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<center><H1>December 7, 1999</H1></center>

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<!-- <H3>CATEGORY</H3>

Title

(Publication)....Author

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Title

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<H3>TOP STORIES</H3>

Russians Issue An Ultimatum To Rebel City

(New York Times)....Michael R. Gordon

The Russian military dropped thousands of leaflets over Grozny Monday, warning residents of the besieged city to get out by Saturday or risk death.

<H3>WHITE HOUSE</H3>

White House Says U.S. Force Is Match For New Chinese Sub

(Washington Times)....Bill Gertz

The White House said yesterday the United States is not worried about China's development of a new ballistic-missile submarine as part of its strategic nuclear-force modernization.

<p>

Clinton Scolds The Chinese And Russians

(New York Times)....Associated Press

President Clinton criticized China's crackdown on the Falun Gong spiritual movement Monday and said that Russia would "pay a heavy price" if it carried out a threat to destroy Grozny, the Chechen capital.

<H3>DEFENSE DEPARTMENT</H3>

Cohen Defends Pentagon Reforms

(Aviation Week & Space Technology)....Paul Mann

...Speaking to a recent strategy symposium led by Tufts' Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the secretary surveyed the progress he believes the Pentagon and the services have made in the 1990s toward reshaping and modernizing themselves.

<H3>ARMY</H3>

Army Learning Tough Lessons

(Long Island Newsday)....Patrick J. Sloyan

...For the Army, which spends \$67 billion a year on 488,000 active-duty soldiers, 231,000 in the National Guard and Reserves, and a civilian work force of 287,000, the Kosovo conflict was something of an embarrassment.

<p>

Promoting The Best Military Commanders

(National Journal)....George Wilson

Army Maj. Donald E. Vandergriff is doing the military equivalent of taking on city hall. He is working day and night to change the post-World War II military promotion system that he contends is encouraging the advancement of bootlicking yes-men rather than self-reliant warriors who can lead troops in battle.

<H3>EUROPE</H3>

Bosnian Serb Arms Seized

(New York Times)....Associated Press

United Nations investigators backed by NATO troops confiscated weapons Monday from the Bosnian Serb army, as they looked into the deaths of as many as 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in less than a week in July 1995.

<p>

EU Plans Reaction Force In 4 Years

(International Herald Tribune)....Barry James

Striving to give the European Union its own military, EU foreign ministers agreed Monday on a plan to create a rapid-reaction force of up to 60,000 troops with air and naval support within four years.

<p>

**EU Fuel Trucks Arrive In Yugoslavia
**

**(Washington Post)....Unattributed
**

NIS, Yugoslavia--The first trucks carrying European Union fuel to aid opponents of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic arrived here today after being held up at the Yugoslav border for almost two weeks.

<H3>IRAQ</H3>

**Iraq: U.S. Jets Attack
**

**(New York Times)....Stephen Lee Myers
**

American Navy jets attacked an antiaircraft battery and a radar station near the city of Al Amarah, about 165 miles southeast of Baghdad.

<p>

**Iraq: Protest On Turks
**

**(New York Times)....Agence France-Presse
**

Iraq protested that Turkish troops backed by tanks and helicopters have begun a new incursion into the Kurdish-held north of the country in pursuit of Kurdish guerrillas.

<H3>ASIA/PACIFIC</H3>

**Americans Conquered, Now Divide Okinawa
**

**(Washington Post)....Doug Struck
**

U.S. push for air base relocation before summit stirs resentment.

<p>

**Islands Seek More Pay For Missile Tests
**

(Christian Science Monitor)....Colin Woodard

Marshall Islands officials want the U.S. \$12-million fee for use of Kwajalein raised to a "fair-market value."

<p>

North Korean Recovery

(International Herald Tribune)....Associated Press

United Nations officials said Monday that the North Korean economy was showing tentative signs of life after more than four years of food shortages but that a generation of children would never recover from famine.

<H3>AMERICAS</H3>

Panama Upset By U.S. Explosives Left Behind In Canal Zone

(Miami Herald)....Associated Press

...Of all the properties the United States is turning over to Panama this year, that unexploded ordnance -- UXO in military slang -- is the one Panama is least eager to accept.

<H3>PEARL HARBOR</H3>

New Evidence Hints Of Sub At Pearl Harbor

(Baltimore Sun)....Tom Bowman

...Now, 58 years later, there is a growing debate about whether the sneak attack from the heavens was coupled with another from beneath the harbor's waves: Did a Japanese midget submarine fire its two torpedoes at the West Virginia and the Oklahoma?

<p>

Son Fights A Ghost Of Pearl Harbor<

BR>

(Baltimore Sun)....Neal Thompson

It's been more than half a century since squadrons of Japanese bombers destroyed 2,400 lives and the Navy's unsuspecting fleet of ships moored in a Hawaiian port on an otherwise quiet Sunday morning. But debate still rages over which Americans are to blame for the nation's most painful military defeat.

<p>

Survivor Of Pearl Harbor Fights Army On Markers

(Philadelphia Inquirer)....Bruce Dunford, Associated Press

...A half-century ago, the crosses that marked the servicemen's graves at temporary cemeteries contained the date of their deaths and the locations at which their remains were recovered, Emory said. The remains were moved in 1949 to Punchbowl, overlooking downtown and the harbor. Emory thinks the Army is trying to cover up bad record-keeping on the recovery and burials.

<H3>OPINION</H3>

What's Going Right In Kosovo

(Washington Post)....George Robertson

...Today more than 800,000 refugees have returned home with unprecedented speed. The hostilities have ended, and all Serb forces have withdrawn. The Kosovo Liberation Army has been disbanded and demilitarized by the international force known as KFOR, handing over some 10,000 weapons.

<p>

Thoughts On Pearl Harbor

(Washington Times)....Christopher Lehman

...Like our Navy prior to World War II, all our military forces, and particularly the U.S. Navy, are too small and stretched too thin. We need to either reduce U.S. commitments or increase the size and capability of our military forces -- most notably the Navy.

<p>

**Why Are We Using Crack Troops On Safety Patrol?
**

**(Chicago Tribune).....James O'Shea
**

Cpl. Joseph Cooper is a paratrooper, one of the U.S. Army's best soldiers, trained to jump from airplanes and fight the toughest fights. But on a recent sunny Saturday the Sacramento paratrooper had a different sort of mission in the sector of Kosovo patrolled by U.S. forces: Tactical day care.

<p>

**The US Is Not Amused By Our Redundant Military Gestures
**

**(London Daily Telegraph).....John Keegan
**

The proposed Anglo-French 'Euro force' is a piece of feeble posturing disdainful of America's historic role in guarding Europe's freedom.

<p>

**Army Shortchanged - (Letter)
**

**(Wall Street Journal)....Charles K. Nichols
**

Your Nov. 15 page-one article "Desert Snooze" identifies some interesting possibilities for streamlining and consolidation of military maintenance and testing operations that are paid for by the military services' Operation & Maintenance (O&M) funds.

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<P>New York Times

December 7, 1999

Pg. 1</P>

<P>Russians Issue An Ultimatum To Rebel City</P>

<P>By Michael R. Gordon</P>

<P> ZNAMENSKOYE, Chechnya -- The Russian military dropped thousands of leaflets over Grozny Monday, warning residents of the besieged city to get out by Saturday or risk death. </P>

<P> "You have lost!" said a leaflet addressed to rebel forces. "There will be no more negotiations. Everybody who has not left the city will be destroyed. The countdown has started." </P>

<P> A less-threatening message to civilians warned them to leave the city "by any means possible" for a tent camp set up here in Znamenskoye. "After the completion of the counter-terrorism operation you will be able to return to your homes." </P>

<P> The ultimatum underscored the resolve of Russian generals to take the Chechen capital, either by forcing its complete evacuation or by shelling it into submission. </P>

<P> Estimates of how many civilians remain in the city, battered and desolated by Russia's first campaign in 1994-1996 and again in recent weeks, vary considerably. Nikolai Koshman, a deputy prime minister of Russia who has been put in charge of Chechnya, said in an interview that some 45,000 to 50,000 civilians still live there. Russian military officials say 5,000 to 7,000 rebel fighters have also taken refuge in Grozny, where 250,000 people lived before the war, and have fortified the city. </P>

<P> The separate warnings for the rebels and for the civilians were dropped from planes, and signed by "The Command of the Combined Group of Russian Forces." Despite the difference in tone, both warned those in the city that this was their last chance to get out safely. </P>

<P> Those who failed to leave by Saturday would be considered "terrorists and bandits" and would be "destroyed by artillery and aviation." </P>

<P> Only by leaving, civilians were told, "will you be able to avoid death and save your city." </P>

<P> "Remember," it went on, "preservation of life and the provision of security for the civilian population is the main task of the Russian forces." </P>

<P> To encourage disgruntled rebels to lay down their arms and leave, Russian planes also dropped safe-conduct passes, telling rebels they would receive medical assistance and be treated fairly if they turned themselves in to Russian troops. </P>

<P> The passes instruct rebels to remove the cartridge from their automatic weapons, hang the weapons barrel-down over their left shoulders and wave a piece of white cloth or the flimsy white leaflet. The rebels were told to leave Grozny through a specially designated "safety corridor" and head north toward a checkpoint in the town of Pervomayskoye. </P>

<P> "Further resistance is senseless," the leaflets declared. "The Command of the Combined Group of Russian Forces is giving you a last chance." Those who came out would be offered shelter, food, medical assistance "and most important, life." </P>

<P> Even in a conflict that has seen more than its share of indiscriminate attacks, the fate of the civilians in Grozny has become one of the most compelling dramas of the war. While thousands have already fled, many have been too afraid to try to escape, taking refuge instead in basements and cellars to escape the daily pounding. It is unclear how many will choose to leave Grozny for the tent city that the Russian military is rushing to complete for them in this northern Chechen town. </P>

<P> Grozny has been a thorn in the side of the Russian military for most of this decade. Before the 1994-96 war in Chechnya, the Defense Minister at the time, Pavel Grachev, boasted that he would take the city with a small force of paratroopers. Instead, it became the scene of a humiliating and costly defeat for Russian forces. </P>

<P> In the current war, the Russians have approached the city cautiously. Instead of sending troops into the center of the city, they have approached it from the north, east and west to surround it. </P>

<P> Their plan appears to be to blockade Grozny and bombard it, and avoid costly house-to-house fighting. The ultimatum Monday appeared intended to scare as much of the population into leaving as possible, so that Grozny could be turned into a veritable free-fire zone. </P>

<P> Limiting the destruction to the city itself does not appear to concern the Russians. The Russian government has already decided to administer Chechnya from Gudermes, Chechnya's second largest city, at least for now. Koshman said Russia would not rush to pour money into the reconstruction of Grozny after the war, but would favor the restoration of the surrounding provinces. </P>

<P> Many Russian officers would be happy to leave Grozny as a smoking ruin and a grisly testament to what happens to rebels who tangle with the Russian military. Russia has been severely criticized by Western governments for unnecessarily endangering civilians, and the warning Monday seemed intended to address those concerns as well as to protect Russia's own citizens. </P>

<P> Still, they raised many questions. Russian officials have repeatedly charged that the rebels were preventing civilians from leaving, raising the question of whether residents were capable of using the newly established escape corridor if they wanted to. Some civilians are presumably too sick, weakened or injured to leave. </P>

<P> Lt. Gen. Vladimir V. Bulgakov, the commander of the Northern Forces, said that the rebels were confiscating documents from civilians in Grozny and telling them that they would not be accepted by the Russian forces without them. </P>

<P> It is also not clear whether Russia is really prepared to handle an exodus of civilians. The tent city in Znamenskoye appeared relatively comfortable by the standards of refugee camps. It was erected on a former automotive depot and had gas-heated tents, a dining hall, showers and even a mosque set up in a tent. </P>

<P> But as the winter chill spread through the countryside, the tent city was not finished. Workers said they had been ordered to complete construction by Friday. Even when it and another tent city under construction here are completed, they will accommodate only 4,500 people. That is a fraction of the Grozny population and of the more than 200,000 refugees in Ingushetia whom the Russian government is also urging to return. </P>

<P> Russian officials acknowledge that the potential flood of refugees will far outstrip the capacity of the camps here, but they said that two additional camps are planned at other locations in northern Chechnya and that many refugees may find a place to stay with their relatives. </P>

<P> The rebels could try to break out of the Russian encirclement. And even if the Russians succeed in taking Grozny, that would not be the end of their fight. Several thousand rebels have taken up positions in the towns of Urus-Martan and Shali to the south. But for those who remain, the message was blunt: "Everybody who has not left the city will be destroyed."</P>

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<P>Washington Times

December 7, 1999

Pg. 3</P>

<P>White House Says U.S. Force Is Match For New Chinese Sub</P>

<P>By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times</P>

<P> The White House said yesterday the United States is not worried about China's development of a new ballistic-missile submarine as part of its strategic nuclear-force modernization.</P>

