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Reimer sees challenge in maintaining technological lead. The U.S. Army's senior general said the real challenge for the service now and into the 21st century will be its ability to retain a technological edge on the battlefield against forces who have numerical superiority and access to much of the same sophisticated hardware and software that is available to this nation's armed forces.

Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, the Army's chief of staff, told 700 defense industry leaders in Orlando, Fla., that by 2015, one-third of the Army's scout helicopters will be over 40 years old and not have night fighting capability.

Reimer said, "the U.S. Army is as low as it can go (at an active duty strength of 495,000) and still meet the national security strategy of being able to fight and win two major regional conflicts at the same time." A major regional conflict would be comparable to Operations Desert Shield/Storm five years ago.

Reimer added the Department of Defense realizes that "the Army has gaping holes in our budget ... and over time it will balance out, but not immediately."

For Fiscal Year 1997, the Army's budget will probably be about \$60 billion with between \$10 billion and \$11 billion set aside to buy improved equipment as well as research and development. Defense observers say the Army needs about \$14 billion to buy improved equipment, as well as fund research and development to maintain its technological edge.

He said efforts in the Army, including the building of an Experimental Force with a division at Fort Hood, Texas, may lead to streamlined headquarters operations and the removal of layers of bureaucracy inside the service.

Other initiatives to find more money for modernization, Reimer said include changing rules, regulations and laws covering privatizing some functions in the Army and depot maintenance work.

Department of Defense spending plan requests \$234.4 billion; Army seeks \$60.1 billion. Defense Secretary William Perry unveiled a Fiscal Year 1997 budget request of \$243.4 billion in budget authority for DoD. This does not include the national security request included in the Department of Energy's budget.

For the first time, the DoD budget includes a request for continuing contingency operations in Iraq and Bosnia.

The Army's request of \$60.1 billion terminates the Armored Gun System, but looks for several "fast payback" opportunities for modernization by reducing the cost of doing business. More details will be available in the next Washington Update.

Syria likely to remain on list of nations backing terrorism. Although it's not due to Congress until April, Syria is likely to remain one of seven nations that the United States has identified as backing terrorism. Syria remains on the list of nations supporting terrorism because of its ties to guerrillas in Lebanon.

This occurs at the same time as the United States is brokering talks between Syria and Israel on reaching a peace accord on the Golan Heights.

The other nations on the list are Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Sudan.

Atlantic Command loses responsibility for Caribbean. The U.S. Atlantic Command has turned over authority for coastal waters around Central and South America at the start of this year to the Southern Command. Southern Command will assume responsibility for the Caribbean sometime after June 1, 1997.

The change was made as part of the periodic review of the Unified Command Plan.

In the same review, the Seychelles, an island group in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa, was transferred as an area of responsibility from the Pacific Command to Central Command.

Army falls just shy of recruiting goal in fourth quarter of 1995. Between October and December, the Army recruited 12,200 recruits or 99 percent of its goal.

In part, the first shutdown in November of the Federal Government, where recruiters were barred from using their cars to travel and some office restrictions also applied, help explain the shortfall.

The Defense Department also announced in February that the downward trend in propensity to enlist apparently has been arrested — at least in 1995. Defense officials attribute the change to heavier recruitment advertising.

More money for B-2s may not necessarily mean buying more B-2s. The Defense Department announced in February that it is embarking on a force inventory analysis that may lead to a shift of funds from building the additional B-2 bombers Congress authorized in Fiscal Year 1996 to a new mix of precision weapons and platforms in 1998, 2006 and 2014.

Paul Kaminski, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will head the analysis.

The results of that study will be reviewed by the Defense Science Board.

A Defense Department spokesman said, "We always want to look at the most cost effective mix of platforms and munitions, and we had already undertaken an analysis which would lead to a formulation of the most effective program, and certainly this is not contrary to that thinking."

