Congress Sustains F-22 Program

With a final decision on F-22 production bogged down in a Pentagon review, Congress agreed to an accounting trick that made available enough money to sustain the fighter program for six more months.

The late March decision was a bookkeeping maneuver. The lawmakers allowed DOD to shift $675 million out of this year’s F-22 “procurement” account (which could not be spent) to “advance procurement” (which could be tapped). USAF was not able to spend “procurement” money because the Defense Department had not officially authorized production.

The effect of Congress’ reprogramming was to allow the contractor, Lockheed Martin, to keep the fighter program on track while Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld completed a review of defense programs and strategies.

Rumsfeld put off any production decision until he finished the review, but he requested the funds transfer to prevent an F-22 cost increase and serious erosion of the supplier base.

The new funding was expected to last through September.

Once, DOD planned to make a production decision in December 2000, but delays and a change of administrations prevented it. The Air Force convinced Congress to provide $353 million in special “bridge funding,” which ran out March 31.

Two USAF F-15s Crash in Scotland

The Air Force on March 26 lost two F-15C fighters that had been conducting low-level flight training over Scotland.

The pilots of both aircraft died in the accident. According to the Air Force, they were Lt. Col. Kenneth Hyvonen of the 48th Operations Support Squadron and Capt. Kirk Jones of the 493rd Fighter Squadron. The F-15s were based at RAF Lakenheath, UK.
The two fighters left Lakenheath on what was expected to be a three-hour sortie. About an hour into the mission, ground controllers lost contact as the jets passed over the Cairngorm Mountains in the Scottish Highlands.

Search-and-rescue teams had to suspend operations that evening because of severe winter weather; however, on March 27, they found the body of one pilot near the wreckage of his aircraft. Medical officials identified the pilot as Hyvonen.

It took another day for rescue crews to spot the second aircraft, as bad weather continued to hamper search efforts in the rugged mountains. It was March 29 when the search resumed for the second pilot and March 30 when the body was found.

RAF and civilian mountain rescue crews, as well as USAF forces, participated in the search.

A board of USAF officers will investigate the cause of the crashes.

Crash Claims Lives of 18 ANG Members

The loss of 18 Virginia Air National Guard civil engineers and a three-person Florida Army National Guard flight crew in the March 3 crash of a C-23 Sherpa near Macon, Ga., represents one of the worst peacetime tragedies in the history of America’s National Guard.

The aircraft crashed in heavy rain after taking off from Hurlburt Field, Fla., en route to Oceana, Va. There were no survivors.

“This tragic loss on a routine training mission reminds us of the sacrifices made each and every day by all of our men and women in uniform,” said President Bush in a White House statement.

The Virginia guardsmen were all members of the 203rd Rapid Engineer Deployable, Heavy Operational Repair Squadron, Engineer (RED HORSE) Flight. They were returning home after two weeks of laying water, sewer, and electrical lines in the Fort Walton Beach area as part of their two weeks of annual training. Their deaths wiped out 10 percent of the 203rd RED HORSE unit.

The C-23’s Army aircrew was assigned to Det. 1, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation, Lakeland, Fla.

“Both organizations have taken a very hard blow that will impact the members, their families, and their communities,” said Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

For the Future Air Force, 14 Critical Capabilities

Maj. Gen. (sel.) David A. Deptula, director, Air Force national defense review, has unveiled what USAF sees as the future force’s must-have capabilities.

He told a March 28 session of the House Armed Services Military Procurement Subcommittee that USAF will need to possess 14 “critical” capabilities, giving it the power to:

1. Rapidly dominate (within days) adversary air defenses to allow freedom to maneuver, freedom to attack, and freedom from attack.
2. Render an adversary’s cruise and ballistic missiles ineffective before launch or soon after.
3. Protect US space assets and deny adversary space capability.
4. Create desired effects within hours of tasking, anywhere on the globe, including locations deep within an adversary’s territory.
5. Provide deterrence against Weapons of Mass Destruction attack and coercion by maintaining a credible, land-based nuclear and flexible conventional strike.
6. Create precise effects rapidly, with the ability to retarget quickly, against large, mobile, hidden, or underground target sets anywhere, anytime, in a persistent manner.
7. Assess, plan, and direct aerospace operations anywhere in near-real time, tailored across the spectrum of operations and levels of command.
8. Provide continuous, tailored information within minutes of tasking with sufficient accuracy to engage any target in any battlespace worldwide.
9. Ensure US use of the information domain, unhindered by all attempts to deny, disrupt, destroy, or corrupt it, and ensure US ability to attack and affect an adversary’s information in pursuit of military objectives.
10. Provide the airlift, aerial refueling, and en-route infrastructure capability to respond within hours of tasking to support peacetime operations or crisis operations.
11. Build an aerospace force that enables robust, distributed military operations with time-definite sustainment.
12. Build a professional cadre to lead and command expeditionary aerospace and joint forces.
13. Implement innovative concepts to ensure we recruit and retain the right people to operate our aerospace force in the future.
14. Achieve an unrivaled degree of innovation founded on integration and testing of new concepts, innovations, technologies, and experimentation.

NATO Allies Would Accept US Missile Defense, Says Ralston

America’s NATO allies are not opposed to missile defenses per se, Air Force Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, commander in chief of European Command, told a Senate panel on March 21.

They are most focused instead, he said, on the worry that the United States will unilaterally withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and erect defenses in a climate of hostility with Russia. If the US can work with Russia on the missile defense issue, NATO allies would accept the defenses themselves.

“If the United States has a defense so that you are not subject to blackmail and the President is not subject to blackmail, ... then we will be a stronger alliance, not a weaker one,” said Ralston.
Three Airmen Die in Helo Crash

Three of the 16 people who died in a helicopter crash April 7 in Vietnam were Air Force personnel, all part of Joint Task Force—Full Accounting. They were TSgt. Robert M. Flynn, Maj. Charles E. Lewis, and MSgt. Steven L. Moser.

