



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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U.S. ARMY EUROPE TAKES BIG CUTS. The July announcement by Defense Secretary Les Aspin that 92 more military sites overseas would close or cut back is the largest drawdown of its kind in three years. It means the total number of U.S. sites overseas has been reduced by about 50 percent since January 1990. Of the 840 locations where operations have ended or been reduced in that time, 773 are in Europe.

The latest announcement affects 81 Army installations in Europe, highlighted by the inactivation of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, guardian of the Fulda Gap since 1972, and the withdrawal of the Berlin Brigade. Also being withdrawn are one brigade from each of the two remaining U.S. divisions in Germany, the 1st Armored and the 3rd Infantry.

Some of the largest facilities scheduled to end operations are: Gen. Lucius D. Clay Hq, Andrews Barracks, and McNair Barracks in Berlin; Gibbs Barracks and Frankfurt Hq Area in Frankfurt; McPheeters Barracks in Bad Hersfeld; Downs Barracks in Fulda; Ferris Barracks in Erlangen; and Camp Wildflecken.

Cutting the number of soldiers in Europe from a predrawdown force of 230,000 to 65,000 by 1996 also means closing many support facilities. On the present list, the military hospitals in Berlin, Frankfurt and Nuremberg, Germany, and in Vicenza, Italy will cease inpatient care in 1994.

SPECULATION ON NEW ARMY SECRETARY has the White House reportedly favoring Washington lobbyist Terence M. O'Connell, with Defense Secretary Les Aspin looking toward Joe R. Reeder, a Washington attorney. O'Connell entered the Army upon graduation from the University of Michigan in 1967. Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in Vietnam, he left active duty in 1972. Reeder graduated from West Point, Class of 1970, and served until 1979.

PAY RAISE OUTLOOK BRIGHTENS. The mark-ups of the FY94 Authorization Bill include a proposed 2.2 percent across-the-board raise for military personnel. The raise has the blessing of the White House with the proviso that it does not increase FY94 defense budget proposals. This means that the lawmakers will have to find the \$1.1 billion within existing resources, which will probably result in the cancellation, reduction or delay of some other DoD program.

FY94 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT mark-up has been completed by both House and Senate Armed Services Committees. In legislation strongly urged by AUSA, both bills include language to codify the new DoD position on homosexuality.

Both bills also increase funds for readiness and training, redirect tactical aviation programs, reduce funds for DoD space and intelligence programs, and strengthen peacekeeping and peace enforcement capabilities.

In the areas of personnel and compensation, committee recommendations maintain the drawdown at service-requested levels while at the same time supporting quality of life. Major recommended authorizations pertaining to the Army are:

- a 2.2 percent pay raise effective Jan. 1, 1994;
- Army active duty strength of 540,000;
- reserve component strength: Army Guard 410,000, Reserve 260,000;
- an increase in temporary lodging allowance (Senate only);
- extension of voluntary transition programs;
- reallocation of operations and maintenance funding to improve force readiness;
- delegation of authority to the Secretary of Defense to temporarily call up 25,000 reserve component personnel.

CHIEF SAYS COMANCHE IS VITAL to the Army's future warfighting capabilities. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan recently reminded members of the Boeing-Sikorsky RAH-66 Comanche team that the Comanche "represents the kind of technological edge that allowed America and our allies to win a decisive victory in Operation Desert Storm."

Speaking to the group at their facility in Trumbull, CT, Sullivan cited the Comanche's advanced versatility, survivability, and lower operating and maintenance costs as positive advantages over the Army's current scout helicopter fleet. "The Comanche's ability to self-deploy to virtually any battlefield and carry out both reconnaissance and attack missions, while requiring less downtime for maintenance, is particularly important in the face of reductions in the Army's force structure and the withdrawal of U.S. forces from overseas bases."

COMBAT RECON-STRIKE PACKAGE PROPOSED for the Pentagon's "silver bullet" streamlined acquisition strategy would combine the Non-Line of Sight-Combined Arms (NLOS-CA) system with a close-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The Army has struggled in recent years to find just the right niche for the NLOS system's fiber optic guidance technology. Addition of the UAV's targeting capability would enhance the Army's forward area air defense structure and open up other possibilities for operational utility of the NLOS technology; inclusion in the silver bullet program could mean earlier approval and faster fielding. The program would be managed by the Army's Early Entry Battle Labs at Fort Monroe, VA.

