

Defense Faces Reductions Of \$850 Billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — A military fighting three wars is staring down budget cuts of up to \$850 billion over a decade, some of the deepest reductions since the end of the Cold War. Yet under the compromise struck by President Barack Obama and congressional leaders to avert the nation's first-ever financial default, the near-term impact on the troops, aircraft, ships and weapons may be far less onerous than Republicans and Democrats fear.

Congress was expected to approve the overall plan to slash more than \$2 trillion from federal spending over a decade and permit the nation's \$14.3 trillion borrowing cap to rise by up to \$2.4 trillion and send it to President Barack Obama for his signature.

Under the compromise, all security spending — money for defense, homeland security, veterans, foreign aid and intelligence — would be cut from the current level of \$687 billion this year to \$683 billion in next year's budget. Defense would be a share of that \$4 billion reduction.

"It's doable, it's workable without adversely affecting readiness or the soldiers," said Rep. C.W. Bill Young, R-Fla., chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees military dollars.

Over a decade, Pentagon spending would be reduced by \$350 billion. The White House said in a memo circulated Monday that the reductions "will be implemented based on the outcome of a review of our missions, roles and capabilities that will reflect the president's commitment to protecting our national security." The review could be completed by the end of the summer.

Israel Agrees To Negotiate West Bank Borders

JERUSALEM (AP) — In a dramatic policy shift, Israel's prime minister has agreed to negotiate the borders of a Palestinian state based on the cease-fire line that marks off the West Bank, a TV station reported Monday.

Up to now, Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to spell out his plan for negotiating the border. A senior Israeli official would not confirm outright that the prime minister was now willing to adopt the cease-fire line as a starting point, but said Israel was willing to try new formulas to restart peace talks based on a proposal made by President Barack Obama.

In a speech about the Middle East in May, Obama proposed negotiations based on the pre-1967 line with agreed swaps of territory between Israel and a Palestinian state. Netanyahu reacted angrily, insisting that Israel would not withdraw from all of the West Bank, though that was not what Obama proposed.

Now Netanyahu is basically accepting that framework, according to Channel 2 TV, offering to trade Israeli territory on its side of the line for West Bank land where its main settlements are located.

The official, who has been briefed on the talks, spoke on condition of anonymity because the contacts are still in progress. He said he would not deny the TV report, while refusing to confirm the specifics. He emphasized that Israel would not withdraw from all of the West Bank.

Health Care Overhaul Expands Women's Care

WASHINGTON (AP) — A half-century after the advent of the pill, the Obama administration on Monday ushered in a change in women's health care potentially as transformative: coverage of birth control as prevention, with no copays.

Services ranging from breast pumps for new mothers to counseling on domestic violence were also included in the broad expansion of women's preventive care under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Since birth control is the most common drug prescribed to women, health plans should make sure it's readily available, said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "Not doing it would be like not covering flu shots," she said.

Officials said the women's prevention package will be available Jan. 1, 2013, in most cases, resulting in a slight overall increase in premiums. Tens of millions of women are expected to benefit initially, a number that is likely to grow with time. At first, some plans may be exempt due to an arcane provision of the health care law known as the "grandfather" clause. But those plans could face pressure from their members to include the new coverage.

Earlier requirements under the health care law improved preventive coverage generally for people of both sexes.

Syrian Troops Resume Assault On Hama

BEIRUT (AP) — Anti-government protesters in the Syrian city of Hama set up barricades and took up sticks and stones to defend themselves Monday after one of the bloodiest days so far in the regime's campaign to quell an uprising now in its fifth month.

The protesters vowed not to allow a repeat of 1982, when thousands of people were killed in Hama after President Bashar Assad's father ordered a massacre.

As evening fell, residents said Syrian tanks resumed intense shelling of the restive city and troops fired machine guns at worshippers about to head to mosques for special nighttime prayers on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Residents had just broken their daily dawn-to-dusk fast, and the shelling appeared aimed at preventing the mosque gatherings, fearing they would trigger large anti-government protests.

It was the second day of shelling of Hama and other cities. In attacks earlier in the day, four people were killed in Hama and three more were killed in other parts of the country, residents and rights groups said.

"It's a crime! Where is the world? Why doesn't anyone see?" cried one distraught resident through the phone, the sound of gunfire heard clearly in the background. The residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said they were certain there were casualties, but there was no immediate word on numbers.