There were four other American service members—three Army and one Navy—and nine Vietnamese civilians killed when the Russian–made Mi-17 transport helicopter crashed into a mountain in central Vietnam. Three of the Vietnamese made up the flight crew and four were aircraft technicians.

The group was doing preliminary work for a recovery and investigation team scheduled to arrive in Vietnam in late April to continue the search for unaccounted-for Americans from the Vietnam War.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that since joint recovery searches began in 1985, this accident presented the first loss of life. He called the work a "noble calling" and pledged that the "mission will continue, even in the face of this tragedy."

Since its inception in 1992, JTF–FA has conducted more than 3,400 case investigations and 590 recovery operations. According to the Pentagon, the remains of more than 600 Americans have been recovered and identified.

CINCPAC Calls North Korea No. 1 Foe

The Commander in Chief of US forces in the Pacific is comfortable using the "e" word—as in "enemy"—to describe North Korea.

"I define North Korea as the No. 1 enemy state when I look across my area of responsibility," said Adm. Dennis C. Blair, CINC, Pacific Command, in a meeting with South Korean reporters on March 20, according to an Associated Press report carried by the Korea Herald.

That does not mean he believes Pyongyang is poised for attack. The chances of war on the Korean peninsula are low, he said, because North Korea knows it would be defeated by the combined strength of US and Republic of Korea forces.

DOD Probes Fatal Kuwait Training Accident

US military officials are launching a full-scale investigation into the March 12 Kuwait training accident in

Congressional EW Caucus Calls for Many F-22s

The Congressional Electronic Warfare Working Group released an issue brief March 13 that calls for increasing the planned purchase numbers of the F-22 to 750 from 339.

Such a move would restore the planned F-22 fleet to the size the Air Force envisioned before "arbitrary budget compromises" halved its numbers, said EW Working Group member Rep. Jim Gibbons (R) of Nevada. The numbers were cut after the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review.

"It is important that members of Congress and the Bush Administration understand the critical need for the F-22 aircraft," said Gibbons, a former combat pilot, in a statement. "The United States must not underestimate the importance of maintaining air superiority during times of conflict."

The issue brief argues that restoring the original number of 750 would have four benefits.

First, it would give the Global Strike Task Force concept "real teeth." Gen. John P. Jumper, commander of Air Combat Command, envisions GSTF as a way to "kick down the door" and push back enemy air defenses, creating room for nonstealthy US "persistence forces."

Second, it would reduce the F-22’s flyaway cost to about $74 million per aircraft—approximately the cost of an F-15.

Third, by buying enough F-22s to outfit all 10 Aerospace Expeditionary Forces with two squadrons of 24 aircraft, the Air Force could retire the F-15 and F-117 while allocating Block 50 F-16s to the Guard and Reserve. Three airframes would thus be effectively replaced with one.

Fourth, with 750 F-22s the Air Force could afford to outfit the aircraft with generation-skipping air-to-ground technology, such as an onboard synthetic aperture radar.

"Armed with eight small diameter bombs, carried internally, this F-22X could effectively ‘kick down the door’ and provide an all-encompassing air dominance capability," states the EW Working Group brief.
which an errant rack of bombs from a Navy F/A-18 killed five US service members and one military officer from New Zealand.

Four of the fatalities were US Army personnel. One was a member of the Air Force—SSgt. Jason M. Faley, a tactical air controller with the 19th Air Support Operations Squadron, Ft. Campbell, Ky.

Seven others were injured in the incident, which took place during a night exercise at the often-used Udairi live-fire range some 30 miles from Kuwait’s border with Iraq.

The casualties were all in an observation post, a small tower about 10 feet high, when at least two Mk 82 unguided bombs struck nearby.

Preliminary reports indicated that the forward air controller directing the F/A-18 made an unsuccessful attempt to call off the bombing run at the last moment. Among the questions that the Pentagon’s investigation team—headed by Marine Lt. Gen. Michael P. DeLong, deputy commander in chief of Central Command—hopes to answer is whether the forward air controller misdirected the airplane or the pilot made an error in tactical navigation.

The forward air controller on the mission was an Air Force enlisted man—SSgt. Timothy B. Crusing. He was seriously injured in the accident.

**Cadets Charged in Academy Drug Scandal**

On March 14, Air Force officials charged five US Air Force Academy cadets with the use or sale of illegal drugs, bringing the number of cadets charged in one of the school’s biggest scandals to seven. Two of the seven have already been convicted and sentenced.

The drug investigation, which began Oct. 16, initially placed 35 cadets under suspicion. In January, academy officials announced that the investigation had narrowed to 14. They had exonerated 12 and disciplined nine for knowing about and failing to report the alleged illegal activity.

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Boeing announced March 21 that it plans to move its corporate headquarters out of Seattle to either Chicago, Dallas, or Denver.

The aerospace giant’s top managers will be leaving the area with which Boeing has long been associated to emphasize a corporate shift toward leaner operations focused on a broader array of businesses, said CEO Philip M. Condit at a Washington news conference.

Those new areas include the provision of Internet services to aircraft, commercial aircraft servicing, and even satellite communications.

“Boeing has a wealth of opportunities in our new definition of the aerospace industry,” said Condit. “Our new corporate architecture will help us capture them.”

Boeing will still have a presence in the Northwest. The company has not announced how or if the proposed reorganization will affect the firm’s massive manufacturing facilities in the Seattle suburbs of Renton and Everett.

But with competition in its core aircraft business intensifying, Boeing must look further afield for growth, said firm officials. Europe’s Airbus is a rising star in airliners; Lockheed Martin is a tough foe in the military aircraft field.

Against this background, Boeing has been uncharacteristically bold in diversification moves in recent months. In January 2000 it bought Hughes Electronics satellite manufacturing division for almost $4 billion from GM. A few months later it paid $1.5 billion for Tribune Co.’s aviation mapping unit.