<P> ``Broadly speaking, we know that China is expected to deploy a more modern nuclear force in the decade ahead," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said, declining to comment directly on intelligence reports about the submarine.<

/P>

<P> Asked if the United States views China's strategic nuclear buildup as a threat, Mr. Lockhart said the United States has a more-powerful nuclear deterrent force.</P>

<P> ``We believe that we have a clearly superior nuclear force and understand the threat and have the ability and the resources to address it," Mr. Lockhart told reporters. He did not elaborate.</P>

<P> The White House spokesman commented on a report in yesterday's edition of The Washington Times that revealed China is beginning work on a new generation of ballistic missile submarine called the Type 094. The submarine will carry a new missile that U.S. intelligence agencies believe can hit all parts of the United States from ocean areas.</P>

<P> China's current missile submarine is less capable and its missile can only hit parts of the western United States.</P>

<P> While declining to comment on what he said were intelligence reports, Mr. Lockhart also said ``there's no indication that China is using U.S. technology in its deployed nuclear forces."</P>

<P> The Times, quoting Pentagon officials with access to intelligence reports, stated that China's new submarine-launched missiles and road-mobile missiles, when deployed in the next several years, will contain stolen U.S. warhead and missile technology.</P>

<P> The Type 094 missile submarine will carry 12 or 16 JL-2 missiles, described by officials as a miniaturized version of the DF-31 intercontinental ballistic missile that China first flight-tested in August. Both missiles are assessed by the CIA to contain U.S. technology.</P>

<P> At the State Department, spokesman James Foley also would not comment on intelligence about the Chinese submarine construction. As for the theft of U.S. missile and warhead secrets, Mr. Foley said, ``that's a matter that is still under investigation."</P>

<P> A Pentagon spokesman had no immediate comment. The submarine will carry a new missile that U.S. intelligence agencies believe can hit all parts of the United States. </P>

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<P>New York Times

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>Clinton Scolds The Chinese And Russians</P>

<P>By The Associated Press</P>

<P> WASHINGTON -- President Clinton criticized China's crackdown on the Falun Gong spiritual movement Monday and said that Russia would "pay a heavy price" if it carried out a threat to destroy Grozny, the Chechen capital. </P>

<P> Clinton also condemned the Taliban, who control most of Afghanistan, for what he called despicable repression of women and girls. </P>

<P> Clinton, joined by his wife, Hillary, spoke in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building at a program for the 51st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that honored five Americans for their work on human rights. </P>

<P> Clinton's comments were his first about China's detention and jailing of Falun Gong members. He called it a troubling example of the government's acting against those "who test the limits of freedom." </P>

<P> "Its targets are not political dissidents, and their practices and beliefs

efs are unfamiliar to us," he said. "But the principle still surely must be the same, freedom of conscience and freedom of association." </P>

<P> Thousands of Falun Gong followers have reportedly been detained since t he government banned the group four months ago as a threat to it. Adherents say the Falun Gong, which draws ideas from Buddhism, Taoism and traditional Chinese slow-motion exercises and meditation, promotes health and morality. </P>

<P> Clinton voiced alarm about the treatment of civilians in Chechnya, which is under siege from Russian artillery and bombs. </P>

<P> "Russia has set a deadline for all inhabitants now to leave Grozny or face the consequences," Clinton said. "That means that there is a threat to lives of the old, the infirm, the injured people and other innocent civilians who simply cannot leave or are too scared to leave their homes. "Russia will pay a heavy price for those actions, with each passing day, sinking more deeply into a morass that will intensify extremism and diminish its own standing in the world." </P>

<P> Turning to Afghanistan, Clinton said that the United States would spend at least \$2 million next year to educate and improve the health of women and children who have become refugees in Pakistan and that Washington would make available \$1.5 million in aid for people displaced by a Taliban offensive.</P>

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<P>Aviation Week & Space Technology

December 6, 1999

Pg. 62</P>

<P>Cohen Defends Pentagon Reforms</P>

<P>By Paul Mann, Washington</P>

<P> The U.S. military has achieved a 21st century combat capability, successfully converting the forces of 1989 into the lighter, faster, more agile forces of today, claims Defense Secretary William S. Cohen.</P>

<P> Disputing accusations that the Pentagon has failed to transform itself to meet the unique threats of the new century, Cohen argues that the military now on the front lines and flight lines is far closer to the mobile, rapidly deployable military proposed in Joint Vision 2010 than to the massive, forward-deployed force of 10 years ago.</P>

<P> Speaking to a recent strategy symposium led by Tufts' Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the secretary surveyed the progress he believes the Pentagon and the services have made in the 1990s toward reshaping and modernizing themselves. "Not only did we have to reevaluate the emerging threats while taking on more and more deployments; we had to redesign our force structure while transforming the department itself, and its ability to keep up with the very pace of change."</P>

<P> COHEN LIKENED the U.S. adjustment to the post-Soviet world to a marathon becoming a sprinter--except that the Defense Dept. shifted from a marathon to a decathlon. "In many respects, the department and the services spent roughly a decade adjusting to the sweep and the acceleration, the sheer acceleration" of regional disputes, ethnic dashes, asymmetric warfare and the spread of cheaper, easily obtainable weapons of mass destruction. Prevailing through this turmoil, military leaders successfully marshalled the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), Joint Vision 2010 and other reappraisals of what the future military should look like.</P>

<P> "We laid the groundwork for a new consensus on how to face the future," Cohen asserted, not only producing a force that is better protected, smaller in footprint and more lethal in strike capability, but also a force that possesses "all the elements of full spectrum dominance"--i.e., one that can prosecute myriad forms of combat and warfare.</P>

<P> Answering criticism that the Pentagon is not changing fast enough, Cohen emphasized that, in the context of the multiplying operations and responsibilities

ities the Pentagon has had to shoulder, it has in fact come a long way in 10 years. The office of the secretary of Defense is reshaping an enormous institution, one of the world's largest. "The changes may not be visible all at once, but they are taking place below the surface."

Such change also takes time, Cohen added, especially in slow-moving democracies. "In the first part of this decade, we were moving from questions toward consensus. And since then I believe we have moved rather significantly from consensus to concrete action--to actually implementing the changes with bipartisan cooperation from the Senate and the House."

Turning to the issue of tactical aviation, Cohen readily acknowledged that "one of the criticisms I continually receive is, He didn't cut out any tactical aircraft procurement."

Standing firmly by his decision to fund three major combat aircraft--the F-22, Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and F/A-18E/F--Cohen argued that a defense secretary must search for balance among competing priorities, while maintaining as much leverage as he can, for as long as he can, over the procurement process.

Instead of terminating the F/A-18E/F, he elected to about halve the buy, but keep the production line open, in case the JSF program foundered on cost or performance snags. At that point, in 1997, the JSF was still in the design phase, Cohen recalled. He could not be certain what its price tag would be, or what developmental challenges to it might arise.

Nor could he count on the F-22 achieving every single one of its advertised capabilities and characteristics.

In other words, Cohen said, a cabinet secretary has to hedge. "I lowered F/A-18 purchases to give my successor leverage to deal with JSF," in case its costs soared or more operational burdens had to be placed on it. "I looked at the modernization account and I cut one wing of the F-22. Some said, 'Just cut [F-22 funding] now and invest that money in R&D for the future.' But the problem is I've got to deal with the present. That's what I meant when I said, 'How do you prepare for 2010 and 2020, while still making sure you can deal with the challenges of 2001, 2005?' It's always a balance."

"And there are always those who say, cut now, put the money into much more advanced R&D--cut out a manned Air Force, for example, just go to unmanned aerial vehicles. That will happen at some point; but in the meantime you have to balance present against future, and that's what I tried to do in the QDR."

Complicating the balancing act are the limitations on a secretary's aut

hority. As the CEO of one of the world's largest "corporations," Cohen noted, he must deal with a board of directors numbering 535 members of Congress. "I've found myself in a situation where I've wanted to move a couple of hundred people from one base; immediately a resolution was introduced in the House saying, 'Can't do it.'"

No giant corporation would confront such an obstacle, he said, but a cabinet secretary must juggle political realities with military priorities. "I think we are striking that balance," Cohen concluded. "We are now achieving the \$60-billion mark in procurement; we are taking care of readiness and we are financing expensive peacekeeping in Bosnia and Kosovo."

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<P>Long Island Newsday

December 6, 1999

Pg. 4</P>

<P>Army Learning Tough Lessons</P>

<I><P>Kosovo showed shortcomings</P>

<P>By Patrick J. Sloyan, Washington Bureau</P>

<P> Washington - The world's most expensive and best-equipped Army performed so poorly during Operation Allied Force that the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee struggled for the right word.</P>

<P> "Snafu-that's it," said Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), repeating the World War II acronym for "Situation Normal, All Fouled Up" or something close to it.</P>

<P> "Snafu," Warner said again, pointing his finger at the assembled top brass during a hearing last month on the state of the Army.</P>

<P> In military terms, the 78-day campaign against Serb President Slobodan Milosevic was recorded as a lopsided triumph for the U.S. Air Force, the American Navy and NATO allies. But for the Army, which spends \$67 billion a year on 488,000 active-duty soldiers, 231,000 in the National Guard and Reserves, and a civilian work force of 287,000, the Kosovo conflict was something of an embarrassment.</P>

<P> Army ground forces proved too muscle-bound to respond, even in the peripheral role they played, in the fast-paced NATO punitive expedition. Still, they managed to produce the only American casualties of the conflict during ill-fated helicopter maneuvers outside Kosovo.</P>

<P> The chagrin has triggered another drive to reorganize and reinvent the Army in ways that have already made it an issue in the looming presidential campaign.</P>

<P> "We will develop the capability to put a combat force anywhere in the world in 96 hours," Gen. Erik Shinseki, the new Army chief of staff, promised the Senate panel. But the best measure of Shinseki's pledge requires a closer look at the Army's performance in Kosovo, the consequences of deploying the Army on peacekeeping missions and its bungling that has contributed to waning enlistments and plunging morale of its troops.</P>

<P> To keep the Green Machine from being frozen out of what essentially was an air campaign, NATO commander Army Gen. Wesley Clark ordered to the region two dozen of the Army's most awesome weapon, the Apache assault helicopter. The plan called for skilled Apache pilots wearing night-vision goggles to foray from a base in Albania and pick off Serb targets at a distance of five miles with laser-guided Hellfire missiles.</P>

<P> The order brought delays. First, bad weather slowed the arrival of the helicopters flying from Apache bases in Germany. Then weeks passed as a swampy area near a crowded Tirana, Albania, airport, was drained to provide a local base. There were more delays as thousands of Army soldiers were deployed to def

end the Apache base.</P>

<P> Finally, a month after the attacks on Kosovo began, the Apaches began risky night rehearsals. Within a week, two of the choppers crashed, killing two pilots.</P>

<P> The crashes were quickly blamed on a lack of proper Army training: There had been a cutback in funds for routine flying that keeps pilots sharp. Lack of flying proficiency is the most common cause of such crashes.</P>

<P> "We are placing them and their unit at risk when we have to ramp up for a real-world crisis," complained Army Brig. Gen. Richard Cody in a report about the Apache debacle. In a memo to the top brass setting priorities, Cody complained: "You just keep streamlining and you're cutting into the bone instead of the fat." Cody's memo was addressed to Shinseki as he prepared to take over as the new Army chief. At his Senate confirmation hearing in June, Shinseki did not mention the Apache debacle in his opening statement, but he seemed to have it in mind with his promise to re-order priorities.</P>

<P> "Soldiers are the heart and soul of the Army," Shinseki said. "The first mission in taking care of soldiers is making sure they are trained and ready. " But events since his remarks raise questions about the Army's dedication to soldier welfare, training and readiness. More than half the Apache fleet of 754 helicopters is now grounded because of a mechanical problem in the tail rotor.</P>

<P> Repairs will take 10 months and force a halt in pilot training.</P>

<P> In Congress, where the Army is competing with other services for budget-surplus funds, Shinseki's organization has been developing a reputation as the "can't do" force. In part, this is because the Army's problems in Kosovo didn't stop with the Apache debacle.</P>

<P> When it appeared Milosevic might defy NATO air strikes indefinitely with continued terror tactics in Kosovo, President Bill Clinton's top advisers looked at Plan B. Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it would take four to six months to field an armored force with its support units, according to senior White House officials.</P>

<P> Shelton's scenario underscored the Army's lack of agility. While an Army tank brigade was already poised in Bosnia where it had been on a peacekeeping mission since 1996, deploying a second armored brigade in Macedonia seemed impossible.</P>

<P> The Army's inability to respond rapidly in Kosovo prompted angry exchanges

ges between generals and their supporters in Congress. Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, confronted the Army with an ultimatum: Reorganize into a lighter, more flexible force or Congress will do it for you.</P>

<P> Shinseki has turned to Gen. John Keane, an airborne and light-infantry expert, to devise Army strike forces that will abandon 80-ton tanks for rubber-tired assault vehicles used by the French Army and the U.S. Marines.</P>

