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Defense appropriations bills making way through Congress. The full Senate and the House Appropriations Committee have passed defense appropriations bills, containing major differences with the President's request.

The full House plans to consider the committee bill the last week in July. The conference to reconcile differences in the two bills will probably occur in September.

The dollar difference between the two bills is relatively small — \$1 billion.

The sticking point, however, may come in the differences with the administration's request. The Senate bill is \$3 billion more than the administration's request and the House bill is \$4 billion more.

The White House already threatens to veto the final bill saying that it not only spends more than is allowed by the balanced-budget agreement between President Clinton and congressional leaders, but spends over a billion dollars for weapons programs that are not included in the Pentagon's purchase plans for the next five years.

The White House has requested \$243.9 billion for defense spending. The Senate passed a \$247 billion bill for defense and the bill pending before the full House is for \$248.3 billion. The White House contends that the budget agreement allows the Congress to appropriate no more than \$245.8 billion.

Most of the additional funding in the House bill is intended for weapons programs. About \$331 million would go to buy additional B-2 bombers. The bill also adds \$850 million for National Guard and reserve equipment, \$175 million for OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter upgrades not in the Army's five-year plan and four C-130J aircraft (\$230 million) that the Air Force says are not needed.

The bill also sets a deadline of June 30, 1998 for withdrawal of U.S. peacekeeping troops from Bosnia.

Some highlights of the Senate bill include a 2.8 percent military pay raise effective Jan. 1. The active army would be cut to 485,000. The National Guard and reserve forces would not be cut and \$203 million is added for their training.

Further, an administration proposal to deny military pay to federal employees who are members of National Guard or reserve units and who continue to draw their civilians salaries during their annual, two-week period of military training was ignored and \$85 million was included to pay military members in that category. A similar provision is also in the House version.

The Senate bill also adds \$58 million to the Army's digitization program request, funds the Comanche development program at \$282 million, approves \$512 million for the Apache Longbow program, \$595 million for M-1 tank upgrades, an additional \$62 million for the digitized Bradley armored troop carrier request and \$247 million additional for the wheeled vehicle program request.

Shelton tapped for JCS chairman. President Clinton has nominated Gen. Henry H. "Hugh" Shelton to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

If confirmed by the Senate, Shelton, now the commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, will succeed Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, who is retiring in September.

Shelton, 55, was chosen to command the 1994 invasion of Haiti. The changed nature of the mission — from a military to peacekeeping operation — is viewed as one of the clearest demonstrations of the versatility of the U.S. armed forces. At AUSA's 1995 Annual Meeting, Shelton, then XVIII Corps commander, discussed that operation in a Contemporary Military Forum.

Clark assumes command of Allied Command Europe. Gen. Wesley K. Clark received the flag of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in a July 11 ceremony. The ceremony marked the change of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and the transfer of command of NATO forces assigned to the Allied Command Europe. Clark succeeds Gen. George Joulwan, who retired.

Clark, who led the military negotiations for the Bosnia Peace Accords in Dayton, comes to the new post after serving a year as commander in chief, U.S. Southern Command.

Crouch to be vice chief. Gen. William W. Crouch, commander in chief of Army forces in Europe, is being reassigned as the Army vice chief of staff. He succeeds Gen. Ronald Griffith.

Crouch's successor in Europe is Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, who served as deputy chief of staff for operations and plans.

Personnel management system changes are on track. This summer the Army is revamping its force structure so the number of officers authorized in units more closely fits with the actual number of officers on active duty.

This is needed to implement OPMS XXI in stages and have promotion boards for colonel ready by 2000.

Army officials say that officer management will remain much the same as it is today through captain. Once promoted to major, basic branch officers will be screened by a designation board for assignment to one of four career fields. The fields are: Operations; Information Operations; Operational Support and Army management.