The goal, said Condit, is to become a diverse provider of “aerospace solutions,” as opposed to a pure manufacturing firm.

Aerospace World

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The sentence of the first cadet convicted, who pleaded guilty to use of cocaine, LSD, Ecstasy, and methamphetamine and distribution of Ecstasy and LSD, included dismissal and confinement at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., for 3.5 years. The second cadet pleaded guilty to making a false statement and using LSD. His sentence included dismissal and confinement for five months.

For the latest cadets charged—one senior, two juniors, and one sophomore—confinements could range from up to five years to up to 57 years, according to the academy.

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Now, It’s Just “Missile Defense”

The US effort to develop and deploy anti-ballistic weaponry, formerly known as National Missile Defense, will henceforth be named simply Missile Defense, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said at a March 8 Pentagon news conference.

A minor change? Not hardly, in the eyes of Bush officials. Eliminating the reference to “national” is meant to reassure European allies that the US missile shield effort is not intended to leave them unprotected.

Similarly, the word “theater” has been banished from the former “theater missile defense” effort to protect deployed US forces.

“National and ‘theater’ are words that aren’t useful,” said Rumsfeld. “What’s ‘national’ depends on where you live, and what’s ‘theater’ depends on where you live.”

“My interest is in seeing if we can’t find ways to develop defenses against ballistic missiles where we have interests,” Rumsfeld continued.

Earlier, an Administration official confirmed that the Bush Administration plans to add at least a billion dollars to the Fiscal 2002 missile defense research and development budget. Exactly what programs that money will support, Rumsfeld said, remains undetermined.

Army Retreats, Compromises on Beret Issue

Army Rangers will still wear headgear that is distinctively different from that of other US soldiers. But that headgear will be tan berets, not the black ones that the elite corps has sported for nearly 20 years.

Pentagon officials hope this compromise, announced March 16, will quell the controversy that has roiled the Army since October, when Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki announced his intention to issue black berets to everyone in the service, whether they had undergone grueling Ranger training or not.

Ranger leaders said they accepted the tan beret offer as a means of maintaining their separate identity.

“Rangers have never been measured by what they have worn in peace or combat, but by commitment, dedication, physical and mental toughness, and willingness to lead the way,” said Col. P.K. Keen, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Ft. Benning, Ga. “The beret has become our most visible symbol. It will remain so.”

The original black beret decision sparked widespread resistance, primarily from retired Rangers who believed it was an insult to the sacrifices of elite soldiers past.

Several ex-Rangers walked 750 miles from Ft. Benning to Washington, D.C., in protest, with dozens more joining in on the final leg. Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, sent Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld a letter asking him to reconsider the move. Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura—himself a former Navy SEAL—even raised the issue with President Bush at a White House social occasion.

In the end the Army bent under the political pressure. But Shinseki continued to defend his original black beret order on the grounds that he was trying to infuse the Army with new spirit.

“This is an Army that’s going to be transforming for the next 10 years,” he said. “Change is difficult and this is somewhat symbolic, in that aspect.”

The Army Chief had wanted 1.3 million new black berets ready for issue on June 14, the service’s birthday. The pressure of producing so many caps so fast led the Defense Logistics Agency to waive “buy American” provisions and order a large percentage of berets from firms that have plants in Third World nations and China.

That’s another aspect of the beret controversy that is “being reviewed,” noted Shinseki in the March 16 press briefing.

cent of them do, day in and day out,” stated Col. Brian Binn, USAFA vice superintendent.

Accident Report May Spur Flight-Rule Change

The Air Force is considering changes in several categories of flight rules, including those governing the operation of military aircraft in civilian airspace, following the March 8 release of an official accident report on the collision of an F-16 and Cessna 172 over Florida last Nov. 16.

The changes could involve flight speed, instrument flying, and methods of descent, officials told the Chicago Tribune.

A critical combination of avionics glitches, procedural errors, and human mistakes lay behind the Bra- denton, Fla., accident, according to the report. The F-16 pilot ejected safely following the midair collision. The Cessna pilot was killed.

The first direct cause of the mishap was the failure of the two aircraft to see and avoid each other, according to Air Force investigators. The second was the failure of Tampa air traffic controllers to alert the Cessna to begin with. Investigators identified each of these other links in the chain of events as “a substantially contributing factor.”

The F-16 was part of a two-ship formation preparing to begin a surface-attack training mission over a marked military training space at the Avon Park Air Force Range. The first factor was that the lead F-16 pilot lost situational awareness while descending under visual flight rules.

Second, the lead F-16 had a malfunction in its inertial navigation unit that the pilot failed to recognize and which put both aircraft about 10 miles off course. And third, the lead F-16 pilot also made an inadvertent cursor input to his navigation system during the flight, sending both aircraft farther off course when he switched into ground-attack steering mode.

These mistakes caused both aircraft to descend into controlled civilian airspace without the required communications with air traffic controllers. Below them, the Cessna was climbing after takeoff from Sarasota–Bradenton International Airport.

Technological advances, training

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improvements, and airspace structure refinements on the part of both military and civilian aviation have made the skies safer over the past decades, concluded the accident report. On occasion, equipment malfunctions, and people make mistakes—usually with few or no consequences.

“There are, however, times when several such events occur in close sequence to each other and in a synergistic way to produce tragic results—this mishap is one such case,” concluded the accident investigation board.

Recruiter Assistance Program Deemed a Success

The Air Force’s expansion of its Recruiter Assistance Program has been a smashing success, say personnel officials. Since the beginning of this fiscal year it has sent 5,454 active duty airmen into the field to tell their service story to potential recruits.

RAP now allows all Air Force personnel up to 12 days of nonchargeable leave for recruiting assistance. Before this change, which was made in April 2000, only technical school graduates were eligible for the program—and they could only return to their hometowns.

