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Panels boost defense spending. The Senate Armed Services Committee and the House National Security Committee approved defense authorization bills that would raise defense spending by \$12.9 billion — most of the funds going into modernization programs.

This would bring the defense budget, including the national security portion of the Department of Energy's request, to \$267.3 billion in budget authority. That figure is about the same as last year's.

The House panel recommended a \$7.5 billion increase in procurement, and the Senate \$7.7 billion. The administration requested \$38.9 billion.

Each service was asked to submit a list of spending priorities to the committees if extra money could be found to pay for them.

The House committee included in the authorization bill provisions to bar the sale of "licentious" magazines, to bar the recruitment of homosexuals, to discharge servicemembers who are HIV positive and to continue the bar against abortions in overseas military hospitals.

Last year, congressional negotiators eliminated some of these provisions in conference. President Clinton vetoed the first version of the authorization bill sent to him, in part because of the social provisions, and the deployment of a national missile defense system by 2003.

For Fiscal Year 1997, the Senate and House committees added \$800 million to the administration's request of \$2.9 billion for both theater and national missile defense, possibly setting the stage for another confrontation with the administration over the bill.

Both panels included the 3 percent pay raise.

The House committee again set a 495,000 end strength floor for the Army.

More Army personnel cuts could affect national security. The Army's top uniformed and civilian leaders told the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee that drawing down the Army an additional 20,000 soldiers from the active force is a risk to national security.

Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, Army Chief of Staff, testified in late April: "I doubt there is anyone suggesting that the Army should go below 10 divisions.

"The issue is end strength and if the 495,000 figure is the right end strength given our modernization problem."

The Secretary of the Army, Togo D. West Jr., and the Chief stressed that the continuing efforts to reorganize and streamline the Army will effect necessary savings that can be applied to modernization.

Department of Defense budget officials estimate the Army would save between \$700 million and \$1 billion if active duty end strength were cut to 475,000 soldiers.

Two House chairmen eye additional \$13 billion for defense. The Chairmen of the House National Security Committee and the National Security Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee released a report in April that defended their actions last year in adding \$7 billion to the Department of Defense budget and this year asking for \$13 billion more than the Clinton administration requested.

Reps. Floyd Spence, R-S.C., and Rep. C.W. Young, R-Fla., said the money would be spent on pressing modernization issues and quality-of-life programs for members of the armed services and their families.

"We are unwilling to defer to future administrations, even generations, paying the bill for properly equipping the nation's military forces," Spence and Young wrote.

Army Vice Chief of Staff explains Bosnia's effect on strategy. Gen. Ronald Griffith, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, told the House Appropriations National Security subcommittee that the 1st Armored Division would need 90 to 100 days of training before it would be able to deploy on a combat mission.

Griffith told the House subcommittee in late April that "if there were two operations, we might have to withdraw (from Bosnia) or turn to the reserves."

The Army is sending units from Bosnia to ranges in Hungary for combat training similar to what they would receive at Grafenwohr Training Area, Germany.

Military makes progress in Bosnia. Lt. Gen. Wesley Clark, Director for Strategic Plans and Policy on the Joint Staff, told business leaders recently substantial progress has been made, particularly on the military part, of implementing the Dayton Peace Accords. "We always knew there was no NATO to implement the civilian part of the Dayton Accords" among the Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

"Substantial progress has been made. The fighting has stopped. The military side has gone better than we hoped. The civilian is lower. We have 1,100 civilian police on the ground, several billion dollars have been pledged to rebuild Bosnia and there's been a reduction in the number of checkpoints and reports of harassment of civilians," he said at a May gathering in suburban Washington.

Perry outlines exit strategy from Bosnia. Defense Secretary William J. Perry said in a late April interview that he expected U.S. forces to begin leaving Bosnia around Dec. 20 and the withdrawal would take 30 to 45 days.

He emphasized that goals in Bosnia were not to unify the country split into warring factions of Serbs, Croats and Muslims, but to deter war.

What the nature of the U.S. commitment would be after that date, he left open.

Joint Vision 2010 emphasizes quality people to win in future. The Joint Chiefs' vision on how the nation will fight its wars in the future emphasizes the need for quality people to best use the new technologies, especially information superiority, a senior director on the joint staff said May 2.

Lt. Gen. Wesley J. Clark, Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, said the newly published pamphlet, Joint Vision 2010, "Looked at how we might fight in the future and then take that back to today." While admitting that the future was unpredictable, he said, "the foundation is good people, first-rate equipment, trained and ready forces and leader development."

In response to a question and acknowledging budget constraints, he said, "We did not address force structure in this document, and we know that there are going to be tradeoffs in this process. We know the cost of the technology is going to be a factor."

The pamphlet recognizes "trends in greater weapons precision capabilities, invisibility and detection capabilities (in information transmission and gathering), systems integration, a broad range of effects from the combined use of these systems and the potential to achieve dominant battlespace awareness," Clark said speaking at a breakfast forum of 200 defense industry leaders.

Exploiting technologies — particularly information superiority, which he likened to air superiority—"we ought to replace mass (concentration of force and firepower) with increased lethality" gained through more powerful weapons brought to bear on an enemy's most vulnerable points.

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Experimental Force receives equipment, nears testing. The 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, the Experimental Force, is receiving the new digitized equipment it will need to begin testing concepts and doctrine for Force XXI, the Army of the 21st century.

Training and Doctrine Command officials said the key element in this Experimental Force is to organize in a way that realistically tests unit structure, equipment and soldiers in an array of new conflicts. Gen. William Hartzog, TRADOC Commander, said, "We have chosen for the Experimental Force to only use real systems, things that can be demonstrated. In the past we have used surrogates, such as golf carts to represent tanks. Today with the linking of the virtual and constructive realities, we never have to go back to the surrogates."

