



# WASHINGTON UPDATE



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## Defense Authorization Bill slows in Senate

The Defense authorizers are working hard to keep the Defense Authorization Bill ahead of the appropriators this year, but Sen. Bob Dole's departure from his position as Majority Leader in June has slowed progress.

The Senate Bill (S.1745) was favorably reported out of the Senate Armed Services Committee in late May, and the goal is still to have the Senate approve its version of the bill in June and resolve differences with the House before the July Fourth recess.

There are bones of contention between the two versions, including provisions barring homosexuals from serving in the armed forces, discharging those testing HIV-positive and banning the sale of sexually-explicit materials in military facilities. The President has threatened a veto over some of these social issues if they survive in the bill sent to him for signature.

Last year, the appropriations bill for the Defense Department was approved before the authorization bill.

Here are key provisions that both the House and Senate authorization bills endorse:

- Include a 3 percent pay raise and a minimum 4 percent Basic Allowance for Quarters.
- Include TRICARE portability for all. (Both bills currently encourage the Secretary of Defense to publish policies to ensure TRICARE Prime enrollees may transfer enrollment from one TRICARE region to another in any areas where a TRICARE program has been implemented. This provision modifies TRICARE to ensure a sponsor with dependents who live in TRICARE regions different from the TRICARE region of the sponsor pays no more than a single family enrollment fee for TRICARE coverage of the sponsor's entire family.)
- Change maximum age of eligibility for ROTC scholarships from 25 to 27 and allow cadets to enter service academies at age 23 instead of the current age of 22.
- Eliminate the requirement for enlisted servicemembers with a minimum of 10 years' seniority to be required to continually re-enlist. Service secretaries will be allowed to accept indefinite re-enlistments for E-6s and above with at least 10 years of service.
- Provide storage at government expense of servicemember's private vehicle when there are restrictions on the normal shipment of the vehicle when deployed over 30 days.
- Authorize round-trip travel allowance when a servicemember transports a private vehicle to and from port when moving between the United States and an overseas assignment.
- Allow civilian employees, who previously received separation or incentive pay, to leave federal employment to volunteer for government service without losing the separation or incentive pay.
- Allow employees not affected by a reduction-in-force (RIF) action to volunteer to be separated in place of other employees scheduled for RIF separation.
- Include strong report language for protecting the commissary benefits for servicemembers and their families.
- Improve information exchange between military treatment facilities and TRICARE program contractors.

**Future division will be smaller.** The Army division of the 21st century will be smaller and more lethal than today's heavy division, the Commanding General of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), Fort Monroe, Va., said recently.

Gen. William W. Hartzog, TRADOC Commander, speaking May 22 at an Association of the U.S. Army symposium titled "How to Fight," held in San Jose, Calif., said the new division will consist of about 15,280 members compared with about 18,000 soldiers in a current division. "It's not exactly wrong, nor is it precisely correct," he said, in describing the organization that is not designed for a single region or single scenario.

Hartzog said that the Army experimented with 11 different designs in coming up with this model, that in part will be tested in Advanced Warfighting Experiments beginning in February-March 1997, to be followed by a November experiment.

The new division design, once it is tested and approved, will likely serve the Army through the first decade of the 21st century. Using the examples of the AirLand Battle and air assault concepts, Hartzog said that the idea behind the newly designed division will take three to five years for the Army as a whole to absorb and incorporate. Among the designs tested were a division that was aviation heavy to one organized from a battalion point of view.

In response to a question, Hartzog said a "collage of elements had promise for the division, but it turned out to be too expensive. You find you have priced yourself out of doing it that way, but we haven't foreclosed on any design, and that would include using light infantry forces."

Elements included in the experimental division are: redesigned brigades, a Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion, logistics redesigned units, two engineering battalions vs. the current three, and one aviation unit vs. the two we have today, he said.

Over 400 Army and industry attendees took part in the three-day conference on future warfighting as part of the Association's Industry Affairs symposium program.

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**'Anchor Desk' will help logistics flow in Experimental Force.** The Logistics Anchor Desk is a key to how Force XXI will fight on the future battlefield, the Commanding General of the Army's Materiel Command (AMC), Alexandria, Va., said recently.

Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson, AMC Commander, said the desk "will have consolidated data into one coherent information stream that helps operations planners so users and logisticians can share a common view of the battlefield."

Right now, the Experimental Force Coordination Cell is working with the Army's Training and Doctrine Command to ensure that "the equipment fielded for Force XXI will flow through the cell at Fort Hood, and this will ensure that Task Force XXI will be managing the effects of new technology," so that in the future the anchor desk can better work with soldiers in the field.

**Balanced force is goal in designing future Army.**

Lt. Gen. John E. Miller, Deputy Commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, said, in designing a future Army "the trick is to design a force that can stay balanced and be able to operate effectively when there are no clear boundaries operationally, tactically, strategically and diplomatically."

He said that force must be able to function in multiple dimensions — simultaneous, nonlinear, distributed over a wide area, with precise and integrated information.

Miller added that in the past, 60 percent of the time commanders made decisions based on what they saw or heard, but in the recent Focused Dispatch exercise, commanders were making 60 percent of the decisions from information they had received on computer screens.

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**DCSOPS sees information payoff coming in logistics for warfighters.** "We're trying to figure out if it's information warfare or information operations," the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans said.

Lt. Gen. Paul Blackwell said, "The most significant change to heavy divisions is likely to come in the logistics area — to quit building the 'iron mountain' (of supplies and war materiel) as we did in Desert Storm. It would be just-in-time logistics, defined by the warfighter."

**U.S. will dispose of anti-personnel mines.** The Department of Defense has begun to rid its inventory of over 4 million anti-personnel land mines in an action that is expected to be complete by Fiscal Year 1999.