<P> Instead of glory in Kosovo, the Army wound up with the mission Army leaders despise: peacekeeping.</P>

<P> Shinseki, from the West Point class of 1968 with two combat tours in Vietnam, is a card-carrying member of the mechanized Army that prepared for 40 years to confront Warsaw Pact tanks in Germany's Fulda Gap. The Abrams was designed strictly for destruction of Warsaw Pact armored forces and the conquest of the Soviet empire. Yet the main battle tank is now on patrol in Kosovo and Bosnia, where the mission is strictly police work.</P>

<P> Partly in protest to the peacekeeping burden, the Army declared last month that two of its best-trained and best-equipped divisions are no longer combat-ready because of their units on patrol in the Balkans.</P>

<P> In rating the historic 1st Mechanized and 10th Mountain Divisions "C4"-the lowest possible readiness rating-the Shinseki regime arbitrarily imposed new readiness standards. An even larger force from the 1st Infantry Division was deployed in Bosnia a year earlier, yet the division was rated C1, or ready for war, Pentagon officials conceded at a background briefing this month.</P>

<P> Speaking on condition of anonymity, defense officials sought to soften the impact of peacekeeping on Army readiness. "The question we need to address is: Readiness for what?" one senior official said. Other civilian officials at the Pentagon said the Army was merely spotlighting a shortage of combat forces needed to deal with the possibility of two major regional conflicts at the same time. Yet such threats have receded since the collapse of the Soviet Union.</P>

>

<P> Shinseki and the Army are not waiting for the 2000 elections to produce a new commander-in-chief to ease the strain caused by peacekeeping. Clinton has approved Army plans to augment active-duty forces in the Balkans with Reserve and National Guard units.</P>

<P> Activated for nine months of duty in Bosnia next March was the 49th Armored Division from the Texas National Guard, home to Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush. In October, Virginia's 29th Infantry Division and Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division will be deployed, while the Texas guard uni

t will actually take command of all active and Reserve units in Bosnia.</P>

<P> These units, along with smaller ones from Mississippi, Indiana, Oklahoma and North Carolina, are certain to make Army readiness a grassroots issue in their states. Spending most of a year away from family and jobs seems certain to transfer the strain from active to Reserve forces.</P>

<P> "I enjoyed my first tour in Bosnia, but I am not married," said Capt. Drew Sullins, a spokesman for Maryland's 29th Infantry Division. "But a friend of mine who is married had trouble: His wife didn't take to it very well."</P>

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<P>National Journal

December 4, 1999

Pg. 3481</P>

<U><P>Talking About Defense</P>

</U><P>Promoting The Best Military Commanders</P>

<P>By George C. Wilson</P>

<P>Army Maj. Donald E. Vandergriff is doing the military equivalent of taking on a city hall. He is working day and night to change the post-World War II military promotion system that he contends is encouraging the advancement of bootlicking yes-men rather than self-reliant warriors who can lead troops in battle. He is being politically very incorrect for an active-duty Army officer. And he feels sure it will further damage his career. But he doesn't care. He sees lives and future military victories at stake.</P>

<P>With the encouragement of hundreds of other junior officers who fill up his e-mail basket with lamentations about today's promotion system, Vandergriff, 36, has spent the past three years buttonholing generals, admirals, and politicians and writing articles and a book in hopes of forcing reform.</P>

<P>"More money is not the answer" to keeping the best and brightest combat leaders in uniform, Vandergriff said, referring to the pay raise for troops that takes effect on Jan. 1. "The answer is to restore the trust between senior and junior officers." He contends that an outmoded and unfair promotion system is one of the things that broke that trust. </P>

<P>Vandergriff considers himself one of the many victims of a promotion system in which one less-than-perfect mark can ruin a young officer's career. As a captain running a tank company in Germany, Vandergriff received a black mark from a colonel he served under for three months in 1992. The black mark was in the form of what officers call a "two block." The Officer Evaluation Report of the time contained a stack of boxes for the evaluating superior to check that ranged from lowest performing category to highest. An X placed in any box but the top one usually is all it takes to keep an officer from being promoted or receiving such future choice assignments as command of a battalion. Despite glowing reports about Vandergriff's performance in the field, his brigade commander put him in the second box.</P>

<P>The "two block" came after Vandergriff made the mistake of telling Col. Paul E. Lenze, the commander of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division, what he thought rather than what Lenze wanted to hear, according to officers who witnessed the exchange. "Do I have to lie to get ahead in this Army?" Vandergriff asked his wife, Lorraine, after he received the mark on his evaluation. Mrs. Vandergriff, a former soldier herself, told her husband to do something more constructive than quit the Army. "I told him that if he loved the Army so much, he should find the cause of the problem and fix it."</P>

<P>In every free hour since that wifely advice in 1992, Vandergriff has been trying to do just that. He has interviewed former Army chiefs of staff, studied oral histories, and read records of the congressional hearings that gave birth to today's "one mistake and you're out" promotion system. He discovered that Army Gen. George C. Marshall and Dwight D. Eisenhower developed the current method for choosing leaders because they found the Army's officer corps burdened with incompetents they had to fire at the start of World War II. The two generals vowed

ed that such a situation would never happen again.</P>

<P>Eisenhower told the Senate Armed Services Committee on July 16, 1947, that Marshall found the Army saddled with a promotion system that let deadwood float to the top. "Until we got to the grade of general officer, it was absolutely a lockstep promotion. And short of almost a crime being committed by an officer, there were ineffectual ways of eliminating a man," Eisenhower said.</P>

<P>A principal feature of the resulting Officer Personnel Act of 1947 was that an officer deemed unfit for promotion could be kicked out of the service. This "up or out" requirement remains in force. A major, for example, can be forced out of the Army if he serves in that rank for four years without being promoted to lieutenant colonel. Vandergriff, who made major in 1996, said that the single two-block checkmark has doomed him to staying a major until he leaves the Army. Other superiors rated him a one-block, "but all it takes is one black mark and you don't get to go to the Command and Staff College and then command a battalion," he said.</P>

<P>Today's centralized promotion system was designed in 1947 to take promotions out of the hands of the old-boy network in the field and to place it at Army headquarters. Under the system, promotion boards composed of officers who did not know the officers they were considering for the next rank received most of the decision-making power. But today, board members often find themselves overwhelmed by the number of Officer Evaluation Reports that they can spend only a few minutes on each one. As a result, critics say, promotion boards have come to ignore the narrative descriptions of an officer's prowess and look instead for flaws on rating charts. They focus on whether all the boxes are checked off in the right places.</P>

<P>Retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is among the many top officers who contend that today's personnel policies have infected the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps with a "zero-defect" mentality that threatens to ruin the officer corps. In his autobiography, Powell recalled that when he was a second lieutenant he committed the cardinal sin of losing his pistol. His company commander bawled him out, but then let him continue upward in his Army career with no blot on his Officer Evaluation Report. "Today," Powell wrote, "the Army would have held an investigation, called in lawyers, and likely have entered a fatal black mark on my record." </P>

<P>Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, the recently retired Army Chief of Staff, changed the Officer Evaluation Report form to make it more flexible and realistic in hopes of restoring trust. But Vandergriff and his allies contend that this modification is not enough. To bring needed reforms to the military personnel system, they argue, a fundamental overhaul equivalent to what Congress imposed on the Joint Chiefs of Staff under the Goldwater-Nichols Act in 1986 is necessary. In Goldwater-Nichols, Congress changed the entire national military command structure by redefining how the chain of command flows from the President down to field commanders. Something similar is needed in the promotions system, Vandergriff says.</P>

<P>Vandergriff argues that American officers should be required to take written examinations -- as are officers in other nations and American enlisted troops. He contends this would help promotion boards determine whether a combat officer has mastered such skills as maneuvering a battalion or harmonizing the actions of a combined-arms unit of infantry, armor, artillery, and logistics troops. Vandergriff would also require an officers peers and his enlisted subordinates to submit reports about the officers character and professional skills.</P>

<P>Such a system, he maintains, would favor innovative officers "who have the character to make hard decisions in the face of adversity, who take risks to win quickly. The safe players who worry more about making a mistake than readying themselves and their men for war, who tell their superiors what they want to hear -- even if it means lying -- would have less chance of becoming combat leaders."</P>

<P>Vandergriff's own personnel records, which he let National Journal study, verify that his peers considered him an outstanding officer who was blackballed by Lenze for saying and doing what he thought was right. For example, Capt. Michael D. Hoskin, in a vain attempt to persuade the Army Board for Correction of Military Records to reverse Vandergriff's "two blocking," wrote:</P>

<P>"I served as a fellow line company commander. Throughout Capt. Vandergriff's tenure in command he has been selected above every other commander in the brigade to be the vanguard in tactical training and development . . . </P>

<P>"Early in Capt. Vandergriff's command, during a quarterly training brief, Col. Lenze, who was very agitated from an earlier appointment, started yelling at all of the commanders. He asked us, "Do every one of you inspect every one of your soldiers every day for dog tags and I.D. cards?" Those of us who knew Col. Lenze were smart enough to just sit quietly and wait it out. Capt. Vandergriff told Col. Lenze that his platoon sergeants were responsible for the daily inspection of their soldiers. Col. Lenze grew angry and told us he would fire every one of us That rating that Capt. Vandergriff received is inconsistent with his duty performance. This rating is an injustice to a great armor officer."</P>

<P>Capt. Derek C. Schneider, who also served alongside Vandergriff as a company commander, wrote the correction board that "if Capt. Vandergriff does have a fault, it is that of being honest. I have never known him to tell a lie or make up a fabrication. This is the rarest trait to be found in the Army among the officer corps while at the same time the most desired trait. . . . There are more than enough officers willing to be the yes men to these superiors. What we need is to keep the officers like Capt. Vandergriff who have the personal courage to tell the truth even if it is unpopular. Capt. Vandergriff is the best officer I have ever met."</P>

<P>After his brush with the colonel, Vandergriff was commended by his superiors for displaying outstanding leadership and tactical skills at the Armys National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., where armor units go to practice their war-fighting skills. He was nominated for the Gen. MacArthur Leadership Award but did not get it. "Your chain of commands decision to nominate you for this prestigious award indicates that you aspire and live the same values that Gen. MacArthur cherished," wrote Maj. Gen. W.H. Gourley.</P>

<P>Although Vandergriff said he appreciates such testimonials, he said he never expected the correction board to reverse a colonels evaluation. "Theyre a rubber stamp." Vandergriff is currently an Army ROTC instructor at Georgetown University. As matters now stand, Vandergriff said he will not be promoted when he is considered next year for elevation to lieutenant colonel, and the "up or out" system will force him to leave the Army as a major. "But Im going to keep blowing the whistle on the personnel system until they change it," vowed Vandergriff, who added that it will take the combined efforts of the President, Congress, and enlightened generals to bring true reform.</P>

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<P>New York Times

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>Bosnian Serb Arms Seized</P>

<P>By The Associated Press</P>

<P> TUZLA, Bosnia and Herzegovina -- United Nations investigators backed by NATO troops confiscated weapons Monday from the Bosnian Serb army, as they looked into the deaths of as many as 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in less than a week in July 1995. </P>

<P> The weapons were collected from an army warehouse near Zvornik, 20 miles east of Tuzla, and Bosnian Serb officials cooperated, the NATO-led peacekeeping command said. </P>

<P> The arms will be taken to a secure location for examination and will then be returned, it said. </P>

<P> NATO officials refused to give further details. </P>

<P> The American Embassy in Sarajevo warned Americans to avoid unnecessary travel in Serbian areas because of an operation supported by the Bosnian peacekeeping force. </P>

<P> "Travel through Zvornik and after dark should be avoided," the embassy said. </P>


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<P>International Herald Tribune

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>EU Plans Reaction Force In 4 Years</P>

<I><P>Proposal Calls for Up to 60,000 Troops With Air and Sea Support</P>

</I><P>By Barry James, International Herald Tribune</P>

<P> BRUSSELS - Striving to give the European Union its own military, EU foreign ministers agreed Monday on a plan to create a rapid-reaction force of up to 60,000 troops with air and naval support within four years.</P>

<P> The plan will now go to EU leaders at a summit conference in Helsinki on Friday and Saturday for approval.</P>

<P> While hazy on detail, the plan seeks to enable the European Union to react quickly to crises on its own doorstep, such as the Kosovo crisis this year, in which the United States bore the burden of providing air power and intelligence.</P>

<P> The plan, drawn up by Finland as the EU president, says the European Union must be able to "deploy rapidly and then sustain forces" for up to a year.</P>

<P> Portugal, which takes over the presidency in January, will be asked to draw up a more detailed report on the force, consisting of up to 15 army brigades, or 50,000 or 60,000 troops.</P>

<P> The European Union, which has often been derided as an economic giant but a political pygmy, must "reinforce and extend the Union's comprehensive" role in world affairs, the plan says.</P>

<P> But it stresses that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization must remain "the foundation of the collective defense" of the European Union. Some EU members, however, do not belong to NATO, and they would have the right to abstain from but not veto collective action under the plan.</P>

