



# WASHINGTON UPDATE



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**SECDEF, CJCS: Shoot-down avoidable.** DoD has released the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) investigation report into the April 14, 1994, accidental shoot-down of two U.S. Army Black Hawk UH-60 helicopters by two Operation Provide Comfort U.S. Air Force F-15 aircraft. In releasing the report, both Defense Secretary William Perry and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. John Shalikashvili concluded that the accident, in which 26 members of the Combined Task Force lost their lives, was an avoidable tragedy.

In the opinion of the Accident Investigation Board (AIB), the shoot-down was caused by a chain of events which began with the breakdown of clear guidance from the Combined Task Force to its component organizations, resulting in the lack of a clear understanding among the components of their respective responsibilities. The AIB also found individual human error, procedural errors, errors in the performance of air units involved, and errors in the operation of the equipment they used.

Immediately after the shoot-down, steps were taken to tighten the rules of engagement for aircraft operating in air exclusion zones. Other corrective measures, including improved aircraft identification training, will be taken to ensure that this type of accident does not recur.

**Gen. Frederick M. Franks, Jr. to retire** after more than 35 years of service. Since August 1991, he has served as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, VA. Nominated to replace Franks at TRADOC is **Lt. Gen. William W. Hartzog**, who has also been nominated for appointment to the grade of general. Since August 1993, Hartzog has served as the Deputy Commander in Chief/Chief of Staff, United States Atlantic Command, Norfolk, VA. The change-of-command ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 31 at Fort Monroe.

**Farewell "milspec"?** The use of a system of 31,000 military standards and specifications, dubbed "milspec," may be on its way out of the military procurement system as the result of a directive signed by Defense Secretary William Perry.

"Acquisition reform has long been one of my top goals here at the Pentagon," said Perry. "Replacing ... military-unique specifications (so-called 'milspecs') with commercial and performance standards will accomplish these goals." The biggest savings are expected to come from purchases of technologically-advanced components used as parts in larger military weapons and related systems.

The move coincides with action by the House of Representatives which approved legislation designed to streamline the defense procurement system by raising the acquisition threshold to \$100,000; encouraging agencies to buy goods and services off the shelf; simplifying contracts between government and small businesses; and establishing pilot programs to experiment with other reforms.

**Defense funding for university research may be cut.** House and Senate conferees will have to decide whether to sustain a \$900 million cut in DoD funding for university research and development from the \$1.8 billion requested by the administration. The 50-percent slash was included in the House version of the FY95 defense spending bill.

Universities and colleges across the nation would be impacted by the action, particularly departments of physical and computer sciences and engineering schools. The University of Southern California, for example, would lose \$50 million in defense research funding for next year, while the Massachusetts Institute of Technology could lose as much as \$40 million in research grants. Supporters of the cut want the savings applied to military readiness.

**SASC action on RC call-up.** Recent action in the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) would extend the initial call-up period for the reserve components from 90 days to 180 days with a 180-day extension, but would require the express prior approval of Congress for any extension. The law as currently written provides for a 90-day call-up period with a 90-day extension, and allows the President to authorize any extension.

The SASC also rejected a proposal to give the Secretary of Defense the authority to mobilize as many as 25,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve, leaving this authority with the President.

AUSA has voiced support for the 180-day + 180-day presidential call-up authority and DoD authority to mobilize up to 25,000 Selected Reserve personnel.

**Status of '95 pay raise.** A 2.6 percent military pay raise is included in both the Senate and House versions of the 1995 defense authorization bill. The pay raise would apply to base pay, quarters and subsistence allowances and drill pay for reservists, and would take effect Jan. 1, 1995. Although the House defense appropriations subcommittee included funding for the pay raise in its version of the 1995 defense funding bill, there are still some legislative obstacles remaining before final passage of the authorization and appropriation bills.

**RAND says pay gap impacts readiness.** A RAND study cautions that the growing pay gap between military and civilian work forces, the result of the administration's plan to hold pay raises for military personnel below private sector increases, has the potential to impact readiness by negatively affecting recruiting and retention. According to the study, there was almost no gap in 1982, the current gap is 12.3 percent, and it could grow to more than 20 percent by 1999.

