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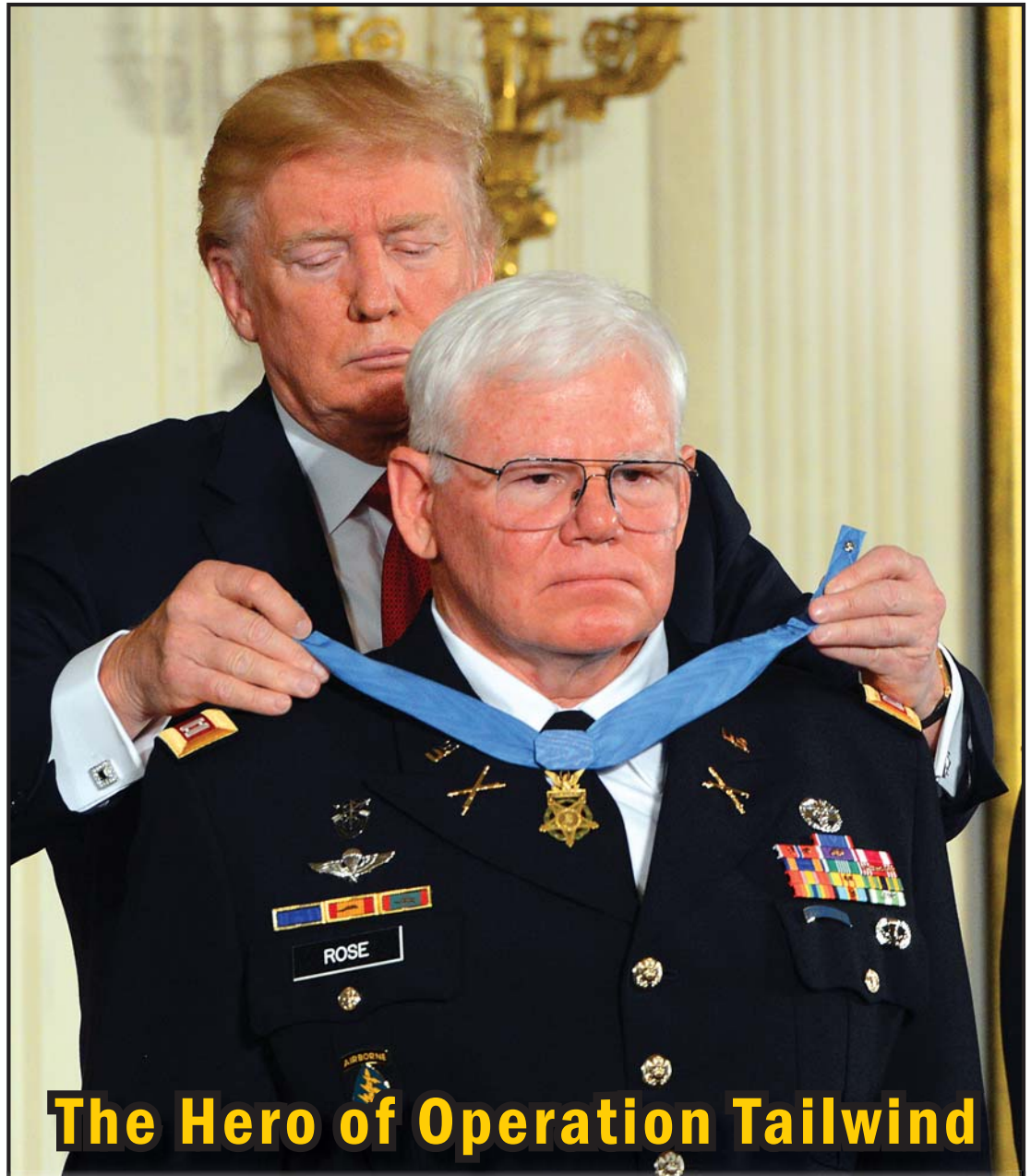
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The Hero of Operation Tailwind

President Donald Trump places the Medal of Honor around the neck of Capt. Gary Michael Rose at a White House ceremony. Rose was recognized for his heroic actions during a classified four-day combat mission more than 47 years ago in Laos during the Vietnam War. While wounded by a rocket-propelled grenade, Rose treated the wounded and saved many lives of many soldiers. (Photo by C. Todd Lopez)

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Mark T. Esper sworn in as 23rd Secretary of the Army

AUSA Staff

By a vote of 89-6 the Senate has confirmed Mark T. Esper, a retired Army combat veteran and business executive, to become the 23rd Secretary of the Army. Esper was sworn in on Nov. 20.