Foreign Muslim troops held by NATO forces. Eleven Muslim soldiers, including five Iranians, were seized in a NATO raid on a house near Sarajevo Feb. 15. In addition, a large cache of weapons and explosives were uncovered in the raid.

Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's regional commander in Bosnia, estimated that there were between 200 and 400 foreign Muslims fighting alongside the Bosnian Muslim-led government.

Commanders in Bosnia to receive special information systems. The communications systems of the U.S. forces, NATO allies and coalition units will be linked in the next few months by satellites, software, translator devices and commercially available technologies in a special Bosnia Command and Control Augmentation System.

The system, estimated to cost about \$88 million, will create unprecedented coordination between commanders in the field and the Defense Department.

Paul Kaminski, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, gave a glimpse of what this system might be like in his speech before an AUSA symposium in Orlando, Fla., in mid-February.

The Bosnia Augmentation System, located in Tuzla, automatically will rout information instantly to sites where it is needed using fiber-optic cables for less sensitive material and U.S. Milstar satellites for sensitive material. Additionally, Direct Broadcast satellites, National Reconnaissance Office Imagery satellites, Global Positioning satellites, Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System will be linked to troops on the ground, ships at sea, patrolling fighter and strike aircraft, as well as headquarters for the Implementation Force and the Defense Department.

Data will include terrain databases, weather, intelligence, location and readiness of forces, logistics and imagery overlays.

Defense officials estimate that this communications system is 1,000 times more powerful than those used during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. They estimate that the new system can handle the equivalent of 1 million telephone calls simultaneously.

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John Grady - Editor
2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703-841-4300, extension 351
FAX: 703-525-9039

Army plans to speed buying of "own the night technologies." The effectiveness of soldiers in a November Warrior Focus Advanced Warfighting Exercise at the the Joint Readiness Training Center in using "own the night" technologies has resulted in the Army making plans to accelerate the buying of the 14 tools in this technology.

During a February symposium, sponsored by the Association of the United States Army in Orlando, Fla., Gen. William Hartzog, Commanding General of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, said the early success of these technologies during Warrior Focus show how they are integral in dominating the expanded battlespace and controlling the tempo of future combat.

The technologies help soldiers see better in the dark, improve target sighting, as well as engage and strike the enemy. The soldiers involved in the exercise were from the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. The Dismounted Battlespace Battle Lab, Fort Benning, Ga., conducted the demonstration.

During Warrior Focus, the Army also reported electronic linking of infantry units below brigade level was effective.

TRADOC's Experimental Force is addressing the question of information overload. During the last day of Warrior Focus, 30,000 messages came into the brigade headquarters for processing.

McCaffrey choice as drug fighter greeted warmly. President Clinton's selection of Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey to head the nation's fight against narcotics has been greeted warmly on Capitol Hill and among law enforcement officials.

McCaffrey has for the last two years been Commanding General, Southern Command, based in Panama. Southern Command's duties include narcotics interdiction from Latin America.

The cabinet-level post requires Senate confirmation. When confirmed, McCaffrey would retire from the Army.

Ouster of HIV-positive troops again in question. Even though President Clinton signed the Fiscal Year 1996 Defense Authorization Act, the provision requiring the discharge of service members who test positive for the virus that leads to AIDS will be challenged in court.

Shortly after signing the bill, Clinton said he found that part of the bill discriminatory; and when the law is challenged, the Justice Department and the Solicitor General would not defend the automatic discharge provision. As required by the bill, discharge is to come within six months of the diagnosis.

Pentagon officials estimate that there are about 1,050 career servicemembers already diagnosed positive for HIV-1. They would face discharge in August if the provision survives the likely court challenge.

Armored Gun System is eliminated. The release of the Army's Fiscal Year 1997 budget confirmed the elimination of Armored Gun system program. Army budget officials said in early March the \$46.8 million in the FY 1996 proposal will be used solely to close the program down.

