



# WASHINGTON UPDATE



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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**President says he will sign Defense Authorization bill.** Gone from the revised Defense Authorization bill was language calling for deployment of a national missile defense system in six years, restrictions on the President's discretion to deploy forces for U.N. missions and requirements on filing for supplemental appropriations for overseas deployments.

President Clinton has said he will sign the bill.

This clears the way for the 2.4 percent basic pay raise for servicemembers, as well as raises in drill pay, subsistence allowances and 5.2 percent increase in Basic Allowance for Quarters.

It also clears the way for new program starts in modernization. The personnel matters were not at issue in President Clinton's veto.

Savings from a lower than expected inflation rate and intelligence programs will be used to cover the \$1.5 to \$2 billion in expenses of the U.S. deployment to Bosnia.

**Delivery of details on FY 1997 budget is uncertain.** The continuing impasse over the Fiscal Year 1996 budget has thrown into question the delivery date of the President's full spending plan for the next fiscal year.

Usually, the full Federal Budget and accompanying documents are available in early February, shortly after the President's State of the Union Address to Congress. Normally, most of the final hard decisions concerning programs and spending levels affecting the Army and the rest of the Federal Government would have been completed in the holiday season.

What is sent to Congress this year in early February likely will be top line numbers for the departments. Details on Defense spending plans likely will be available in March with the justification books following several weeks later.

**Comanche prototype makes first flight.** The Army's Comanche helicopter prototype flew for the first time Jan. 4 at the Sikorsky Development Flight Test Center in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The test lasted more than an hour and maneuver included hover, left and right hover turns and forward flight.

The first test flight had originally been set for Nov. 30.

The armed reconnaissance helicopter's prime contractor is Boeing Sikorsky.

The Comanche is to play a key role in the 21st century land battle by being able to gather and transmit real-time intelligence and also have the capability of attacking targets.

**Army has about half its complement to IFOR on ground in Bosnia.** By Jan. 19, the Army reported that it had about 10,000 soldiers in Bosnia. Almost 7,000 of those were coming from the 1st Armored Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. The 1st Armored Division was reporting arrival of between 550 to 600 soldiers per day once the Sava River was bridged.

The 10,000 was the target for Jan. 19. Jan. 19 was the date specified in the Dayton Peace Accords in which the three warring factions were to pull back from their front lines and create 2.5-mile-wide buffer zones.

Adm. Leighton Smith, regional commander of the NATO operation, reported Jan. 22 that the factions had, for the most part, complied with this part of the agreement. However, he expressed his concern that the nationwide release of prisoners fell far short of its goal. He added that it was extremely difficult to determine if fighters, especially from Islamic states outside Bosnia-Herzegovina, had now merged in with true residents.

**U.S. Army is world's eighth largest.** The People's Republic of China's army of about 2.2 million active-duty soldiers remains the world's largest, and the American Army at about 508,000 in October was the eighth largest.

The figures come from the IISS Military Balance 1995/1996 report and reflect the U.S. Army's continuing need to maintain the technological lead on the battlefield to overcome its lack of size.

Here is the list, exclusive of the United States, with the approximate strength:

China: 2.2 million; India: 1.1 million; North Korea: 1.1 million; Russia: 780,000; South Korea: 680,000; Pakistan: 560,000; Vietnam: 600,000; U.S.: 508,000; Turkey: 400,000; Iraq: 400,000; Iran: 400,000.

**Body armor suits OK'd for Bosnia.** An order for 180 body armor suits for soldiers deployed to Bosnia has been approved and is expected to be filled by mid January.

The Body Armor Sets, Individual Countermine (BASIC) is designed to reduce the lethality and minimize injury of mine blasts against soldiers.

The set includes ballistic eye protection (including an option for a full face shield), anti-fragmentation trousers and protective overboots.

Additionally, 350 sets of Ranger body armor, a kind of ballistic protective vest, have been ordered.

Finally, the U.S. Army in Europe has asked for 17 bolt-on armor protection kits for D-7 Caterpillar bulldozers. Breaching tools — plows or rollers on chains — used in Operation Desert Storm likely will not be used because it is not expected armored vehicles will be under fire in Bosnia.

