



# WASHINGTON UPDATE



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**National security strategy statement** signed by President Clinton. Titled "A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement, July 1994," this paper outlines the administration's goals and guidelines under three broad headings: security, economics and democracy. It is, therefore, considerably broader than national defense.

Such a statement has been long awaited, but it adds nothing new with respect to national military strategy. Rather, it confirms the DoD Bottom-Up Review along with the adjusted five-year budget as basic defense guidelines. It endorses the need for capability to handle two nearly simultaneous regional conflicts as the basis for planning, and stresses the need to draw the line against further cuts that would undermine the force structure or erode U.S. military readiness.

**Budget still pending.** The DoD FY95 budget is still in process in Congress, and final action is not expected until the end of September. All indications are that the total dollar figures will be only slightly less than requested in the President's budget request, with issues confined to specific changes in line items or directive language.

The current status (as of August 10) for both authorization and appropriations action:

- **Authorization bill.** Both chambers have passed their versions of the authorization bill and have completed joint conference. It still has to go to both houses for final vote.
- **Appropriations bill.** Both the House and Senate have acted on the defense appropriations bill. It now goes to House/Senate conference (sometime after the August break), with final vote expected in late September, hopefully before the start of the new fiscal year.

**Readiness Task Force submits report.** The findings and recommendations of the Defense Science Board Task Force on Readiness, chaired by Gen. Edward C. Meyer, former Army Chief of Staff, were released by OSD on July 22. Based on preliminary releases, there were no surprises in the final report. It found that the readiness of forces today was generally acceptable for missions as currently defined. It did, however, note pockets of unreadiness and raised red flags for the future.

The report strongly emphasized the need to keep readiness as a top priority concern and the need to guard against the negative pressures (force reductions, frequent mission deployments, budget cuts, turbulence, etc.) which could push forces into a "hollow state."

Special note was made of the need to address joint readiness, since joint task forces are the way forces will actually operate and fight. This emphasizes the need to both define and measure joint readiness indicators. The report contains a number of specific observations/concerns with recommendations under various functional areas.

The Readiness Task Force will continue to meet quarterly or on call of the Secretary of Defense to review readiness issues.

**Perry confident about force structure.** Responding to concerns that the military force structure required by the Bottom-Up Review is too small to fight two nearly simultaneous wars, Secretary of Defense William Perry has expressed confidence in U.S. ability to meet any such contingency over time. He told *Army Times* that, although it may take some years to make the force enhancements necessary to meet such a requirement, there are no two countries now capable of mounting major conflicts, nor will there be for several years. While the situation in North Korea continues to be of concern, there appears to be no immediate threat of a conflict in the Middle East, Perry said.

### **DoD-Justice interagency alliance formalized.**

A five-year Memorandum of Understanding, expected to make more efficient the process of transferring Defense-developed technologies to the Justice Department, has been signed by Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch and Attorney General Janet Reno. The agreement sets up a Joint Program Steering Group to oversee joint development of technologies and form close ties with such users as the Special Operations Command, police departments and FBI agencies, to insure a clear understanding of user needs.

The special tactics, training and equipment needed as DoD becomes more involved in "operations other than war" are, in many cases, similar to those required to counter the intensified threat faced by law enforcement agencies due to escalating violence. Developing a joint technology base for common hardware requirements during a time of a shrinking federal budget is expected to help leverage limited development funds in both departments.

Several candidate programs are currently being considered by the steering group: the Personal Status Monitor (to passively monitor vital signs and provide the location of wounded law enforcement officers and soldiers), an uncooled night vision sensor, improved body armor, various simulation technologies and the Army's 21st Century Land Warrior program for enhanced capabilities for dismounted soldiers.