**U.S. increases defenses in Kuwait.** In a move intended to enable U.S. armed forces to respond to any emergency situation throughout the Gulf region, M1A1 tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, M109 howitzers and a dozen personnel carriers arrived in Kuwait earlier this month for prepositioning at Camp Doha, 18 miles from Kuwait City. The additional hardware brings the equipment prepositioned in Kuwait to an arsenal sufficient to sustain a full armored brigade.

**Defense Finance Center consolidation.** DoD has announced the consolidation of nearly 300 finance and accounting offices into 25 locations. Five existing major centers (Indianapolis, IN; Denver, CO; Columbus and Cleveland, OH; and Kansas City, MO) will be kept, and 20 new satellite offices, each employing about 750 workers, will be created.

The selected sites for the new offices are: Fort Ord, Norton AFB, Oakland Naval Supply Center and San Diego, CA; Orlando Naval Training Center and Pensacola, FL; Rock Island Arsenal and Chanute AFB, IL; Blue Grass Army Depot, KY; Loring AFB, ME; St. Louis, MO; Offutt AFB, NE; Griffiss AFB, NY; Gentile AFB and Newark AFB, OH; Fort Sill, OK; Charleston Naval Ship Yard, SC; Memphis Naval Air Station, TN; San Antonio, TX; and Norfolk, VA.

**School of Americas stays; med school uncertain.** By a House vote of 217 to 175, the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, GA, survived an effort to end Pentagon funding for the school which teaches the role of military professionals in democratic societies to sergeants, lieutenants, captains and majors during technical courses and a command and staff course.

In the meantime, the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences received a reprieve of sorts from the Senate, which included in its version of the defense appropriation bill a requirement that the General Accounting Office conduct a study of the military's medical school, reporting its findings to Congress by June 1995.

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**Military processing stations to aid NCCC** in the selection and placement of young men and women, ages 17-24, into community service projects. The National Civilian Community Corps is a special program of President Clinton's Americorps national service initiative. Four military bases — Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; Charleston Naval Complex, SC; San Diego Naval Training Center, CA; and Lowry AFB, CO — will also be used to house and train a total of 1,000 participants.

The young people will receive living expenses and, following a year of service in such areas as education, environment, health and human needs, and public safety, either a cash benefit or an education award of \$4,725 for higher education or repayment of student loans.

**Troops to Teachers.** Dr. John L. Stremple has been selected to administer DoD's Troops to Teachers model program. The program will help finance teacher certification training for separated service members, terminated DoD and Department of Energy civilians, and certain displaced defense contractor employees. Once certified, these individuals will be placed as teachers and teachers' aides in schools that serve children from low-income families and are experiencing teacher shortages.

In the meantime, DoD signed its first agreement in the Troops to Teachers program with the El Paso (TX) Independent School District. Retiring SGM Lazaro Ramirez has been hired as an elementary school bilingual teacher starting with the 1994-95 school year.

**Base closing challenge rejected.** In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court has ruled that closing military bases is to be left to the discretion of the President and is not subject to challenge in federal court. *Dalton v. Specter* challenged the 1990 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act which requires base closing announcements in 1991, 1993 and 1995.

Justice David H. Souter wrote, "Congress was intimately familiar with repeated, unsuccessful, efforts to close military bases in a rational and timely manner. That history of frustration is reflected in the act's text and intricate structure, which plainly expresses congressional intent that action on a base-closing package be quick and final, or no action be taken at all."

**Training for operations other than war.** U.S. soldiers in Europe are receiving top-notch training in military operations other than war at the Army's Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany. Combining theory and practice, soldiers establish checkpoints, practice convoy escorts, guard against infiltrators and negotiate with local authorities in three-week rotations to the mythical country of Danubia, a 44,000-acre tract in northern Bavaria.

In similar exercises, the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, augmented by Canadian ground forces, participated in a peacekeeping rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA. The exercise included force-on-force training in a proinsurgent village scenario, following an airborne insertion by elements of the 101st Airborne, and convoy operations involving role-playing civilians acting as host nation government officials and noncombatant civilians on the battlefield.

Meanwhile, in the fourth peacekeeping-related exchange with Brazil this year, a delegation of Brazilian Army officers visited the 10th Mountain Division during its preparations for peacekeeping operations in Somalia. The Brazilian officers, from the 26th Infantry (Airborne) Battalion, are preparing for peacekeeping duties in Africa. The visit focused on preparations for peacekeeping operations, training, deployment and logistics duties.