Participants in the new expanded program have logged a total of 56,287 leave days so far.

“Feedback is excellent,” says MSgt. Lewis Luster, noncommissioned officer in charge of production analysis at Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, Tex. “I’m a recruiter and I’ve used the program myself. The recruiters definitely like it and want to keep it.”

Pentagon Watches China Military Spending

Department of Defense officials said on March 6 that they are studying the implications of China’s reported 17.7 percent increase in military spending—but at the same time they downplayed the significance of Beijing’s budget move.

“Is it something that we pay attention to? You bet,” Pentagon spokesman Navy Rear Adm. Craig Quigley told reporters. “Is it all by itself going to have a profound impact on US defense policy and defense spending? I don’t think so. I think that is too strong a description.”

China announced the increase in the armed forces official budget early in March, likely in an attempt to send a message to the world that it is serious about modernizing its 2.5-million-man military.

Western analysts believe some of the spending may go toward modernizing missile forces, with an eye to countering a possible US missile defense. But most is thought destined for purchase of modern fighters, precision guided munitions, amphibious landing craft, and other weapons intended to intimidate Taiwan.

Whether China’s military budget is in fact $17.2 billion, as Beijing holds, remains an open question. Some Western analysts say it is twice that amount or more. China’s hard-currency purchases of weapons on the open international market are not always publicly disclosed.

RAND: Only UK Will Stand With US in the Gulf

A new RAND study holds that Britain will increasingly be the only NATO ally to fully cooperate with the US in military efforts to force Iraq to comply with United Nations resolutions.

Most of the US’ European allies are more focused on their own continent and on developing military capabilities for European peace operations. This withdrawal from involvement in the Gulf might produce strains that could jeopardize “NATO’s future and America’s continuing engagement in Europe,” says the study.

For this and other reasons the US military is beginning to develop a go it alone mentality, according to RAND. The advantages of such an approach seem obvious: Unilateral military operations are easier to conduct.

But the US still needs allies’ aid, says RAND. This is particularly true in areas where the US military has key capability shortfalls, such as in electronic warfare and tactical reconnaissance aircraft.

“The United States should encourage its allies to maintain and improve these ‘niche’ capabilities,” says the report.
In July 1997, Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman abruptly retired, vacating the position of Chief of Staff of the Air Force one year early. This act was interpreted at the time as a resignation in protest over DOD’s assignment of blame for the June 1996 Khobar Towers terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia.

Not so, says a story in the spring 2001 Aerospace Power Journal. In the article, Fogleman describes his exit as an “early retirement,” requested by him out of frustration with Pentagon politics and the unwillingness of senior officials to heed his advice. “I simply lost respect and confidence in the leadership that I was supposed to be following,” said the former Chief.

Fogleman made his remarks in an interview with Richard H. Kohn, former Air Force historian and now a professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The two spoke five months after Fogleman retired, but the general had “grave misgivings” about the interview and asked that it never be published. Eventually, he agreed that publication could proceed once the Clinton Administration had left office.

Fogleman told Kohn that, by mid-1997, he had “become ineffective” as spokesman and advocate for the Air Force. His duties included providing military advice to the nation’s civilian leadership, he said, but it was proving to be advice which that leadership “did not value, for whatever reason.”

Fogleman referred specifically to Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen and his senior staff. “This was a crowd that took any kind of military advice that ran counter to Administration policy or desires as a sign of disloyalty on the part of the person providing the advice,” said Fogleman. He was concerned that his counsel was alienating the civilian leadership to the point where “the service [might have been] punished.” He added, “That’s one reason to leave.”

Moreover, Fogleman soured on fellow members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, characterizing some closed-door debates in the JCS “Tank” meeting area as “just absolutely absurd.” Some, he added, were “at fairly high levels of classification.” He was “shocked” by an episode that occurred as DOD kicked off the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review. An Army two-star general (unnamed) came to his office, bearing a message from Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, the JCS Chairman, who was reacting to Fogleman’s public call for DOD to acknowledge the Revolution in Military Affairs and explore “how we could and should fight future wars” with a “smaller, better-focused” force.

“No Billy Mitchells”

“In the QDR,” the Army officer told Fogleman, “we want to work hard to try and [stay] as close to the status quo as we can. In fact, the Chairman says we don’t need any Billy Mitchells during this process.”

Fogleman told the messenger he found the phrasing “unfortunate” but he understood the message. “From that point on, I really did not have much hope for the QDR,” Fogleman said. He felt that only William J. Perry, Cohen’s predecessor, had the “stature” to compel the services to transform.

Something else weighed on Fogleman. He recently had read Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam, a blockbuster written by Army Maj. H.R. McMaster. Based on newly released documents, the book offered a devastating portrait of a mid-1960s senior uniformed leadership as being composed of weak, compliant, log-rolling, and politically attuned Chiefs.

Fogleman discerned troubling parallels between his own experience and events in the McMaster book. He said, “Seeing some of the things that were going on in the Tank ... maybe not on the same scale, but the same sickness ... service parochialism, the willingness to collectively go along with something because there was at least some payoff for your service [branch] somewhere in there.” This galled him.

Mauling of the F-22

The 1997 QDR turned into an exercise to avoid new thinking about the post–Cold War world and also a budget scrape-up to find $60 billion for modernization that the service chiefs had told Congress was urgently needed. In this budgetary free-for-all, the F-22 fighter program was unjustifiably mauled by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Fogleman asserted.

“The folks at OSD decided to make major disruptions in this program for no good reason at all,” Fogleman said. USAF advice—which, in his view, was the advice of the airpower professionals based on legitimate intelligence about the threat—was contested by “a bunch of number crunchers.”

In the end, DOD cut the program from 438 to 339 aircraft. Cohen made his decision “on political grounds more than anything else,” said Fogleman. The F-22, Fogleman said, would be a “quantum jump” in fighter technology and enable the US to “cease worrying about air superiority for the first 35 years” of this century. However, OSD “fundamentally ... ignored the military rationale” for it.