The same budget officials said "AGS is not the only program we're looking at to eliminate." The AGS with its 105mm main gun was on the eve of going into production as the replacement for the service's 30-year-old Sheridan tank for use by the Army's light forces. There were no major problems in research, developing, testing and evaluating the system, which can be airdropped and could be outfitted with different layers of armor protection.

When canceled, the program frees about \$1 billion for other Army modernization efforts.

Service budget officials said the elimination of AGS was a combination of capability and affordability.

Army officials have noted that the C-17 transport could bring M1A2 tanks into theater to support light forces. They also cited acceleration in buying the Javelin anti-tank weapon.

Correction on size of foreign armies. Vietnam should have been listed as having the sixth largest army in the world and Pakistan the seventh largest.

Military Review now available online. The 73-year-old Military Review from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., is now available on the World Wide Web. A major reason for moving to electronic distribution, the journal's editors, said, was rising printing costs. The editors said they also intend to move beyond straight text, introduce color, video and audio clips. Its access points are: <http://leav-www.army.mil>; or <http://www-cgsc.army.mil>; or <http://www.army.mil>. These are the home pages of, respectively, the Combined Arms Center, the Command and General Staff College and the Army.

Secretary Perry pushes for Theater Missile Defense. Defense Secretary William Perry announced in mid February plans to shore up lagging development of the Army's Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC-3) and the Navy's Area Defense System to provide more accurate and powerful protection against missile attack within a roughly 25-mile wide area.

"Our timing emphasis will be on these two programs because that's where the threat is, here and now," Perry said. What this means is that \$300 million is being added to PAC-3 and \$150 million to the Navy program. It is also part of a theater missile defense restructuring that Secretary Perry said could save about \$2.5 billion over the next five years.

At the same time, Perry indicated that the Army's Theater High Altitude Area Defense was being stretched out, by cutting \$2 billion from the \$5 billion program through Fiscal Year 2001. The Navy's Aegis Theater Wide Program received an additional \$600 million through FY 2001.

The FY 1996 Defense Authorization Act called for THAAD to be fielded by FY 2000 and the Navy Aegis system to be fielded the following year.

COLAS take effect April 1, 1996. The Fiscal Year 1996 Defense Authorization Act moves military cost-of-living adjustments to April 1, instead of Oct. 1. The COLAs for FY 1997 are to begin on Jan. 1, 1997.

This thorny issue has been one that the Association of the United States Army and other military associations have worked for several years with Congress to change. The basic contention was equity with other federal retirees.

Joint Vision 2010 likely due out in mid-March. Joint Vision 2010, the publication that is to look at how all the services will fight in the next century, is undergoing final review within the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The 16-page booklet is to provide a broad framework for joint operations and identify important trends that probably will influence future battlefield operations. It likely will be available in mid-March.

The plan stresses speed and information technology. The four basic concepts are:

1. Dominant Maneuver to include advances in information, engagement and mobile capabilities for widely dispersed, air, sea, land and space forces to converge rapidly to achieve their mission.
2. Precision engagement to include a system of systems to locate targets, provide command and control, destroy enemy positions, assess damage and re-engage.
3. Full-Dimensional Protection to include offensive and defensive uses of information warfare and theater missile defense systems integrated into a seamless joint architecture.
4. Focused Logistics to include the services and Defense agencies working jointly and integrated with the civilian sector to take advantage of global networks, economies of scale and commercial business practices.

Army officials expect austere procurement level in Fiscal Year 1997 budget. Even though the details of the Fiscal Year 1997 federal budget have not yet been released, the Army's Acquisition Executive said the "biggest hits have come in the procurement accounts." Gilbert Decker, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition) said spending in the Army for modernization likely would be between \$10 billion and \$11 billion.

This is well below the level many defense analysts think is sufficient to modernize the Army in the foreseeable future. The Association of the United States Army has testified that to complete the improvements to existing systems — such as the Apache — and field new ones — such as the Comanche, the Army needs \$14 billion in constant FY 1996 dollars.