



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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McCLELLAN, PRESIDIO SAVED FROM CLOSING by the 1993 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, along with Forts Gillem and McPherson in Georgia. Early in a five-day series of public meetings, the commission voted 6-1 in favor of retaining the chemical warfare training facility at Fort McClellan, Alabama. The commission also voted unanimously to keep open California's Presidio of San Francisco, which will be shared by 6th Army and the National Park Service. Realignment at Forts Lee and Monroe in Virginia, Fort Monmouth in New Jersey, and Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania were voted down as well.

However, the panel endorsed the Defense Department's plan to cut 1,900 jobs at Tooele Army Depot, Utah, and close Vint Hill Farms, a small intelligence facility in Virginia. The commission's final recommendations are to be submitted to President Clinton by July 1. He then has until July 15 to approve or reject the entire package.

PAY RAISE OR PAY FREEZE IN '94? President Clinton's FY94 budget denies military and federal civilians a scheduled Jan. 1 pay raise. The 2.2 percent promised the military would cost about \$2.5 billion.

At a June 10 Pentagon meeting, Defense Secretary Les Aspin asked a dozen top lawmakers to "hold the line" on the pay freeze as a way to head off some even more painful defense cuts that would be a result of a newly recognized budget outlay shortfall.

The House Armed Services Committee has bought off on the Clinton proposal, but the House Appropriations subcommittee chairman, Rep. John Murtha (D-PA), wants to set aside \$1 billion for a military pay hike in either of two forms: a 2.2 percent raise on July 1, six months late; or a \$50-a-month raise for all grades effective Jan. 1.

TROOPS TRAIN FOR BOSNIA — JUST IN CASE. Europe-based soldiers of the 1st Armored and 3d Infantry Divisions have lately conducted contingency training that would prepare them for deployment to the former Yugoslavia should such a mission come. Since April, eight battalion-sized units have gone through such training at the Combat Maneuver Training Center near Hohenfels. Techniques learned by some units at the German infantry school could apply to a peacekeeping situation anywhere, but unit commanders acknowledge that Bosnia is on the mind of virtually every soldier.

U.S. SOLDIERS TO MACEDONIA. Three hundred troops from Europe will be sent to the former Yugoslavian province to bolster the 700-man United Nations Protection Force there. A Pentagon spokesman reported that the Army combat units will wear the blue helmets of U. N. troops and will respond to orders from the U.N. commander, Danish Brig. Gen. Siemirk Thomsen. The United States agreed to provide the contingent to patrol the border between Bosnia and Macedonia to help prevent the civil war from spreading south.

TAX RULING FAVORS MILITARY RETIREES. The Supreme Court ruled on June 18 in favor of military and federal civilian retirees who had been taxed on retired income in excess of that imposed on state and local government retirees drawing pensions. Some 16 states are in this category, with total liability approaching \$2 billion if all claims filed are honored. Largest potential liability looms in Virginia (over \$450 million) and Arizona (about \$340 million).

The 7-2 court decision states that taxes collected illegally should be refunded to "provide relief consistent with federal due-process." Because of the financial impact, states will probably drag their feet, with no assurance how and when it will finally be settled.

CHIEF UNVEILS REVISED ARMY DOCTRINE.

On June 14, coincidentally the Army's 218th birthday, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan publicly released the newest version of Field Manual 100-5, *Operations*, which stresses the use of high-tech weaponry in joint quick-strike operations in far distant lands. Gen. Sullivan was accompanied at the Pentagon press conference by Gen. Frederick M. Franks, Jr., commander of Training and Doctrine Command, where the Army's latest warfighting "bible" was written. This is the first rewrite of FM 100-5 in seven years, and it formally moves the Army out of the Cold War era by putting a premium on the ability to strike quickly with conventional forces anywhere in the world. The new doctrine de-emphasizes preparation for a global war with the Soviet Union and stresses the need for a U.S.-based, but highly deployable, Army that is tailored to react to regional contingencies, either by land combat or in operations short of war. The new manual will be used in all Army schools and training to guide commanders and units into the 21st century.

OUTLAY FLAP POSES DEEPER CUTS. If a budget dispute over some \$5 billion in outlays in the FY 1994 defense budget cannot be resolved, the Pentagon may have to cut thousands more troops than planned and slash funds for training, maintenance and modernization. For the Army, it could mean a \$1.4 billion outlay reduction, which would translate to a cut of between \$2 billion and \$4 billion in FY94 budget authority, depending upon which mix of accounts is tapped for the savings. Acting Army Secretary John W. Shannon, in a June 15 memo, has warned Defense Secretary Les Aspin that the Army would have to reduce another 10,000 soldiers if payroll cuts were used to meet the Army's share of outlay savings. "This would cause additional turbulence in units, and hurt recruiting and retention efforts," Shannon said. Aspin is expected to provide details in early July on how the cut would be made.