**Ralston nominated to be next JCS Vice Chief.** Air Force Gen. Joseph Ralston has been nominated to succeed Adm. William Owens as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Ralston is Commander, Air Combat Command.

**Appeals courts will rule soon on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."** Federal Appeals Courts in New York City and Richmond, Va., will rule soon on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy concerning homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

These two appeals are part of at least a dozen challenges to the policy established in 1993.

The U.S. Supreme Court could hear arguments on the policy that allows homosexuals to serve as long as they don't reveal their sexual orientation in the fall and decide the matter in early 1997.

**Purple Hearts presented to personnel in Saudi Arabia.** Thirty-four Army civilians and 17 military members of the U.S. Army Program Manager, Saudi Arabian National Guard, who were victims of a terrorist bombing attack in Riyadh were presented Purple Hearts in a December ceremony in Saudi Arabia.

Additionally, three civilians and one military member who were evacuated to Walter Reed Army Medical Center were presented Purple Hearts.

Posthumous Purple Hearts were presented to the families of three civilians and two military members who died in the Nov. 13 explosion.

Some veterans' benefits are also available to civilians who serve in hazardous duty areas. This came about when federal law was changed to allow veterans' status to members of the Merchant Marine who served during World War II.

**71 ethnic rivalries, civil wars and border clashes counted.** The National Defense Council Foundation listed 71 little wars in 1995, one more than the year before.

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**Shelton confirmed for fourth star and command of Special Operations Command.** The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Gen. Henry H. Shelton for appointment to the grade of General and assignment as Commander In Chief, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Since June 1 1993, he has served as Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg, N.C. During that time, he commanded the forces used in Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti.

**Russian Foreign Minister declares Russia a great power.** Yevgeny Primakov, newly appointed Russian Foreign Minister, said his nation remains a great power and will adopt a more assertive stance in world affairs.

Primakov, the former head of Russia's foreign intelligence service, said. "I consider it my main task to step up the Foreign Ministry's work in defending Russia's national interests, but I don't think that will contradict the development of ties with the United States."

In his Jan. 11 news conference, he also warned against the further expansion of NATO into former Warsaw Pact nations.

**Army report on racist groups is due March 1.** Following an incident in Fayetteville, N.C., an Army inquiry is proceeding under the direction of Maj. Gen. Larry R. Jordan, to determine "the extent to which soldiers participate in racist and other extremist organizations."

The five-member board was appointed by Army Secretary Togo D. West Jr. in December and is to complete its report by March 1.

**BRAC closes itself.** The third and last Base Realignment and Closure Commission under current law shut itself down as 1996 began. Chairman Alan J. Dixon said the commission closed on time and within budget. Sen Sam Nunn, D-Ga. and one of the authors of the bill establishing the commission, praised the work of all three panels. He said, "We saved the taxpayers over \$5 billion a year for the next four years." He added although it was not perfect it worked "amazingly well" because it made both houses of Congress and the President either accept or reject the commissions recommendations in toto.

**Defense Department borrows idea from Fort Campbell on "risk management" in emphasizing safety.** The Defense Department and the Army is using a trend-spotting model developed at Fort Campbell, Ky., to monitor traffic violations, alcohol-related offenses and child abuse and single out the highest-risk areas for special help.

Fort Campbell officials said that in the pilot program's first year they were able to reduce alcohol-related offenses on post by 35 percent and injuries and accidents by 79 percent.

In 1995, about 1,000 servicemembers died either in accidents, from illness, homicide or suicide. Although the number of deaths has declined some 40 percent since 1991, the 60,000 recruits entering the Army alone each year requires a continuing teaching of values.

The new program aims to teach commanders and senior noncommissioned officers how to spot potential problems soldiers are experiencing, including the end of a romantic relationship or financial problems.

### **AUSA Web Site is up and running.**

AUSA's Web site can be reached on the Internet at <http://www.ausa.org>.

