army's airlift and sealift requirements for rapidly deploying forces from the United States to a crisis area.

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VETS' REHIRE RIGHTS UPDATE is in the works, thanks to a House Veterans' Affairs Committee vote to simplify a 1940 law guaranteeing veterans' reemployment rights. Additions to the 53-year-old Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act would include:

- extension (from four to five years) of the time an individual can remain in the military before going back to reclaim an old job;
- requirement for military personnel to provide employers with reasonable notice of departure.

The bill also reaffirms earlier provisions requiring veterans who return after 31-180 days' military service to report to work within two weeks and those serving more than six months to report within 90 days.

1ST WOMAN DRILL SERGEANT OF THE YEAR was named in April at the annual competition sponsored by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, VA. Chosen from a field of more than 2,500 drill sergeants — 263 of them women — Staff Sgt. Jill Henderson, 27, of Fort McClellan, AL, is the first woman to be so honored in the competition's 24-year history.

NEW TANK GUN BEING DEVELOPED by the Benet Laboratory, Watervliet, NY, to replace the M1's 120mm gun. The Advanced Tank Cannon (ATAC) system, a byproduct of the ailing Armored Systems Modernization program, consists of the new XM291 tank gun, the XM91 loader, and an improved fire-control and gun-stabilization system. The XM291, longer and lighter than the current 120mm gun, was designed to fire 140mm rounds; however, it can be adapted on the spot to fire 120mm rounds as well. The XM91 autoloader will eliminate the need for hands-on loading, reducing the M1 crew requirement from four to three. FY93 funding for the ATAC program is about \$4 million.

STEALTHY FUTURE SCOUT VEHICLE (FSV) program is looking to incorporate stealth technologies and advanced electronic systems into a new scout vehicle which could be the forerunner for a future stealth tank. The Army's immediate goal is a stealthy, lightweight reconnaissance vehicle that can gather information using advanced detection and threat warning systems and mark targets for tanks, artillery and aircraft.