**COLA victory could be hollow.** After many months of fighting to get Congress to move their 1995 cost-of-living-adjustment from October to April, as is the case for civilian and congressional retirees, military retirees are getting closer to achieving their goal. Both House and Senate versions of the '95 authorization bill include the change to April 1, but the problem now rests with the Appropriations committees. The Senate Appropriations Committee okayed the funds for the earlier raise, but it still must pass the full Senate. The House appropriations bill does not fund the earlier raise, meaning that the matter must be ironed out in conference. Then too, there's still the matter of future COLA equity for the military. The 1993 law delayed military retiree COLAs a total of 39 months over the next five years compared to a delay of nine months over three years for federal civilian and congressional retirees. The adjustment in the '95 authorization bill covers only 1995.

**Media catching on to military pay gap.** News media around the country are beginning to address the gap between military and civilian salaries or its effect on the lives of young servicemen and women.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reported that "nearly half of the enlisted men and women in the Army and Marines earn less than \$20,000 a year, including housing and other allowances. Many qualify for food stamps and are reluctantly using them at base commissaries as the gap between civilian and military wages continues to widen." The *Monitor* comments on the administration's effort to freeze military salaries for FY 1994 with a 1.6 percent increase next year: "If we want to continue to enjoy the luxury of a volunteer army and ask young men and women to lay their lives on the line for us, we can't continue to offer them poverty wages."

A *Seattle Times* commentary states: "Poverty in the lower ranks of the armed services is not exactly new. The pay and benefits have never matched a job description that involves dying for one's country. What is new is the depth of financial despair among young men and women with young families."

According to the *New York Times*, "Top military officials voice concern that Pentagon budget cuts to quality-of-life issues like pay could impair both morale and retention of service personnel."

A recent study by the RAND National Defense Research Institute shows that the civilian-military pay gap had grown to 11.7 percent by FY 1992 from an FY 1982 base line. The Pentagon calculates that the gap is now at 12.3 percent and projects that it could grow to more than 20 percent if full cost-of-living increases are not provided.

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**The Total Army fights floods.** In Alabama, Georgia and Florida, Army National Guard troops provided evacuation support, water purification, water hauling and distribution, transportation of relief supplies and traffic control when floods raged through the South earlier this summer. The 559th Quartermaster Battalion from the 24th Infantry Division Corps Support Group provided water distribution assistance in Macon, GA. Both Fort Benning, GA, and Fort Rucker, AL, provided helicopter support for rescue and transportation missions locally. In Alabama, 1,543 Army National Guard troops supported flood recovery efforts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided technical assistance, monitoring levee systems in all three states and arranging for contract service to deliver potable water, ice and temporary latrines throughout the flooded area.

**Iris Gold 94-4 exercise begins in Kuwait.** Approximately 40 personnel from the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne, Fort Campbell, KY, are participating in a combined United States and Kuwaiti special operations force exercise, Iris Gold 94-4, scheduled to run through September 26. The exercise will demonstrate the continuing commitment of the United States to the security and stability of the Persian Gulf region, and will provide an opportunity for U.S. and Kuwaiti forces to share military expertise and improve the ability of the forces to operate together. Training will focus on small unit tactics and combined training. This is the eighth such exercise involving U.S. and Kuwaiti forces and is being conducted within the framework of the 1991 Defense Cooperation Agreement between the United States and Kuwait.

**Berlin Brigade cases colors.** "You were not on the sidelines of the Cold War, you were center stage," U.S. Army Berlin commander Maj. Gen. Walter Yates commented as the Berlin Brigade prepared to case its colors in a July 12 ceremony marking the end of a 49-year U.S. presence. Since the end of World War II, the Berlin Brigade has been responsible for assisting hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled into West Berlin before the Berlin Wall was erected, for manning border checkpoints and supervising prisoner exchanges, and for helping to manage the mass emigration as the wall came down in 1989. More than 100,000 American military members have served in Berlin since U.S. Army forces first entered the city on July 4, 1945.

**Operation Support Hope underway.** A joint task force, led by the Army, has been dispatched to Zaire to coordinate relief efforts in neighboring Rwanda. DoD has been tasked to expand air support flying supplies and personnel into the stricken region, and to build a distribution system on the ground to get the aid to the many thousands of refugees. About 3,000 U.S. military personnel are expected to participate in the operation.

