



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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Shinseki nominated as chief of staff. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced April 21 that President Clinton has nominated Gen. Eric K. Shinseki to become the Army's chief of staff. Shinseki will succeed Gen. Dennis J. Reimer who will retire June 21. Reimer served in this position for four years.

Commenting on the nomination, AUSA President Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., said, "Ric Shinseki is an dynamic, inspirational, compassionate and effective leader who has proven in combat and in troop and staff positions that he is the right soldier at the right time to lead America's Army into the next millenium.

"AUSA, with its 100,000 members, urges the Senate to confirm Gen. Shinseki as soon as possible. He's a great American; he's a soldier's soldier."

Born in Lihue on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, in 1942, Shinseki graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in engineering and a commission as a second lieutenant of armor. He also holds a master's degree in English literature from Duke University.

As a junior officer, Shinseki served two tours in Vietnam, first as a forward observer with the 25th Infantry Division, and then as the commander of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division. He was wounded twice in combat operations and was awarded two purple hearts.

He commanded the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division, and the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, both in Europe; and the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

During his career as a commander and staff officer, he held a variety of assignments that directly affected operations and training at all levels of the Army. This resulted in his selection as the Department of the Army's assistant deputy, and later deputy, chief of staff for operations and plans.

Promoted to general in August 1997, he became the commander in chief, United States Army, Europe, and 7th Army, and commander of the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovena. While in Europe, he also commanded soldiers from several NATO countries as the commander, Allied Land Forces Central Europe.

In 1998, Shinseki was called back to the Pentagon to become the Army's 28th vice chief of staff. In this position, he chaired several councils and committees that have an impact on the day-to-day operations and future plans of the total Army — active, Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve — as it prepares to enter the 21st century.

They include: the Army Space Council, the Reserve Component Coordination Council, the Army Reserve Action Plan General Officer Steering Committee and the Special Access Program Oversight Committee.

Keane tapped for vice chief. Lt. Gen. John M. Keane, deputy commander in chief and chief of staff, U.S. Atlantic Command, Norfolk, Va., has been nominated by President Clinton April 27 to be promoted to general and become the Army's 29th vice chief of staff.

Keane would succeed Gen. Eric Shinseki who was nominated by the president April 21 to become the Army's chief of staff, replacing Gen. Dennis J. Reimer who will retire June 21. Both actions must be confirmed by the U. S. Senate.

AUSA President Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., commenting on the nomination, said, "This is a great day for America's Army. Jack Keane has proven himself to be an outstanding commander, administrator and staff officer with unquestionable vision who continuously shows compassion for the soldiers and families of the total force Army. "He and Ric Shinseki are truly quality soldiers who will do a great job leading our Army into the 21st century. They should be confirmed by the Senate as soon as possible."

Jones picked to lead Marine Corps. Lt. Gen. James Jones, senior military assistant to Defense Secretary William Cohen, has been nominated to be the commandant of the Marine Corps. If confirmed by the Senate, he will succeed Gen. Charles C. Krulak, who retires June 30.

AUSA calls on House to pass 4.8 percent pay hike. The Association of the United States Army has expressed its concern that “the House will not support the enhanced pay and compensation that our service members deserve.”

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., and president of the 100,000-member association, wrote Rep. Floyd Spence, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, saying “Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are working harder than ever. They deserve to know the House will join the Senate in providing a 4.8 percent pay increase, reforming the pay tables, repealing Redux.”

The 4.8 percent pay increase was a starting point, Sullivan said in the letter.

In the wake of the largest call-up of reserve forces since the Persian Gulf War, Sullivan said servicemen and servicewomen “need a clear signal from the House; they have already received it from the Senate.”

Y2K is hardware problem. While public and government attention has been focused on correcting the software problems called “Y2K,” a senior government law enforcement official with the Department of Defense reminded attendees at a special AUSA symposium on information assurance that the problem also is a hardware problem.

James V. Christy II said, the “286, 386 and 486 computers are vulnerable. Ninety-three percent of them manufactured before 1997 are not Y2K (year 2000) compliant.”

The same applies to products as different as video cassette recorders, gas pumps, brake control systems on railroad equipment, cellular telephones, pacemakers and weapon systems, he said.

Y2K compliant means the hardware and software will recognize the change of the millenium and not revert to 1900 for its internal operating calendar.

We’re fighting first ‘cyber war.’ The Defense Department’s number two civilian described the conflict with Yugoslavia as “the first cyber war we’re fighting.”

