



# WASHINGTON UPDATE



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**Above and beyond.** The Medal of Honor was presented to the widows of Master Sergeant Gary I. Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randall D. Shughart by President Clinton last month in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty. The citations for the Medal of Honor, America's highest award, recognize the soldiers for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty" for actions while serving with Task Force Ranger, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, in Mogadishu, Somalia on October 3, 1993.

Upon learning that ground forces were not immediately available to secure a helicopter crash site, Sniper Team Leader MSG Gordon and Sniper Team Member SFC Shughart unhesitatingly volunteered to be inserted into the crash site to protect four critically wounded personnel despite being well aware of the growing number of enemy personnel closing in on the site. Under intense small arms fire from the enemy, they fought their way through a dense maze of shanties and shacks to reach critically injured helicopter crew members. SFC Shughart pulled the pilot and the other crew members from the aircraft. They used their long-range rifles and sidearms to kill an undetermined number of attackers while travelling the perimeter, protecting the downed crew. SFC Shughart continued his protective fire until he depleted his ammunition and was fatally wounded. With his own rifle ammunition exhausted and armed only with his pistol, MSG Gordon continued to fight until he was fatally wounded. Their actions saved the pilot's life.

AUSA salutes MSG Gordon and SFC Shughart for their selfless service and extraordinary courage.

**Draft registration to be continued.** The House of Representatives has voted overwhelmingly to continue the registration of 18-year-old males for Selective Service, rejecting by a vote of 125-273 an amendment that would have ended registration on October 1.

**Commission on Roles and Missions underway.** Established by the National Defense Authorization Act of 1994 and chaired by Dr. John P. White from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, the commission will have one year after the date of its first meeting to submit a report to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A total time of 17 months is authorized for all committee actions.

The commission has been chartered to:

- review the types of military operations that may be required in the post-Cold War era;
- define broad mission areas and key support requirements for the United States military establishment;
- develop a conceptual framework for the review of the organizational allocation among the armed forces of military roles, missions and functions;
- recommend possible changes such as the functions for which each military department should organize, train and equip forces; the missions of combatant commands; and the roles that Congress should assign to the various military elements of the Department of Defense;
- address civilian portions of the DoD where changes in these areas are collateral to changes in military roles, missions and functions;
- recommend a process for continuing to adapt to future changes in technology and the international security environment.

AUSA has been invited to present its view on this subject to the commission, and plans to do so both through discussions and by written statements.

**Perry applauds IRS decision.** Secretary of Defense William Perry issued the following statement on the moving allowance tax issue reported in the May *WASHINGTON UPDATE*:

“I was informed that the IRS intends to issue guidance that temporary lodging, dislocation and moving-in allowances provided by the Department of Defense to military personnel in connection with permanent change of station moves will continue to be excluded from gross income.”

This announcement resolves a dilemma which had the potential to create serious problems for as many as 800,000 military personnel.

Earlier this month, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued its Notice 94-59, 1994 23 I.R.B. 7, addressing the issue of federal income tax treatment of certain moving allowances provided by DoD in connection with transfers of military personnel to a new permanent duty station. The notice states: “The Internal Revenue Service intends to issue guidance to clarify that these allowances continue to be excludible from gross income under ... Income Tax Regulations.”

**Strategic nuclear missiles detargeted.** For the first time since the earliest days of the nuclear age, neither the United States nor Russia will operate nuclear forces, day-to-day, in a manner that presumes they are enemies. President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced during their Moscow meetings that they would direct the detargeting of strategic nuclear missiles under their respective commands so that as of May 30, no country is targeted by the strategic forces of the other. British Prime Minister John Major also announced that the United Kingdom would take steps to ensure that its strategic nuclear missiles would be detargeted by the same date.

Detargeting involves changing weapon systems control settings so that no country, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan or any other former Soviet territory, will be regularly targeted by U.S. strategic forces. According to DoD officials, the detargeting measures of the other countries are comparable.

**New guidelines for peace operations.** “Neither we nor the international community have the mandate nor the resources to resolve every conflict,” said national security advisor Anthony Lake in outlining Presidential Decision Directive 25. Signed by President Clinton May 3, the policy directive states that neither the creation of a standing United Nations army nor any U.S. contribution to such a force is supported. It also sets strict limits for U.S. participation in UN peacekeeping operations around the world.

The policy specifies that certain conditions must be considered before the United States agrees to participate with troops in any new international operation. These include the advancement of U.S. interests; the availability of personnel and funds; the need for U.S. participation for the success of an operation; the support of Congress; the presence of clear objectives; a clear ending for U.S. participation; and acceptable arrangements for command and control.

**SASC/HASC up ante on next pay raise.** Unhappy with President Clinton’s FY95 request for a 1.6 percent pay raise for military members, the House Armed Services Committee has approved a 2.6 percent raise in its version of the FY95 defense authorization bill. In addition, the HASC approved a stateside cost-of-living allowance for military personnel stationed at locations where living expenses are more than eight percent above the national average. This “CONUS COLA” does not apply to housing costs.

The Senate Armed Services Committee markup approved a 2.6 percent military pay raise to become effective January 1, 1995. Floor action is pending.

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**Medical program for ailing Gulf vets announced.** A new plan to better understand Persian Gulf Syndrome has been launched by DoD in coordination with the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Health & Human Services (HHS). The program will allow these agencies to better care for Gulf War veterans who are ill yet have no clearly defined diagnoses.