<P> The president of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, said it was necessary to define the geographical limits of the European Union as more nations seek to join the 15-nation bloc.</P>

<P> The Helsinki conference is expected to accept the EU candidacy of six more countries: Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Malta.</P>

<P> Estonia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Cyprus already have candidate status.</P>

<P> The European Union is scheduled to start talks Tuesday with the newcomers on bringing their environmental standards into line with those in the European Union.</P>

<P> The European Union's environment commissioner, Margot Wallstrom, recently said it would cost all 12 applicants up to  120 billion (\$120.3 billion) to match EU environmental standards.</P>

<P> Mr. Prodi suggested to the foreign ministers that the European Union should define early next year exactly where the outer boundaries of Europe lie, a spokesman said.</P>

<P> For example, should the European Union include Turkey, a nation with 97 percent of its territory in Asia? Should it exclude Ukraine, a European nation with a comparable population and territory to France but with a regime that is not considered democratic?</P>

<P> After a meeting between Mr. Prodi and the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kuchma, the European Commission issued a statement Monday.</P>

<P> "The EU is not ready to speak of membership for the Ukraine," the statement said. </P>

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<P>Washington Post

December 7, 1999

Pg. 22</P>

<P>EU Fuel Trucks Arrive In Yugoslavia</P>

<P> NIS, Yugoslavia--The first trucks carrying European Union fuel to aid opponents of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic arrived here today after being held up at the Yugoslav border for almost two weeks.</P>

<P> Three of the 14 trucks rolled into Nis, which is controlled by Milosevic's Serbian opponents, and other trucks were on their way. The first truck went directly to the Nis heating plant.</P>

<P> The EU aid plan is to encourage the opposition and further isolate Milosevic, as well as to provide badly needed heating fuel as winter sets in.</P>

<P> The trucks had been held up at the border since Nov. 24 while customs officials found a series of bureaucratic problems, and it was unclear whether the decision to allow the trucks to reach Nis signaled a significant step forward in the EU's bid to deliver the heating fuel.</P>

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<P>New York Times

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>Iraq: U.S. Jets Attack</P>

<P> American Navy jets attacked an antiaircraft battery and a radar station near the city of Al Amarah, about 165 miles southeast of Baghdad. Officials said the strikes were a response to Iraqi antiaircraft fire at jets patrolling the no-flight zone over southern Iraq. Iraq said the jets hit civilian targets.</P>

<I><P>Stephen Lee Myers (NYT)</P></I>

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<P>New York Times

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>Iraq: Protest On Turks</P>

<P> Iraq protested that Turkish troops backed by tanks and helicopters have begun a new incursion into the Kurdish-held north of the country in pursuit of Kurdish guerrillas. A foreign ministry spokesman said the Turkish military had mounted a "vast offensive," deploying tanks, artillery and helicopters "under the pretext of pursuing Turkish Kurdish armed groups."**</P>**

<I><P>(Agence France-Presse) </P></I>

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**<P>Washington Post
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**December 7, 1999
**

Pg. 21</P>

<P>Americans Conquered, Now Divide Okinawa</P>

<I><P>U.S. Push for Air Base Relocation Before Summit Stirs Resentment</P>

</I><P>By Doug Struck, Washington Post Foreign Service</P>

<P> HENOKO, OkinawaThe Americans came into the life of Taeko Shimabukuro in waves of fighter planes 55 years ago, bursting into the quiet sky of this tiny fishing village with their roar and the whistle of falling bombs.</P>

<P> In one way or another, they never left. They destroyed Shimabukuro's house, but then fed her family. They won the heart of two of her daughters, then broke the heart of one. They became neighbors, spoilers, customers and in-laws.</P>

<P> Now, she fears, they will ruin the peaceful village that has been her only home.</P>

<P> In her 72nd year, Shimabukuro looks at the Americans who have been on her island since World War II through a lens of tears and joy. Many Okinawans, like this stout old woman, also see the Americans with a mix of sentiments that are being put to the test.</P>

<P> The confluence of two events--an upcoming conference of world leaders in Okinawa and a proposal to relocate a U.S. air base on the island to Henoko--is dividing Okinawans and pitting the Japanese and American governments against the people of Shimabukuro's small village.</P>

<P> While she should be doting on her great-granddaughter, Shimabukuro instead works a daily shift in a beach shelter that serves as Henoko's protest headquarters, a place for plotting strategy and drafting defiant declarations.</P>

<P> "Stop the base! The beautiful sea is for our children, not for helicopters!" read the protest banners.</P>

<P> The Japanese government wants to move the American Marine Corps' Futenma Air Base here from Ginowan city in central Okinawa, 25 miles to the south. And they want the plans for the move to be approved before the summit of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries plus Russia brings world leaders to Nagasaki, just across the narrow island from this village, next July.</P>

<P> Government officials uniformly insist there is no connection between the decision to hold the prestigious, economically lucrative summit in Nagasaki and the decision to move the base to Henoko. But the timing conveniently divides Okinawan interests and splinters the opposition that defeated a similar base relocation proposal in 1996.</P>

<P> "It's a bribe," said Hiroshi Ashitome, leader of a citizen's group opposed

sed to the base relocation. "It's very clear today that the reason they brought the summit to Nago was to buy support for moving the base."

Shimabukuro sees only the likely end. With all the noise from the aircraft and disruption from the American base, "How can I continue to live here? They will destroy the peace and quiet I had expected for my life," she says.

The issue of the U.S. presence on Okinawa, and the memories that evokes, is not a simple one for Okinawa. Shimabukuro struggles to explain her conflicts.

"I have not talked of these things for many years," she said, sitting cross-legged. She is a woman shaped by the years who rises stiffly from the straw mats on the floor. She has silver-gray hair and smooth, buttery skin, and recounted her story with a self-amused smile.

When she was young, she recalled, she could wade into the cobalt sea at night and net fish by torchlight. But one day in 1944, she saw waves of aircraft approaching the shore. The Japanese soldiers on the coastline yelled "banzai," but quickly swallowed their cheers. These were not Japanese planes, but the American bombers sent to begin the final campaign, to bring the war to Japan.

A few bombs landed on Henoko, burning the rice-thatch roofs. By early 1945, the raids had become numerous, and the invasion by American troops was imminent. Shimabukuro fled with her mother and two younger siblings to the mountain jungles for four months. "It was very difficult," she said. "There was nothing to eat. We would sneak down the mountain at night as the flares went off to try to get some food from the fields. But other refugees did the same, and there was not much to get."

At age 42, her father was drafted into the defense forces. When the other men returned from the war, he was not with them. Shimabukuro and her mother hoped he was a prisoner of war, but a year later they got a simple letter saying he had been killed in combat.

"There were no details. No bones. We just took several stones from the mountain and put them in his grave," she said.

The invasion of Okinawa in April 1945 was the only ground combat on Japanese soil, and it created one of the bloodiest battlefields of World War II. Civilians suffered most--more than 120,000 died, along with 90,000 Japanese soldiers and 10,000 American soldiers.

Despite this, Okinawans carried little personal bitterness toward the A

merican soldiers into the postwar period, according to Etsujiro Miyagi, a former professor and historian. </P>

<P> "Nobody likes to lose a war," said another Henoko native, Muneyoshi Kayo, 77. "But there were many people here who felt a sense of liberation. Democracy came and for the first time we could speak freely without the military police listening." </P>

<P> In 1959, the Americans who had occupied Okinawa expanded their bases and built Camp Schwab near Henoko. It changed the rural nature of the village. </P>

<P> "We were asked to cut down trees for the base. We lost all that nature. And then the night business flourished," Shimabukuro said.</P>

<P> To entertain the GIs, a strip of seedy taverns grew on the hilltop above the town; it became known as "Bar Street." Shimabukuro joined the flight to earn easy money. She opened a bar called Cherries, employed a bevy of pretty girls who would flirt with the Marines, and charged them for champagne while the girls sipped sodas. Shimabukuro figured it was rightful revenge.</P>

<P> "I thought it was my turn. I thought I will squeeze some money out of them. I didn't hate them; they were the target of our life, because we earned the money from them to live," she said.</P>

<P> The same was true of much of Okinawa. As the Americans expanded their bases, gradually taking 25 percent of the main island, the subsistence economy of Okinawa gave way to dependence on the American military.</P>

<P> Such close association produced other liaisons. Shimabukuro's husband began working on a base. Two of Shimabukuro's five daughters married American soldiers from the nearby bases. One moved with her husband to North Carolina; the other marriage failed, and that daughter returned to Henoko to raise their two children--Shimabukuro's grandchildren--here.</P>

<P> They learned to live with Camp Schwab, a relatively quiet ammunition dump and base with about 3,500 Marines and occasional helicopters landing. The plans to move Futenma next to Camp Schwab would involve construction of a long runway into the sea, and relocation of 3,700 Marines and a busy airport of 45,000 takeoffs and landings each year.</P>

<P> Since it was built in 1945, Futenma has become encircled by the crowded housing and shops of growing Ginowan city. It is a disaster in waiting for an errant landing or takeoff.</P>

<P> "When I think of it, I get nervous," the base commander, Marine Col. John Metterle, said. "If we ever have a big problem, we're right in the middle of a heavily populated area."</P>

<P> The Japanese government, which will pay for the move, picked Henoko because it lacks that thick density and has proposed using the airport for civilian flights too. To the people of Henoko, their serene village will be lost.</P>

<P> But the Henoko villagers find themselves trying to pit their serenity against the potential disruption to the habitat of the local sea cow, called a dugong, against the vested international interests of both the United States and Japan.</P>

<P> "There is anger at both the Japanese and American governments," said Zenko Nakamura, in the busy Nago headquarters of a group opposed to the U.S. base. "Why should all the bases be forced on Okinawa?" For Shimabukuro, the prospect of the roar of U.S. airplanes over her house in Henoko carries echoes of a past she does not care to relive. </P>

<P> "I feel," she said, "like the Americans are coming again."</P>

<I><P> Special correspondent Shigehiko Togo contributed to this report.</P></I>

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<P>Christian Science Monitor

December 7, 1999

Pg. 6</P>

<P>Islands Seek More Pay For Missile Tests</P>

<I><P>Marshall Islands officials want the US \$12-million fee for use of Kwajalein raised to a 'fair-market value.'</P>

</I><P>By Colin Woodard, Special to The Christian Science Monitor</P>>

<P> KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS -- From the air, you'd never guess that Kwajalein Atoll was of considerable strategic significance to the United States.</P><P>

<P> This remote ring of coral islets is set in the very center of the vast Pacific Ocean and is far from just about everything. Most of its islets are little more than glorified sandbars covered in coconut and pandanus trees, looking very much like a tropical paradise.</P>

<P> But Kwajalein is more "Dr. Strangelove" than "Blue Lagoon." Today it sits at the center of complicated ongoing negotiations that will have serious consequences for both the Marshalls and the development of the Pentagon's \$10.5 billion National Missile Defense (NMD) program.</P>

<P> That's because leaders of the tiny Republic of the Marshall Islands, a former US-administered Trust Territory, want to raise the rent the US pays for use of Kwajalein Missile Range, a key facility for NMD testing.</P>

<P> "We think the Marshallese people are entitled to a much better deal for use of this unique asset," said Foreign Minister Phillip Muller. The current US payments for use of Kwajalein - about \$12 million annually - must be raised to an unspecified "fair-market value," he said.</P>

<P> Kwajalein has been at the center of US nuclear weapons development since it was captured from Japan near the end of World War II. It was the staging ground for 67 above-ground US atomic tests at Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the 1940s and '50s.</P>

<P> For the past four decades, Kwajalein's 850 square mile lagoon has served as the bull's-eye for tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles launched from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base, 5,000 miles away. Virtually every ICBM in the US arsenal was test fired at Kwajalein, from Titan and Polaris to the MX. The Pentagon has invested more than \$4 billion in sophisticated systems that track incoming warheads. Divers can then recover warheads and test vehicles from the shallow lagoon.</P>

<P> "[Kwajalein's] the only place where you can do exoatmospheric tests of long-range missiles," says Bill Congo of the Army's Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, Ala., which operates the Kwajalein Range. "We've been testing out there for 40 years, and it's been a very successful facility."</P>

<P> With the end of the cold war, Kwajalein Missile Range's future looked bleak, with budget cuts and downsizing. But its prospects changed almost overnight in August 1998 when North Korea test fired a medium-range Taepo-Dong missile over Japan, shocking defense planners and reviving support for the creation of a missile shield to protect the US and its allies.</P>

<P> "Missile defense has given a new lease on life for the Kwajalein base," says Richard Baker, an expert at the East-West Center in Honolulu.</P>

<P> During NMD tests, intercept vehicles are launched from Kwajalein to destroy incoming missiles. The current prototype - the Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle - is designed to soar into space at more than 4,500 miles an hour, identify and evade decoys, and strike an incoming warhead with such force that both vehicles are vaporized. "Without Kwajalein they'd never get the proper trajectory and altitude to test this kind of system," says Dan Smith of the Washington-based Center for Defense Information.</P>

