



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Vol. 10 No. 3

Published by the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare

March 1998

**Congress looks at “emergency allowance” for Bosnia.** While the chairman of a key Senate committee pledges “Bosnia must come from sources other than the defense budget,” the administration’s proposal to pay for continuing operations in the Balkans by a special “emergency allowance” is being greeted warily on Capitol Hill.

Those were the words of Sen. Strom Thurmond, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, as the panel took up the Defense Department’s \$251 billion budget request recently.

The price tag for Bosnia in Fiscal Year 1999 is estimated to be \$2 billion. Exact figures will be determined by the size and nature of the U.S. commitment. The United States now provides 7,000 soldiers to the Stabilization Force.

At the same time as the “emergency allowance” goes to Capitol Hill in March, Congress will be sent a bill ranging from \$600 million to \$1.3 billion for Bosnia operations in FY 1998. This request for a supplemental appropriation will also be classified as an “emergency allowance.” That designation means, in the words of a key congressional staffer, Congress and the Defense Department, “won’t have to reach back in and pull dollars out of programs.” The House Appropriations Committee has pushed the emergency designation in the past and likely would support the move.

But congressional opposition to the continuing mission to Bosnia is both broad and bipartisan. Congress is looking for an exit strategy; and in the past, it has set deadlines for leaving. Critical to that exit strategy is the development of a professional police force. A more heavily armed international police force to assist civilian authorities are expected to be part of the new NATO commitment to Bosnia peacekeeping.

If Congress does not go along with the emergency designation, every dollar spent on Bosnia will have to come from a defense program. This offset is key to the balanced budget agreement that Congress and the administration made last year.

**Army vulnerable if Congress does not act swiftly on two emergency requests.** The Army, which provides the bulk of the U.S. forces in Bosnia, is particularly vulnerable if Congress does not act swiftly on the two requests for Bosnia operations and keeps them out of the defense budget. If that does not happen, the Army would have to shift money from its operations and maintenance accounts to pay for past and current operations in the Balkans. Those accounts pay for training. When training has been curtailed, unit readiness has been affected.

Defense officials said readiness problems could begin showing up as early as May and definitely in July. They already concede “anecdotal evidence” of parts shortages, cannibalizing equipment and combat training shortfalls.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said, “If we don’t get the supplemental for ’98 and ’99, we would be in trouble — ... if we go later than March or April, the services would have to cut back on their readiness.” Other defense officials said, “if we don’t get the supplementals, we’re looking at a bill of \$3.5 billion. That means cutting back on modernization, operating tempo, everything that is critical to readiness now and building for the future.”

Sen. Charles Robb, D-Va., asked how quickly the Army needed congressional approval of a supplemental appropriation to cover operations in Bosnia after June 30 and also for next year before that affected readiness.

Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, Army chief of staff, said the Army needed assurance by early April or commanders would have to begin cutting back training. “We’d run out of money in July and August,” he said.

“For Fiscal Year 1999 our Bosnia costs could be \$100 million a month, about what we spend on operations. We can’t handle that” without the extra money, Robert M. Walker, acting secretary of the Army, said. Adding, it was critical that the supplemental not be offset with money from existing Army programs and that the request for Fiscal Year 1999 be considered an “emergency allowance.”

### **Hill skeptical about new round of closures.**

The Defense Department's request for two more rounds of base closures, starting in 2001, is being greeted icily in both the House and Senate. Nevertheless, Defense Secretary William Cohen continues to press the argument that shedding excess infrastructure will provide the money needed to modernize the armed forces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"BRAC is a four-letter word that is not appreciated," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee Feb. 3. Adding, "Something has to give and it has to be overhead."

As he did in announcing the budget, Cohen told the committee that a preliminary DoD inspector general's report found the cost of base closings was running 18 percent less than estimated and the savings were running 23 percent higher.

Those numbers are disputed in Congress. Sen. Robert Smith, R-N.H., reminded Cohen, "There's very little support in the Congress for another round of base closings." Last year, in the recommendations of the Quadrennial Defense Review, the Congress refused to approve new rounds of base closings. The review was the department's internal top-to-bottom examination of future defense needs.

Smith and others complained that the process had become too politicized, particularly concerning the future of two air logistics centers in Texas and California.

Cohen said, "If you have a complaint from the past, write it into the law ... We are counting on the savings."

**Recruit quality remains high.** While acknowledging that recruiting is increasingly competitive — "even McDonald's offers money for college," the senior leadership of the Army told the Senate the service is meeting quality standards.

Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, chief of staff, compared recruiting statistics from 1987 to last year. There were more recruits last year scoring in the upper half of the mental aptitude test and fewer scoring in the lowest category. "I totally disagree on the notion that quality is declining.

Testifying Feb. 10, Robert M. Walker, acting secretary of the Army, said, 90 percent of the Army's recruits were high school graduates and all had either a diploma or general equivalency.