The post as the top Army civilian has been filled by acting secretaries since President Donald Trump took office in January.

The long delay is the result of two nominees dropping out before Senate hearings could be held, and then because of a lengthy number of holds on Senate action for a variety of reasons that had nothing whatsoever to do with Esper's qualifications for the job.

Counting his time at the U.S. Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1986, Esper has 25 years of experience in uniform.

"During my military career, I had the privilege of leading soldiers in both wartime and peace, in a broad range of command and staff assignments, and in locations extending from the United States, to the Middle East, and to Europe," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Adding, "All of this experience gives me an invaluable understanding of the Total Army – its culture, organization, and functions – and the critical role that our soldiers, their families, and the civilian workforce play in defending our



Dr. Mark Esper, right, with Sen. David Perdue R-Ga., Senate Armed Services Committee. (Photo by the Office of Senator David Perdue)

country." And, his experience extends beyond the Army. He was a congressional aide working on national security issues for the House and Senate, and served as deputy assistant defense secretary for policy. He also worked for a defense-related think tank and, most recently, at Raytheon, a top defense contractor.

Retired Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, Association of the U.S. Army president and CEO, said Esper's approval from the Senate is good news.

Ham added, "With Doctor Esper's confirma-

tion, the top leadership of the Army is now fully in place and, ideally, will remain so for the next few years. Doctor Esper, General Milley, Under Secretary McCarthy, General McConville and Sergeant Major of the Army Dailey comprise exactly the right team to lead the Army during a particularly critical time. All of us at AUSA stand ready to support them and the soldiers they lead."

Ham gave a special thanks to McCarthy, "who has so admirably served as Acting Secretary of the Army since August."

AUSA Focus Areas: Help shape our 2018 legislative agenda

View from the Hill

John Gifford

Director

AUSA Government Affairs

The month of December will be tumultuous and hair-raising in Congress.

As the clock ticks toward December 8, time is running out for new appropriations to fund our government and our Army.

The continuing resolution (CR) that has kept the government running since October 1 will expire at midnight on December 8.

There is talk on Capitol Hill of a second CR that will extend the deadline to after Christmas, but not past New Year's Day. This might provide the breathing room Congress needs to come up with an omnibus spending bill to fund the government for the remaining three-quarters of the fiscal year.

AUSA is hoping Congress can finish this critical appropriations bill before the first of the year so our Army can continue rebuilding readiness and increase the size of the force.

The level of spending that will be in the final defense bill is still highly uncertain.

The Budget Control Act budget caps are still in

place, and a final agreement must be made to increase those caps.

Both the president's budget request and the amount authorized by the Armed Services committees exceed the caps significantly. If the caps aren't raised, then sequestration will remove any funding that surpasses the caps.

The Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) defense appropriations bill is the close fight.

While this drama plays out, the deep battle requires AUSA to look ahead to next year. As you may recall, we have replaced our resolutions process with Focus Areas. The goal is to identify 10 Focus Areas on which AUSA Government Affairs should concentrate its efforts in 2018.

Each of the AUSA region presidents has appointed a Focus Areas regional representative, and AUSA national will work with them to develop our Focus Areas for 2018.



Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to communicate to your AUSA chapter president your concerns and recommendations for topics.

Chapter presidents will forward your member input up the chain to be used by the Focus Area regional representatives. The region representatives will review the input across their region, and distill the most critical items requiring legislative action. The region presidents will then weigh in before submitting the input to AUSA national.

At the AUSA national headquarters, we will consolidate the input from the region presidents, and combine it with what we learn from the Army's FY19 budget request, their Unfunded Requirements List (UFR), and the Army Posture Statement.

We intend for the Focus Areas to reflect the key strategic Army issues across the Regular Army, National Guard, Army Reserve, Army civilians, retirees, veterans and Army families.