By June 1, 931 vehicles—42 different types—will be outfitted with more than 4,800 pieces of digitized equipment.

In early 1997, the ExFor will test its digitized equipment and new concepts and doctrine at an Advanced Warfighting Experiment at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

Army would oppose designated peacekeeping division. The Deputy Chief of Operations for the Army said recently the service is very resistant to building an Operations Other Than War division. Speaking in April before 150 defense industry and senior military officials in suburban Washington, Lt. Gen. Paul E. Blackwell, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, said, "You build the structure for peacetime engagement by being fully capable of fighting and winning the nation's wars. We fought very hard to keep it (a division assigned to these other kinds of operations) out of doctrine."

Clark nominated for Southern Command post. Lt. Gen. Wesley K. Clark, Director of Strategic Plans and Policy for the Joint Staff, has been nominated for a fourth star and assignment as Commander, U.S. Southern Command, Quarry Heights, Panama. Clark came to his present position in 1994 after serving as Commander, 1st Cavalry Division.

Earlier, the Department of Defense announced the command's new headquarters facilities would be built at the West Pointe Business Park in Miami.

Cybersurfers are concern during operations. Brig. Gen. Martin Berndt, USMC, who led the party that rescued downed Air Force pilot, Capt. Scott O'Grady, said that information about the Bosnia mission was available as it was unfolding, and that might pose a serious problem in the future. "I'm a bit uncomfortable about how we do business. Some things are better left in our channels, kept in our house. It was not particularly compromising then, but we will have to do this (kind of operation) again."

Monthly payment for TRICARE likely; retiree dental plan possible. The Army Surgeon General's Office believes it is likely that Congress will approve a change in law that will allow monthly rather than quarterly payments to enroll in TRICARE for military retirees and their families. The Department of Defense has sent to Congress a report outlining costs to the government and to individuals if a dental plan for retirees and their families were created. Last year, DoD took no position on whether military retirees should have a dental plan similar to the plan offered the families of active duty servicemembers.

Nunn to receive Marshall Medal. The Association of the United States Army has selected Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., former Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to receive its highest award, the George Catlett Marshall Medal.

Nunn's distinguished career in the U.S. Senate has made him one of the leading figures in American government and an internationally recognized expert on defense policy, national security and economic affairs.

He is now the ranking Democrat on both the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Throughout his public life, Nunn has focused his efforts on strengthening America's defenses and its national security posture in a world of political turbulence and unrest.

A strong advocate for a realistic defense budget to meet the needs of the armed forces, Nunn initiated the so-called "fire wall" between defense and domestic spending — a budgetary device meant to ensure that defense funds could not be used for domestic programs.

Sen. McCain opens debate on future national security strategy. Through a major paper and a series of addresses, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. and a ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is opening a new debate on national security strategy in the 21st century.

The paper, titled, "Ready Tomorrow: Defending American Interests in the 21st Century," has been read into the Congressional Record.

Describing the Hobson's choices in the recent past of cutting force, shortchanging readiness and stagnating military modernization, McCain said, "We've done all three."

Admitting that adopting a single Major Regional Contingency strategy would "run additional risks in certain areas." He said, "It would eliminate the gap between strategy and resources."

At the forefront of this redesigned force are "naval forces, carrier-based airpower and Marine expeditionary forces to fill critical early roles with sufficient lift (increasingly important), fire support and missiles."

Secondly, "air power must be maintained at the forefront of technology, using multi-mission platforms (strike and fighter) employing standoff weapons as the weapons of choice. This means examining strategic versus tactical bombers."

Thirdly, for ground forces, "there will be greater emphasis on allies and strengthening lighter forces ... we do not need units that need a year of mobilization time." He also recommended more attention be paid to the needs of special operations forces.

Fourthly, information technology, "we need to have the technology to own the night, better air defenses, better weapons of mass destruction defenses".

Fifthly, guard and reserves would be best suited in combat support or combat service support. "Heavy armor and infantry are best left to the active force."

Investing modernization money for deployable light ground forces, lift, tactical aircraft and information technology "will ensure our future readiness."

Senate group unveils budget plan with retirement cuts. The 22-member Senate Centrist Coalition introduced a budget-balancing plan that would reduce retired pay for anyone retiring who is not 50 or older. The change would apply only to active duty members.

The three current retirement plans are based on years of service and not age.

The plan also calls for delaying annual cost-of-living increases for military and civilian retirees until April 1 through 2002.

Additionally, the plan calls for the elimination of unemployment benefits for servicemembers who leave voluntarily.

The plan has not been introduced as legislation.

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, P.O. Box 1560, Arlington, VA 22210-0860.)

DEFENSE REPORTS

NEW—DR 96-4—Have We Drawn the Army Down Too Far? argues that the U.S. strategy of engagement and enlargement will require a larger Army than originally forecast.

NEW—DR 96-5—Needed: A Balanced Defense Program argues for DoD to conduct a continuing review of modernization priorities from a joint perspective to ensure the landpower component is in balance with airpower and seapower capabilities.

LANDPOWER ESSAYS

NEW—LPE 96-4—A Glimpse of the Cuban Military in 1996, by Maj. Gen. Edward B. Atkeson, USA, Ret., is an overview of the author's impressions of the Cuban military, based on his recent visit to Cuba.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Reissue—Campaign Streamers of the U.S. Army is being reissued in commemoration of the Army's 221st birthday, June 14, 1996.