### **Predictable deployments planned for Bosnia.**

The Army expects to "shift the load from Europe to the rest of the Army" as the U.S. presence in Bosnia continues past June 30. Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, chief of staff, said he wanted to "make it more predictable" for soldiers deploying to the Balkans. He expected deployments to last between four to six months when the changes are made.

When asked at a recent Senate hearing about the size of the future U.S. commitment to Bosnia, Reimer said, "I know of no plans to increase the size of the force. All or planning is status quo or lower." The United States has about 7,000 soldiers in Bosnia as part of the NATO Stabilization Force.

Robert M. Walker, acting secretary of the Army, said despite the high operating tempo of soldiers deployed to Bosnia "we have the highest retention rates in those units."

**Army moves to "heal the rift" among components.** The senior leadership of the Army explained the steps it was taking to "heal the rift" between the Army National Guard and the active component during a recent Senate hearing.

Among the steps were having Guard and Army Reserve presence at the meetings of the Army Resources Board, asking for increased funds to build the reserve components capabilities in "homeland defense" and deploying together on missions such as Bosnia.

Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, chief of staff, said, "About one-quarter of our force in Bosnia consists of soldiers from the Army National Guard and the United States Army Reserve, while other soldiers from the reserve components have deployed to Europe to 'backfill' active duty soldiers serving in the Stabilization Force."

*WASHINGTON UPDATE* is published monthly by the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare to highlight current events of significance to the Army and defense from the Washington perspective. Further reproduction and distribution of this newsletter is encouraged.

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## **Army is prepared to make tough decisions.**

As it moves toward the information age, the Army's goal to digitize a division by the year 2000, a corps by 2004 and the service by 2010 will become reality if industry and the service "are prepared to make the tough decisions to make the process work," said Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, Army chief of staff.

The evolution from the Army of Excellence of the mid 1980s to the 21<sup>st</sup> century Army XXI to the emerging vision of the Army After Next—the service in 2010 and beyond, was the subject of the Association of the U.S. Army's symposium and exposition Feb. 16-18 in Orlando, Fla. The symposium was held in conjunction with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

Both Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., AUSA president, and Gen. William W. Hartzog, TRADOC commander, agreed that the process, known as Force XXI, is not new. It began more than five years ago when Sullivan was Army chief of staff.

"This just didn't start," Hartzog said, "we have been working with industry for several years on this process and we have come a long way. But, we have a lot more to do."

The symposium's theme, "Laying the Foundations: From Army XXI to Army After Next," is about "change," Reimer said.

Reimer, whose keynote address was rescheduled for the second day of the symposium because of the continuing crisis with Iraq, said, "We need change today more than ever before as we move from a threat-based force to a capabilities-based force."

He added, "We have changed our national military strategy ... we must change to keep the Army trained and ready. ... We must change from a Cold War Army to one that is more relevant for the nation. ... Force XXI will change us from a Cold War Army to an Army After Next."

Reimer told the more than 600 military and business leaders in attendance that to make the Force XXI process work, both Army and industry must shift priorities to areas dealing with information dominance in order "to reach Army XXI and the Army After Next."

## **TRADOC looks deeply into the future.**

The commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) told over 600 industry and Army leaders at an AUSA symposium, "We must go deeply into the future."

That future, according to Gen. William W. Hartzog, is Force XXI—the dawn of the digital age, a new frontier for the U.S. Army.

Hartzog speaking at an AUSA symposium, which was held Feb. 16-18 in cooperation with his command, said, "Today's battlefield has been expanded ... battle space will be larger and we will have a smaller force."

As the Army makes the transition into the information age, the Army "must have the mental and physical agility to ensure that we can meet and conquer the challenges of the future," Hartzog said at the Orlando, Fla., gathering.

The foundation of Force XXI are the six imperatives introduced by a former Army chief of staff, Gen. Carl E. Vuono. They are: quality people, training, force mix, doctrine, modern equipment and leader development.

Hartzog noted that the division Advanced Warfighting Experiment in November 1997 at Fort Hood, Texas, showed that the power of information dominance on the battlefield enhanced battle command capabilities "that increased lethality, survivability, sustainability and tempo that was gained across the force."

Hartzog added, "We saw soldiers, civilians and contractors all working together for information dominance."

Lessons were also learned during the experiment on the value of simulations in training. "Simulation was used, but you need unit and individual training and new equipment training."

Leaders must be able to keep up with a higher degree of operating tempo and must develop digital and tactical maturity. But, he said, "The men and women in the force are better than good enough to handle the high-technology atmosphere." Adding, "Instantaneous transmittal of information and analysis on the battlefield of the future" is imperative.

**Defense has a price the nation must understand.** A key lawmaker, who helped craft the law that created an independent look at the workings of the Defense Department in the future, warned "we're not going to protect ourselves on the cheap."

Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., who sponsored the amendment creating the National Defense Panel, said, while there was a need to increase the defense budget, "the problem is people feel secure. It's a good problem. We've got to challenge the public and members to look ahead."

Speaking to more than 200 defense industry leaders and officials, he said, "If we accept this budget (for Fiscal Year 1999), we will not act on the the NDP's recommendations. Simply and sadly, there is not a pro-defense support group in Congress (to boost defense military spending above the more than \$250 billion requested by the president)."

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., former Army chief of staff and now AUSA president, said in introducing Lieberman, the report of the NDP is "framing the debate for the long term," but there was a danger that the current budget submission "is too limiting. ... I think we need to free our brains up" in providing for future security.

Among the recommendations of the nine-member panel sent to the Senate in December was the questioning of continuing programs such as the Crusader future artillery system for the Army, large deck carriers for the Navy and the F-22 for the Air Force. The panel called these "legacy systems" that would be with the services for 20 years or more, Lieberman said.

Specifically on continuing legacy systems in the Army, "the problem is that they may not be at the center of the Army After Next." Army After Next refers to concepts, ideas and possible equipment the Army will be using in 2010 to 2020. The panel's recommendations were to look at defense needs in that same period.

"How rapidly should the move to the future be?" he asked. "We will have to accept more risk in the near term to minimize risk in the future."

## **Industry support is essential in 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

Industry leaders agreed with Army officials that industry support of all aspects of the service's modernization goals for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is essential to digitize the force and to achieve information dominance on the battlefield.

Donald S. Pihl, vice president, business acquisition, General Dynamics Land Systems, said, "Our greatest asset is the U.S. soldier ... and without the necessary modernization, the soldier must fight with less than the best equipment."

Pihl said that industry and the Army must provide the soldier with the best, most modern equipment if the service is to achieve information dominance. This equipment will give the soldier "the greatest war fighting capabilities."

William H. Forster, vice president, land combat systems, Northrop Grumman Corp., recommended more up-front investment, more standardization, less head-to-head competition, more international competition, better protection of U.S. technology and an even shorter duration for state-of-the-art technology, among others.

Paul C. Hollowell, executive vice president, Oshkosh Truck Corp., said that "we need a stronger tactical wheeled vehicle industrial base" since the current Army fleet continues to age despite new production and re-manufacturing programs. Adding, that industry and the Army should develop an Army After Next tactical wheeled vehicle investment strategy and "get congressional support."

Edmond L. Peters, senior vice president, business development, AM General Corp., speaking on the future of tactical wheeled vehicles, said that industry must continue to support the Army's transition to the Army After Next by "reducing ownership costs, with both new and re-manufactured vehicles, and by maximizing the effectiveness of modern dollars."

William W. Morgan, vice president for marketing, Talley Defense Systems, said, that as a small ammunition developer, "The Army needs experienced 'green suit developers' who can relate the differences between view graph technology vs. making hardware work in the real world."



# WASHINGTON UPDATE SUPPLEMENT



Special Report

Published by the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare

March 1998

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Mac Collins (R-GA)	John Lewis (D-GA)	Ike Skelton (D-MO)
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Robert E. "Bud" Cramer (D-AL)	Robert L. Livingston (R-LA)	Gerald B.H. Solomon (R-NY)
Pat Danner (D-MO)	Jim Maloney (D-CT)	Floyd D. Spence (R-SC)
Thomas M. Davis, III (R-VA)	Jim McCrery (R-LA)	John M. Spratt, Jr., (D-SC)
Norm Dicks (D-WA)	Joseph M. McDade (R-PA)	Charles W. Stenholm (D-TX)
Chet Edwards (D-TX), Co-Chair	John M. McHugh (R-NY) Co-Chair	James M. Talent (R-MO)
Bob Etheridge (D-NC)	John M. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)	John Tanner (D-TN)
Lane Evans (D-IL)	Michael R. McNulty (D-NY)	Charles H. Taylor (R-NC)
Thomas W. Ewing (R-IL)	James P. Moran (D-VA)	Gene Taylor (D-MS)
Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (Am. Samoa)	John P. Murtha (D-PA)	Jim Turner (D-TX)
Paul E. Gillmor (R-OH)	Anne M. Northup (R-KY)	James T. Walsh (R-NY)
Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY)	Solomon P. Ortiz (D-TX)	Zach Wamp (R-TN)
Bill Goodling (R-PA)	Major R. Owens (D-N.Y.)	J.C. Watts, Jr., (R-OK)
Kay Granger (R-TX)	Michael G. Oxley (R-OH)	Edward Whitfield (R-KY)
James V. Hansen (R-UT)	Mike Parker (R-MS)	C.W. Bill Young (R-FL)
Richard "Doc" Hastings (R-WA)	Ed Pastor (D-AZ)	Don Young (R-AK)
Joel Hefley (R-CO)	Tom Petri (R-WI)	