### **AUSA is online for E-Mail, and we want to hear from you.**

Although we are using America Online, you can reach us through other online services, such as CompuServe and Prodigy, or through the Internet.

Current mail address are:

[AUSAHQ@AOL.com](mailto:AUSAHQ@AOL.com) for the main office;

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[AUSALEG@AOL.com](mailto:AUSALEG@AOL.com) for legislative affairs;

[AUSAARMAG@AOL.com](mailto:AUSAARMAG@AOL.com) for Army Magazine.

## Institute of Land Warfare Publications

(To order the ILW publications listed below or receive an index of all ILW publications issued during the calendar year, call 1-(800) 336-4570, Ext. 308, or write to the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare, 2425 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201. Please provide your AUSA member number, and order each publication by the alphanumeric where indicated.)

### LAND WARFARE PAPERS

**LWP 20 — *SETTING THE TERMS OF FUTURE BATTLE FOR FORCE XXI***, by Lt. Col. Douglas A. Macgregor, explores the training implications for the Army as it copes with technological change in the context of FORCE XXI.

**LWP 21 — *THE KOREAN MILITARY THREAT IN PERSPECTIVE***, by Maj. Gen. Edward B. Atkeson, USA, Ret., examines the military threat scenarios which exist on the peninsula, concluding with observations on defense measures.

**LWP 22 — *SCUD ALERT!: THE HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT AND MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF BALLISTIC MISSILES ON TACTICAL OPERATIONS***, by Maj. Bryon E. Greenwald, explains why Army planners should pay more attention to the impact of ballistic missiles on tactical level warfare.

### LANDPOWER ESSAYS

**LPE 95-4 — *THE EMERGING IMPORTANCE OF CIVILIAN AND CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES TO ARMY OPERATIONS*** by Raymond J. Sumser and Lt. Col. Charles W. Hemingway, USA, Ret., addresses the many questions regarding the increasing reliance on civilians in military operations.

**LPE 95-5 — *ACCEPTING THE UNPALATABLE: LAW AND ORDER IN OPERATIONS OTHER THAN WAR***, by William Rosenau, states it is time for DoD to accept responsibility for law enforcement in operations other than war.

**NEW — LPE 96-1 — *THE ARMY'S ROLE IN BOSNIA: THE RIGHT STEP AT THE RIGHT TIME***, by Maj. Gen. Edward B. Atkeson, USA Ret., discusses the conditions and missions of NATO and U.S. Army forces' involvement in Bosnia.

### BACKGROUND BRIEFS

**BB 68 — *RUSSIA: A PROFILE*** is an overview of the politics, economy and military aspects of contemporary Russia and some of the issues.

**BB 69 — *THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY: GOALS, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES*** provides fundamental information regarding the nature and makeup of the association.

### DEFENSE REPORTS

**DR 95-5 — *GUARDING KOREA'S FRONTIER*** reminds the reader that the risk of war on the Korean peninsula cannot be ruled out.

**DR 95-6 — *RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION ON ROLES AND MISSIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES: THE ERA OF JOINTNESS*** focuses on the commission's reaffirmation of the importance of jointness among the services.

**NEW — DR 96-1 — *A MATTER OF RESOURCES: ARMY MODERNIZATION*** points out that the Army's modernization program is currently at the irreducible minimum and badly in need of more resources.

### SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

***THE U.S. ARMY, WORLD WAR II, ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATER, 1941-1945*** is a 24"x30" chart reflecting the role of Army air and ground units. AUSA members can order one complimentary copy; additional copies can be ordered at \$3 each for AUSA members and \$5 each for nonmembers. (Virginia residents add 4.5 percent sales tax.) Checks, made out to AUSA, can be sent to the above address, Attn: WWIIPAC.

**NEW — *THE PROMISE...THE REALITY: STATE OF THE MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM***, January 1996, takes a look at the present military health care system and where it is headed.

***CAMPAIGN STREAMERS OF THE U.S. ARMY*** by John Wilson, U.S. Army Center for Military History, is issued on the occasion of the Army's 220th birthday to commemorate the heritage represented in the battle streamers attached to the Army flag.