**Readiness training in the Ozarks.** The 135th Surgical Hospital and other Air National Guard and Army Reserve units set up medical clinics in rural areas throughout Missouri, providing basic medical and dental care during 3,570 clinic visits throughout a nine-day deployment in June. This and similar efforts, such as drilling wells in Ohio and building a pier and bridge in Puerto Rico, are hailed by defense officials as a way to enhance readiness by providing training during peacetime.

**Site picked for Army research institute.** Secretary of the Army Togo West has selected Forest Glen, MD, as the site to build a new medical research facility to replace the current main facility of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. The design for the new facility has been validated, preparations to award a contract for site preparation have begun, and obligation of appropriated funds should begin by the end of this fiscal year.

**USAREUR armored vehicles in Rwanda.** DoD has leased 50 armored vehicles from U.S. Army war reserve stocks in Germany and the Netherlands to the United Nations for use by troops of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda. The vehicles, mostly personnel carriers and recovery vehicles, were repainted white with UN markings, and are to be used by Ghanaian troops to reinforce elements of the Ghanaian mechanized infantry battalion currently in Rwanda.

**Armored Gun System test models delivered.** Six XM8 Armored Gun Systems have been delivered to the Army for extensive testing. The Army decision on proceeding with a full-scale production of 237 systems (total fielding price tag estimated at \$1.25 billion) is expected in March 1997. Designed to replace the Sheridan light tank and for use primarily by airborne and airmobile units, the 18-ton AGS can be transported by C-130, C-141, C-5 or C-17 aircraft.

**Javelin antitank missile contract awarded** to Martin Marietta Corp. and Texas Instruments Inc. Javelin, the Army's new man-portable antitank system for ground forces, uses fire-and-forget technology and can be used at night and under adverse weather conditions. The \$190.5 million low rate initial production contract calls for the joint venture to produce 723 tactical rounds, 55 command launch units and associated hardware for the weapon system. The expected completion date is Sep. 30, 1996, with the work to be performed in Lewisville, TX and Orlando, FL.

**Vanocur to host "America's Army."** Veteran political journalist Sander Vanocur, former senior correspondent and chief diplomatic correspondent for ABC News, will serve as host and moderator when AUSA's "America's Army" television series returns in September for the 1994-95 season.

Before signing with ABC in 1977, Vanocur was White House correspondent and later national political correspondent for NBC, as well as senior correspondent for the PBS National Public Affairs Center. He was also the television editor and critic for *The Washington Post* from 1975 to 1977. Vanocur succeeds Peter Hackes, who served as host of "America's Army" until his death in April.

**Powell to receive 1994 Marshall Medal.** Gen. Colin L. Powell, U.S. Army retired, will be the 1994 recipient of the George Catlett Marshall Medal, AUSA's highest honor. The medal is presented annually for selfless service to the nation. Powell will accept the award Oct. 19 in Washington, D.C., at the George Catlett Marshall Memorial Dinner, which will close the Association's 40th Annual Meeting.

Gen. Powell retired from the Army Sep. 30, 1993, having served two terms as the 12th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton.

### **ILW Publications:**

"Profile of the Army: A Reference Handbook" (1994) provides basic information about the U.S. Army, to include organization, functions, missions, budget and weapon systems.

"Army Budget Fiscal Year 1995: An Analysis" (May 1994) identifies the issues, discusses the status of actions, identifies the shortfalls and provides an overall assessment of the Army's amended budget in the context of overall DoD funding.

"High Noon" (Landpower Essay 94-5) by Norman R. Augustine, addresses America's propensity to quickly disarm at the conclusion of a war and, having failed to maintain an adequate military posture, mobilize its military might again when its vital interests are directly threatened — often at greater loss of lives.

"Vigilance: Critical at All Levels" (Defense Report 94-6) addresses the potentially disastrous effects of imprecise interpretations of legislation, the case in point being a provision in the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993 which could have taxed military service members' relocation allowances.

"Alert: Strike Against Commissary Benefits Possible" (Defense Report 94-7) examines the effort to increase the commissary surcharge and its effect on servicemen and women and their families.

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.