Fogleman also charged that Adm. William A. Owens, JCS vice chairman, unnecessarily “inflamed” the tactical aviation debate with erroneous public comments that fighters were consuming an inordinate amount of the defense budget. Owens had “incorrectly quoted some statistics” about tactical aviation, said Fogleman, which then were taken up by Congress and media.

The Problem With Amateurs

“This line of argument took on a life of its own,” Fogleman said. He felt “the nature of the presentation” had disrupted what had been a logical and integrated
provement will be a graphical user interface.
“We’ve also standardized the support we’re providing to the Total Force,” said Oliver. “This will improve system support to the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel processes.”

**Bush Toughens Stance Toward North Korea**

Bush Administration officials are taking a markedly more skeptical approach to relations with North Korea than did their Clinton White House predecessors.

On March 8, Secretary of State Colin Powell suggested that Pyong-

... And Cohen’s Actions Were “Purely Political”

Fogleman’s exit came just before Cohen decided to deny promotion to Brig. Gen. Terryl J. Schwalier, commander of the 4404th Composite Wing in Saudi Arabia when a terrorist bomb destroyed Khobar Towers housing complex and killed 19 airmen.

Fogleman told Kohn that Schwalier, “at the tactical and operational levels, [had] done everything reasonable—and beyond—to protect his troops.” Fogleman worried that making Schwalier a scapegoat would have a chilling effect on commanders, who would interpret the move as a signal that they should make protecting troops more important than carrying out the mission.

Fogleman said that, in the aftermath of the attack, he watched “with great interest” as “people in Washington” uttered statements “on the basis of no factual knowledge whatsoever.” Fogleman went to Saudi Arabia to meet Schwalier, who offered his retirement to “remove any kind of a target for people to attack both the institution and individuals.” Fogleman assured Schwalier that his objective was “to get the facts out.” He told him that, if he had “screwed up,” he could “expect to be held accountable.” If not, he emphasized, “then I will support you.”

“Fundamentally Wrong”

In the investigations that followed, the Air Force and Schwalier were treated in a manner that was “fundamentally wrong” for “purely political reasons,” Fogleman said. “I think a hell of a lot of other people came to that same conclusion.”

Fogleman, already deeply disenchanted, confided to members of the press that a public punishment for Schwalier might just be the straw to break the camel’s back and that he might step down.

He elected to do so in advance of Cohen’s final decision on Schwalier, “so that my leaving would not be in response to the decision on General Schwalier, to defuse that conflict,” Fogleman asserted. There had by then been press accounts that Fogleman had threatened to resign if Cohen stopped Schwalier’s promotion, reports which Fogleman called “simply untrue.”

Instead, “I wanted to take that off the table and give him one last opportunity to act on the Schwalier case on the merit and facts … rather than the issue of the Secretary of Defense’s power vis-a-vis some service chief.”

Three days after Fogleman’s request for retirement, Cohen made it official: Schwalier would not be promoted and was deemed responsible for the Khobar Towers casualties if for no other reason than that, as commander, he should have done more to protect his troops. [See Schwalier Letter to Editor, p. 4.]

Did his act have any effect? Fogleman said it perhaps “alerted people to remember to pay attention, every now and then, to the military judgment of the Chiefs, because those guys over there have other options than to sit still and take their licks.” After he left, Fogleman said, he believed “the politicians were reluctant to take on the Chiefs because they didn’t want somebody else to step over the side.”

multiservice air modernization program. “If you look at the history of Tacair, anytime the amateurs mess with it, it gets screwed up,” Fogleman charged.

Fogleman also was steamed about the first Lt. Kelly Fink affair, a tempestuous public fight which strained what until then had been a positive relationship between him and Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall.

Fink—a B-52 copilot billed as a pioneer for women in combat aviation—had disobeyed orders, carried on an affair with the husband of an enlisted woman, and lied to her superiors. The Fink case was “a cut-and-dried thing as far as I was concerned,” said Fogleman, but Widnall, likely pressured by superiors to quickly end the embarrassing and politically charged, nationally infamous case, suggested granting Fink an honorable discharge to get her out of the headlines.

“I said, ‘Madam Secretary, if you give her an honorable discharge, you can also select a new Chief of Staff,’” the former Chief recalled. “That was the only time I ever talked that way to any direct supervisor or leader, because I felt so strongly about it.”

In the end, Fink left the Air Force with a general discharge.

**Backfire**

Fogleman was frustrated that one of his own moves had backfired on him. In his tenure, he taped a video message to be shown to personnel throughout the Air Force; in the tape, he emphasized personal responsibility and accountability in the ranks. The tape was intended to set a new tone in the wake of the April 1994 shootout of two Army Black Hawks by F-15s in Iraq and the June 1994 crash of a B-52 whose pilots were hotdogging with the huge bomber.

While the video did achieve the desired effect to some degree, Fogleman acknowledged that “it may have started to go too far.” By that, he meant “commanders were deferring to lawyers rather than taking nonjudicial action” to deal with subordinates who had behaved improperly.

Disappointment with fellow Chiefs. Conflict with Widnall over a matter of basic discipline and integrity. Confrontation with Cohen and OSD’s political agenda. Fallout from the Khobar Towers incident. Taken together, these events engendered in Fogleman a feeling that he was “out of step.” He noted, “After a while, you look around and experience some serious doubts about whether you can be right and everybody else is wrong.”

He said he had taken the job, planning to stay only so long as he was effective and not to “hang on” through the fourth year of the assignment if he was only marking time. Worried that he had become persona non grata with the Chiefs and his civilian bosses, Fogleman left rather than see the service “punished” on his account.

“In my heart,” he said, “I concluded that my continued service was not in the best interest of the Air Force.”
E-6 Tenure High Year Goes to 22

Effective July 1 the High Year of Tenure for technical sergeants will increase from 20 to 22 years of service.