<P> Under current treaties, the US can unilaterally extend its leases on Kwajalein for another 15 years at fixed rents, and the Pentagon's official position is that no negotiations are necessary. As a practical matter, however, it would be extremely difficult to continue operations at Kwajalein without the cooperation of the Marshallese.</P>

<P> The base was created after World War II, when the Marshall Islands were a US-administered United Nations Trust Territory, and hundreds of residents were forced from their homes with little compensation. During the 1970s and 1980s, exiled landowners organized civil protests, including the reoccupation of restricted islands, forcing the US to increase rents. Imata Kabua, one of Kwajalein's biggest landowners, led many of the protests; he is now president.</P>

<P> Mr. Muller has hinted at a resumption of such protests should the US refuse to renegotiate. "We know from history what they are capable of doing," he told Reuters in February.</P>

<P> In the Marshallese capital, Majuro, most hope the US will increase rents at Kwajalein. But, speaking privately, many here fear that some of the country's leaders may use Kwajalein's newfound leverage to promote their own interests, rather than those of the country. The Marshall Islands are in the midst of complex negotiations over the future of US development support that now runs about \$40 million a year - a figure that represents nearly three-quarters of the country's gross domestic product.</P>

<P> Dozens of interviews indicate that outside government circles there appears to be considerable support among Marshallese for the US to enhance oversight and accountability over any new funds it provides. Years of mismanagement and abuse of power by some government officials resulted in major gains for the opposition party in elections held Nov. 15, the first electoral defeat for the ruling circle since the Marshalls gained independence 13 years ago.</P>

<P> Former US Ambassador William Bodde says the nearly \$1 billion the Marshalls has received from the US over the past 15 years "has produced a few millionaires, but most of the population continues to live under deplorable ... conditions."</P>

<P> Even in Majuro, essential services such as education, health care, and waste disposal are dismal. On Ebeye, a 78-acre islet on Kwajalein Atoll that is home to more than 14,000 Marshallese, electricity and water supplies are sporadic. Meanwhile, the government has lost millions on failed hotels and expensive aircraft.</P>

<P> Marshallese negotiators could try to use Kwajalein's value to the Pentagon to increase pressure in Washington to minimize the strings attached to any future US development support. "They're hoping the Defense Department is going to save the day for them," a knowledgeable source in Majuro says. "They'll play Kwajalein for everything they can."</P>

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<P>International Herald Tribune

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>North Korean Recovery</P>

<I><P>But UN Is Pessimistic on Health of the Young</P>

</I><P>By The Associated Press</P>

<P> BEIJING - United Nations officials said Monday that the North Korean economy was showing tentative signs of life after more than four years of food shortages but that a generation of children would never recover from famine.</P>

<P> More cars and bicycles are on the streets of the North Korean capital, provincial towns are receiving electricity for three to four hours a day and shops are selling more consumer goods, said Dilawar Ali Khan, who has lived in Pyongyang for a year overseeing Unicef's operations.</P>

<P> Farming is reviving, with the rice harvest up by 14 percent this year, hospitals have more medicines and immunization programs that were once among the best in the developing world have been restarted, Mr. Khan said at a news conference in Beijing.</P>

<P> North Koreans also appear to be less malnourished than in the past two years, according to Mr. Khan and other aid workers who travel in the countryside, albeit only with official permission and often under supervision.</P>

<P> Only a year ago, a survey by UN aid groups found malnutrition so widespread that North Korea ranked among the worst countries in the world in terms of nutrition. About one in six children under the age of 7 was wasting away at the time.</P>

<P> But while the famine appears to have been eased and the incidence of disease among children has declined, youths look smaller than they should, Mr. Khan said, adding that 14- to 16-year-olds look to be 7 or 8.</P>

<P> "They are damaged for life," he said. "It's not something that can be corrected,"</P>

<P> With its centrally planned economy and collective agriculture already teetering from the loss of Soviet bloc trading partners, North Korea sank into famine four years ago after devastating floods.</P>

<P> At least 200,000 North Koreans are estimated to have died from famine, and the secretive Stalinist government, which preaches self-reliance, has become dependent on foreign food shipments.</P>

<P> Most of the recently seen improvements in North Korea are fragile, supported by the assistance of foreign donors, whose interest now appears to be flagging, the UN officials said.</P>

<P> If relief groups and foreign governments stop providing food, medicine and other support, Mr. Khan said, there is a fear that "we will see big reversals in the near future."</P>


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<P>Miami Herald

December 6, 1999</P>

<P>Panama Upset By U.S. Explosives Left Behind In Canal Zone</P>

<P>By John Rice, Associated Press </P>

<P> ESCOBAL, Panama -- For about 70 years, U.S. servicemen trained with artillery in the Panama jungle, blasting away at hills in the rain forest and leaving an occasional dud shrouded beneath the trees.</P>

<P> Of all the properties the United States is turning over to Panama this year, that unexploded ordnance -- UXO in military slang -- is the one Panama is least eager to accept.</P>

<P> Three firing ranges -- Empire, Balboa West and Pina, with a total of 37,300 acres -- were turned over to a reluctant Panama in July.</P>

<P> Panama has continued to squabble with U.S. officials about who, if anyone, should clean up the 7,700 acres that remain off limits because of unexploded artillery shells.</P>

<P> "If they had started 10 years ago, they could have cleaned up everything except perhaps some small areas," insists Manfredo Amador, Panama's negotiator on the issue.</P>

<P> The fight is one of the few that has created bitterness during the U.S. pullout from the Canal Zone, which will culminate with the hand-over of the canal itself on Dec. 31.</P>

<P> Amador claims the U.S. side dragged its heels and did much less here than it did to remove hazards at decommissioned firing ranges in Hawaii and California.</P>

<P> U.S. officials say they have done all they can to clean up the ranges without destroying the rain forest and endangered animals they had been bombarding for several decades.</P>

<P> What remains off limits is only 2 percent of the area the United States is returning to Panama under the 1977 canal treaty, they note.</P>

<P> U.S. officials say cleanup would mean stripping away the forest, creating increased erosion and silt into the canal, and imperiling the habitat of endangered species.</P>

<P> Amador insists that even if there were cuts in the forest, ``the vegeta
tion covers it very quickly."</P>

<P> Air Force Col. Dave Hunt, director of treaty implementation for the U.S
. military, said American troops ``did everything we could" to find unexploded
shells.</P>

<P> He said the search was complicated by iron-bearing rocks in the area th
at set off metal detectors. Even so, he said, ``we found 6,600 items of UXO. We
dug a hole and blew it up."</P>

<P> U.S. officials admit there have been seven confirmed deaths because of
explosives from the ranges, all linked to scrap-metal or souvenir dealers.</P>

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<P>Baltimore Sun

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>New Evidence Hints Of Sub At Pearl Harbor</P>

<I><P>Attack photo analyzed for Japanese mini boat </P>

</I><P>By Tom Bowman, Sun National Staff </P>

<P> WASHINGTON -- The first attack came at two minutes before 8 a.m., with ear-splitting explosions aboard the USS West Virginia and USS Oklahoma, nestled along Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor.</P>

<P> Waves of Japanese dive and torpedo bombers descended from the skies, swarming around the warships and nearby Hickam Field. American sailors desperately manned the ships' guns or scrambled for cover amid the rising plumes of acrid smoke.</P>

<P> Now, 58 years later, there is a growing debate about whether the sneak attack from the heavens was coupled with another from beneath the harbor's waves: Did a Japanese midget submarine fire its two torpedoes at the West Virginia and the Oklahoma?</P>

<P> Using the latest in high-tech wizardry, four marine and imaging specialists now say the answer is an irrefutable yes. Analysis of a grainy black-and-white snapshot taken from one of the Japanese attack planes Dec. 7, they argue, reveals one of the 80-foot-long midgets with two watery trails leading toward the doomed ships.</P>

<P> But a number of historians question the findings.</P>

<P> "It's very possible," allows Donald M. Goldstein, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh and author of six books on Pearl Harbor. "Until they dig the sub up, I'm a skeptic, or until they find someone to testify."</P>

<P> Writing in this month's issue of Naval History, published by the private U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, the four authors argue that their evidence changes history. The attack on Pearl Harbor, they say, will now be known as an air and underwater attack.</P>

<P> "Photographic and forensic engineering evidence indicates the [midget submarine] entered Pearl Harbor successfully [and] fired both her torpedoes against the West Virginia and the Oklahoma," they concluded.</P>

<P> There's no dispute that the Japanese sent five midget subs, launched from mother ships, to take part in the attack. Four were either beached, scuttled or destroyed by the U.S. Navy. The fate of the fifth sub was never known.</P>

<P> And while at least one of the two-man subs entered the harbor, there was never any indication that a torpedo from a midget sub struck an American warship.

hip. That is at the heart of the debate.</P>

<P> A solitary message came from the tiny flotilla. Shortly after midnight Dec. 8, one of the midget sub skippers, Ensign Masaji Yokoyama, sent a radio signal to his mother ship: "Successful surprise attack."</P>

<P> But it was unclear whether Yokoyama or any of the others took part.</P>

<P> The 10 submariners were to rendezvous after the attack with their mother ships. But when the attack ended, there was only one known survivor. Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki became the first Japanese prisoner of war when his I-24 hit a reef in the early-morning blackness Dec. 8. His shipmate drifted away and drowned.</P>

<P> For their part in the Pearl Harbor attack, these Japanese submariners - with the exception of the disgraced Sakamaki -- were deified as "hero gods" of Japan. There was a ceremonial state funeral, shrines and widely distributed prints showing the sailors wreathed in the clouds above Pearl Harbor.</P>

<P> Now John Rodgaard, the lead author of the Naval History report, believes he has found their final missing sub -- frozen in time and firing its torpedoes.</P>

<P> "We've got ourselves a sub there," says Rodgaard, a reserve naval intelligence officer and image specialist with Autometric Inc., a defense contractor in Virginia. "We're 99.9 percent sure."</P>

<P> Rodgaard and others first analyzed the photo in 1994, declaring the dark tiny object rimmed by a spray of water on one side of the frame as the missing midget sub.</P>

<P> The authors have solidified their case, they say, with further analysis by Peter K. Hsu, a naval engineer, who conducted a forensic study. He carefully measured and examined the alignment of the torpedo tracks, the plume of water rising from the damaged ships and the concentric rings caused by the blasts.</P>

<P> Hsu says the midget submarine was buffeted by the concussions caused by the underwater explosions, exposing the ship's rudder and propeller and causing a rooster tail of sea water to form.</P>

<P> Some historians remain unconvinced. There are no witnesses to a sub attack, no wreckage of the midget sub, no evidence in official Japanese accounts o

f a successful midget sub attack.</P>

<P> "I'm skeptical," says Paul Stillwell, director of the history division at the Naval Institute. "There is no smoking gun. It is a hypothesis that is unproved."</P>

<P> "Never happened," declares John D. DeVirgilio, a Hawaii director of the Pearl Harbor History Association, a national group of historians and enthusiasts. "There's a whole bunch of us who can't support it as outright fact."</P>

<P> DeVirgilio believes what Rodgaard and his colleagues see in the photograph is actually a motor whale boat from one of the U.S. ships. He says the submarine would have been spotted had it surfaced.</P>

<P> Several years ago, DeVirgilio discussed the photo with Hirata Matsumura, the senior surviving member of the Pearl Harbor attack force and a squadron commander of Torpedo Attack Force West.</P>

<P> "He had an opinion on it and couldn't believe there was a midget in the harbor other than the one we sunk," says DeVirgilio.</P>

<P> "How do you prove it unless you get [the sub]?" wonders Goldstein, the University of Pittsburgh historian and dean of Pearl Harbor authors, who co-wrote the classic work on the attack, "At Dawn We Slept."</P>

<P> Both the West Virginia and Oklahoma were so heavily damaged they never provided clues, Goldstein says. While the West Virginia was rebuilt and saw action during World War II, the Oklahoma sank in 1947 off Hawaii on its way to the scrap yard.</P>

<P> Goldstein also notes that none of the Japanese Imperial Navy records mentions a successful midget sub attack. "There's not one document in the Japanese file," he says.</P>

<P> Japanese naval historian Katshuhiro Hara says researchers in his country also used computer analysis of the photo to identify a midget submarine. "But this result has not been accepted as part of the official record," Hara says, through an interpreter.</P>

<P> Daniel Martinez, chief historian at the National Park Service's USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, supports the computer and engineering evidence of a midget sub attack. He says it was not surprising that no witnesses spotted the sub.</P>

<P> "Realize what was going on at that moment," he says. "I doubt seriously that any eyewitnesses had anything but their eyes glued to the air."</P>

<P> Martinez was also the one who first noticed a tiny object in the famous photo taken from a Nakajima B5N2 "Kate" torpedo bomber that offers a sweeping view of Pearl Harbor under attack.</P>