Manufacturing Growth Hits Lowest Level In 2 Years

BY DANIEL WAGNER
 AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — Manufacturers had their weakest growth in two years in July, a sign that the economy could weaken this summer.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said Monday that its index of manufacturing activity fell to 50.9 percent in July from 55.3 percent in June. The reading was the lowest since July 2009 — one month after the recession officially ended.

Any level above 50 indicates growth. The manufacturing sector has expanded for 23 straight months.

Still, new orders shrank for the first time since the recession ended. Companies slashed their inventories after building them up in June. Output, employment, and prices paid by manufacturers all grew more slowly in July.

The disappointing report on manufacturing is the first major reading on how the economy performed in July. It suggests the dismal economic growth in the first half of the year could extend into

the July-September quarter.

"The ISM manufacturing report for July is a shocker and strongly suggests that the disappointing performance of the economy in the first half of the year was not just temporary," said Paul Dales, a senior U.S. economist for Capital Economics.

The news of weak factory growth in July also cooled what looked to be a strong day on Wall Street.

The Dow Jones industrial average had risen nearly 140 points in the first half-hour of trading, after President Barack Obama and lawmakers announced a deal to raise the nation's borrowing limit. But the Dow erased all of those gains after the manufacturing report was released, and then fell another 145 points. It later pared most of the day's losses to close 11 points down.

In a separate report, the Commerce Department said builders began work on more projects in June, pushing construction spending higher for a third straight month.

Construction spending rose 0.2 percent in June, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$772.3 billion,

the government said. But even with the gains, spending remains slightly above an 11-year low hit in March and is just half of the \$1.5 trillion pace considered healthy by most economists.

The economy expanded at a dismal 1.3 percent annual rate in the April-June period after an even worse 0.4 percent increase in the first three months of the year, the government said Friday.

The factory sector has expanded in every month but one since the recession ended in June 2009. The ISM's index topped 60 for four straight months at the start of the year.

But manufacturing has stumbled in recent months. A parts shortage stemming from Japan's March 11 earthquake disrupted automakers' supply chains, cutting into the output of new cars. And high gas prices left Americans with less money to spend on discretionary items, such as vacations, furniture and appliances.

The index fell in May to 53.5 from April's reading of 60.4. That was the sharpest one-month drop since 1984.

Employers have responded by pulling back on hiring. The

economy added just 18,000 net jobs in June, the fewest in nine months, and the unemployment rate rose to 9.2 percent. Hiring by manufacturers was nearly flat in the April-June period.

The government issues its July employment report on Friday.

Several regional manufacturing surveys for the month of July have been mixed. The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank said its manufacturing index rose to 3.2, signaling that the sector is growing again in that region. It had contracted in June for the first time in nine months.

And a private survey in Chicago showed that manufacturing expanded in July, but at a slower pace than in June.

Meanwhile, a survey by the New York Federal Reserve Bank found regional manufacturing activity shrank in July.

Manufacturing represents only about 11 percent of U.S. economic activity and can contribute only so much to the broader economic recovery. For unemployment to fall significantly, consumer income and spending also must pick up.

4H

From Page 1

Extension restructuring plan.

With that decision made, Fosheim started her Yankton County job and immediate preparation for Achievement Days, which runs Thursday through Sunday at the Pine Acres 4-H complex in Yankton.

This year's event will feature a number of activities designed to reach out to the broader community, Fosheim said.

"We are offering a talent show for the first time that's open to anyone," she said. "We also have Old McDonald's Farm, sort of like a petting zoo, where you can see animals. We have the Barnyard Olympics, the candy drop and the ice cream social."

Admission and events are free, with the exception of Friday's inflatables for the kids and Saturday's 4-H supper, Fosheim said.

This year's Achievement Days will feature goats for the first time, Fosheim said.

"We are adding goats because a couple of families are interested in the projects," she said. "People may be intrigued by the goats, and hopefully we will have more (goats) next year."

Achievement Days will show off the 4-Hers' talents in a wide range of crops, livestock, fashion revue and other project areas. Sunday will feature a horse demonstration.

"We are trying to reach the families of the community so they come together and have fun," Fosheim said. "4-H is a really good experience for families, especially if they have never checked us out before. They will find how interesting it is."

Achievement Days provides a connection for families who may not usually spend time on a farm or be familiar with agriculture, Fosheim said.

"They can check out our exhibits right in their backyard," she said. "They don't have to leave home to see crops and livestock."