Serbs warned about retaliation for war-crime arrests. NATO officers have privately warned Bosnian Serb authorities that they will respond militarily if the Serbs retaliate against the international Stabilization Force. President Clinton said in Washington, the Serbs "have no call to take any retaliatory action, and it would be a grave mistake to do so." The warnings came in the wake of a shootout in early July when British soldiers tried to arrest two Bosnian Serbs charged with war crimes. One of the Serbs was killed in the exchange.

JCS, CINCs oppose landmine ban legislation. All the joint chiefs of staff and unified commanders in chief have signed a letter opposing legislation that would ban new deployments of antipersonnel landmine starting Jan. 1, 2000.

The letter sent to Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., and chairman of the armed services committee, is similar to letters from Defense Secretary William Cohen and Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Specific concerns addressed in the letters: such a law would ban the deployment of antitank landmine system and self-destructing landmines are a force multiplier for early arriving or light forces.

AUSA expressed its concerns over the legislation in letters to president Clinton and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Army After Next needs to be lighter, faster with smaller logistical tail. The way the Army can expect to beat opponents in the future is to become physically lighter, move about an expanded battlefield faster and shrink the logistical tail.

Maj. Gen. Robert Scales, deputy chief of staff for doctrine at the Training and Doctrine Command and head of the Army After Next project, said a knowledge-based army will not succeed if it is as physically agile as it is mentally. "Just to know is not enough."

Adding, "A thinking enemy with the will to resist and the ability to adapt on the battlefield, even if he comes to the battlefield unprepared to face American precision, eventually learns how to do it. He bonds with his leaders, he becomes inured to hardships."

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Strong reserve support will be required for Army in 2025. While the head of the Army After Next project sees some technical positions (telecommunications, for example) now handled by reservists being privatized, the reserve components will play a major role in 2025.

Maj. Gen. Robert Scales saw strong roles for the reserve components in medicine, transportation, civil affairs, psychological operations and administration, to mention a few areas that would require large units.

He sees reserve components also in company-sized units in combat forces. "Remember, the big advantage of the reserve components in combat units is that they are bonded, they are coalesced and they are capable of some incredible amount of skill in highly technical areas."

AWE tested basic questions. The basic questions being tested by the Army's 4th Infantry Division, its Experimental Force, during the Advanced Warfighting Exercise were: Did these soldiers know where I am, where is my buddy and where is the enemy? In short, the Army was seeing how its Army XXI would be the dominant maneuver force in the joint team.

Maj. Gen. Paul J. Kern, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division-the Experimental Force, said, "It's still the soldier who has to fight the technology to win the war."

The soldiers from Fort Hood were translating those basic questions into a better understanding of information age technologies being used to increase their lethality and survivability and increase the tempo of operations. A key test during the experiment occurred near the end of March on the 14th day of force-on-force simulated combat.

On that day, for the first time, a brigade commander of a visiting force operated across the length and breadth of the three battle zones at Fort Irwin, Calif. The commander of the EXFOR was facing the host Opposing Force, the Lords of the Desert who use modified tactics, procedures and equipment of the former Soviet Union, as they confronted each other over twice the battle space in a normal exercise. In a usual rotation, the OPFOR usually dominates the visitor for a variety of reasons, including knowledge of the terrain and constant training in force-on-force combat.

Summer wargame will follow "unconventional scenario for Southwest Asia. Problems of international finance, narcotics trafficking, arms trading possibly in weapons of mass destruction and terrorism are on the agenda for the summer wargame of the Army After Next project.

The exercise to be conducted in September will involve a war where the United States' vital interests are not directly threatened. Set in Southwest Asia, the nation's objective will be to maintain the status quo in a conflict involving an unconventional state, possibly a terrorist state.

Two-hundred participants are expected and there will be representatives from the John F. Kennedy Center and the Marine Corps.

Space command reorganizes to better help warfighters on ground. The Army's command concerned with space is not only changing its name Oct. 1 but organizing itself to better support warfighters on the ground, Lt. Gen. Edward G. Anderson said at a special forum of defense and industry leaders here. This means the command will fully integrate space-based systems in ground operations and influence decisions affecting systems that soldiers will need in the future for sensors, communications and missile defense.