Speaking April 14 at a symposium on information assurance, John Hamre, deputy secretary of defense, said so far the cyber attacks on NATO have been “very incoherent and amateurish.”

He also said the attacks likely were Yugoslav-sponsored but probably not conducted by the Serb-controlled government but “messed up the NATO home page.” Adding, “It’s all directly tied to the war.”

NATO has been conducting an air campaign against Yugoslavia over the restoration of political rights in the Serbian province of Kosovo. Ninety percent of the pre-campaign population of Kosovo was ethnic Albanian. More than half a million Kosovars have fled the province since the Serb-controlled government launched a widespread and continuing “ethnic cleansing” assault on the Albanians.

Hamre said, “Two years ago we had our first cyber terrorist attack.” Called “Solar Sunrise,” it showed hackers that the nation’s “weakest link is its electrons” and “we’re seeing that in spades now.”

Hamre said the February 1998 attacks focused the Pentagon’s attention on what it had to do to protect itself.

“Two years ago we didn’t have a map of the networks. Now we do. Two years ago we didn’t know our web sites. Now we do. One year ago, we didn’t have firewalls. Today we do. A year ago we wouldn’t have real-time information on intrusion and detection. Today we do.”

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Hamre credited these changes in helping the Pentagon control the spread of the Melissa virus in March throughout the department.

“Unfortunately, it’s just the foundation.”

Cost of Kosovo operations - So far. Congress has been asked to approve about \$6 billion as an emergency appropriation for the military humanitarian operations in Kosovo. The Defense Department said it expected the appropriation of \$5 billion for the military will cover this operation in the Balkans through Sept. 30.

At the same time, some members of Congress are proposing a package of \$18 billion to not only pay for Kosovo, but to provide more money for training and equipment, modernization and replacement.

If Congress approves the appropriation as “emergency spending,” there is no need to cut funds from other programs. As part of the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997, money spent above agreed-upon spending limits would have to be offset by cuts in other programs.

33,000 Reservists to be called up. The Defense Department has requested calling 33,000 members of the Reserves to active duty to bolster the campaign against Yugoslavia.

The greatest number of Reservists who will be affected by this presidential call up for 270 days of active duty service will come from the United States Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

This would be the largest single call up of Reserve forces since the Persian Gulf War.

Soldiers from the Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve would also be called up to support the deployment of 24 Apache gun ships to Albania. Defense officials said they would likely come from engineering, security forces, civil affairs and psychological operations.

Defense Secretary William Cohen and Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified April 15 that NATO still has no plans to introduce ground combat forces to remove Serbian military and paramilitary units from Kosovo.

All 19 NATO countries would have to approve the introduction of its forces into the fighting already going on in the Serbian province. The province’s population was 90 percent ethnic Albania.

Retention remains problem for the Navy. The chief of naval operations said retention of both officers and enlisted continues to be a problem, and the Navy is handing back to ships’ captains the authority to structure their crews’ training when they return from six-month deployment.

With enlisted retention running from 8 to 28 percent below goals in many ratings and the officer retention - particularly in the critical warfighting areas from submarines to surface vessels to SEALs — in a comparable state, Adm. Jay Johnson, said, “A better use of the non-deployed force is part of fixing retention and readiness.

Johnson said one reason why the Navy will drop from more than 350 ships to 305 is to provide more money for flying hours, steaming days, cutting depot backlogs and improve the lives of sailors.

While he told attendees at the Naval Institute’s 126th Annual Meeting in Annapolis that “it’s beginning to work,” Johnson admitted that in the fleet that was a “tremendous wait-and-see attitude.” This was reflected in the enlisted ranks with soldiers agreeing to extend their enlistments, but not re-enlist.

“We’ve got to keep the quality force we have today.” He said that starting in October, the Navy will offer recruits a career pattern that will lead them to either a college degree or certification in technical skill. He said the Navy will be able to do that using, among other things, distance learning available to crews at sea.

Later, Rear Adm. Barbara McGann, head of the Navy Recruiting Command, said the Navy was also considering offering sabbaticals midway in a sailor’s career for education. “We need to think seriously about the Navy degree completion program.” It also is considering proposals to take recruits in at a higher rank if they have demonstrated technical skills the Navy needs.

The impact of any or all of these changes on retention several years down the road was unclear, McGann said.