Ten years ago the maximum length of service for an E-6 was reduced from 23 to 20 years, the same as staff sergeants. The then-impending force drawdown was a major factor in the change.

That era is now behind the force. A review of HYT rates indicated that some fine-tuning for technical sergeants was in order, according to personnel officials.

“First, it’s an opportunity to reward tech sergeants for career advancement and let them stay in the service longer. Second, it establishes a natural HYT bridge between staff sergeant HYT of 20 years and master sergeant HYT of 24 years’ service,” said SMSgt. Larry Welch, superintendent of force structure plans at the Air Staff.

US Scores Russia–Iran Ties

Russia’s growing diplomatic and financial relationship with Iran could put the level of US aid to Moscow in question, Secretary of State Colin Powell said March 14.

Iranian officials have said they plan to purchase upward of $7 billion worth of advanced weapons from Russia. The deal could also mean an end to cooperation between the US and Russia on anti-terrorist efforts.

US Forces in the Gulf

US forces in the Persian Gulf are on high alert following last week’s crash of a US military aircraft that killed nine service members. The downed aircraft was believed to be a US Navy EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare plane.

The crash occurred over the Gulf of Oman, near the United Arab Emirates. The aircraft was on a mission to support US forces in Iraq and Kuwait.

A three-week search by the US Navy for debris from the crash site was unsuccessful. The search was called off on March 14.

US military officials said they believe the aircraft went down in the vicinity of a small island near the crash site. The island is known to be a favorite target of Iranian missiles.

The US military has also increased surveillance of Iranian vessels in the Gulf following last week’s crash.

Taiwan Appeals for US Arms

On March 8 Taiwanese officials publicly appealed to the United States to maintain or increase its arms sales to Taiwan in the face of diplomatic pressure from China to do otherwise.

“Hopefully the US government would properly take into consideration our needs,” Gen. Huo Shou-yeh, vice chief of the Taiwan’s General Staff, told reporters.

Among the US weapons on Taiwan’s annual shopping list this spring: four Aegis destroyers for anti-air defense; P-3 submarine-hunting aircraft; high-speed anti-radiation and AIM-120 air-launched missiles; and Joint Direct Attack Munitions.

The Washington Times reported that a new US Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff report concludes that Taiwan urgently needs the advanced military capabilities represented by these weapons.

“Specifically, Taiwan desperately needs more advanced, longer-range weaponry, early warning capabilities, and better [command-and-control] capabilities,” the report states.

“Survivors” from a simulated aircraft crash move through the Apalachicola National Forest, near Tallahassee, Fla., toward a rescue point during exercise Panhandle Rescue 2001. The exercise allows various types of Air Force units to train together in search-and-rescue situations.

Taiwan appeals for US arms...
Public Wants To Stop Nukes, Secure Oil Supplies

The US public sees preventing the spread of nuclear weapons as the nation’s most important foreign policy task, according to a Gallup poll released March 8. Running a close second is ensuring US energy supplies. Gallup presented Americans with a list of several foreign policy goals and asked them to rank their importance. Two of the goals emerged as the most important—preventing the spread of nuclear weapons (identified as very important by 82 percent of the public) and securing adequate energy supplies (79 percent).

Americans also supported defending allies (62 percent say it is very important), maintaining superior military power worldwide (59 percent), and promoting and defending human rights in other countries (51 percent).

Base Closings Redux

The base closings issue is back. Six years ago, Congress abruptly halted the work of an independent base closure commission, charging that Bill Clinton had unfairly politicized the closing process. Now the Bush Administration is asking lawmakers to rev that process up again—as is Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), the new President’s former GOP primary nemesis.

“We have too many military bases,” McCain, a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, said on introducing new closure legislation. “The Cold War is over. We will never have a requirement for as many bases as we have today.”

In its budget submission to Congress, the Bush White House said that while the Secretary of Defense is still reviewing the existing force structure, the current number of bases and other facilities represents “23 percent in estimated excess infrastructure.”

A new round of base closings, following on the heels of rounds carried out in 1988, 1991, 1993, and 1995, will be necessary to make the military run efficiently, according to Bush budget documents.

Meanwhile, McCain’s legislation would authorize two rounds of closings, in 2003 and 2005. Savings would total $20 billion by 2015, he said.

USAF Helps Snag Hacker “Coolio”

On March 9, a New Hampshire teen hacker who went by the online nickname of “Coolio” was sentenced to a year in prison and a $15,000 fine for unauthorized entry into computer systems—in part because of the efforts of computer-crime investigators from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. The teen, whose real name is Dennis Moran, pled guilty in county superior court to hacking into several computer systems, including one at Patrick AFB, Fla. Moran eventually gained “superuser-level privileges” at Patrick, enabling him to read files, write files, even make changes to the system.

“Hey, even set up a back door so that he could come back and connect again without a password,” said OSI Special Agent Ken Koch.

Koch, a computer specialist at Det. 602 at Patrick, traced the intrusion back through two Internet providers before learning Moran’s identity. Comparing notes with the FBI, he found that Moran was already under investigation for suspected damage to a Department of Commerce computer system, among others.

The Patrick incident eventually added another count to the prosecutor’s charges.

“It’s amazing how much havoc a teenager can wreak from his bedroom with nothing more than a computer and a telephone line,” said OSI Special Agent Jesse Kornblum, who also worked on the case.

DOD May Need More Money for Health Care

Defense Department health officials say they are facing a cash crunch that could leave them as much as $1.4 billion short for Fiscal 2001.

Among the causes: The $200 million appropriation to implement improved prescription drug coverage for military retirees 65 and over is less than half what is needed.

“There is no way that we could take enough money out of the [military treatment facilities] to take care of that unfunded shortfall,” said J. Jarrett Clinton, acting assistant sec-

New Study Finds More Accept Tricare

A newly finished study found increased satisfaction with the military health care system among users, according to the Pentagon.