The command, which has been renamed the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, will work to ensure that space and missile defense is intrinsically linked and "ground-based portion of national missile defense is a key Army mission," he told the 100 attendees at the Institute of Land Warfare Breakfast Forum.

In the past, Army commanders often ignored space products because they didn't see the data as being immediately available and tailored to their needs. "That began to change in Desert Storm — with Global Positioning System and missile warning." The command is being organized along functional lines: Army Space Command, a new Space and Missile Defense Acquisition Center in Huntsville, Ala., a Space and Missile Defense Battle Laboratory in Huntsville and Colorado Springs, Colo.; a Missile Defense and Space Technology Center; and a Force Development and Integration Center.

11 technologies approved for warfighting rapid acquisition program. The Army has requested \$100 million to develop 11 technologies tested in the March Advanced Warfighting Experiment. Congress has appropriated for Fiscal Year 1997 \$50 million for this acquisition program.

The technologies include: Striker (Bradley fire support team vehicle); mortar fire control system; gun-laying positioning system; radio frequency technology; lightweight laser designator range finder; combat synthetic training assessment range; Army airborne command and control system; Avenger slew-to-cue system; palletized load system; applique; and tactical internet.

About \$63 million would be committed under Force XXI funds to these technologies. Remaining funds would be applied to initiatives that emerge from the Division XXI Advanced Warfighting Experiment in November.

New evidence on nerve gas exposure emerges. The Defense Department now estimates that perhaps 100,000 soldiers were exposed to Iraqi nerve gas following the destruction of a weapons dump in March 1991.

The evidence, coming from new computer modeling studies of weather, terrain and troop positions, show that 98,900 troops were likely in the path of a plume of gas unleashed when the Kamisiyan depot in southern Iraq was destroyed.

These new studies will also be applied to determine the size and spread of the plumes from the destruction by air bombardment of factories where chemical and biological weapons were produced.

Defense Department officials said in late July that soldiers were exposed to trace amounts of sarin, a nerve gas.

No birth-defect rise found in Gulf Vets' children. The New England Journal of Medicine reported that a study conducted by SRA Technologies found no increase in birth defects — to include birthmarks — in children born of Gulf War veterans.

The study was limited to children of members of the armed forces on active duty at the time and born in military hospitals. Scientists, conducting the study, said they expected no significant difference in the children of members of the reserve components.

GulfLINK has new Web address. The Department of Defense's World Wide Web site devoted to Gulf War Illness issues, GulfLINK, has been changed. At the same time, its search capability has been expanded to include three search engines on the first page of the improved site. The new address is www.gulflink.osd.mil.

Reimer taps acting sergeants major. The Army chief of staff has decided that the responsibilities of the sergeant major of the Army position will rotate between the two senior enlisted soldiers of the Army's two largest major commands in the United States.

The two are: Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry T. Alley of Forces Command and Command Sgt. Maj. James C. McKinney of the Training and Doctrine Command.

Gen. Dennis J. Reimer's decision has no impact on the ongoing investigation into complaints of sexual misconduct against Sergeant Major of the Army Gene C. McKinney, the twin brother of one of the acting sergeants major. SMA McKinney remains on active duty assigned to the Military District of Washington. He has also asked the Army to be permitted to retire.

Hamre confirmed for number 2 post in DoD. John Hamre, the Department of Defense's comptroller, has been confirmed by the Senate to succeed John White as deputy secretary of Defense.

A former Senate staffer, Hamre is well respected in defense circles for humor, straight talk and analysis. He displayed those traits as the principal speaker at last year's sustaining member luncheon during the Annual Meeting. Hamre now chairs Defense Secretary William Cohen's Reform Task Force.

Army needs to protect GPS systems. One way to achieve information dominance in the 21st century will be to protect the Global Positioning System and look to interconnected military and civilian satellites as a means of protecting GPS.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, in its version of the authorization bill, is asking the Defense Department to develop a backup master control station for GPS. The Army is already conducting a study in simulation to determine the vulnerability of GPS.