The result by the end of February will be 10 Focus Areas for 2018. These areas will form the cornerstone of our AUSA legislative campaign plan.

Do you want to make a difference for our Army?

Then tell your chapter president what's on your mind. Don't delay – do it today. Let your voice be part of AUSA's "Voice for the Army, Support for the Soldier."

See you on the high ground.

Defense policy bill: Increases in Army pay, end strength

Capitol Focus

Julie Cameron Rudowski
Assistant Director
Government Affairs

Increases in pay and Army end strength were just a couple of items AUSA cheered as Congress approved the conference report for the fiscal 2018 defense policy bill.

The Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizes \$692.1 billion for the Defense Department which includes \$626.4 billion for the base budget (\$26.4 billion more than the president's budget request) and \$65.7 billion for the Overseas Contingency Operations accounts which are not subject to budget caps.

The \$626.4 billion base budget is \$77.3 billion more than would be permitted for defense spending in FY18 by the 2011 Budget Control Act, something lawmakers still have to work out.

AUSA supported an increase in the Army's end strength.

In a recent op-ed, retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO, said, "We are calling for a bigger Army so that units can be fully manned and soldiers get more time to train, more time for professional development and even a bit more time to be with family and friends."

In response, the NDAA increases the Regular Army personnel ranks by 7,500; the Army National Guard by 500 and the Army Reserve by 500. The administration had not asked for any end-strength increase for 2018.

Ham and AUSA also called for Congress to provide military personnel with a higher pay raise than the 2.1 percent requested by the administration.

By law, basic pay for military personnel is automatically increased at the start of each calendar year by an amount linked to the change in the Employment Cost Index (ECI). For 2018, the pay raise for military personnel should be 2.4 percent.

Ham said, "You may think, 'Well 2.1 percent vs. the 2.4 percent to which they are entitled isn't really all that much.' But, when combined with below ECI raises in past years, with reduced allowances for housing and other decisions that affect not only total compensation, but the services which our service members and their families deserve, this is a bad trend. Congress – do your job. Pay service members what the law says. 2.4 percent is the bottom line."

Congress agreed and authorized the 2.4 percent pay raise, the largest increase since 2010.

For the past two years, the Senate's version of the NDAA contained a provision that would have eliminated the with-dependents rate for the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) in the case of married members of the uniformed services who are collocated and who have dependents.

AUSA was strongly opposed to the provision.

Conferees agreed and the final bill rejected the Senate's provision.

The Senate's bill contained a provision that would have consolidated cost-sharing requirements under TRICARE Prime and Select.

This provision would have eliminated the grandfathering of cost-sharing requirements for beneficiaries enrolled in the TRICARE program prior to Jan. 1, 2018, as authorized in the FY17 NDAA. The House bill contained no similar provision. We supported the House version. The final bill did not include the provision.

However, conferees voiced their concern over several unintended consequences resulting from provisions contained in the fiscal 2017 NDAA which exempted current beneficiaries ("grandfathered" beneficiaries) from the requirement to pay an annual enrollment fee as required by the provision.

This law resulted in different cost sharing requirements for "grandfathered" and "non-grandfathered" beneficiaries receiving the same TRICARE benefit.

Conferees said that they are concerned that disparate copayments for care will create confusion for health care providers who will have to assess different copayments for each category of beneficiary, as well as unnecessary infrastructure for the Department of Defense (DoD) to maintain two different healthcare benefits.

The conferees recognize the desirability of creating a single health benefit structure for all beneficiary categories, which would reduce DoD's burden of implementing and maintaining two separate health benefits over several decades in the future.

Does this mean higher TRICARE fees for all beneficiaries in the future? AUSA will continue to closely monitor this.

The bill also agreed to several other AUSA-supported goals such as:

- The Senate's provision allowing hospice care coverage for children also receiving curative care. Medicare rules currently prohibit TRICARE coverage of hospice care services for children receiving curative healthcare treatments.

- Authorization for reserve component members activated under the authority provided by either section 12304a or 12304b of Title 10, United States Code, to receive pre-mobilization and transitional TRICARE health care.