<P> Displaying the photo at the 50th anniversary of the attack in 1991, Martinez pointed out the object and told the gathering it might be a submarine.</P>
>

<P> But it wasn't until 1993 that Martinez met Rodgaard and asked him for a scientific analysis. On Dec. 7, 1994, Martinez and Rodgaard and others called a news conference to announce that a midget submarine took part in the Pearl Harbor attack.</P>

<P> "The evidence they have is very strong. I think they make a good case for it," says Ernie Arroyo, president of the Pearl Harbor History Association.</P>

<P> For the most part, Martinez says, historians are refusing to let the high-tech methods rewrite the past. Martinez notes that such evidence has been employed to resolve disputes around other key events, such as the John F. Kennedy assassination and the Battle of Gettysburg.</P>

<P> The Naval History report notes there is no indication where that midget sub came to rest, and Martinez hopes one day that mystery will be settled.</P>

<P> A survey inside Pearl Harbor detected an "anomaly" in the mud about 80 feet long, just about the size of the midget subs -- though some see it as a natural feature.</P>

<P> Martinez says there are discussions between the National Park Service and the Navy about investigating what lies on the muddy bottom. Though an expensive undertaking, says Martinez, "I think it would be a good idea. It's on the table."</P>

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<P>Baltimore Sun

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>Son Fights A Ghost Of Pearl Harbor</P>

<I><P>Edward Kimmel says his father was unjustly blamed </P>
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</I><P>By Neal Thompson, Sun Staff </P>

<P> It's been more than half a century since squadrons of Japanese bombers destroyed 2,400 lives and the Navy's unsuspecting fleet of ships moored in a Hawaiian port on an otherwise quiet Sunday morning.</P>

<P> But debate still rages over which Americans are to blame for the nation's most painful military defeat.</P>

<P> As with the assassination of President Kennedy, the theorizing behind Pearl Harbor might never die, possibly because the real story seems destined to forever remain a mystery. It has inspired scores of books and extensive investigations by the Navy and Congress.</P>

<P> And in Washington today, dozens of historians and Naval officers will revisit Dec. 7, 1941, once more, in a daylong colloquium at the Naval Historical Foundation, entitled: "Pearl Harbor and the Kimmel Controversy."</P>

<P> "Kimmel" was Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, the central figure in the 58 years

of Pearl Harbor debates. Kimmel, a Naval Academy graduate, was commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in 1941, named to that post 10 months earlier by President Roosevelt.

The question that haunted Kimmel until his death in 1968, and continues to haunt his son and his many defenders: Did Kimmel fail to prepare his ships and sailors for an attack that day, or has he become the scapegoat for some larger military shortcoming?

Believers in the scapegoat theory -- including Kimmel's lone surviving son, Edward "Ned" Kimmel, who lives in Wilmington, Del. -- have for years been urging Congress, the Pentagon and President Clinton to exonerate Kimmel and his Army counterpart, Gen. Walter Short, who were both demoted in rank.

Kimmel, who retired a few years after the Pearl Harbor attack, spent the rest of his life fighting to clear his name and restore his rank. When he died, his son, Tom, took up the cause. When Tom died in 1997, the torch was passed to Kimmel's youngest son, Ned, a retired lawyer who has spent countless hours writing letters and calling congressmen from his "war room," surrounded by paintings of battleships, World War II posters and volume after volume on Pearl Harbor.

"It has been frustrating," Kimmel, 77, said yesterday. "The Department of Defense has no interest whatsoever in doing anything to remedy the injustice done to Admiral Kimmel and General Short."

A group of highly decorated admirals and generals, now retired, wrote to President Clinton, asking that he posthumously restore Kimmel and Short to the ranks they held. "The time is long overdue to correct this gross injustice," the group, which includes four past commanders in chief of the Navy and a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote to Clinton in October.

Clinton has not commented publicly on the issue, nor have any top Pentagon officials. In fact, a number of naval historians and noted history professors have discouraged the government from settling such a heated historical dispute.

Donald M. Goldstein, a professor of public and international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh and author or co-author of six books about Pearl Harbor, including "At Dawn We Slept," said there's another reason for Clinton's silence: "I just don't think you can rewrite history."

Goldstein has spent 20 years reviewing Navy documents and White House communications in search of the secret truths of Pearl Harbor. And while he is sympathetic to Ned Kimmel's intentions, he doesn't think there is enough evidence to exonerate Kimmel's father. On the contrary, there is plenty of evidence th

at Admiral Kimmel dropped the ball.</P>

<P> "The bottom line is this: Did he have all the information he was supposed to have? No. But he had enough information to do better, and he didn't," Goldstein said. "In the final analysis, the guy bungled it."</P>

<P> Subsequent investigations found that Kimmel was never told about key Japanese radio transmissions intercepted by U.S. intelligence agents. However, Kimmel had been alerted that the Japanese might be considering a surprise attack, and received reports on how to respond if they did. A Japanese submarine had recently been destroyed in the harbor. A Japanese scout plane was spotted a few hours before the bombing, and enemy squadrons were spotted on radar an hour before the first bombs fell.</P>

<P> A 1995 Pentagon review of Pearl Harbor found that culpability should be "broadly shared," but did not find enough evidence to exonerate Kimmel.</P>

<P> Ned Kimmel's crusade, now going on 13 years, will not end soon. His sons and nephews are "as interested in this as I am," he said. "If I'm not around, I'm sure that they will pick up the baton and carry it on."</P>

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<P>Philadelphia Inquirer

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>Survivor Of Pearl Harbor Fights Army On Markers</P>

<P>By Bruce Dunford, Associated Press</P>

<P> HONOLULU - Buried beneath the vast lawn at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific are the unidentified remains of 647 servicemen killed 58 years ago today, on Dec. 7, 1941, during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. </P>

<P> Most are in combined graves, their bodies too damaged to identify. Those plots are unique among the 41,629 in Punchbowl Crater because their 1-by-2-foot granite markers read only: "Unknown." </P>

<P> The Army has some information - such as date of death and, in some cases, the serviceman's ship - that would make the markers more specific, but it will not do so. </P>

<P> One survivor, though, will not surrender. </P>

<P> Raymond Emory, 78, who was a Navy seaman first class aboard the cruiser USS Honolulu during the attack, has waged an eight-year battle to make the markers more specific. </P>

<P> "I don't understand what's so difficult about adding the information we know about some of these unknowns," said Emory, a historian for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. "At the least, we could put on the markers the name of their ship and the day they died." </P>

<P> His opponents include Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who told Emory and his supporters that the Army, which inscribed the markers, did not intend to change them. </P>

<P> Researching Army and Navy records, Emory determined that 381 of the Pearl Harbor unknowns were from the USS Oklahoma, 124 from the USS Arizona, 56 from harbor waters, 33 from the USS West Virginia, 22 from the USS California, 14 from the USS Utah, 14 from the adjacent Hickam Air Field, two from the USS Nevada, and one from the USS Curtis. </P>

<P> A half-century ago, the crosses that marked the servicemen's graves at temporary cemeteries contained the date of their deaths and the locations at which their remains were recovered, Emory said. The remains were moved in 1949 to Punchbowl, overlooking downtown and the harbor.</P>

<P> Emory thinks the Army is trying to cover up bad record-keeping on the recovery and burials. "They do not want to open World War II records because they are screwed up so bad," he said. </P>

<P> Officials at the Army's Mortuary Affairs and Casualty Support Division in Alexandria, Va., did not respond to requests for interviews. </P>

<P> Congress passed a 1973 law transferring national cemeteries from the Army to the Department of Veterans Affairs. But the Joint Chiefs insisted in 1998 that the policy on "Unknown" markers remains an Army matter, said Rep. Patsy Mink (D., Hawaii). </P>

<P> "This thing has been going in a merry-go-round," she said. "The last word we got from the Army last year was: 'We've spent thousands of hours on this, and this is the final no.' The Army says they won't allow it because it isn't required. It may come to the point we'll have to do it legislatively." </P>

<P> Gene Castagnetti, who manages the cemetery, agreed with Army policy. "In my humble opinion, once you start putting additional information on the marker of an unknown that does not lead any further in determining identity of those remains, it only begs the question of 'Who was that guy?' " he said. </P>

<P> "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier doesn't say whether he was from Texas or Alabama or wherever. The Tomb of the Unknown serves as a symbol for everyone's unknown. That's the way it is with these unknowns." </P>

<P> Just last year, a Vietnam War serviceman buried in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia was identified using the latest forensic techniques. That tomb still contains unidentified remains from both world wars and the Korean War. </P>

<P> Castagnetti said that if the Army gave in on Punchbowl, it would open the way for efforts to add information to the thousands of "Unknown" grave markers of U.S. servicemen buried around the world. </P>

<P> The cost of additional inscriptions - about \$40 per marker - is not a factor, Castagnetti said. </P>

<P> The inscriptions on the 90-pound markers for the identified dead include name, rank, branch of service, date of birth, date of death, the war and, if desired by the family, a short tribute. </P>

<P> Mink said that even the most basic information would be a tribute to these Pearl Harbor unknowns: "It's a matter of dignity signifying the sacrifices

made for this country."

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<P>Washington Post

December 7, 1999

Pg. 31</P>

<P>What's Going Right In Kosovo</P>

<P>By George Robertson</P>

<P> It has become distressingly fashionable to belittle the efforts of the international community in Kosovo and to present a picture of frustration and failure. And it's true that the situation in Kosovo is not as good as any of us would like. But the acts of hatred and vengeance that still occur--albeit on a much smaller scale than before--do not represent the whole story.</P>

<P> Only six months ago, nearly one million Kosovars were living in refugee camps. Inside Kosovo, a further 500,000 people had fled their homes, which were being systematically destroyed to prevent them from returning. Identity cards and records were being confiscated. Organized, massive violence and destruction were being deliberately inflicted on the civilian population. Life for Kosovar Albanians was precarious.</P>

<P> Today more than 800,000 refugees have returned home with unprecedented speed. The hostilities have ended, and all Serb forces have withdrawn. The Kosovo Liberation Army has been disbanded and demilitarized by the international force known as KFOR, handing over some 10,000 weapons.</P>

<P> Newspapers have highlighted individual attacks against Serbs and other minorities. But the murder rate in Kosovo has dropped significantly. There were only 25 murders in October; that is 25 too many but fewer than occurred in many of the world's larger cities that month.</P>

<P> That said, maintaining security will remain NATO's most pressing task. There are still too few international civilian police, but progress is being made. The U.N. civil police have taken over responsibility for law and order in Pristina and Prizren. A few days ago, the first multi-ethnic class of the Kosovo Police Academy graduated. Judges and court officers are being appointed on a multi-ethnic basis.</P>

<P> The humanitarian assistance situation is improving as well. The U.N.'s winterization program is about 70 percent complete. The World Food Programme is providing aid to 650,000 Kosovars, and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and others are currently providing shelter kits benefiting 380,000 people. The whole province resembles one enormous building site, with bricks, mortar, sand and the sounds of construction everywhere.</P>

<P> Some 500 schools have been demined, and 300,000 children went back to school this fall to be taught in their own language for the first time in 10 years. The main power plant in Kosovo was recently reopened and the amount of electricity generated in Kosovo today is almost triple the level produced over the past few years.</P>

<P> This winter will not be an easy one for the people of Kosovo, but the United Nations, nongovernmental agencies and KFOR, working together, will ensure that basic needs are met. Looking farther ahead, pledges of more than \$1 billion in aid through the end of 2000 were made at the Second Kosovo Donors' Conference held in Brussels on Nov. 17.</P>

<P> War crimes investigations are also well in hand. KFOR has assisted the International Criminal Tribunal in locating and securing 500 gravesites. So far, work has been completed at nearly 200 sites and more than 2,000 bodies have been exhumed. Investigators have found evidence that bodies were removed from many sites before the arrival of international teams. The full scope of the ethnic murdering under Milosevic may never be known, but we remain firmly committed to prosecuting those responsible for these horrific crimes.</P>

<P> It is true the situation in Kosovo is far from rosy, but it is also far

better than in the past. Kosovo suffered 40 years of disastrous communist economic policies and 10 years of de facto apartheid under Milosevic even before ethnic cleansing began. Against this sad history, reconstruction, reconciliation and the building of a secure peace will take more than the few months that KFOR and the U.N. Mission in Kosovo have had in that province thus far.</P>

<P> The experiences of Northern Ireland, Lebanon and Bosnia show that with patience and determination, progress that was once thought impossible can be achieved. The goal of a democratic, multi-ethnic Kosovo will require our continuing commitment in coming years. Without such a commitment, the current hope felt by Kosovars will give way to disillusionment, and our investment in stabilizing that corner of Europe will be lost. Our work is cut out for us, but we have made a good beginning. Now we must see the job through.</P>

<I><P> The writer is secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and a former British defense minister.</P></I>

