A NEW "GAP" TO BE CLOSED
NOT so many years back, public attention was focused upon the alleged American military effectiveness being largely ignored, probably because it can't be so readily "glamorized."
It's the mile-wide gap between what the Military Services are expected to accomplish, and the support given by those who are supposed to provide the wherewithal.

For instance: Material recognition and reward for men and women of the Armed Forces. It's been a good five years since Servicemen were given a raise to compare with what their civilian opposite numbers in Federal employee receive. While Civil Service people spend last year's raise for next year's, and later, if they can, expect to see a third break down in as recently proposed, a military pay proposal makes its way through Congress at a slow and painful pace. Even if it finally passes, the Pentagon proposal falls far short of what Service people had every right to expect. Troop morale can hardly be restored by T & E lectures when, for example, proposals are heard to delay the raise awhile so as to save one federal quarter's money (at the Serviceman's expense).

The timing of the proposal to give Civil Service workers a third raise was particularly unfortunate, for it came just when the military pay proposals were being trimmed-back substantially.

We've talked with a good many men in the Active service who reluctantly intend to leave the service after 20 years (just when the skills they've acquired make them most useful), while they're still young enough to find other employment. Reason: they just can't put their kids through college in the pay of field grade officers. Expiry is the most valuable asset of a military organization, but good expir will not survive habits from that.