



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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Commission chairman discusses roles and missions. Commission On Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces Chairman Dr. John P. White presented an update on the commission's work at a Contemporary Military Forum sponsored by the Institute of Land Warfare at AUSA's 1994 Annual Meeting. In his presentation, White reviewed the commission's objective: "To produce a report with well-supported, practical recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the armed forces by aligning their roles, missions, and functions to correspond appropriately with emerging world conditions and challenges."

White discussed the methodology used for conducting analyses of potential issues which included consultation with the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, others in Congress, the Secretary of Defense, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the service secretaries and service chiefs, defense experts, academia and industry. The commission will operate with 26 task forces covering issues under broad categories of Operations, Infrastructure and Process. The issues selected by the commission for in-depth review are: Close Air Support/Fire Support; Deep Battle/Conventional Strike; Army and Marine Corps Capabilities; Joint Warfighting; Overseas Presence; Airpower Organization; Intelligence Dissemination; Peace Operations; Theater Air/Missile Defense; Constabulary Forces; Nuclear Triad; Combat Search and Rescue; Coalition Interoperability; Unified Command Plan; Streamlining Acquisition Organizations; Materiel Supply Management; OSD, Joint Staff and Service Secretariats; Aviation Infrastructure; Procurement Oversight/Auditing; Central Logistics Support; Depot Maintenance; Medical Readiness and Health Benefits; Space; DoD Agencies and C⁴ and Information Technologies.

The commission's final report is due to congress May 1995.

Deutch will seek White House assistance for funding shortfall. In a speech during AUSA's 1994 Annual Meeting, Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch stated that he will seek the support of the Office of Management & Budget to help meet the \$40 billion shortfall in the Defense Department's five-year budget. He said he feels confident that OMB will help by providing \$20 billion in the annual budget cycle to cover the impact of inflation and the 1994 and 1995 pay raises.

"The other \$20 billion comprises adjustments that will strengthen both short term and long term readiness," according to Deutch. "One example is pay raises for the military to assure that we continue to attract and retain the best people. Another example is quality-of-life improvements like base housing." He stated that this \$20 billion will have to come from "rebalancing our program" and "delaying some of our important modernization programs."

HASC: Convert 10,000 active-duty slots to civilian jobs. DoD and the individual services will study whether converting up to 10,000 active-duty military jobs to civilian positions will result in increased readiness as suggested by the House Armed Services Committee. The HASC claims that using civilians to fill "support positions" such as personnel specialists, electricians and food service personnel would free military personnel for combat jobs, thus improving readiness.

A recent study by the General Accounting Office (GAO), however, found that civilian personnel in key support jobs and subject to deployment must be medically screened and provided with survival training. Clear policies concerning benefits during deployment must also be developed. These issues came to light as the GAO studied problems experienced by approximately 5,000 DoD civilians and more than 9,000 defense contractor employees who deployed to Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War.

Pentagon plans "Personnel Omnibus Bill."

A unified defense personnel budget will be submitted to the White House later this year. After the initiatives are reviewed by budget analysts, the bill will be submitted to Congress early next year.

The initiatives, which have been approved by Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Edwin Dorn, include improved housing allowances for reservists during inactive duty training, and full death and disability benefits for reservists when they are called to active duty.

Other initiatives include an increase in automatic coverage under the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance from \$100,000 to \$200,000; a dislocation allowance for service members who must stay in an area after a base closes; and an increase in the monthly stipend for ROTC cadets from \$150 to \$200 per month.

1995 enlisted drawdown announced. As the Army moves toward a force of 495,000 — with an enlisted strength of 410,000 — by 30 September 1996, a new early release program has been announced. Approximately 45,000 staff sergeants (with 13 years' service) and sergeants first class (with 15 or more years) who are not on a promotion list are eligible to apply for early retirement or voluntary release with an exit bonus. In order to ensure the correct number of people in each specialty and rank remain on active duty, the Total Army Personnel Command has issued a list of 30 military occupational specialties excluded from the program.

