



WASHINGTON UPDATE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Vol. 10 No. 8

Published by the AUSA Institute of Land Warfare

August 1998

Army releases RC integration paper

In releasing the white paper "One Team, One Fight, One Future," Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, Army chief of staff, stressed that the 28-page document will help the service achieve its goals "inmerging the Army's three components into one fully integrated, seamless service."

Highlights from the document include:

- The Army's commitment to Defense Secretary William Cohen's four principles of total force integration. The principles are "clearly understood responsibility for ownership of the Total Force by the senior leaders through the Total Force; clear and mutual understanding of the mission for each unit... in service and joint/combined operations during peace and war; leadership by senior commanders — active, guard and reserve — to ensure the readiness of the Total Force; commitment to provide the resources needed to accomplish assigned missions."
- "In the years ahead, we plan to conduct more command exchange programs, including having reserve component officers command active units. In addition, the creation of multi-component units will significantly enhance the professional development opportunities for all Army officers and noncommissioned officers." (The recently announced heavy division redesign uses soldiers from all three components.)
- "We will look for opportunities to create 'dual mission capable' units that not only have the potential to perform traditional combat missions, but also meet a range of requirements." (The document lists several varieties of "homeland defense" missions that the National Defense Panel recommended as critically needed in the future.)
- "We must also ensure requirements for all units, including the Army's National Guard divisions, are accurately reflected in our war plans and operational requirements.

- "New training initiatives continue to be developed. Over the next year, the Army will create two integrated divisions, each with three Army National Guard enhanced separate brigades under a headquarters commanded by an active duty major general. ... The Reserve Association Support Program is another important initiative that provides enhanced training for Army Reserve soldiers. After individual entry training, soldiers serve in an active Army combat support or combat service support unit for extended periods.

- "We plan to further strengthen the Army's ability to respond through divisional teaming, a pilot program that will pair active and National Guard combat divisions across the entire spectrum of Army operations.

USAR will not make recruiting goal. The new commander of the U.S. Army Reserve said retention among reservists called to active duty and sent on missions to Bosnia was holding strong, but he conceded the Army Reserve would miss its recruiting goal of 40,000 soldiers for this fiscal year.

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, who assumed the office of chief of the Army Reserve May 22, told a National Press Club Newsmaker audience in Washington that the reserve would fall about 3,000 soldiers short of its goal. "We will have a bigger challenge next year when we have to attract 5,650 more" soldiers than Fiscal Year 1998's goal, he said. In officer recruiting, "Medical is the critical shortfall," he said. "We're just not competitive" in bonuses and loan repayment programs to attract physicians. This shortage affects the entire Army.

In enlisted recruiting, there are shortages "in skills that are very difficult to learn while in the reserve — water craft operators, for instance."

Retention up. Retention is running 3 to 5 percent higher in units returning from Bosnia than in units who have not been deployed, Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes said. "People who have gone over and served and been treated well when they return and their families were taken care of, they will stay."

The critical ranks for male retention comes at E-5 or E-6 and captain. "If they leave it's primarily because of their job." For women, Plewes said the decision to stay comes a little earlier as "they decide to raise a family." Women make up about one-quarter of the 240,000 Army Reserve force.

Plewes said readiness in Army Reserve units is high and is his highest priority. "The past two presidents have been ready to use selective reserve call-ups to active duty for up to 270 days," he said.

Adding, 12,000 soldiers from the Army Reserve have supported the continuing mission in Bosnia, and one out of every four soldiers in that mission comes from the reserve components. "The reservists fit right in because they had been trained to do so."

Adding, this training showed the relevance of the reserve components in today's Army. Plewes cited continuing efforts to more tightly integrate active and reserve components, citing a recent Army White Paper, titled "One Team, One Fight, One Future."

Adding the redesigned armored division now automatically includes 250 Army Reservists and 200 National Guardsman. "That represents a leap of faith for the active to say we will trust ourselves to these reservists."

He also said the increased emphasis on "homeland defense," particularly in reacting to biological-chemical attacks, is a very relevant mission. Reservists have begun training police, fire and emergency medical personnel in 120 cities in how to respond to such attacks.

