SECRETARY ASPIN GIVES GUARD COMMUNITY MANY POINTS TO PONDER

The advent of the new administration and the Bottom-Up Review, which Secretary Aspin initiated, maintained a continuous focus on Army National Guard force structure and end-strength. B-52 and B-1 heavy bombers were downgraded in size when we saw 15 "enlarged" brigades on the chart for 1998. Even though we were heartened that the off-site group's numbers through 1996 were being supported, we found little comfort in the lack of specific changes by 1996. The chart's lack of specificity caused various interpretations of what was being projected. Some versions talked about five-plus divisions. Another interpretation discounted only 15 brigades ready to go in 90 days or less. And we heard of end-strength numbers that deviated greatly from the Guard's historical level.

The Bottom-Up Review left many unanswered questions. Secretary Aspin's acceptance of our invitation to speak to the Conference delegates, we hoped, would provide more details as to what the Bottom-Up Review really meant and what the civilian leadership's thinking was. Secretary Aspin's address did not answer any of our questions.

Here are some quotes from Secretary Aspin's remarks at the Conference: "In short, our reserve components are going to provide us with 'compensating leverage.' By compensating leverage, I mean we're going to use the Guard and Reserve to reduce the risks and control the costs of smaller active forces. This means making smarter use of the reserve components. It means using their strengths where they're properly placed. And it means funding reserve forces at a level that reflects how much we will rely on them in a crisis. In the new world, we are going to count on reserve forces to respond more often and more quickly. Since our military force structure, on the whole, will be leaner, more flexible and more mobile, our reserve forces will have to be as well. This means we have to make some changes."

He discussed the impact on the other services and touched on the new Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, which he said would be flying B-52 and B-1 heavy bombers. He said they would have more aerial refueling and airlift operations, and they would take on some of the occasional short-duration peacetime deployments overseas to reduce personnel in the active Air Force. Just as we are reducing the number of Cold War active fighter wings, (Guards and reserve wings will come down from 12 to seven.)

After that, he went on to the Army Guard and Army Reserve, saying: "...Changes here will be the most dramatic and exciting, particularly regarding the Guard, a corral force. We must first give you the big picture. Our kind of numbers we are talking about. We're planning for a combined Army reserve component end-strength of 575,000 personnel, fiscal year 1998. What does this give us in terms of total power? It gives us a combat team of about 15 brigades. This force is augmented and reinforced by the IO and Army Division plans, and, of course, the support force required to sustain them in crisis and war."

"The centerpiece of this plan will be an enlarged readiness combined brigades that can quickly release active combat units in a crisis. These brigades would be in place in 90 days...much faster than the Army Guard divisions now deploy under our current project." Obviously, the secretary had something more and much more in mind. He addressed his speech, he has given us far more points to consider. There are tough questions about force structure. As I've said, Secretary Aspin is the one who decides what the Army Guard structure is, and don't let pilots who met those requirements, but not fitness standards, eat. Denny Elkin and MLZ David Woodworth, of California National Guard, made history as instructor pilots for a United States Air Force training mission. He was the first pilot to fly a C-130."

He also talked about the importance of having a strong and versatile air and Army National Guard medical units that would in the future be able to respond to national and state emergencies.

New Jersey Loses Two Great Units

Alerting similar ceremonies at Sea Girt, New Jersey, MG Donald Morgan, the adjutant general of New Jersey, and Linda Florio, the wife of Governor Jim Florio, addressed the line for the last time to render a final salute to the 56th Armored Division and the 179th Infantry National Guard of New Jersey National Guard.

Mission in Flight of a C-130

A reader for Russian-speaking C-130 instructor in the active Air Force, it turned out that the C-130 was to fly to the California National Guard, and pilots met those requirements.

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How the National Guard

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