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<P>Washington Times

December 7, 1999</P>

<P>Thoughts On Pearl Harbor</P>

<P>By Christopher Lehman</P>

<P> In December 1941 the United States and its Navy were unprepared for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The U.S. Navy fleet numbered in the low 300s and military readiness was less than it should have been. The world was an unstable place with Hitler on a rampage in Europe and Japan at war with China. Fifty-eight years later one again finds the U.S. Navy with 320 ships and military readiness at something less than it should be. The world is still unstable and while there are no major wars at this time, the forecast is for greater instability in the years ahead. </P>

<P> Our nation and our Navy are now unprepared for the threats we face, and it is time that our nation's military and civilian leaders stopped hiding from the problem. We need to either increase the size and capability of our Navy or reduce our nation's commitments. It is that simple.</P>

<P> In 1979 the Chief of Naval Operations testified before Congress that the Navy was "... trying to meet a three ocean requirement with a one-and-a-half ocean Navy." The Navy of 1979 was being stretched beyond the breaking point. Spare parts were in short supply, retention was at an all-time low and ships were failing to meet their commitments.</P>

<P> Now, the situation is much the same, but our military leaders are not being as blunt as Adm. Tom Hayward was in 1979. Neither the secretary of the Navy nor the chief of naval operations has testified to Congress that the Navy cannot meet its mission with the forces and resources that have been provided. Our current Navy leaders only hint that there are problems and that "mounting evidence leads me to believe that 305 ships are not likely to be enough..." in the words of the present chief of Naval operations.</P>

<P> These are not the bold and unvarnished words that are needed to head off another Pearl Harbor and hollow military. These are not the clear words that can convince Congress and presidential candidates that this is an issue that demands to be addressed.</P>

<P> In 1979 Naval leaders made it clear that the Navy needed more resources, and in 1980 the American public gave a mandate to Ronald Reagan to restore America's defenses. The Navy's goal was a 600 ship Navy with a backbone of 15 aircraft carrier battle groups. In the 1980s the Navy was strengthened tremendously, and by the mid-1980s the Navy was well on its way to achieving a 600 ship fleet. With the end of the Cold War that trend was reversed and the Navy was downsized (or "right-sized," as the Clinton administration described it).</P>

<P> The time has come for an open debate on defense spending and where our nation wants to go in the 21st century. Do we want to remain a superpower with global interests and truly global military capabilities, or do we want to just pretend to be a global power?</P>

<P> The American people deserve to know the real facts. They deserve to know that they are increasingly vulnerable to missile-delivered nuclear, chemical or biological attack from rogue states such as Iran, Iraq or North Korea. They deserve to know that our nation's military forces are no longer capable of fighting two major wars at one time -- even though the Clinton administration says that that is the present strategy. Americans deserve to know that the limited U.S. military operations in Kosovo (a country the size of Connecticut) put a huge strain on America's military capacity. Kosovo operations required almost 100 percent of America's aircraft jamming capacity (EA-6B aircraft) and more than 90 percent of America's air refueling capacity.</P>

<P> Americans need to know that our Navy is stretched so thinly that we had to pull the one and only aircraft carrier we had in the Western Pacific to cover operations in the Arabian Gulf. For the first time in 70 years, the United States had no aircraft carrier in the Western Pacific, even while North Korea threatened ballistic missile tests. Americans need to know that the Kosovo campaign continued for two weeks before an aircraft carrier was present. Time sharing of carriers between crisis regions is not the way to run the U.S. Navy.</P>

<P> Fifty-eight years ago, the United States paid a terrible price in blood and treasure for being unprepared. Now, although America talks like a global power, it is having trouble walking like one. Like our Navy prior to World War I, all our military forces, and particularly the U.S. Navy, are too small and stretched too thin. We need to either reduce U.S. commitments or increase the size and capability of our military forces -- most notably the Navy.</P>

<I><P>Christopher Lehman served as national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan from 1983-1985.</P></I>


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<P>Chicago Tribune

December 5, 1999</P>

<U><P>82nd Airborne, United States Army</P>

</U><P>Why Are We Using Crack Troops On Safety Patrol?</P>

<P>By James O'Shea</P>

<P> MOGITA, Yugoslavia -- Cpl. Joseph Cooper is a paratrooper, one of the U.S. Army's best soldiers, trained to jump from airplanes and fight the toughest fights.</P>

<P> But on a recent sunny Saturday the Sacramento paratrooper had a different sort of mission in the sector of Kosovo patrolled by U.S. forces: Tactical day care.</P>

<P> Each school day soldiers such as Cooper show up at the local grade school to guard kids from potential attacks, a legacy of the ethnic hatred that continues to plague this war-torn region.</P>

<P> "We guard the Albanian kids (from Serb attacks) in the morning, and the Serbian kids in the afternoon," said Cooper, clad in a flak jacket and steel helmet as children frolicked in the nearby playground during recess.</P>

<P> "I didn't expect to be doing this," added Spec. Christopher Morgan of Katy, Texas, as he slung his M-16 rifle over his shoulder. "I wasn't trained to do day care."</P>

<P> He's not alone. Every day, soldiers of many nationalities fan out across the plains and rugged mountains of this troubled province and pull duty similar to Cooper's and Morgan's. Under the auspices of the NATO-led Kosovo Force, known as KFOR, soldiers direct traffic, escort people to the grocery store, guard churches and mediate disputes between Serbs and Albanians over things as mundane as the ownership of an apartment, a tractor or even a cow.</P>

<P> From a U.S. perspective, using the 82nd Airborne as security guards is a questionable proposition. Cooper and Morgan are crack troops, members of a storied unit that parachuted into Italy during World War II. They are trained to engage in hand-to-hand combat behind enemy lines. The division is synonymous with

th World War II jumps like the one near Salerno or infamous battles at places such as Anzio and Utah Beach. It seems dumb to use them as community police.</P>

<P> Yet given the current Western strategy, or lack of it, in the Balkans, day-care deployments probably are inevitable for the foreseeable future. Without troops like Cooper and Morgan, Kosovo probably would fall apart.</P>

<P> One reason is the place itself; six months after NATO's bombing campaign ended a war between Serbs and ethnic Albanians, it's a mess.</P>

<P> Garbage lines streets; traffic jams are legendary; packs of wild dogs roam the countryside; dogs still feed on dead cattle. Woefully underfunded aid agencies gasp for help; crime is rampant; electric service is spotty; and the black market thrives. Murder, mayhem and extortion go unpunished. Just months ago, Serbs targeted ethnic Albanians; now vengeful Albanians target the Serb minority. There are few police, fewer courts and almost no justice.</P>

<P> But the chaos in Kosovo is just one reason officials rely so heavily on soldiers such as Cooper and Morgan. A more significant motive for the disproportionate reliance on the military is that U.S. and Western officials don't seem to know what else to do.</P>

<P> Ever since Yugoslavia collapsed into Balkan violence nearly a decade ago, the Western world has been trying to contain the troubles with a limited application of military power. Operating under the aegis of the UN, troops from America, Britain, France and other Western nations have been stationed in places like Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo to keep the feuding ethnic tribes from killing each other.</P>

<P> Western officials see the problems in the Balkans as nationalism run amok and as ethnic hatred, which is as much a part of the landscape as the cathedral spires and mosques that rise from the bloody Balkan soil.</P>

<P> But an even bigger part of the problem is the West's own political blunders. Western policy hasn't begun to address the root causes of Balkan violence. Despite a decade of war and some of the worst atrocities since World War II, America and its European allies have dumped billions of dollars in aid into the Balkans in a vain attempt to restore order and generate the investment needed for prosperity.</P>

<P> Western policies reflect a finger-in-the-dike approach: Soldiers like Cooper and Morgan keep the feuding tribes at bay while some of the same local leaders who started the mess siphon the aid or use it to ensure they remain in power.</P>

<P> What the West needs is a long-term strategy designed to deal with all of the troubled Balkan states and, for that matter, other areas of Eastern Europe. Financial aid should be used to encourage the political reforms that will build stronger economies and put some of the adversaries to work.</P>

<P> It would not be cheap, but it probably would be a better investment than the billions the Western nations now spend to little effect on financial aid and dubious military deployments in the Balkans. As Benn Steil and Susan Woodward, two international security experts, wrote in the latest issue of Foreign Affairs, the influential policy journal, "The NATO campaign in Kosovo has been hailed as a decisive turnaround in Western policy toward southeastern Europe. . . . Western publics are being told that the path has been laid for resolving the decade-long crisis in the Balkans. But nothing could be further from the truth."
</P>

<P> Reform won't happen if the West continues to view the crisis as a nationalist conflict infused with ethnic hatred, rather than as a failure of NATO policy.</P>

<P> Steil and Woodward say nothing short of a European New Deal is required. But the only deal now under way in the Balkans seems to be the same old one. Indeed, when one high-ranking American official was asked where our Balkan policy in Kosovo was leading, he replied, "You tell me what should we do."
</P>

<P> Nowhere is the futility of the situation more evident than on a neighborhood patrol in the Kosovo town of Gnjilane with Capt. Charles Hansell, a 27-year-old 1st Infantry Division soldier from Columbia, S.C.</P>

<P> Hansell is the kind of soldier that inspires pride in Brig. Gen. Craig Peterson, the commander in the U.S. sector. U.S. troops, says Peterson, constantly intervene in local disputes and resolve them. "Every day there's a new hero," he says.</P>

<P> On a typical day, Hansell and a handful of 1st Division soldiers move out and patrol neighborhoods in the predominantly Albanian town with a Serb minority.</P>

<P> Gnjilane wasn't heavily damaged during the war, but tensions between the Albanians and Serbs exist nonetheless. Earlier in the day, someone had launched a grenade attack, although no one had been seriously injured.</P>

<P> "See here," said Hansell, pointing to a small store set up to sell groceries in a Serb neighborhood where his troops were on patrol. "That's a good sign. We've been trying to encourage them to do this kind of thing. . . . It is a small victory, but that's the way things are here. The victories are small."</P>

P>

<P> Just up the road, though, the patrol came across an all too familiar scene: Moving day in the Balkans. A throng of Serbs watched as a Serb family in the neighborhood packed up to move. Despite the daily patrols and best efforts of U.S. soldiers, the family didn't feel safe. A Serb woman, tears streaming down her face, bitterly complained to the patrol about the treatment of her family by Albanians. "I didn't do anything to hurt them," she said. She said the family is leaving Kosovo because "no one wants to die."</P>

<P> Hansell and his soldiers watched, listened and then moved on.</P>

<P> The intentions of the Western troops are the best, but they are not enough. They never will be. Innocent Serbs continue to pay for the brutality that Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic and his Serb thugs practiced on Albanians during the war. The vengeance is relentless.</P>

<P> The next day is Zadush Nica, the first Saturday of the month. Zadush Nica falls four times each year, and Serbs traditionally go to the cemetery on those days to honor their dead. But Slobodan Marinkovic, a Serb farmer, couldn't go visit the grave of his 35-year-old son who had been kidnapped and killed months earlier, presumably by Albanian radicals. Neither could any of his neighbors.</P>

<P> U.S. soldiers providing security in the area couldn't take Marinkovic and his neighbors to the nearby cemetery, and without a military escort they feared they would be attacked. So they gathered in the yard of the local Serb monastery, which was guarded by the U.S.</P>

<P> During Zadush Nica, Serbs typically take food, plum brandy and wine to the cemetery and share it. "You take a drink and spit it out on the ground to honor the dead," said Milka Stojanovic, a 50-year-old widow who offered a visitor some plum brandy from a Ballantine's Scotch bottle. Because of their fear, the local Serbs conducted the ceremony in the churchyard. "I do not feel safe here," she said, "the American soldiers, there are not enough."</P>

<P> On a typical day, soldiers in the American sector alone conduct 190 security patrols; staff 65 checkpoints; guard 22 Serb Orthodox churches, 8 schools, 6 Serb houses and 8 key facilities, such as public utilities, hospitals, fire stations and city halls; and provide convoy escorts for those leaving. In all, they usually conduct about 360 squad-size missions a day.</P>

<P> Yet that is not enough, according to local Serb farmers, who complain American troops "are like mice in a hole" when periodic attacks occur. That's probably not true. But, then again, nothing the U.S. soldiers do in Kosovo will ever be enough for people with no jobs who have a lot of time to sit around, fear

r for their lives and think about atrocities near and distant.</P>

<P> Perhaps the worst part of all of this is that the Western policy blunders have placed the American-led alliance in a box of its own making.</P>

<P> For a while, America and its allies tried to use Milosevic to rein in the ethnic Serbs who were terrorizing Muslims in Bosnia, which broke away from Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. That only helped legitimize Milosevic as a leader. Then Milosevic unleashed his thugs on Kosovo, prompting the American bombing campaign.</P>

<P> Now America refuses to provide any aid to Serbia until Serbia gets rid of Milosevic. There are few signs Milosevic is going anywhere, so scratch any plans for a Balkanwide solution.</P>