The plan's first step is to conduct a coordinated diagnostic effort to determine as far as possible the causes of symptoms. This will be achieved by offering intensive examinations to all those who are in DoD's Persian Gulf Veterans Health Surveillance System and who do not have clearly defined diagnoses. Second, existing and currently proposed plans will be reviewed to determine if additional epidemiological approaches may be helpful. Third, a forum of national medical and public health experts will be created to advise DoD, VA and HHS as they proceed in these directions and to offer a channel for broader public comment and suggestions.

**Garner: Mod cuts mean higher casualties.** Testimony before the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on coalition defense and reinforcing forces became lively after Army Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Force Development Maj. Gen. Jay Gamer's presentation, which included an analysis tying force modernization to casualty rates.

According to Gamer, only five of the 10 active Army divisions specified in DoD's Bottom-Up Review will be modernized by the year 2014 under the current \$10-billion annual spending plan for Army research, development and acquisition. That could result in "unacceptably high casualties" for U.S. forces in a major regional conflict, while a more accelerated modernization plan, at the rate of \$12 billion to \$15 billion per year, would mean a corresponding decline in casualty numbers.

**Macedonia force boosted.** The deployment of approximately 200 soldiers from the Third Infantry Division to the Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia represents an additional U.S. contribution to support efforts to contain the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina. More than 500 U.S. soldiers serve in Task Force Able Sentry, with an observation and reporting mission, as part of the United Nations Protection Force.

**Ammo base decline concerns AUSA.** In a joint letter to Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, AUSA President Gen. Jack N. Merritt, USA (Ret.) and American Defense Preparedness Association (ADPA) President Lt. Gen. Lawrence F. Skibbie, USA (Ret.), expressed concern over the economic condition and the continued decline of the conventional ammunition industrial base.

The two association executives suggested that the current ammunition base policy will soon force many of the essential commercial producers out of business. This makes the services principally reliant on a war reserve stockpile with shortages in preferred combat rounds; it will also make it extremely difficult to reconstitute the base and replace combat expenditures.

The letter strongly recommended that DoD reexamine the ammunition industrial base policy.

**National Guard Bureau gets new chief.** Defense Secretary William Perry announced that the President has nominated Maj. Gen. Edward D. Baca for promotion to lieutenant general and assignment as Chief, National Guard Bureau.

The first Hispanic American to lead the National Guard and a former enlisted man, Baca has been the Adjutant General of the New Mexico National Guard since January 1983.

**Guardsmen/Reservists eligible for national cemeteries.** "This law is a fitting tribute to the thousands of men and women who have served their country as members of the Reserves and National Guard. I am delighted that these dedicated people finally will be eligible for burial in a national cemetery." So said Rep. Henry Bonilla (R-TX) as his bill was signed into law (P.L. 103-240) during special ceremonies in the Oval Office.

The law allows members of the National Guard and Reserve forces with at least 20 years of service creditable toward military retirement to qualify for burial in a national cemetery. Spouses and minor children of the members will also qualify.

**More generals move up.** Lt. Gen. John H. Tilelli, Jr., the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans since March 1993, has been nominated for appointment to general and assignment as Vice Chief of Staff. He will replace Gen. J. H. Binford Peay, who is moving to become Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command. Replacing Tilelli as Army DCSOPS is Maj. Gen. Paul E. Blackwell, who has commanded the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), at Fort Stewart, GA, since May 1992. Blackwell has been nominated by President Clinton for promotion to lieutenant general.

**"America's Army"** features Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan as its special guest for the ninth and final "America's Army" show in the 1993-94 season. Hosted by Dr. Don Snider, director of political and military studies for the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the show focuses on the changes and challenges facing the Army as the industrial age gives way to the information age.

"Changing for the 21st Century" also features Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk, commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, and organizational management consultant Mr. Dee Hock, founder and former chief executive officer of VISA USA and VISA International.

"America's Army: Changing for the 21st Century" will air in the Washington metropolitan area on Thursday, June 16, at 7:00 p.m. on WNVN-53. "America's Army" will return in September with the first in a new series of programs designed to follow the United States Army into the information age of the 21st century.

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. (Note: The entire series is being made available as a package to PBS affiliates who have been unable to use the programs on a monthly basis, so "America's Army" may soon appear in areas of the country where it has not been previously broadcast.)

Tapes of the program are also available through AUSA. For further information, call 1-800-336-4570, ext. 311.

**Fort Benning takes 1994 award for excellence.** Fort Benning, GA, was named the top winner in the Army's Chief of Staff Communities of Excellence awards program and is also the Army's recipient of the Defense Department's Commander-in-Chief award for excellence. Army Communities of Excellence awards are given yearly to Army installations for their efforts to provide support to soldiers, civilian workers, retirees and their families.

**Fort Campbell tops in environmental quality.** The 1993 Defense Environmental Quality Award was presented on Earth Day to Fort Campbell, KY, for the installation's work to protect human health and the environment. This base met the environmental requirements of two states, Kentucky and Tennessee, by initiating an environmental education program. Fort Campbell trained more than 100 environmental quality officers to work with field personnel and educate them on federal and state environmental laws.

**AUSA releases FY95 budget analysis,** which covers the Army's amended budget in the context of overall DoD funding. It identifies the issues, discusses the status of actions, identifies the shortfalls and provides an overall assessment.

The ILW Defense Report series, designed to provide information on topics that will stimulate professional discussion and further public understanding of the Army's role in national defense, is also available:

"At Risk: The World's Finest Fighting Force" (DR94-1).

"The Total Army: Now More Than Ever" (DR94-2).

"Challenge: Force XXI Battle Commander" (DR94-4).

"Modernization: A Commitment To Future Readiness" (DR94-5).

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