Fosheim said she was happy to jump right into the summer 4-H activities and quickly found helping hands.

"I am pleased with how the Yankton County 4-H Leaders Association has contributed to everything. It was their idea to have the talent show and inflatables at Achievement Days," she said.

"We also receive tremendous

support from the 4-H members, volunteers and the communities. They have really stepped up. I have seen help in the past (at other jobs), but not to this extent."

The participation in summer 4-H activities has also grown, she said, noting the number of 4-Hers competing in public presentations — such as speeches or illustrated talks — tripled to 15 this summer and hopefully starts an upward trend.

"I asked (contestants) why they were doing it and why we had more (entries) this year. They said it was something they wanted to try out," she said. "One girl, who was a senior contestant, did (a talk) on how to give a public presentation. That was really interesting and helpful to the younger members. We also had presentations on wind energy and on rocks and geology."

That sort of hands-on work and wide variety of interests will be on display at this week's Achievement Days, Fosheim said. It's part of 4-H's flexibility in reaching out to more than traditional agriculture, she said.

"It follows the 4-H motto, 'Learning By Doing,'" she said. "Not everyone will qualify for the State Fair, but it's a learning experience."

This summer has also been a learning experience for Fosheim in her new position. She said she has benefited greatly from working with Extension educators across the

state who remain committed to serving others even though they may not have jobs this fall under state restructuring.

Within the Yankton County office, Fosheim has prepared for Achievement Days with help from Extension educators Kevin Vaith and Cynthia Bergman and administrative assistant Danielle McFarland.

"Kevin and Cindy help me with their specialty areas, and Danielle has worked 11 Achievement Days and knows what works and what doesn't work," she said. "They are valuable resources."

She has also received help from other counties, including Clay County 4-H/youth development assistant Will Kennedy. They have worked together on robotics and other programming ideas for 4-H members.

"We have a team effort," she said. "It all flows together and is a positive experience."

Fosheim said she remains grateful at the support shown for the Yankton County program. This fall, she plans to devote more time with Yankton youth organizations, after-

school programs and the other communities around the county.

"It's exciting that Yankton County has funded someone with 4-H and youth development. I am one of the few program assistants left in the state," she said.

"The Yankton County commissioners have shown their commitment to the youth of Yankton County. I can't speak enough for their decision, not just because it affects my job, but because it gives kids that opportunity."

The details have fallen into place for "Pine Acres Pride 2011," as the Achievement Days schedule lists the event, Fosheim said.

In the end, it's the 4-Hers who will matter the most this weekend and in the years ahead, Fosheim said.

"Whether they're 8 or 19 years old, they will show off projects that they have been working hard at all year," she said. "We're not sure of the future, but we will stay focused on what really matters — creating a positive Achievement Days experience."

For more information, visit online at www.yankton4h.com.

309 W. 11th Street • Yankton, SD 57078
 800-249-3837 • 605-668-2168
www.tkplaceyankton.com

- Kitchens
- Baths
- Office & more

the Kitchen Place

SHOWPLACE Wood Products

KYNT

AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS
 MONDAY-FRIDAY

Tuesday, August 2

7:40 am Yankton Library (Kathy Jacobs)
 8:15 am Riverboat Days
 8:45 am Dakota Territorial Museum (Crystal Nelson)

The University of South Dakota

offers high quality academic programs that are flexible, convenient and affordable.

We have an extensive selection of degree and certificate programs online:

Business – Health Care – Education – Addiction Studies – and many more

Fall Courses begin August 29, 2011

APPLY AND REGISTER TODAY

For more information contact:

U.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The University of South Dakota
 414 East Clark Street • Vermillion, SD 57069
 605-677-6240 • 800-233-7937
 DIVISION OF CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION
 cde@usd.edu

Meet Dr. Sternquist, OBGYN

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF **Jill Sternquist, M.D.**
 Board Eligible Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Sternquist is a graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. She completed her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency training at the Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Dr. Sternquist will provide medical and surgical treatment of diseases unique to women, regular examinations, pap smears, infertility treatment, family planning and care of women before, during and after childbirth.

The Clinic is pleased to welcome Dr. Sternquist, her husband, Jason Nelson, and their sons, Easton and Xavier, to Yankton.

Dr. Sternquist will begin seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. on August 15, 2011. Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-5538.

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF CARE

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C.
www.yanktonmedicalclinic.com

So Much Care, So Close to Home.