<P> Things aren't much better elsewhere in the Balkans, either.</P>

<P> In Bosnia, the West has pumped in excess of \$4 billion to \$5 billion in aid from 1996 to 1998. In theory, the money was supposed to lure desperately needed private investment.</P>

<P> But reports of widespread corruption and bureaucratic delays prescribed by the peace accords negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, continue to drive away Western corporate investment. As a result, the Bosnian economy isn't much better than it was in 1995, when the Dayton accords were signed.</P>

<P> Look at Albania, Bulgaria, Romania or almost any other Balkan nation and one sees similar economic stagnation. The best situation is in Greece, where anti-American sentiment is rampant.</P>

<P> Indeed, in Croatia, where unemployment is near 20 percent, the West invested in the administration of Franjo Tudjman. He's on his deathbed.</P>

<I><P>James O'Shea is the Tribune Deputy Managing Editor.</P></I>

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<P>London Daily Telegraph

December 6, 1999</P>

<P>The US Is Not Amused By Our Redundant Military Gestures</P>

<I><P>The proposed Anglo-French 'Euro force' is a piece of feeble posturing disdainful of America's historic role in guarding Europe's freedom, says John Keegan, Defence Editor </P>

</I><P> That should we make of the announcement that Britain and France are to set up a joint force to deal with internal European crises? It is to be separate from the existing Eurocorps, consisting of contingents from the French, German, Belgian, Spanish and Luxembourg armed forces, set up in 1993. It is also to be separate from Nato's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), which since the collapse of the Warsaw Pact has been the Atlantic alliance's principal instrument of military force on the European continent. Its purpose has been defined as providing the means to address internal European security problems at a level below those requiring the full intervention of Nato alliance forces. </P>

<P> The reaction of the United States to the news was predictable. It expressed strong reservations over what Washington clearly perceived as an attempt to undermine Nato's military primacy within the North Atlantic area, a primacy effectively exercised through the Supreme Allied Commander, by treaty provision always an American officer since the creation of Nato in 1949. The Americans, with reason, clearly regard the establishment of the Anglo-French force as an undeclared attempt to undermine the military unity of Nato which, though the point was not made, has been the sole guarantor of European security for nearly 50 years. </P>

<P> America's private suspicions are easy to clarify. Though it has long been American policy to encourage European political and economic integration, on the model of its own federal structure, the United States is far less ready to welcome moves by the Europeans to go their own strategic way. There are two reasons

ns for that. The first is that the United States sees its own security as inextricably bound up within the alliance systems in which it is a partner. The second is that it doubts the ability of the Europeans to construct parallel systems which will deliver substantial military value. On the contrary, it suspects that the Europeans will subtract value from the existing systems it underpins, leaving America to come to the rescue when their fancy military, but actually political, arrangements go wrong. </P>

<P> Are the Americans wrong? By any objective assessment, no. The Americans are right to regard all current European attempts, either through the European Union, or the belatedly revived Western European Union (WEU) or through ad hoc arrangements such as the newly announced Anglo-French force, to bypass Nato as damaging to the security structure that already exists. </P>

<P> Europe simply does not have good enough forces of its own, or the willingness to spend the money on making them the equivalent of America's forces, to sideline the Supreme Allied Commander or his ultimate boss, who is the President of the United States. </P>

<P> It is true that, on a strict equivalence level, the operational units of the British Army and of the regular French army are as good as those of the US Army and Marine Corps. The French army is, however, still half conscript and will not become all regular until 2010. It will then be about the same size as the British which, at present strength, is able to deploy only two brigades, at any one time, in an emergency. Britain really only has available three, perhaps four brigades - one air assault, one commando, one or at most two mechanised. This is a tiny force. The French, when reorganised, will have little more to offer. Their soldiers are excellent. What counts in a weighty military organisation - heavy firepower, reserve manpower, logistic carry-through - is almost altogether lacking. The same goes for us. </P>

<P> Militarily, France and Britain resemble minor trading nations which have found niche positions within a large market. The Americans, controlling the major economy, recognise their worth in particular sorts of marginal situations - Balkan peace-making, Third World intervention - but are not prepared to concede them a central role in serious business. The other Europeans, who admittedly have not staked a claim to join the Anglo-French force, simply are not ready to compete. The German army, committed to conscription for political reasons, is heavily burdened by the consequent training function and has great difficulty in detaching even one of its seven nominally operational brigades for field duty. The Italian and Spanish armies, also still hampered by the need to train large annual intakes of conscripts, find effective deployment even more problematic. The Dutch have some excellent marines and the Belgians a respected para-commando force. Collectively, all Europe has to offer does not amount to a convincing European military pillar. </P>

<P> The United States, by contrast, is still a military superpower, the only remaining superpower, as we are often told, in the world. The three divisions of the US Marine Corps are the most formidable intervention force in existence. T

he 12 divisions of the US Army represent a solid mass of military capability now without equivalent in any other country. The US Navy, built around 12 carrier groups, is an instrument of a Pax Americana which even the Royal Navy at the zenith of the Pax Britannica did not relatively equal. The United States Air Force, not only in its attack but also in its critical long-range transport role, simply stands alone. The success of the Kosovo operation, it should not be forgotten, stood on that of the air missions flown against the Milosevic regime. Over 80 per cent were flown by American aircraft, some deployed at long range from the continental United States. </P>

<P> Europe is still far from establishing its military independence of the United States. Until it can do so, it should carefully consider whether it is desirable to make military gestures that do nothing to alarm the enemies of European security - the Balkan warlords, the resurgent Russian militarists - but may unnecessarily offend Europe's transatlantic protectors. In the world of defence, the United States continues to sustain the burden it took up in 1941 when, obliged to enter the Second World War by Japanese aggression, it decided to make its main military effort in Europe. It then committed the bulk of its ground and air forces to that sector, where it has maintained them ever since. </P>

<P> It has, moreover, continued to devote a larger proportion of its budgetary spending on defence - particularly defence research - than any European government ever has, to the great benefit of all its allies. No doubt a time will come when a rich Europe, and Europe is very rich, will find both the money and the will to match America in the sacrifices it has made in the defence of the West's common freedom. Until that moment, let us not strike insubstantial attitudes that damage mutual security. </P>

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<P>Wall Street Journal

December 6, 1999

Pg. 35</P>

<P>Army Shortchanged</P>

<P> Your Nov. 15 page-one article "Desert Snooze" identifies some interesting possibilities for streamlining and consolidation of military maintenance and testing operations that are paid for by the military services' Operation & Maintenance (O&M) funds.</P>

<P> In the 1990s the O&M dollars per sailor or airman have been nearly twice as much as the O&M per soldier. The Defense Department rationale for this has been that it just takes more money to operate ships and high-performance aircraft than it does tanks and rifles, to paraphrase a letter we received from Defense. We believe this reasoning has been carried too far and has unwisely hindered the Army's ability to train and maintain itself.</P>

<P>Charles K. Nichols, Association of the United States Army, San Diego Chapter, Santee, Calif.</P>

<P>Editor's Note: The article referred to appeared in the <I>Current News Early Bird</I>, November 12, 1999.</P>

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<P>Air Force Times

December 13, 1999

Pg. 10

<P>1,500 Sign Up For Pilot Bonus In First Week

<P>By Jennifer Palmer

<P> The revamped pilot bonus program seems to be a big hit.

<P> As of Nov. 30, seven duty days after the program began, more than 1,500 pilots had signed a bonus contract -- more than double the number who signed up in all of last year.

<P> Promises of retroactive pay and an extended sign-up deadline might be part of the reason.

<P> So, too, might the fact that eight times as many pilots, 8,100 to be exact, will be eligible for a bonus this year compared with last year. And nearly 70 percent became eligible in October, November and December.

<P> Personnel officials are betting that pilot retention could improve substantially, while projections for the pilot shortfall in 2003 could decrease from an expected 1,500 to only 200. Personnel officials said they hope that 52 percent of pilots completing the active-duty service commitments incurred in pilot training will take the bonus and the service extension that comes with it -- 50 p

ercent more than last year's goal of 35 percent.

<P> At the same time, they predict that less than 9 percent of pilots with 14 years of commissioned service will separate -- a 50 percent improvement over last year's separation rate.

<P> Under the 2000 bonus plan, pilots up to the rank of colonel are eligible for bonuses of \$25,000 per year if they agree to serve for five years or until they reach their 20th or 25th year of aviation service, depending on their rank and whether they are prior enlisted.

<P> Pilots agreeing to serve for three years will earn \$15,000 a year.

<P> Bonuses previously were based on years of commissioned service rather than on years of aviation service. Bonuses were available only through 14 years of commissioned service. That prevented the Air Force from offering bonuses to many majors and lieutenant colonels, said Lt. Col. Scott Frost, chief of retention policy at the Pentagon. Now, bonuses also are extended to colonels.

<P> Here's the breakdown of the 1,534 bonus contracts received as of Nov. 30:

<P> * 570 pilots accepted contracts to serve until their 25th year of aviation service.

<P> * 545 accepted contracts to serve until their 20th year of aviation service.

<P> * 322 accepted five-year contracts.

<P> * 97 accepted three-year contracts.

<P> "This tends to suggest that we're achieving the goal of long-term retention," Frost said.

<P> Navy Rewards Pilots For Milestones, Not Longevity

<P> Pilot bonus programs are as individual as the services themselves. The Air Force's goal is to craft a program that entices pilots to stay for the long haul. As a result, it now is offering \$25,000 per year for pilots to commit to another five years or stay in service as long as 25 years.

<P> The Navy, on the other hand, rewards aviators with bonuses for serving sea tours and for reaching career milestones. The bigger the milestone, the bigger the check.

<P> The new plan gives a total of \$20,000 for most aviators in their second sea tour, then \$30,000 for a department-head sea tour. Commanders can get \$45,000 for a command tour or \$26,000 for a noncommand job. Post-command O-5s are eligible for \$30,000.

<P> In all, the plan could put up to \$125,000 in a naval aviator's pocket over the course of a career, nearly double any previous program's total.

<P> The Marine Corps and the Army also are offering bonuses, but the Air Force's program is by far the largest.

<P> Air Force personnel officials have spent years trying to persuade Congress to expand the aviator continuation program. In 1997, officials from each service served on a congressional working committee assigned to suggest changes in the pilot bonus law.

<P> Specifically, Air Force officials wanted to ensure new legislation would be broad and flexible enough to capture as many pilots as possible, said Lt. Col. Scott Frost, chief of rated force policy at the Pentagon.

<P> The primary problem is that few pilots were trained during the drawdown, so there aren't enough younger pilots to replace their elders. Extending bonuses to late-career pilots could help avert a huge shortfall, Air Force officials hoped.

<P> "Air Force leadership had to decide they had to take a very aggressive approach," he said. "The Air Force was in the worst shape so we needed to get the most retention bang for the biggest buck because we were digging out of a very deep hole."

<P> Congress approved the sweeping changes to the aviator continuation pay law at the services' requests.

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<P>Aviation Week & Space Technology

December 6, 1999

Pg. 27

<U><P>Washington Outlook

</U><P>Who Knows?

<P> The Defense Dept. has its own secret Internet, but it has no idea whether that network has ever been penetrated. "We don't monitor the Sipro net," one Pentagon official acknowledges. The Defense Dept. has invested heavily in tools to detect Internet attacks, but none of those devices are watching the Pentagon's own secret network. Since money is tight, all the monitoring tools have gone to the unclassified systems.

<P> While the Sipro net is considered secure, it is vulnerable when people log-in from home, he notes. Now the Pentagon wants to find out what has really been going on. In the coming months, Defense Dept. computer experts will scrutinize the secret network to try to determine whether it has ever been penetrated.

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Chicago Sun-Times

December 5, 1999

A Reporter's Report

The Pentagon Racial Study

By Irv Kupcinec, Sun-Times Columnist

Chicago's Bill Leftwich was front and center when the Pentagon released its landmark study on racial experiences within the military. As deputy assistant secretary of defense for equal opportunity, Leftwich was deeply involved in the survey. And he will be in the forefront in the Pentagon's efforts to make use of the study.

Kup's Column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Friday.

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<P>Air Force Times

December 13, 1999

Pg. 15

<P>BG-Select Content Without 'First-Woman' Fanfare

<P>By Bruce Rolfsen

<P> When the Pentagon announced Nov. 23 that Col. Teresa M. Peterson had been nominated to become a brigadier general, Peterson's name was just one of 42.

<P> In fact, Peterson made history: If confirmed, she will be the first female pilot to make brigadier general.

<P> That Peterson's nomination passed without any fanfare was fine with her.

<P> "We used to keep track of those statistics," Peterson said about "first woman" milestones. "We don't keep those statistics anymore."

<P> The announcement came almost 21 years after Peterson graduated from pilot training school. She was among the first 30 women to earn their silver wings.

<P> Today, Peterson commands the 14th Flying Training Wing at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., one of the service's primary training schools for pilots.

<P> Typically, between 10 percent and 12 percent of the students are women.

<P> When a new class arrives, Peterson talks to the students about the different backgrounds and perspectives they bring.