With no funding requested for separation incentives after 1995, this could be the last time special incentives are offered for early voluntary separation. Forced separations would be used as a last resort if the Army does not receive the 6,300 applicants needed.

A new military pay system? Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Military Personnel Management and Equal Opportunity Policy Robert M. Emmerichs will head the Eighth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation. The panel will begin deliberations in January to design a blueprint for a 21st century military pay system. It is expected that the panel's recommendations will be released in 1996. The validity of the entire system, rather than specific pay issues, will be their focus.

Reservists' rights and responsibilities defined.

The Uniformed Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994 protects the civilian jobs and benefits of members of the reserve components and, for the first time, applies the provisions to federal and postal service workers. While the law specifically defines reemployment rights for reservists, it also provides some protection to employers by requiring that reservists provide advance notice of military deployments to their employers. Other provisions of the legislation include:

- Reservists who are federal and postal workers and are called to active duty may make retroactive payments to thrift savings plans, and qualify for any matching government contributions upon their return;
- the Department of Labor must provide lawyers or pay reasonable attorney fees for reservists who take legal action to resolve reemployment disputes;
- employers are precluded from refusing to rehire reservists because of the timing, frequency, duration or nature of their military service;
- the cumulative amount of time reservists can be absent from work for military service and still be entitled to reemployment is increased from four to five years;
- employers are required to continue a reservist's medical insurance during deployments of less than 31 days, and allow them to pay for continued coverage during longer deployments;
- employers are precluded from reducing an employee's eligibility for pension benefits because of reserve obligations.

The new legislation is considered critical in preventing conflict between civilian employers and reservists in today's climate wherein the military has increased its reliance on reserve component forces for operations ranging anywhere from Operation Preserve Democracy in Haiti to providing flood relief in the United States.

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Army's power projection strategy tested.

According to defense officials, U.S. ability to respond quickly to the recent Iraqi buildup is a result of prepositioning war supplies close to the region.

The "Brigade Afloat" force is based on Saipan in the Pacific and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Stockpiled on 12 ships are equipment and fire support for a heavy brigade task force of two armored and two mechanized infantry battalions, supplies enough for 15 days' combat, and equipment required to open a port.

DoD has announced it will stockpile war supplies for a full brigade in Kuwait, with enough equipment for a second brigade to be placed in Qatar. A squadron of A-10 aircraft has been added to the force based in Kuwait. The prepositioning effort will ensure that U.S. forces can quickly mobilize to the region in the future if necessary. It is expected that the Army War Reserve system will be fully in place by the year 2002 with seven brigade sets of equipment prepositioned in Italy, Korea, Southwest Asia, and one afloat.

Army hosts Rwanda review. The U.S. Army Peacekeeping Institute from the Army War College conducted a two-day after-action conference for 67 representatives from the relief organizations and U.S. government agencies which participated this summer in the humanitarian relief effort in Rwanda.

The purpose of the conference was to review the Rwanda operation and then develop guidelines for future humanitarian operations.

A specific and precise statement of what is expected of U.S. military forces in future humanitarian operations was among the recommendations developed at the conference. Other recommendations focused on training and coordinating activities among organizations, agencies and the U.S. military, for example, the attendance at military land and air traffic management courses by representatives from relief organizations.

The U.S. military operation in Rwanda involved 2,400 personnel, the first of whom deployed in early July. U.S. military participation ended on September 30.

U.S. troops using enhanced weapon systems in Southwest Asia. While many of the weapon systems deployed to the Persian Gulf for Operation Vigilant Warrior look similar to those used in Operation Desert Storm, many have been enhanced to increase effectiveness and firepower.

For example, the Improved Heavy Equipment Transport System features off-road capability, while the Bradley Stinger fighting vehicle offers a greater range and more protection to the crew than its predecessor Vulcan 20mm air defense system. The Multiple Launch Rocket System on U.S. prepositioning ships in the Indian Ocean are equipped with the Advanced Tactical Missile System which has a range of 100 kilometers. All brigades in Kuwait are equipped with the M2A2 version of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and the upgraded self-propelled howitzer, the M109A7 Paladin, will replace the M109 version. The Patriot missile systems have been upgraded with rewritten critical target acquisition software, enhanced timing sequences of their explosive fuses and twice the radar range.