NEW ARMY AIRCRAFT PLANNED in an effort to modernize the fixed-wing aircraft fleet. The draft proposal calls for reducing the types of aircraft from the 28 currently in use to four within the next 10 to 15 years. The new Multi-Purpose Aircraft would combine tactical cargo transport, aerial common-sensor and high-capacity air ambulance missions. Tentative plans call for short- and long-range utility missions to be carried out by the C-12 Huron and the C-20 Gulfstream, respectively, while the mid-range mission would reportedly be up for bid. *Defense News* reported in July that the program could be worth more than \$1 billion to the aviation industry over the next 15 years.

10TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE) will move from Fort Devens, MA to Fort Carson, CO during June-September 1995. The realignment will involve the relocation of nearly 1,000 military and 100 civilian positions. New construction at Fort Carson to accommodate the group will begin this year.

Army Hq also announced the impending move of the Soldier Support Center and the Adjutant General, Finance and Recruiting Schools to Fort Jackson, SC in conjunction with the closing of Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN. Moving with the Soldier Support Center in '95-'96 will be about 500 soldiers and 400 civilian employees.

ARMY TANKS MAY GO TO MARINES. After two years of trying, the Marine Corps may soon receive 50 M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks from the Army. The "desperately needed" tanks will be used to fill gaps in the Marine active armor battalions and to enhance their training capability. No details on payment have been revealed, but there is speculation that the Army may receive additional funds for its M1A2 upgrade effort. In addition, the Marine proposal includes promise of payment of \$700,000 for delivery should the tanks be transferred from the European theater.

NATIONAL GUARD FIELDS MLRS. With the Multiple Launch Rocket System fielded throughout the active Army, National Guard units are now receiving this superb field artillery weapon. Two units in Oklahoma and Texas have already received the rocket battalions, and seven more are scheduled for delivery to Guard units by 2006. Currently, MLRS is on order for the Tennessee, Kentucky and Michigan National Guard. One battalion and accompanying trainers will be provided for each state unit authorized the weapon.

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IMPOSING NEW HOMOSEXUAL POLICY on service men and women without legislation is inappropriate, according to AUSA's president. In testimony before a congressional committee on the implementation of the president's homosexual policy, Gen. Jack N. Merritt, USA Ret., stressed the Association's stand that the policy which existed prior to January 1993 should be retained, but, in light of the Clinton decision to the contrary, any such significant social change should reflect the informed judgment of the majority of Americans as expressed through Congress.

"This new policy represents a compromise — a loyal effort by the military to support the president by developing a generally acceptable policy," Merritt said. "And I am satisfied that the policy can be made to work in some fashion. However, legislation is vital in order to withstand better the potential court challenges and the likely extensive and expensive litigation and to remove unnecessary burdens on military commanders at all levels."

EARLY-OUT OPPORTUNITIES EXTENDED. To achieve the projected end-strength of 572,000 active duty soldiers by the end of this fiscal year, the Army must reduce the enlisted force by 13,000. With some 7,000 applications already approved for FY93, the service is more than halfway to that goal. The Army hopes to attract the remaining numbers by expanding the Voluntary Early Transition (VET), Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) and Special Separation Benefit (SSB) programs.

CUTS THREATEN TUITION ASSISTANCE. The demand for tuition assistance among soldiers who recognize the need to remain competitive in a smaller Army is at an all-time high. Since 1985, tuition assistance participation has increased from 25 to 44 percent of the total Army population. However, in FY94, the Army Continuing Education System (ACES) will absorb a 30 percent cut and by FY97, the proposed Clinton budget will slice ACES by 55 percent. To lessen the impact, ACES has placed a management harness on tuition assistance by placing caps on high-cost courses, promoting the use of GI Bill benefits and Pell Grants for those who qualify, and establishing assistance priorities commensurate with soldier educational expectations.

THREE-WEEK ANNUAL TRAINING TOURS may be on the way for more reservists, according to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan. One reason for extending the tour length is the increasing numbers of Guardsmen and Reservists who pull their annual tours overseas. As the drawdown continues the reserve components are increasingly assuming overseas functions traditionally assigned to the active force. Consequently, the standard two-week active duty tour is proving insufficient to transport, indoctrinate and train them.