The biggest challenge is to find enough resources to meet missions, he said. Current defense spending at \$271 billion accounts for less than 3 percent of the gross domestic product. "The (FY 1999) budget has sufficient funds to support our mission. ... With base operations and maintenance of our facilities, though, we're taking a risk."

Fisher House offers tours. The Fisher House program is now offering virtual tours of its 25 facilities for military families and families of military retirees who are being treated for a serious or life-threatening medical problem far from their homes.

The not-for-profit program that started in 1991 has assisted more than 6,000 military and veterans' families in times of medical crisis. The houses provide a haven so patients and families can focus on healing rather than worrying about finding affordable lodging.

The latest Fisher House supports Darnall Army Community Hospital at Fort Hood, Texas. Later this year, a second house will open at the medical center at Wright-Patterson, Air Force Base outside Dayton, Ohio.

The houses are located near major military medical centers and several Veterans Affairs' medical centers.

Cost varies by location, but averages about \$8 per day. Jim Weiskopf, public affairs director for Fisher House, said right now about 20 to 25 percent of those staying at one of the facilities are family members with a child in need of medical care, 20 to 30 percent involve patients who are on active duty and the rest are families of retirees.

Adding, the homes are seeing more use from patients who are receiving continuing treatments for cancer.

For more information contact the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. 20852, or phone (888) 294-8560. E-mail: FisherHse@aol.com; Internet: www.fisherhouse.org

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. Website address: www.ausa.org

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Blassie is identified. Defense Secretary William Cohen said in late June that advances in science and technology likely will mean the United States would never bury another unknown serviceman in the Tomb of the Unknowns. He was speaking at a Pentagon press conference following the identification of the remains of 1st Lt. Michael J. Blassie.

“I could be proven wrong, but it would seem to me that given the state-of-the-art today, it’s unlikely” that any further remains from either Vietnam or a future war will lie in the tomb.

Blassie’s remains were removed from the tomb at the request of his family and the Department of Defense and were identified by DNA testing at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Blassie was an A-37 pilot in Vietnam. His aircraft was shot down May 11, 1972, near An Loc.

Recruiters armed with new info system. Army recruiters will soon have in their laptops a multi-media, 21st century approach to telling and showing the Army story to potential soldiers and their families.

Lt. Col. Gary Minadeo, chief of the Army Recruiting Information Support System (ARISS) at Fort Knox, Ky., said, “We needed to go mobile — get away from the station” to attract recruits to the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

As the propensity of qualified young men and women to join the armed forces was going down, recruiters were working harder and harder. Recruiters in 1990 needed 100 contacts to sign one enlistment contract where six years later they were making 140 contacts for one contract.

ARISS now uses video discs, with graphics and CD support, that let potential recruits and their families learn what training is available, the variety of military jobs and also what living conditions are. “It’s important to show that it’s not a bay environment. It’s more like an apartment.” In addition, he and Master Sgt. Victoria Sorensen, also from the ARISS office, said they fortify the image of the Army as being high-tech.

For the recruiter, Sorensen said it cuts processing time, reduces errors and provides valuable leads for new recruiters just coming on station.

Strike force to determine equipment needs. The 3,000- to 5,000-soldier strike force the Army cited in its heavy division redesign could provide the necessary test-bed for the service’s long-term equipment needs. That’s a question to be decided this fall by the senior Army leadership.

Brig. Gen. Daniel R. Zanini, deputy chief of staff for combat development in the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command, told 150 defense and industry leaders July 9, “It’s a medium weight force. ... A force we can get on the ground rapidly. It’s mobile, lethal, survivable. It’s a bridging force” between the Army’s six heavy divisions and four light divisions.

Speaking at the monthly Institute of Land Warfare Breakfast Forum in Arlington, Va., Zanini cited the vulnerability of the 82nd Airborne when it was sent into Saudi Arabia in the wake of Saddam Hussein’s invasion of neighboring Kuwait in 1991. “The 82nd was at risk until we got elements of the 24th (a heavy armored division) on the ground.”