- A requirement mandating that the Boards for the Correction of Military Records review medical evidence of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and civilian health care providers in cases in which the claim is based on matters relating to post-traumatic



stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) that is related to combat or military sexual trauma.

The provision would also require the Boards to review the claim with liberal consideration to the claimant that PTSD or TBI potentially contributed to the circumstances resulting in the discharge or dismissal or to the original characterization of the claimant's discharge or dismissal.

Since October 2008, surviving spouses whose Survivor Benefit Plan payments have been offset (partially or totally) as a result of receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, including surviving spouses of members who died while serving on active duty, are eligible for Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). That program was set to expire.

AUSA is pleased that conferees agreed to permanently extend the SSIA under the Survivor Benefit Plan and provide for annual inflation adjustments. We are not pleased about how they chose to pay for the continuance of the program – increased pharmacy co-payments.

It's important to remember that the NDAA is the authorizing bill.

One thing still missing is an adequate and predictable defense budget. The policy bill authorizes funds for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, but Congress has not passed appropriations to provide that funding.

ALERT!! Changes ahead with your TRICARE benefit

There are significant changes coming to your TRICARE benefit and you should take action now.

On Jan. 1, 2018, there are several changes coming to the TRICARE benefit including a change to the current TRICARE regions.

The current three regions (North, South and West) will become two regions (East and West). Humana Military will manage the East Region and Health Net Federal Services, LLC, will manage the West region.

see page 9



Topping Out -- Clark Construction placed the final steel beam on the National Museum of the U.S. Army on Nov. 17 at Fort Belvoir, Va. The placing of the beam, known as Topping Out, marks a significant milestone in the construction of the museum. Donors, veterans, staff and crew were invited to sign the beam.

AUSA News

Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier

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The Association of the United States Army's professional education program is designed to identify, discuss and influence the outcome of significant issues that affect the U.S. Army and national defense. AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare accomplishes this goal through the sponsorship of writing programs, for which quality manuscripts are needed.

The Institute would like to invite you—past and present servicemembers, Army civilians, friends of the Army and others with an interest in and knowledge of national defense—to submit a manuscript to one or more of our writing programs. Membership in AUSA, while always encouraged, is not a requirement for participation.

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AUSA's Lee Chapter Mission: Educate, Inform, Connect

NCO and Soldier Programs

**Sergeant Major of the Army
Kenneth O. Preston, USA, Ret.
Vice President, Noncommissioned
Officer and Soldier Programs**

Greetings from the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), our Army's and our soldiers' professional organization.

AUSA's 121 chapters with their volunteer leaders and members across the country and around the world are our ambassadors, connecting our Association with soldiers and their families, Army leaders in their area, local corporate partners and our communities.

Our 121 chapters serve as the lynchpin to bring faces and places together to better support our soldiers and tell the "Army Story."

Our AUSA mission: Voice for the Army – Support for the soldier.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational association, one of AUSA's key roles is to provide relevant, needed and wanted educational opportunities for soldiers and their families.

As part of the Veterans Day celebrations, I had the opportunity to visit and spend time with the soldiers, families and community members at Fort Lee, Va.

The Association of the U.S. Army's Lee Chapter sponsored my visit and I used this great opportunity to join with the chapter and showcase AUSA's educational and mentorship initiatives.

To begin the day, one of the key events at Fort Lee was to participate in the chapter's quarterly business meeting held in conjunction with an installation-wide breakfast.