The Center for Naval Analyses/Institute for Defense Analyses report found that 74 percent of Tricare Prime enrollees surveyed in 1998 were satisfied with their access to health care, as opposed to 63 percent prior to Tricare implementation. Eighty-two percent said they were satisfied with the quality of their care, as opposed to 75 percent prior to Tricare.

“This is what we really expect to
State of NSA Is Top Intelligence Worry

The steadily weakening condition of the National Security Agency has become "the No. 1 concern" for US intelligence.

So contends Rep. Porter Goss (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee that oversees US spy agencies.

The NSA, famed for its Cold War signals-intelligence and code-breaking exploits, no longer holds an overwhelming technical lead over foreign spy agencies—or even commercial entities. In Goss's words: "Every part of the NSA is a problem that needs to be fixed."

Goss, a 10-year veteran of the CIA clandestine services, said that, during the Cold War, NSA held a commanding lead in the all-important field of computing power, allowing it to carry out remarkable feats of collection and analysis.

"It was the 800-pound gorilla that only the United States had," Goss told the Defense Writers Group in Washington, D.C., on March 22. "But today, you have a bunch of 400-pound gorillas running around Silicon Valley and offshore."

Goss said "it is true" that NSA today cannot cover all targets because of great advances in denial/deception techniques around the world.

What is needed, said Goss, is an infusion of money to help modernize the agency, but it is not likely to be forthcoming.

see as Tricare matures," said J. Jarrett Clinton, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "We have great confidence in our military health personnel and our managed care support contractors."

However, he added, "There are many areas where we still need to work."

Pilot Error Cited in Collision of F-16s

Pilot error caused two F-16s to collide in midair over the Sea of Japan on Nov. 13, USAF announced March 12. One pilot died in the crash.

Both aircraft sustained major damage and were uncontrollable. Col. Michael Lepper ejected safely from his F-16 and was pulled from the water. No one in the four-aircraft flight saw Capt. Warren B. Sneed eject from his fighter. USAF and Japanese forces, including 30 aircraft, searched for Sneed for more than 48 hours, with no success.

An investigating board concluded that the aircraft of the two pilots collided during an in-place 180-degree left turn, during a G-awareness maneuver. The maneuver is a standard air-to-air gravity awareness exercise for aircrews that are likely to experience more than 5 Gs during a mission.

The board found that pilot Sneed, who flew the lead aircraft, failed to see Lepper's F-16 during the turn. Investigators also found that Lepper misperceived his distance from Sneed's aircraft, thus contributing to the accident. They also believe that conducting the 180-degree G-awareness turn while aircraft are in a trailing formation limited the pilots' ability to avoid the collision.

Both pilots were assigned to the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa, AB, Japan.

Reservist Employers May Get Tax Break

Congress is considering legislation that would allow employers of reservists tax credit compensation for employees called to active duty for a contingency operation.

The bill, introduced by Rep. George R. Nethercutt Jr. (R-Wash.), would allow employers a credit of up to $2,000 for each reservist employed.

The total tax credit per employer per year would be capped at $7,500.

The Reserve Employer Tax Credit Act would allow self-employed reservists to claim the benefit as well.

DOE Seeks $5 Billion for Nuclear Plants

Full repair of the nation’s nuclear weapons production infrastructure would cost upward of $5 billion in coming years. "We need to spend an additional $300 million to $500 million a year over currently planned levels for the next 17 years, according to the best analysis, to refurbish the weapons complex to perform just its basic mission," stated Sen. Pete Domenici at an appropriations subcommittee hearing in March.

Retired Air Force Gen. John A. Gordon, who became head of the National Nuclear Security Administration last year, agreed with, as he phrased it, "the recommendations upon recommendations to begin to reinvest."

"It’s time to get on with the work," he emphasized. "We don’t need any more studies."

He stated that the problem is long-term underfunding of infrastructure maintenance and recapitalization, plus, “in the recent past, the priority has been given to the science side of the nuclear stockpile stewardship program."

He pegged the necessary funding...
at $500 million a year for at least the next 10 years. He said the NNSA has a priority list for that money. “We know where we’d spend our first dollar, we know where we’d spend our last dollar.”

Aside from the problem of decaying infrastructure, the NNSA has struck a tentative agreement with the Pentagon to refurbish the B61 nuclear bomb and W76 warhead. Together those two warheads account for 60 percent of the US arsenal, said Gordon. Facilities also need to be consolidated, he said, citing Los Alamos as an example.

“I need to pull together ... the nuclear operation so that we can do the safety and the protection of those facilities in one place,” said Gordon, instead of moving material back and forth between areas or buildings at Los Alamos.

Crash Kills USAF, USN Pilots

A Feb. 21 crash of a T-45 Goshawk trainer into the Atlantic off the coast of Florida claimed the lives of one Air Force and one Navy pilot.

The body of Capt. Justin Sanders of the 33rd Training Squadron, Vance AFB, Okla., was recovered. Navy Lt. Gregory Fulco, a VT-22 instructor pilot at NAS Kingsville, Tex., was presumed dead when the search was called off because of darkness.

The T-45 was temporarily assigned to a detachment based at NAS Jacksonville, Fla., where aircrews were undergoing aircraft carrier landing qualifications. Sanders and Fulco were performing safety observer duties about one nautical mile from the carrier USS Eisenhower when the accident occurred.

The Navy is investigating the accident.

News Notes

- Paul Wolfowitz was sworn in as the 28th deputy secretary of defense in a Pentagon ceremony March 2. Wolfowitz has previously served the Department of Defense as under-secretary of defense for policy and deputy assistant secretary of defense for regional programs.
- On March 7 the White House announced that President Bush has nominated Pete Aldridge, a former Secretary of the Air Force, to serve as undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics.
- On Feb. 19 an Air Force HH-
60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopter assigned to Det. 1, 33rd Rescue Squadron, Osan AB, South Korea, likely saved the life of a pregnant woman and her unborn child with a daring evacuation from Bek Ryung Island. The Korean woman had developed complications during labor and needed to be airlifted to a major hospital.

- Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has named retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft to direct a comprehensive review of the US nuclear command-and-control system.
- The US Air Force Museum at Wright–Patterson AFB, Ohio, is in

**USAF–Sponsored Nonlethal Beam Weapon Makes Debut**

On March 1 the Air Force and Marine Corps unveiled a joint technology demonstration project designed to produce a nonlethal energy beam weapon that scatters adversaries without injuring them.

The Vehicle Mounted Active Denial System emits a narrow beam of millimeter-wave electromagnetic energy that penetrates less than 1/64th of an inch into a target’s skin, quickly heating the surface and forcing retreat.

The Marines started the project, while two Air Force Research Laboratory teams—one from the Directed Energy Directorate at Kirtland AFB, N.M., and one from the Human Effectiveness Directorate at Brooks AFB, Tex.—led the research.

“A weapon like this could be particularly useful when adversaries are mixed with innocent [people],” said Marine Col. George P. Fenton, director of the Joint Nonlethal Weapons Program, Quantico, Va.

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the process of reassembling a disassembled B-2 stealth bomber formerly employed in ground-based stress testing. Museum officials hope to make the B-2 a centerpiece of their commemoration of the 100th anniversary of flight in 2003.

Heather Burke, daughter of Air Force TSgt. Robert Burke, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, won the sixth annual Armed Services YMCA art contest with a pencil drawing of her family’s reunion on the flight line following a deployment. Heather’s art will be reproduced on a poster recognizing National Military Family Week, Nov. 18–25.

Per Congressional legislation passed last year, the automatic maximum coverage for the Service-members’ Group Life Insurance was set to increase from $200,000 to $250,000 on April 1. Total cost for the maximum coverage will be $20 a month.

A fatigue break in a metal rod in the flight-control mechanism caused a USAF T-38 to crash Dec. 5 near Sheppard AFB, Tex., according to an accident board report released in March. The pilots of the aircraft ejected and suffered only minor injuries in the incident.

Online registration is now open for the fifth annual US Air Force Marathon, to be held at Wright–Patterson AFB, Ohio, on Sept. 22. The Web address is http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil/.

The Pentagon Renovation Program had a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 8 to open the doors to Wedge 1, the first section of the venerable building to re-open under a $1.22 billion renovation project.

On March 15 a number of mobility support groups and squadrons within

CAP Logs Safest-Ever Year

In 2000 the Civil Air Patrol logged its safest year ever, CAP officials announced Feb. 26.

Last year’s accident rate per 100,000 flying hours was 0.94. The previous record, set in 1992, was 1.54 accidents per 100,000 hours.

“The best news, however, is no lives were lost,” said CAP National Commander Brig. Gen. James C. Bobick.

CAP volunteers, who fly more than 85 percent of the inland search-and-rescue missions originated by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, often operate in more difficult conditions than civilian pilots typically face. To ensure safety in such circumstances CAP has instituted such measures as a mountain flying course and a video on mountain and sea survival topics.

New survival equipment, such as life rafts and electronic signaling devices, will complement this survival training.

Some European nations even planned to stand up to Washington and send their own mediators to the peninsula.

“It’s becoming clear that the new US Administration wants to take a more hard-line approach toward North Korea,” said Anna Lindh, foreign minister of Sweden. “This means that Europe must step in.”

From Europe, Stand-Up Comedy

In a March 26 story, “Storm Clouds Over US–Europe Relations,” the New York Times said Europe was fretting over America’s lack of enthusiasm for South Korean detente with Communist North Korea.

Some European nations even planned to stand up to Washington and send their own mediators to the peninsula.

NOMINATIONS: To be General: William J. Begert.

To be Lieutenant General: Brian A. Arnold, Timothy A. Kinnan, Donald A. Lamontagne, Richard V. Reynolds.


Air Mobility Command were redesignated as air mobility operations groups and air mobility squadrons. The change affected the 615th Air Mobility Support Group at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and its Pacific squadrons and the 621st AMSG at Ramstein AB, Germany, and its squadrons throughout Europe. The 615th is now the 715th Air Mobility Operations Group, and the 621st is the 721st AMOG.

The Department of Defense’s 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee wants vets to know that the Korean War Service Medal is still available. The Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, Tex., is processing requests and distributing the Republic of Korea–sponsored award to all who qualify, regardless of branch of service.

The Air Force recently named its 2000 safety achievement award winners. Among them: SSgt. Steven J. Borton, Safety Career Professional of the Year, and MSgt. Benjamin Salter, Explosives Safety Outstanding Achievement Award, both from the 39th Wing, Incirlik AB, Turkey; and MSgt. Charles E. Canoy, Nuclear Surety Outstanding Achievement Award, from the Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

A C-130J from the 135th Airlift Group, Maryland Air National Guard, recently helped avert a tragedy by finding a disoriented student pilot in a Piper Tomahawk over the Atlantic Ocean and guiding him back to a safe landing in Atlantic City, N.J. The crew credited the J model’s sophisticated avionics for helping them quickly locate the transponder signal from the single-engine airplane.

The final three members have been appointed to the Civil Air Patrol’s new Board of Governors. They are Benjamin F. Payton, president of Tuskegee University; Bruce P. Baughman, director, FEMA Operations and Planning Division; and Bruce Nairn Whitman, executive vice president of FlightSafety International, Inc.

The Air Force has reactivated the 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla., giving the 552nd Air Control Wing its fourth operational Airborne Warning and Control System flying squadron.

Department of Defense civilian employees who also serve in the National Guard or Reserve are getting an added health benefit. Under a new personnel policy, DOD will pay the employee’s share, as well as the government’s share, of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program premium when the employee is called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation.