



# WASHINGTON UPDATE



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**CBO explores realignment/consolidation options.** Some of the more controversial suggestions — **not** recommendations — presented recently by Congressional Budget Office director Robert Reischauer before the Senate Budget Committee include:

- eliminating three Army light divisions and giving the rapid response mission to the Marine Corps. This presupposes that all residual air assault and airborne could be consolidated into one brigade and that Army Rangers and Special Forces would provide additional capability. Reischauer said this could save \$14 billion over five years.
- terminating Navy and Air Force theater missile defense systems, giving the Army responsibility for defense against air attacks (estimated savings of \$3.8 billion over five years).
- retiring the Air Force A-10 aircraft and two to four wings of F-16s, giving the primary responsibility for close air support to the Army (estimated savings of \$3.2 billion over five years).

**Some in House see cuts as too deep, too fast.** Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) has emerged as the leader of a group on the House Armed Services Committee who question the adequacy of both the Bottom-Up Review military force and the President's defense budget.

At a recent hearing of his military forces and personnel subcommittee, Skelton said "simple third-grade arithmetic" had convinced him that the force envisioned by the Bottom-Up Review is too small to fight and win two regional wars simultaneously and the Pentagon budget isn't enough to pay for even such an inadequate force. Several other conservative Democrats on the HASC have echoed Skelton's concerns about the risks involved in committing an underfunded, understrength force to battle.

**High cost of base closings questioned.** Even as DoD proceeds to assemble its longest-yet list of military bases to be closed, a bill is being introduced in the House to delay the next round of closures for at least two years. DoD is reportedly studying the possibility of delaying some of the closures, but the bill's sponsors, Reps. Floyd Spence (R-SC) and James Hansen (R-UT), want to delay the entire 1995 round of closures until 1997. They cite concerns about the high costs of environmental cleanup, as well as the economic impact of base closings on the surrounding communities. "There's not enough money in the entire defense budget to clean up the bases we're closing," Hansen said. A similar delaying ploy was defeated in the Senate last fall. In the 1988, 1991 and 1993 closure rounds, 15 percent of the military bases in the country were closed or reduced. The 1995 list alone is expected to include another 15 percent.

**DoD submits report on need for RC accessibility** in carrying out future missions. Based on the Bottom-Up Review, DoD is planning on more effective use of reserve components for future regional conflicts as well as for domestic emergencies and peace operations. Ready access to the Guard and Reserve, which will require changes in existing statutes, is necessary to accomplish this. The April report, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, asks for legislative action to:

- permit immediate call-up of 25,000 by the Secretary of Defense;
- change approval under Title 10 USC 6736 (Presidential Notification) from the present 90 days plus a 90-day extension to 180 days plus a 180-day extension if required;
- provide ready access to an individual pool by establishing a special category of Selected Reserve Augmentees (SRA) of individuals released from the active component and the Selected Reserve with service obligations of up to 18 months.

**CINCS' authority over reserve components seen.** Working against objections by the Army, Marine Corps and Air Force, officials from the the Joint Staff continue efforts to design a policy memorandum which would specify combatant command authority over reserve forces. The Joint Staff argues that the policy merely affirms current 1986 Goldwater-Nichols DoD Reorganization Act guidelines.

While the Joint Staff maintains that CINCs must ensure that all forces meet the same standards, the Army argues that training responsibility for reserve forces belongs to the respective services and that such oversight is unnecessary. No date has been set for issuance of the final policy memorandum.

**Major General Baratz new Army Reserve chief.** Maj. Gen. Max Baratz, deputy commanding general of the Army Reserve Command, has been selected as the chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the Army Reserve Command. Gen. Baratz replaces Maj. Gen. Roger Sandler, who retired Feb. 1 and now serves as executive director of the Reserve Officers Association.

**Guard to assimilate most USAR Special Forces.** Concern over the fate of Army Reservists affected by the inactivation of the 11th and 12th Special Forces Groups has been somewhat allayed by the Army National Guard's promise to find slots for the bulk of these troops in the Guard's 19th and 20th Groups. A Guard spokesman said the addition of some 500 additional positions, coupled with existing vacancies, will allow the 19th and 20th to accommodate roughly two-thirds of the qualified Special Forces troops who are being affected by the restructuring of the reserve components.

**RC \$171M construction budget "a disaster," says Rep. G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-MS), adding, "We've got a lot of work ahead of us" in the military installations and facilities subcommittee. Similar sentiments regarding the Pentagon's FY95 budget request for reserve component construction were expressed by subcommittee chairman Rep. Dave McCurdy (D-OK), who called the proposal "paltry" and pledged to "see if we can correct it" in committee. Last year DoD asked for \$351 million, which Congress upped to \$751 million for reserve construction.**

**Senate for, House against medical school.** Sens. Strom Thurmond (R-SC) and Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) have expressed opposition to any proposed closure of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in the face of renewed efforts by House members to shut down the school solely for economic reasons.

William J. Lynn, director of program analysis and evaluation for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, testified recently that savings of about \$70 million annually would be realized by closing the school in 1997 — after graduation of the current freshman class — and increasing the number of scholarships to civilian schools for military medical students.

USUHS supporters argue that the school's graduates are more likely to make military medicine a career. Of the 1,836 graduates of USUHS since its inception in 1972 by act of Congress, 87 percent still serve in uniform. This is in comparison to the 23 percent of the competing Health Professionals Scholarship Program graduates still serving.

**"Airlift in this country is broken right now,"** Gen. Joseph Hoar, commander in chief of the US. Central Command, recently advised the Senate Armed Services Committee. He further cautioned that serious erosion of airlift capacity would impact U.S. ability to fight two nearly simultaneous regional conflicts.

The reason: The Air Force Air Mobility Command reports that 105 of its 244 C-141 transports are currently undergoing maintenance. To meet operational requirements until the current transports can be replaced, the entire fleet of C-141s will eventually be overhauled.

Further, the Pentagon has received approval to build only 40 of the 120 C-17 cargo planes requested by the Air Force. The C-17 is to be the eventual replacement for the C-141.

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**Moving tax raises ire; Perry to fight.** The Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 requires that servicemembers pay taxes on most of the allowances paid for moving expenses: Dislocation Allowance, Temporary Lodging Expense, Temporary Lodging Allowance, Move-In Housing Allowance, per diem and storage expense reimbursements.

In a letter to Congress requesting legislative relief, Secretary of Defense William Perry stated, "This additional tax burden is counterproductive as we struggle to maintain operational readiness and an acceptable quality of life for our dedicated men and women serving our country. It is vital that we protect that quality of life of service members by correcting this inequitable financial burden."

Without some form of relief from the change in tax rules, American servicemembers face a combined \$70 million tax bill. More than 800,000 military members and their families are required to move every year.

**U.S. bolsters forces in Korea.** In the face of angry threats by North Korea that it might attack South Korea, the U.S. Defense Department has made several moves to improve the position of its 37,000 troops in the South. Foremost among these was the deployment of 160 PAC-II Patriot air defense missiles to South Korea in mid-April. Also, Defense Secretary William Perry discussed with reporters plans to build up supplies of munitions and spare parts in order to strengthen U.S. forces and to facilitate the deployment of reinforcements. A battalion of Apache attack helicopters has replaced a like unit of older AH-1 Cobras in Korea, but the Army says that this move is part of its Aviation Restructure Initiative and is unrelated to current tensions with North Korea.

**Peacekeeping too costly?** Army Secretary Togo West, Jr. told a Senate hearing that the Army has become "America's force of choice for operations other than war. ... Soldiers are in peacekeeping operations in Somalia, Croatia, the Sinai, Macedonia and northern Iraq. {But} the Army does not budget for operations other than war."

According to *Army Times*, Rep. William Clinger (R-PA) has characterized peacekeeping as "a growth industry that keeps getting larger, more dangerous and more costly by the day. With an estimated defense budget gap of between \$20 billion and \$100 billion, how can we afford these increasing costs without hurting our own military readiness?"

**Future troop more lethal?** While the Army conducted the recent Advanced Warfighting Experiment at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA, to test high-tech equipment designed to make the "Generation II Soldier" the land warrior of the 21st century, the Pentagon was evaluating a new nonlethal weaponry development and deployment initiative.

The desert experiment tested systems to highlight how technology has the potential to make the soldier more lethal, increase tempo of operations, and give troops a better chance of surviving on future battlefields.

Meanwhile, according to *Defense News*, the nonlethal technologies initiative is intended to provide options to conventional warfare, including infrasound to disorient, sicken or frighten people away from designated areas; traction inhibitors to immobilize vehicles; lasers to blind optics and overload electro-magnetic sensors; and high-powered microwave transmitters to disable electronics or interfere with command and control.