ARMY'S FIRST WOMAN ASTRONAUT, Capt. Nancy Sherlock, was aboard the space shuttle Endeavor as flight engineer for shuttle mission STS-57 when it lifted off in June. An Army aviator with more than 2,700 flying hours in nine different types of fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, Capt. Sherlock was assigned as a flight simulation engineer on the Shuttle Training Aircraft at Johnson Space Center in Houston before becoming an astronaut in 1991.

ASPIN CREATES NEW READINESS TASK FORCE "to advise the Secretary of Defense on the components of a Readiness Early Warning System to insure that our forces do not become hollow." The Defense Science Board Readiness Task Force was established by a memo from Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition John Deutch. Senior military officials reportedly were not consulted before the readiness task force was established. Members of the task force include:

- Gen. Edward C. Meyer, USA Ret., former Army chief of staff, who will serve as chairman;
- Gen. Larry D. Welch, USAF Ret., former Air Force chief of staff;
- Gen. Maxwell R. Thurman, USA Ret., former commander-in-chief, U.S. Southern Command;
- Adm. Robert L. J. Long, USN Ret., former commander-in-chief, U.S. Pacific Command;
- Adm. Huntington Hardesty, USN Ret., former commander-in-chief, U.S. Pacific Command;
- Gen. Joseph J. Went, USMC Ret., former assistant commandant of the Marine Corps;
- Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton, USA Ret., former commanding general, VII Corps;
- Lt. Gen. Herbert R. Temple, USARNG Ret., former chief of the National Guard Bureau.

COMANCHE, LOSAT MISSILE CALLED ARMY SILVER BULLETS. The Army Budget Director, MG Josue Robles, Jr., has said that the Army will go to bat to protect its two top-priority programs, the RAH-66 Comanche helicopter and the Line-of-Sight Antitank, or LOSAT, missile system. Other technology, such as the Non-Line-of-Sight system, may have to "simmer in the tech base," he said, adding, "If money gets tight enough, even the most closely guarded programs could fall under the budget axe."

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NEW ARMY AVIATION PLAN AIRED. If implemented, the Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI) would cut the Army's helicopter inventory by 35 percent over the next 20 years. The ARI would reduce the fleet from the present 8,000-plus to less than 5,000, consisting of only four types of helos — Comanches, Apaches, Black Hawks and Chinooks. Once the Comanche is fielded, the Army's attack battalions would contain 15 Cobras and nine Comanches. The creation of a general support aviation battalion would move all Black Hawks out of the attack battalions and into the new units. Army aviation planners feel the ARI will not only create homogenous aviation units but also simplify the logistics tail while allowing the retirement of some helos that are older than the pilots who fly them.

COLA PROPOSALS IN CONGRESS. At least three different COLA proposals are being discussed:

- 1) A Budget Resolution proposal would provide a COLA for all military retirees over the age of 62, with 1/2 COLA for those under 62;
- 2) The House Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 would delay all COLAs for four months in 1994; for each of the succeeding four years, the COLAs would be delayed by three months. (A Senate alternative would delay the COLA from Jan. 1, 1994 to Oct. 1, 1994. Subsequent delays make COLA payments on Oct. 1, 1996, Oct. 1, 1997, Sep. 1, 1998 and Jan. 1, 1999);
- 3) The Boren-Danforth Bipartisan Deficit Reduction Plan caps COLAs on monthly retired pay in excess of \$600 for all military retirees for four years. The first \$600 increase is given an inflation increase. Monies above that would be held to two percentage points less than inflation.

GUARD GETS YOUTH TRAINING MISSION. President Clinton has ordered the Pentagon to release \$57.5 million to the National Guard for urban and rural training programs for young people. The programs are expected to benefit up to 440,000 youths, many of whom will live, attend classes and train at National Guard camps for up to five months. In addition to the programs in 17 states and the city of Los Angeles, the Guard will provide physical exams, inoculations and basic preventive health care in various communities in 12 states.

STILL NO ARMY SECRETARY IN SIGHT, although the list has reportedly narrowed to two candidates: Terrence O'Connell (a Washington lobbyist with close ties to the Democratic Party) and Maj. Gen. Edward Baca, the state adjutant general for the New Mexico Army National Guard. There have been no nominations at the assistant secretary level. In the meantime, Army under secretary John Shannon (a hold-over from the Bush administration) is alone as acting Army secretary. The situation is much the same elsewhere in the Pentagon.