Some of the Army units in-country or scheduled to deploy for the Rwandan relief mission: elements from Hq, U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany; 21st Theater Army Area Command, Rhein Ord Barracks, Germany; 3rd Special Forces Group, Stuttgart, Germany; 94th Engineer Battalion, Vilseck, Germany; 3rd Infantry Division, Surzburg, Germany; 101st Support Group, Fort Campbell, KY. The 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Regiment, based in Vicenza, Italy, will provide security for headquarters and military assessment teams.

**Fort Ord goes civilian.** Since 1917, nearly a million soldiers have trained for war at Fort Ord, CA. Selected for closure in 1991, the 44-square-mile facility is now being converted to community development. The first of many land transfers that will convey portions of the military post to multiple recipients took place last month during ceremonies in which 1,900 acres were transferred to California State University and the University of California-Santa Cruz. Other public and private uses planned for the site include a new state park and small industrial sites; 80 percent of the land will be managed by the Interior Department as open space.

**6th Division inactivates.** The 6th Infantry Division (Light), which fought in World Wars I and II, was inactivated during ceremonies on July 6 at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

The United States Army, Alaska, will replace the 6th Division, and will include a fully combat-ready light infantry brigade, the 1st Brigade, 6th Infantry Division (Light). The brigade will have two light infantry battalions and an airborne infantry battalion, plus artillery, reconnaissance, aviation engineering and air defense support. The bulk of its forces are stationed at Fort Wainwright, with an airborne task force at Fort Richardson.

**Gen. David M. Maddox**, Commander in Chief, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, will retire after more than 34 years of service.

Nominated to succeed Gen. Maddox and for appointment to the grade of general is **Lt. Gen. William W. Crouch**, who has served as Commanding General, Eighth United States Army/Chief of Staff, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea since July 1992.

**Maj. Gen. Richard F. Timmons**, Commanding General, 7th Infantry Division (Light), Fort Lewis, WA, has been nominated for lieutenant general and to succeed Gen. Crouch.

**About 32,000 jobs added for Army women.** Army Secretary Togo R. West, Jr. and Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan reached an agreement that permits women soldiers to serve in more than two-thirds of all Army jobs. The agreement, announced July 29, opens to women positions in air cavalry troops, headquarters units for combat engineers, division air defense artillery battalions, special operations forces and certain air defense headquarters units. Also newly open to women are separate brigade headquarters, division military police companies, engineer bridge companies and forward support teams of forward support battalions. Women remain excluded from combat arms assignments to infantry, armor, artillery, Special Forces and Ranger units.

**House at odds with DoD on depots.** A Pentagon plan to end competition between industry and military depots by shifting to industry more of the \$15 billion spent annually on military maintenance has encountered double trouble in the House of Representatives.

Language accompanying the House appropriations bill expresses concern that the plan could undermine national security and requires DoD to conduct further studies and submit a report by January 15. The House authorization bill actually strengthens the current law, which requires at least 60 percent of the work to be done in the military's 24 depots and shipyards. Observers hold out little hope that the Senate will support the DoD plan.

**Persian Gulf veterans hotline open.** Since opening on June 23, the Pentagon's Persian Gulf veterans hotline has logged more than 1,000 calls from men and women who have suffered from unexplained illnesses and symptoms since returning from service during Operation Desert Storm. The purpose of the hotline is to make sure the veterans and their families are entered into a central registry and to help them obtain prompt medical assistance.

To access the hotline: In the continental United States, call (800) 796-9699; in Europe, call Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center, Germany; in the Pacific Region, call Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii; in South and Central America, call Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center, San Antonio, TX.

**"America's Army,"** AUSA's television series, returns in September with host Sander Vanocur for a look at the Army's National Training Center, located at Fort Irwin in California's Mojave Desert.

"The National Training Center" will air in the Washington metropolitan area on Thursday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. on WNVT-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 315.

### **ILW Publications:**

"America's Military Poor" (Defense Report 94-8) examines the difference between military and civilian salaries and its effect on readiness.

"The Account of Convenience for the Federal Government" (Defense Report 94-9) discusses how an increasing number of nondefense projects are being funded from DoD's dwindling budget.

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.