**Joint venture to design Force XXI.** In his "Message to Army Leaders on Force XXI," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon Sullivan outlined his modernization plan for the Army of the next century.

A joint venture, under the leadership of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, will design future Army operation forces while concurrently making doctrinal, organization and materiel decisions. This is to be accomplished in cooperation with Forces Command, Medical Command, Army Materiel Command, Information Systems Command, Security Command and the Army staff.

According to Sullivan, "Force XXI must be organized around information — the creation and sharing of knowledge followed by unified action based on that knowledge which will allow commanders to apply power effectively. The purpose of the Force XXI must be to dominate, to control, to win."

**AGS fielding delayed at least until '99.** Fifty-eight rapid-reaction M8 Armored Gun System (AGS) light tanks should be fielded by October 1999 — two years later than expected as a result of program budget cuts of \$228 million for FY95 through FY99. The Army is expected to buy 237 of the tanks if, after field and live-fire tests, Army officials decide to begin full-scale production.

**Retiree health care roadblock identified.** DoD attorneys have identified as illegal a provision in the military's health care reform program (dubbed "TriCare") which grants higher-priority care at military bases to military retirees who enroll in the program and pay an enrollment fee. Congressional action will be required to correct the problem, and it is hoped that legislation can be introduced and passed this year.

The drawdown and resultant base closings have made access to health care at military bases for retirees difficult; many are forced to use CHAMPUS and, at age 65, Medicare. While both CHAMPUS and Medicare users would have improved health care access with TriCare, DoD health officials caution that without charging an enrollment fee, access cannot be improved.

**Retiree COLA attacks go on and on.** Cost-of-living adjustments for military retirees are under attack yet again as legislators grapple with the questions of how to cut the national budget.

A plan sponsored by Sens. Robert Kerry (D-NE) and Hank Brown (R-CO) would apply annual COLAs on only the first \$30,000 per year of pay, and deny COLAs until age 62 for people who enter the military after the deficit-reduction plan became law. Although that proposal was defeated, Kerry and Brown plan to continue to push for the legislation.

AUSA, as a member of the Military Coalition, has fought similar proposals in the recent past. The coalition's "COLA hot line," which is used to send mailgrams concerning COLA issues from members to their congressional representatives for a small fee, reports more than 41,000 calls in support of equitable COLAs for military retirees.

**One in five '94 recruits female.** The number of women enlisting in the Army increased from 14.5 percent of enlisted accessions four years ago to 16.5 percent in FY93. In FY94, that figure is projected to reach 20 percent.

The percentage of women, both enlisted and commissioned, has increased from 1.9 percent in 1972 (when the volunteer force began) to 11.6 percent today. Currently, women make up about 12.6 percent of the Army's active enlisted force of approximately 480,000.

**Peter Hackes**, host of AUSA's "America's Army" television series, died on April 17, 1994, following a brief illness. A veteran journalist, Hackes began his television career with CBS and went on to spend more than 30 years reporting Washington developments for NBC News. Following his retirement from NBC, Hackes launched a second career which included media consulting for the American Association of Retired Persons, movie roles in "Broadcast News" and "True Colors," and a wide range of special projects. Hackes also served as host and moderator for AUSA's panel discussion program "Why An Army," which aired monthly from May 1992 through April 1993.

**"America's Army: Sharing the Benefits of Technology,"** first aired in March 1994, will be rebroadcast in May. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan was to have appeared on the May edition of "America's Army" for a discussion of the reasons for and approaches to the changes currently taking place in the Army. However, schedule changes resulting from the April 22 death of former President Richard M. Nixon made it necessary to postpone the taping. "America's Army: Changing for the 21st Century" has been rescheduled to air in the Washington metropolitan area on Thursday, June 16, at 7:00 p.m. on WNVT-53.

The "America's Army" series 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 program are also available through AUSA. For further information, call 1-800-336-4570, extension 311.

#### **ILW publications:**

*U.S. Defense Policies Since World War II* (Background Brief No. 63) provides a chronological reference to the major world events and crises which shaped U.S. national security policies from 1945 to early 1994.

*War in the Information Age* (Landpower Essay No. 94-4) by Col. James M. Dubik, USA, and Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, discusses the dawning of the information age and its impact on the conduct of warfare.

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