This year more than 19,000 reservists will train outside the continental United States to get them as fully involved as possible in the Army's ongoing worldwide missions and to prepare them to perform in the environments they are most likely to face in a crisis.

For now, the Army is relying on reserve troops who volunteer for extended, three-week training, but new legal authority may be needed to extend active duty tours in the future.

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL is authorized for soldiers who have participated in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and parts of Kenya since Dec. 5, 1992. To be eligible, soldiers must have been members of a unit engaged in the operation or engaged in direct support for 30 days in the area of operations, or for 60 nonconsecutive days. Also eligible are those who were engaged in actual combat or duty that is equally as hazardous as combat during the operation, regardless of time in the area; those who participated as regularly assigned crew members of an aircraft flying into, out of, within or over the area in support of military operations; and those recommended for the award by the service chief or the appropriate unified or specified commander.

CAPTAINS' RIF CANCELLED for 1993, thanks to the April 20 reopening of the Special Separation Benefit and Voluntary Separation Incentive programs. Enough captains in the targeted 1983 and 1984 year groups took advantage of the exit bonuses before the programs closed again on May 28 to make **this** reduction in force unnecessary. Officials are quick to point out, however, that 600 to 700 captains in the 1985 year group will be vulnerable to RIF in 1994.

CHIEF WARNS OF HOLLOW ARMY SIGNS.

Responding to questions posed by Armed Services Committee member Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan says the Army is already feeling the effects of budget cuts made in FY93 and is looking at an FY94 budget that is "barely adequate." He indicated that additional cuts to the Army budget would result in a "smaller, less modernized and less capable Army." Stressing the need to protect Army readiness, Gen. Sullivan said the greatest risks that could lead to a hollow force are:

- cuts in recruiting funding;
- reduced operating tempo;
- real property maintenance shortfalls;
- reduced quality-of-life funds;
- reduction in sustainment funding;
- reduced equipment readiness;
- curtailed leader training;
- loss of the modernization edge;
- increased "other than war" missions.

The Army "can no longer afford to implement or absorb reductions that are directed merely to achieve a specified savings; the risk associated with doing so is unacceptable," Gen. Sullivan said.

MORE ON WOMEN IN THE ARMY. Responding to guidance from the Secretary of Defense to offer more assignment opportunities to women, the Army has removed gender restrictions on assignments to attack and scout helicopter units. This opens more than 9,000 positions previously closed to women. More than 91 percent of all Army career fields and 62 percent of Army positions are now open to women.

SENATE VOTES HATCH ACT CHANGES. After two decades of wrangling in Congress, the 54-year-old law that barred most federal executive branch and U.S. Postal Service employees from most partisan political activity appears on the way to overhaul. On July 20 the Senate joined the House in approving changes to the Hatch Act that would permit federal workers to run for local partisan office, manage party campaigns and solicit campaign money from the general public, all on their off-duty time.

"AMERICA'S ARMY," AUSA's second television series, begins in September with the first segment of a two-part examination of the All Volunteer Army and its future in the face of such factors as the drawdown, the Clinton administration's proposed National Service Program, implementation of the president's new policy regarding homosexual behavior in the military, and changes in rules regarding women in combat.

"Will They Still Volunteer? - Part I" features LTG Thomas P. Carney, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel; Martin Binkin, a senior fellow with The Brookings Institution and author of several books on military manpower issues; and George Wilson, former national defense correspondent for *The Washington Post* and author of several books on military affairs. Peter Hackes will serve as host and moderator.

The 30-minute program will air in the Washington metropolitan area on Thursday, 16 September, at 7:00 p.m. on Northern Virginia Public Television station WNVTV-53. (Note: WNVTV has different number designations on some Washington-area cable systems.)

"America's Army" is available via satellite to public television stations across the country. Check local listings or contact your local station for broadcast schedules outside the Washington area.

Tapes of the programs are also available through AUSA. For further information, contact AUSA's Sandra Daugherty at 1-800-336-4570, extension 317.

NEW ILW PUBLICATIONS:

Crisis Response: Army or Marines? (Landpower Essay 93-5), by Gen. John W. Foss, USA Ret., addresses the issue of crisis response responsibilities.

Army Issue: Digitization and the Modern Battlefield (Background Brief 58) discusses the key role of digitized communications in the Army's concept of fully integrated operations on the modern battlefield.

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.