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Shinseki foresees a faster but more powerful ground force; units at Fort Lewis will be involved. Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army chief of staff, foresees a land force that can move faster and still deliver a knockout punch against any enemy ground force.

Shinseki laid out a restructuring of the Army that will include lighter armored vehicles, combat units fully staffed for no-notice emergencies, less spare parts and other supplies and units that can adjust quickly from one end of the range of conflicts to the other. Because Fort Lewis has both a heavy and light brigade, it was the site selected for the testing of the new kind of brigade. "We are going for capability and not study," he said at a press conference following the luncheon address.

The Army's top general said he expected the heavy brigade to be the first unit to receive the equipment for what many defense observers are calling "a medium-weight force."

Shinseki provided details of what is being called the Army Vision Oct. 12 during the Annual Meeting of the Association of the United States Army.

At the press conference, he said, "The implementation phase will go on for a few more weeks and more details will be coming out in the next few weeks." Shinseki said this would force a number of "tough decisions" on equipment and budget. Army Secretary Louis Caldera said at the press conference, "We clearly can go faster if we have additional resources, top-line relief for the Army. We think that this is a vision that we will be doing the work of the nation and that we ought to have the investment of the nation to move this transformation along."

He said that he "had no good answers" on how much this change will cost because it depends on technology changes and advances. "This is for the end-state force." For now, "We are prepared to invest in current equipment, many of which you see here on the (exhibit) floor here at AUSA."

Also at the press conference, Shinseki said that he and Gen. James Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps, have discussed the Army's vision. He and Caldera "took him through our analysis and philosophy. We have both agreed that we have never been on a battlefield that is so crowded that we couldn't have more capability. We worked this together."

The Army is caught between multiple requirements, the general said. Its heavy forces are unequalled in the world today, but are difficult to insert in distant theaters with no prepared entry point such as ports or airfields. Light forces can deploy anywhere almost instantly, but lack firepower and on-the-ground mobility. And all forces require a large supply base because of the range of weapons, communications and other gear deemed necessary. At the same time, missions rapidly shift even after deployment.

"We're going to ask the questions and go where the answers are," he said.

Shinseki's Army Vision includes:

— Combat units - the armored cavalry regiments and corps - staffed at 100 percent. At the press conference, Shinseki said at the start the manpower would be coming for the institutional army. "Our commitment is to squeeze our structure to get soldiers back into foxholes and turrets."

— Units able to deploy with their critical equipment and supplies instead of requiring follow-on resupply missions. He said the Army will have more vehicles with common chassis, weapons with common calibers and other equipment with commonalities to lessen the need for particular items.

— Once deployed, units should be able to accomplish either armored combat, humanitarian assistance or any mission in between successfully.

— Armored vehicles will be smaller - 20-25 tons vs. 60-70 tons for today's Abrams tanks — and fire smaller-caliber weapons, but which are just as lethal.

Former NATO top commander calls for readiness and sticking to military values. As Gen. Bernard Rogers, USA, Ret., read the names of previous recipients of the George C. Marshall Medal to 2,500 attendees at the closing event of the Association of the United States Army's Annual Meeting, he said, "I questioned whether my name should be included in the list, but what the hell — hooah."

Earlier that evening, Rogers a former chief of staff of the Army and for eight years NATO's top commander, received the Marshall Medal. Previous recipients include President Harry S Truman, Defense Secretaries Richard Cheney and William Perry, and Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Throughout his address, Rogers stressed military readiness and military values. "No more Task Force Smiths," he said, referring to the first Americans sent to Korea in 1950 to repel the invasion from the north.

He said the first question that needed to be asked about any involvement in a crisis whether that action is in the nation's interest. The second question involves the values of operating in a coalition. "Coalition operations can be a major difficulty - because you need consensus." He cited the recent operations in Kosovo as an example.

"Isn't there a better way?" he asked when a nation first considers involvement and how it wants to achieve its goal, such as the removal of Slobadan Milosevic as president of Yugoslavia.

Rogers said, "Empty threats have no effect," so if the United States said it is going to do something it must follow through. There is "no place for spin control. ... Yes, men are a dime a dozen."