DRAFT REGISTRATION MAY END if a reported Clinton administration proposal goes forward. *Army Times* reports that Defense Secretary Les Aspin is expected to send a report to Congress explaining the president's reasons for ending the 13-year-old requirement for military draft registration.

That move would save \$6 million of the Selective Service System's \$29 million annual budget by eliminating the need for some 1.5 million men who turn 18 each year to fill out registration cards. It would also dissolve about 2,000 local draft boards now staffed by 11,000 civilian volunteers.

GAY BAN COMPROMISE IS CLOSE, President Clinton told a group of White House tourists on May 27: "If you don't ask and you don't say and you're not forced to confront it, { gay } people should be able to serve. ... I think we're very close to compromise along those lines."

Although Defense Secretary Les Aspin himself has not yet publicly endorsed a compromise on the lifting of the ban against homosexuals in the military, the president's remark was supported by news reports in mid-June that just such a plan is on the horizon. Under the DoD proposal, reportedly still in draft form, recruits and service members would not be asked about their sexual orientation. However, they still could be forced to leave military service for publicly avowing homosexuality or engaging in homosexual acts.

In the meantime, the White House has asked the House Armed Services Committee to delay consideration of the 1994 defense authorization bill until July 11 to allow time for the administration to come to some accommodation with top military officials on the ban.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS FROM THE CHIEF. Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, Army chief of staff, sent the following letter to AUSA President Gen. Jack N. Merritt, USA Ret., on June 24, 1993:

“I extend congratulations to the members of the Association of the United States Army as you celebrate your 43rd anniversary on July 5th.

“AUSA has grown in size, influence, and prestige to serve its members and the Army since its establishment in 1950. You can be justly proud of the professionalism and dedication to excellence that have become traditional to your Association.

“The men and women of the United States Army join me in sending best wishes for continued success.”

FINAL RETREAT AT SHERIDAN in May marked the end of 106 years of service in peace and war for the fort, one of the first casualties of the 1990 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. Originally established to deal with riots and labor problems in Chicago in the 1880s, Fort Sheridan has provided soldiers for U.S. military campaigns from the Spanish-American War to Operation Desert Storm.

Future plans for the post, which offers numerous possibilities for development, have not yet been determined. In the meantime, local residents and soldiers alike mourned their loss as the flag was lowered for the last time over the venerable old fort on the shores of Lake Michigan.

ROPMA PASSES HOUSE, ON HOLD IN SENATE. The Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act is the first comprehensive revision of laws related to reserve components of the U.S. military in almost 20 years.

Approved by voice vote in the House on May 11, ROPMA is designed to streamline under one statute a number of laws pertaining to the appointment, promotion and separation of reserve military officers. However, the legislation, apparently not a pressing item on most agendas, has fallen prey to the busy schedule of the Senate Armed Services Committee and is not expected to be passed until sometime next year.

MILITARY TOPS CONFIDENCE POLL with a 27-year-high 57 percent approval rating. A recent Harris poll indicates that public confidence in military leadership has increased seven percentage points since the last poll a year ago. Pollsters attribute the upswing to the military's successes in Operations Desert Storm and Restore Hope and to military involvement in the Hurricane Andrew relief effort. The second-highest confidence vote in the poll went to the Supreme Court, which trailed the military with an approval rating of 26 percent.

RESERVE DRAWDOWN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, leaving both the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve at strength levels lower than anticipated. ARNG reportedly has 1,400 fewer soldiers than authorized. USAR is down about 1,800 soldiers now and could be understrength by as many as 4,000 by the end of FY93. According to a report in Army Times, top officials of both reserve components attribute the accelerated departure of their troops to uncertainty about the effects of the drawdown on reserve careers.

AUSA RELEASES FY94 BUDGET ANALYSIS, which provides a discussion of the Army's amended budget in the context of overall DoD funding. It identifies the issues and debates in Congress, discusses the status of actions and sizes up the shortfalls.

Other new ILW publications:

Another Attack on Cost-of-Living Adjustments for Military Retirees, a Special Report by Col. Thomas D. Byrne, USA Ret., explains the history of COLAs, describes current congressional actions pending, and outlines AUSA's stand on the issue.

Thinking About the Army's Future: Continuity, Change and Growth, a series of three speeches presented by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan at recent AUSA-sponsored symposia, portrays Gen. Sullivan's vision for maintaining the future effectiveness of the 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.