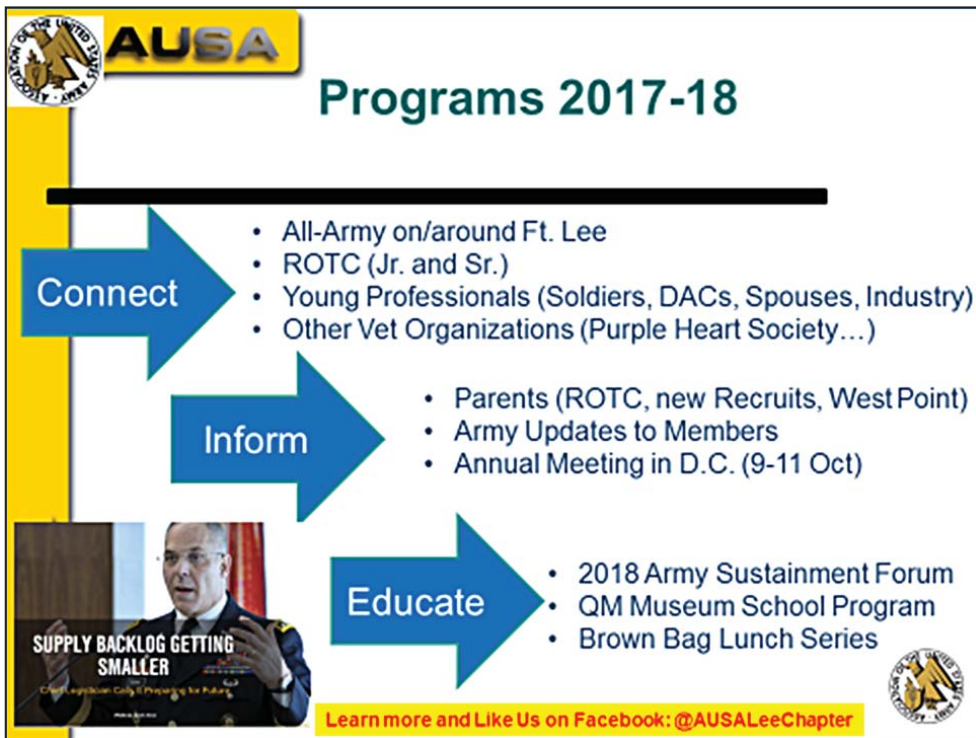
With more than 260 soldiers from the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve, and Army civilians, Army and civic leaders, retired soldiers, veterans and families in attendance, the Lee Chapter did a magnificent job communicating its mission to educate, inform and connect with soldiers, civilians, families, and the Fort Lee community.

In addition to the chapter using this venue to educate, inform and connect, the members also increased their chapter membership.

In attendance at the breakfast were representatives from the Holiday Helper program, who raised \$1,000 to support the installation's programs.

The motto of the Holiday Helper program is: "No Military Child Goes Without!"

The Lee Chapter president, retired Col. Michael



P. Flanagan, provided an update on the chapter's activities to connect, inform and educate throughout the military and civilian communities.

I had the honor to speak at the breakfast where I highlighted the theme of this year's Annual Meeting, "Building Readiness, From the Great War to Multi-Domain Battle."

The "Great War," as it was called, began in 1914, and for three years the United States remained neutral until the sinking of the British passenger liner Lusitania by a German U Boat claimed 128 American lives.

Also, the continued attacks on merchant ships rallied the American people.

In 1917, America's Army had an enlisted force of 121,797 and 5,791 officers.

Additionally, the Army had few trucks, lots of horses, few machineguns, little artillery and no tanks.

President Woodrow Wilson at that time said, "The challenge is to all mankind. Each nation must decide for itself how it will meet it. The choice we make for ourselves must be made with a moderation of counsel and a temperateness of judgement befitting our character and our motives as a nation."

America's entry into WWI marked the birth of the draft with the Selective Service Act of 1917.

Approximately 24 million men registered for the draft, 4.7 million served and 1.4 million deployed to Europe. The entire National Guard was drafted.

As part of the growth of the Army, 41 divisions were created and 13 remain intact in today's total Army force.

For the soldiers who served, there were 116,000 deaths, of which 53,000 were combat related, and another 204,000 were wounded in the 18 months of combat service.

Today, 100 years later, we still have the same questions and concerns about our place in the world and maintaining readiness that includes manning, equipping, training the Army and leader development.

Now, with more than 187,000 soldiers deployed or forward stationed in 140 countries in six geographic combatant commands, soldiers and Army leaders are busy.

Multi-domain battle today is more than an Infantry soldier or tank on the ground fighting,

Across the spectrum of capabilities, the Army must maintain American military dominance in all five domains – land, air, maritime, space, and cyberspace, and across the electromagnetic spectrum.

Speaking at the home of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM), soldiers and their leaders at Fort Lee see their relevance every day in support of the plethora of ongoing global missions.