"Is casualty-free combat to be the measure of success?" he asked. Rogers said, "Victory is our mission."

To achieve that and take care of the soldiers entrusted to them, military leaders must "follow the ethics of our profession and always maintain a high level of professional competence." That also means "absolute integrity," and "character matters." Rogers added, "The NCO Corps is the backbone of the Army. ... We must support and enhance the corps."

That means while "we must not be afraid of change" military professionals should "never lower standards."

Clark: Task Force Hawk stabilized Albania and allowed air campaign to succeed. NATO's top commander said the presence of the Army's Task Force Hawk in Albania was one of the deciding factors in forcing Yugoslav President Slobadan Milosevic to end his campaign of ethnic cleansing in the breakaway province of Kosovo.

Gen. Wesley K. Clark, supreme allied commander in Europe, said the 5,500 soldiers, who primarily came from U.S. Army Europe, operated in the worst conditions he had ever seen. "But we put the forces in, we flowed it, we trained."

It wasn't just 24 Apaches. It was a corps headquarters, a deep operations coordinating cell, 24 Apaches, about 20 other helicopters, special operations forces, a brigade, two artillery battalions a bunch of radars, a full communications suite. It was a real package. If you were ever going to design a joint strike force to do something different and innovative, that was a great force."

He said the Albanians warmly welcomed the American and NATO presence. "Based on the presence of our forces, he (president of Albania) moved his small army, which was no match for the Serbs, up to the border. He put the pressure on that broke open a way for the KLA to attack" and allowed the air campaign to succeed.

"You just have to believe that. I know it's true. It was done without ever crossing the border. Had we been called to cross the border, I assure you we would have done well." Adding, he expected to "see further challenges like this in the future in the Balkans" where ethnic tensions continue running high.

Clark said the "Mission statement actually read 'to halt a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing or degrade it.'" The statement was written in July 1998. "We didn't know if we would ever execute that campaign."

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Special Operations to receive 50 Ospreys. The head of U.S. Army Special Operations Command anticipates seeing his force ride into the future on new aircraft, including 50 tilt-rotor Ospreys.

Lt. Gen. William P. Tangney, commanding general of USASOC, said new aircraft will greatly increase the Army's special operations troops capabilities.

Tangney spoke Oct. 11 at the Annual Meeting of the Association of the United States Army.

A near-term gain will be the CV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft. The aircraft is the special operations version of the V-22 being bought primarily for the Marine Corps. The Marines will buy 360 MV-22Bs and the Navy will purchase 48 HV-22Bs.

Special Operations Forces will get 50 of the aircraft, Tangney said. The aircraft, built by Bell Boeing Helicopter Textron Inc., will have the capability of taking off and landing vertically like a helicopter, then, as its rotor engines tilt forward, fly like an airplane.

"It's a great platform," Tangney said. The CV-22 can fly faster and farther without refueling than any helicopter in the special operations' inventory.

Tangney said he would like to see some modifications as the aircraft is employed by Army Rangers, Special Forces and other special operations units.

He said the fuselage is narrow because the aircraft is designed to be deployed from a Navy aircraft carrier. He said he would like to see a variant made with a wider body to fit more troops or equipment.

ABM treaty next? How the Senate will act on repealing the Anti Ballistic Missile treaty is open to discussion. The Clinton Administration has talked with the Russians about permitting a limited national missile defense program.

Defense officials said that with increased money set aside for national missile defense in this fiscal year they are planning to select a site either in Alaska or North Dakota or possibly both to defend the United States from attack.

The Senate, on both sides of the aisle with Administration approval, is pushing ahead with an expanded National Missile Defense Program that throws into question the treaty signed by the United States and former Soviet Union in the 1970s.

Pakistan is under 'state of emergency.' Pakistan's armed forces declared a state of emergency Oct. 15 that suspended parliament and the constitution as it took control of the country. Gen. Pervaiz Musharraf named himself the country's chief executive. He is the fourth military leader to seize control of the Islamic country since it gained independence in 1947.

Pakistan is a country that openly tested nuclear weapons.