The presidential directive to dispose of the nonself-destructing or "dumb" mines began in mid-May.

The only exceptions to the destruction of those kinds of mines are for U.S. military training and the defense of Korea.

Beginning in 1999, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is to report annually on whether the two exceptions should continue.

The Secretary of Defense is to begin a program of research and procurement needed to eliminate the need for these exceptions and to permit the United States and its allies to end reliance on anti-personnel land mines as soon as possible.

Lastly, the Department of Defense is to develop better mine detection and clearing technology and to share this data with the international community.

Between now and the time an international agreement is reached on self-destructing land mines, the United States reserves the option to use those weapons in military hostilities to safeguard American lives and hasten the end of fighting.

The United States is estimated to have about 17 million land mines in its stockpiles. Slightly less than 8 million are nonself-destructing.

**TRADOC publishes two pamphlets on future warfighting.** The Army's Training and Doctrine Command has recently published "Land Combat in the 21st Century" and "Requirements Determination" pamphlets that explain how the service sees future combat.

In the land combat pamphlet, Gen. William W. Hartzog, TRADOC Commander, said, "Force XXI is more than just a redesigned division. ... The view of the future we see emerging envisions a new battlefield; one where we gather, process and use information differently than ever before."

Regarding the requirements pamphlet, he said, "It describes how we will use integrated concept teams — multidisciplinary teams from throughout the Army, industry and academia to determine doctrine, training, leader development, organization and soldier requirements that consider cost as an independent variable."

Copies of both pamphlets are available from:

Commanding General  
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command  
ATTN: Commander's Planning Group (ATCG-P)  
Fort Monroe, VA 23651-5000

**Airship is ready for U.S. demonstration.** Bosch Aerospace is preparing an unmanned robotic airship for a demonstration in June at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., on how the blimp could deter guerrillas and terrorists from taking aggressive action.

Called Small Aerostat Surveillance System, Low Intensity Target Exploitation (SASS LITE), the airship is equipped with a camera and sensors and is capable of flying in preprogrammed routes, or it can be controlled from the ground over 100 kilometers. Bosch Aerospace, Huntsville, Ala., is the builder.

**Airborne mine detector will go to Bosnia.** The Army will soon send a specially equipped Black Hawk helicopter to Bosnia to detect mines.

Called the Airborne Standoff Minefield Detection System, it is designed to provide real-time mine and minefield scanning through use of an imaging sensor.

**'Battlefield Visualization' given key nod.** The Joint Requirements Oversight Council ranked Battlefield Visualization its number one candidate for an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration in Fiscal Year 1997.

The system is an integral part of the Army's effort to digitize the battlefield. It allows commanders to see their own forces and the enemy's forces, and can guide leaders in achieving their missions.

The designation means that Battlefield Visualization will undergo rapid development and limited fielding. The Army's Experimental Force, the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, is expected to be able to use Battlefield Visualization in its Advanced Warfighting Experiment in March 1997.

**Peacekeeping exercise conducted in Ukraine.**

About 1,200 soldiers — including 145 from the 1st Infantry Division — participated in Peace Shield 96, a peacekeeping exercise involving contingents from Russia and former members of the Warsaw Pact.

The exercise was conducted in the Ukraine under NATO's Partnership for Peace program. A similar exercise was conducted last year at Fort Polk, La.

**Dental plan premium to increase.** The monthly premiums for the TRICARE Active Duty Family Member Dental Plan will increase on Aug. 1. For a single enrollment, the rate will rise to \$7.19 from \$6.77. Family enrollment will increase to \$17.97 from \$16.92.

Active duty servicemembers will see the increase in their July Leave and Earnings Statement.

**British, U.S. exercise tested NATO rapid deployment.** The recently completed Combined Joint Task Force Exercise 96 in the water off North Carolina and ashore at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune was, in part, a dress rehearsal for NATO's development of a rapid deployment force.

The exercise, involving 300 aircraft, 53 warships and over 50,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines from the United States and the United Kingdom, provided a model for command and control that NATO is studying for possible use in Bosnia after U.S. forces leave.

**Military death penalty upheld.** The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld the military's death penalty sentencing procedures issued by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

The case, decided in early June, involved Army Pvt. Dwight J. Loving of Fort Hood, Texas, who was convicted in 1988 of murdering two taxi drivers in the town of Killeen. Reagan issued an executive order in 1984 listing aggravating factors that would allow the imposition of the death penalty in military justice cases. His action followed a 1983 Supreme Court case in which the majority held that said the military justice system's definition of capital crimes was too broad.

Writing for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy said, "There is nothing in the constitutional scheme or our traditions to prohibit Congress from delegating the prudent ... implementation of the capital murder statute to the President acting as Commander in Chief."

**Panel again inserts language barring a deeper drawdown.**

As it did during the debate of the Fiscal Year 1996 Defense Authorization Act, the Personnel Subcommittee of the House National Security Committee inserted language that would bar the armed forces from personnel cuts below those recommended in the Bottom-Up Review. The language would be effective through FY 1997.

Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo. and a member of the subcommittee, said, "There is no way in the world we can sustain two major military conflicts without doing this."

Although none of the services have plans for additional personnel cuts this year, they may have to consider some in the future — to free money for modernization programs. For the Army, the Department of Defense is eyeing a cut of an additional 20,000 soldiers from an active force of 495,000.

**U.S., Israel sign statement on theater missile defense.** Defense Secretary William J. Perry and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres signed in late April a joint statement of intent to cooperate on theater missile defense.

This follows an earlier agreement concerning the development and deployment of the Israeli ARROW missile defense system.