Joint Warfighting Center open; military exercise program under review. The U.S. Joint Warfighting Center (JWFC) located at Fort Monroe, VA and formed by combining the former Joint Warfare Center from Hurlburt Field, FL and the former Joint Doctrine Center at Fort Monroe, VA is open and is expected to be fully operational by the middle of next year.

The JWFC will run simulated wargames, assist in developing joint doctrine, and run major computer-aided command and smaller command post exercises each year. The JWFC will also support Atlantic Command's (ACOM) requirement for training joint task force commanders and their staffs until ACOM's simulation center is fully established.

In the meantime, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. John Shalikashvili is leading a review of the U.S. worldwide military exercise program, including the schedule and payment process used for the exercises. Gen. Shalikashvili has expressed concern about current training requirements. Further, concern regarding the issue of training prioritization has been voiced by overseas commanders. A review of the military's joint training plans is to be conducted by the Joint Exercise and Training Division of the Joint Staff, and was expected to be completed by November.

Operation Atlantic Resolve 94. "Synthetic Theater of War-Europe" (STOW-E), a seamless virtual battlefield which relies on the U.S. military's Defense Simulation Internet data highway, linked participants across the Atlantic in the first multinational exercise of its kind in November.

More than 7,500 American, British, French, German and Dutch soldiers participated in Operation Atlantic Resolve 94 with 190,000 simulated NATO troops defending a fictional NATO country from border attack. The use of virtual technology meant that only about 2,500 troops deployed from the United States to the Army's Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training centers for the exercise. This is compared to as many as 30,000 for earlier European exercises such as Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER).

Using the STOW-E linkage, units from the Army, Navy and Air Force participated in the exercise from Cherry Point, NC; Mayport, FL; Kirtland AFB, NM; Newport, RI; and Patuxent River, MD.

U.S., South Korea conduct exercise. Exercise Foal Eagle 94, a joint seven-day U.S.-South Korea military exercise involving only troops based in the country, was conducted in early November.

The field training exercise involved most of the 36,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea along with 650,000 South Korean soldiers and the country's four million reservists.

According to a South Korean defense official, Foal Eagle 94 included field operations to "provide hands-on field experience for forces of both nations," and was meant to "underscore the importance of our military readiness against threats from North Korea."

The South Korean Defense Minister announced in late October that the annual Team Spirit exercise scheduled for November had been cancelled. Since announcing Foal Eagle 94, South Korean Defense Ministry spokesmen have emphasized that this exercise is separate from Team Spirit, which had been held regularly since 1976, and for which tens of thousands of U.S. troops were flown to South Korea.

"Avoiding the trainwreck: Building the 'military of the future' while sustaining current capabilities" is the focus of a conference to be hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies on December 7 in Washington, D.C. The conference will feature three topical panels: Resources for Defense, The Near-Term Problem, and The Far-Term Problem. Panelists will include members of Congress, defense experts, and representatives from industry and academia. The concluding panel (The Secretaries' Review) will include former Defense Secretaries Les Aspin, Harold Brown and James Schlesinger, who will review the discussions of the preceding panels and identify the critical changes they believe are necessary to maintain U.S. military superiority into the next century.

For more information on conference fees and registration, call Michael Palaschak (202-775-3114) or Andrew Kelly (202-887-0200).

"America's Army" and host Sander Vanocur examine the Army's Battle Labs, established in 1992 to experiment with changing methods of warfare. From these experiments warfighting requirements for the Force Projection Army will be developed to maintain the edge in war and operations other than war. "Battle Labs" airs in the Washington metropolitan area on Thursday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. on WNVN-53.

"America's Army" is available via satellite to public TV stations across the country and is also carried by cable systems in some areas. 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 307.

New ILW Landpower Essays:

- Employing the Options: How a Joint Force Commander Views Roles and Missions (94-7)
- Long Range Fires: Commanders' Options (94-8)
- U.S. Forces — Theater Missile Defense (94-9)
- The Army In Space (94-10)
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