Moving on up. Not only is the calendar moving inexorably forward toward the year 2000 presidential races, states large and small are creeping ever closer to the turn of the new year by advancing their primary dates.

Iowa will now lead off on Jan. 24 with its caucuses, and New Hampshire will follow with its primary Feb. 1. South Carolina, considered a key testing ground state for Sen. John McCain, will hold its primary Feb. 19. And, oh yes, California moved its primary — yet again — to March 7, the same date as New York's.

The Democratic National Committee approved the Iowa and New Hampshire dates at its meeting Oct. 15. The Republican National Committee does not require that states receive its approval to set caucus, convention or primary dates.

President blasts Senate over test ban treaty failure. President Clinton said Oct. 14 that although the United States would continue to restrain from testing nuclear weapons the Senate's rejection of the comprehensive test ban treaty could lead to renewed testing by Russia, China, Pakistan and India.

The vote, largely along party lines, led a number of senators to call for the creation of a bipartisan commission under former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger to find a way to get a treaty that would be acceptable to the Senate.

Republicans control the Senate, and the vote on the treaty was 51-48 against. Sixty-seven votes are needed to approve.

European defense merger: Daimler, Aerospatiale move to No. 3. The merger of Germany's Daimler-Chrysler and France's Aerospatiale Matra, announced Oct. 14, will create the world's third largest defense contractor—behind Boeing and Lockheed Martin. The new company will be called European Aeronautic, Defense and Space.

Defense officials, including Jacques Gansler, the Defense Department's top acquisition official, have been calling on European defense companies and the nations that own or control many of them to combine for needed efficiencies. These efficiencies could be plowed back into new equipment.

Both manufacturers have been heavily involved in commercial and military aviation, as well as space.

Stories sought from Latino WWII vets. The University of Texas is planning a May symposium on Latinos' experience in the armed forces during World War II. For the symposium, Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez is seeking oral histories and pictures from those who served.

Rivas-Rodriguez will be assisted in gathering this information by her journalism students. An estimated 500,000 Latinos served during World War II.

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Hill hears of NATO errors in Kosovo. Too slow to choose targets, underestimating how many precision weapons would be needed, not keeping the ground option open and too much reliance on American forces were NATO's major errors in waging a 78-day campaign against Yugoslavia.

Defense Secretary William Cohen and Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee Oct. 14 that those were the most serious problems in trying to protect ethnic Albanians in the breakaway province of Kosovo.

Cohen described the war as ending in "a very decisive victory," a point disputed by Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., in particular.

In addition, the report to Congress faulted the Europeans for failing to modernize their armed forces quickly enough to make them interoperable with U.S. aircraft.

Caldera: Army will be 'force of choice.' Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera said the Service will make changes to present itself as the "force of choice" to the country.

Caldera addressed changes the Army plans to make Oct. 11 at the opening session of the Annual Meeting of the Association of the United States Army.

The primary land warfare Service has made numerous changes since the end of the Cold War in 1989 and is the United States' main representative in numerous countries. However, he said conflicts since the end of the Cold War indicate more change is needed. Although he declined to be specific, he indicated the Army needs a lighter force that can be deployed much faster while still maintaining its lethality.

How to reshape a 70-ton tank. The Army of the future will be based on a family of systems unlike anything in the inventory today, top weapons development officials said.

To support the restructuring of the Army as described by senior leaders during the Annual Meeting, work is starting on developing new systems to support a force that is easier to deploy but just as lethal as the current force based on the 70-ton Abrams tank.

"The 70-ton tank is going to be something else," said Lt. Gen. Paul J. Kern, director of the Army Acquisition Corps. What it is going to be, though, "is a little bit murky right now."

Acquisition and research and development officials are working within parameters set by Army Secretary Louis Caldera and Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki. Called the Army Vision, their plan calls for a force built around a combat vehicle of about 20 tons, so that it can be transported on Air Force C-130 aircraft, which need little ground space to land and take off. In addition to serving as a main gun and carrying an infantry squad, the vehicle will serve as a platform for air defense, field artillery, communications and other functions.