50 years later: Korea still divided. Half a century after the North Korean army crossed the 38th parallel, the peninsula remains divided, and the Stalinist government in Pyongyang remains as secretive and elusive as before.

Don Oberdorfer, author of "The Two Koreas," said that in the north 2 million people have died of starvation or diseases related to starvation in the past four years. That comes from a nation of 24 million that is capable of building a nuclear facility capable of making weapons and launching medium-range missile over Japan.

Maj. Gen. W.C. Gregson, USMC, director of Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, said that even though the economy has collapsed the regime of Kim Jong Ill is bent on survival. "Their strategic programs are exceeding importance to them as tools of extortion."

He said while in Washington the greatest concern about North Korea is its willingness to sell weapons of mass destruction and advanced missiles to other nations or terrorists groups. Gregson said in South Korea and Japan the concern is one of deterrence.

How North Korea will act is unknown. "North Korea views itself as the ultimate victim." It also now has no patrons and is suffering from decades of being under the sanctions of the "Trading With the Enemy" Act for the United States and most of its economic partners.

In answer to a question, Gregson said that if North Korea tried to use the crisis in the Balkans to act, "we should make it crystal clear to them that they should do nothing. Otherwise (any combat) would be bloody, it would be brutal, it would be over."

Kosovo shows strains of coalition action.

Congressional and public support "are not being built for ground troops" in Kosovo, one of the leading defense analysts said.

John Hillen, author of the AUSA book "Blue Helmets: The Strategy of U.N. Military Operations and with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said at the United States Naval Institute's Annual Meeting, "This weekend (April 23 and 24), NATO will talk about what it wants in the Balkans. That's 30 days late."

Adding, "it's almost moot (to say NATO needs to introduce ground troops) for humanitarian reasons." More than 600,000 Kosovars have become refugees in Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania since Slobodan Milosevic's army and paramilitary forces began a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" in the province.

The Serbian province had a population of slightly more than 2 million. Ninety percent of them were ethnic Albanians.

Lt. Gen. James Jamerson, USAF, Ret., former deputy commander, U.S. European Command, said Kosovo shows "coalition war is beyond difficult. I'm not surprised that we're having the difficulties we're having."

Adding, in response to a question, "We're there because it's right and that's credibility. Give me the alternative. Are we supposed to debate this in a court of law (before acting)?"

Adm. T. Joseph Lopez, former commander in chief of NATO forces in southern Europe, said, "Right now, it doesn't appear the military is working if the objectives were Kosovo autonomy and the safety of the refugees."

Adding, "the role of a military commander is to plan to win - even at the lowest level. But a military commander needs from his political masters a definition of winning."

Hillen asked, "What do you want ground troops to do?" Jamerson added, "I'd rather learn a few things before troops are in there" and be prepared for a compromise.

Lopez said because of declining force structures, "No nation can go it alone" in these kinds of operations. "If NATO is to be viable in the future it must leverage what it did in Bosnia."

There, the 16 NATO nations sent peacekeeping forces as did 20 other countries including Russia.

(Editor's note: For the latest developments on Capitol Hill, check out the What's Hot and News Desk sections of the AUSA Web Site. Bookmark, www.ansa.org. For AUSA's electronic legislative newsletter, E-mail John Molino at jmolino@ansa.org.)



WASHINGTON UPDATE SUPPLEMENT



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Congressional Committee Assignments, 105th Congress

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Pat Danner (D-Mo.)	Peter King (R-N.Y.)	Owen Pickett (D-Va.)	James Walsh (R-N.Y.)
Tom Davis (R-Va.)	Jack Kingston (R-Ga.)	Jack Quinn (R-N.Y.)	Zach Wamp (R-Tenn.)
Norman Dicks (D-Wash.)	Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.)	Jim Ramstad (R-Minn.)	J. C. Watts (R-Okla.)
Chet Edwards (D-Texas)	Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio)	Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas)	Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.)
Co-Chair	John Lewis (D-Ga.)	Bob Riley (R-Ala.)	C. W. "Bill" Young (R-Fla.)
Bob Etheridge (D-N.C.)	Ron Lewis (R-Ky.)	Ciro Rodriguez (D-Texas)	Don Young (R-Alaska)
Lane Evans (D-Ill.)	Bob Livingston (R-La.)	Jim Ryun (R-Kan.)	
Thomas Ewing (R-Ill.)	Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.)	Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.)	
Eni Faleomavaega (D-A.S.)		Max Sandlin (D-Texas)	