He envisions these strike forces operating in areas where the Army does not have pre-positioned equipment as it does in Europe and the Persian Gulf.

As the 4th Infantry Division was the experimental force for the heavy division and the 10th Mountain Division is for light forces, Zanini said the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment would likely be the unit testing equipment, doctrine, techniques, tactics and procedures for this strike force.

“When you’re looking at the Army After Next, you see great ideas not yet codified. ... The strike force looks at technology, organization structure, leap-ahead technologies to the Army After Next.”

The Army After Next program is projecting needs in 2025. Zanini said, by contrast, the strike force is looking at science and technologies eight to 10 years in the future, closer to industry research and development and production cycles.

“We know we need to do something with propulsion. We’ve got a fossil fuel logistic tail. How do we replace that 90-pound round with something that is smaller, lighter and have the same kind of killing capability? The third area is force protection” when these units do not have a 60-ton Abrams tank.

Digitized division is on track. The Army Digitization Office reported to the Senate in July that efforts to redesign the 4th Infantry Division as the first digitized division is on track for the year 2000, but work still needs to be done to assure information dominance, reduce fratricide and exploit enhanced command and control systems

Included in the July report to the Armed Services Committee were these observations from the Advanced Warfighting Experiment (AWE) at the National Training Center in March 1997:

- “The greatest challenge was insufficient interoperability of all the digital command and control systems, communications systems, sensors and weapons platforms.
- “The classic problem in force projection is to pack the maximum amount of lethality into the smallest possible package. The Army has made tremendous strides in this area.
- “The experimental results from the use of new technologies have pointed the way to the future of Combat Service Support. Economy results from knowledge of the logistical situation and a rapid distribution of supplies and services to the combat units that need them.”

Included in the report were these observations from the AWE at Fort Hood in November 1997:

- “Good (not perfect) intelligence allows commanders to take prudent risks to achieve tactical gains.
- “Every new capability brings new vulnerabilities, such as over-reliance on JSTARS and UAV.
- “Interoperability between digital and analog units was also an issue during the Division Advanced Warfighting Experiment. It was concluded that digital and analog units can interact and fight well together.”

Correction. Mahlon Apgar was recently installed as the assistant secretary of the Army for installations, logistics and environment. His name was misspelled in Last Update.

Adultery remains ‘unacceptable’ under new DoD guidelines. The Defense Department announced in late July that adultery remains “unacceptable conduct” in the military, but commanders will be sent additional guidelines to help determine when such conduct undermines discipline and brings discredit on the armed forces.

The revised rules bar dating, sharing living accommodations, engaging in intimate or sexual relations, business enterprises, commercial solicitations, gambling and borrowing between officer and enlisted ranks.

The rules are a significant change for the Army. The Army did not prohibit close relationships between superiors and subordinates as long as they did not compromise the chain of command. Defense spokesmen said “a reasonable amount of time” will be given to unmarried couples to decide on the future of their relationship. The Army reports 500 marriages involving an officer and enlisted and 2,000 officer and officer marriage.

Senate OKs 3.6 pay hike. The Senate voted July 30 to increase a military pay raise to 3.6 percent and to require that the president consult with Congress before involving U.S. military forces in Kosovo.

Senators sent a mixed message on future U.S. military operations in Bosnia, however, rejecting a move to force a reduction in troops while still excluding requested funding for the Bosnia operation from a \$250 billion defense appropriation. Under the balanced budget agreement, if the Senate had approved the Bosnia spending as part of the defense spending bill, offsetting cuts would be required in other parts of the Pentagon’s budget for Fiscal Year 1999.

Military pay would go up 3.6 percent next year, rather than the 3.1 percent approved last month by the House, under an amendment to the defense bill. Salary funds were increased by cutting back on amounts for operations and maintenance in all branches of the military.

The Senate passed the spending bill 97-2 July 30—the last bill debated before its monthlong summer break. Sens. Russell Feingold, D-Wisc., and Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., voted no. Only Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., did not vote.