In addition to the breakfast, I had the opportunity along with AUSA's retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, AUSA's director of NCO and Soldier Programs, to visit the Quartermaster, Ordinance, Transportation, and NCO Academy.

Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel J. Bartee Sr., the CASCOM CSM, hosted my visit along with Command Sgt. Maj. Vickie G. Culp, who serves

see next page

Lee Chapter from preceding page

as the Transportation School CSM; Command Sgt. Maj. Terry D. Burton, the Ordinance School CSM; Command Sgt. Maj. Sean J. Rice, the Quartermaster School CSM, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony A. Traylor the Commandant of the two CASCOM NCO academies.

I found the young soldiers attending Advanced Individual Training at the three component schools highly motivated and eager to learn their craft and to prepare for their first duty station for Regular Army soldiers or to return home as Army National Guard or Army Reserve soldiers.

Of special interest was a discussion of progress in the Army Credentialing Program (ACP) and the Continuing Education Degree Program (CEDP).

The ACP strategy is the Army's effort to align military occupational specialties (MOS) and associated military duties with vocational certifications and licenses.

A focal point for the ACP is for all soldiers to receive appropriate credit for their military training, education, and experience documented in a form which is transferable across the Army and civilian workforce.

This effort promotes soldier professional development by expanding their military expertise while serving and, the transference of their knowledge, skills, and abilities when seeking civilian employment.

Every occupation in the Army, along with the associated collateral and ancillary duties, has some level of alignment to any number of nationally recognized credentials.

Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC) efforts in these areas over the last five years – using the Army Career Tracker (ACT) and Army Credentialing Opportunities On Line (COOL) websites – provide soldiers credentialing opportunities identified by TRADOC's occupational schools and centers.

The ACP brings to the Army and our soldiers many key benefits such as enhancing readiness, promoting life-long learning, professionalizing the force (total force applicable) and enhances post-service employability.

CASCOM is leading the Army in its efforts to identify credentialing, licensing or certification opportunities for all military occupations.

Today, there are 34 enlisted and 14 warrant officer career fields enrolled in the ACP, with more than 40,000 soldiers who have completed the program.

But there is still more work to be done for those MOSs that remain to match the Army's training to a license, credential or certification.

TRADOC's Army University has the mission to expand public and private partnerships with academic institutions to ensure soldiers receive appropriate academic credit for their training, education and experience.

The end state is for all career field branch proponents to identify a recommended credential and have at least one degree program established and codified in a professional development model for attainment by soldiers in the operating force and through self-development opportunities, accurately displayed on the ACT and Army COOL websites.

These efforts are part of the Soldier for Life program and the life-long learning initiative for all soldiers throughout their military careers.

Overall, it was a great day to be a soldier at Fort Lee and a great day to be a part of the AUSA Lee Chapter.

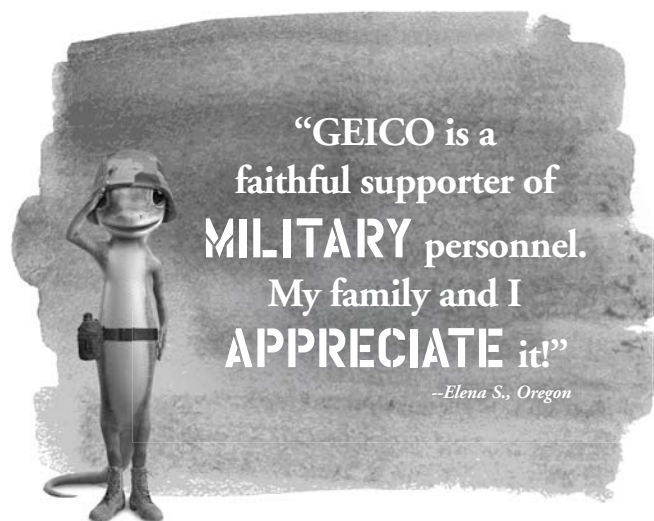
We can all be very proud of the volunteers who serve selflessly to support our soldiers and their families, provide relevance and support to the Army commands, and tell the soldier's story throughout our communities and across the nation.

Now more than ever America's Army needs AUSA, and AUSA needs your membership support.

Membership is the volume knob to ensure your voice is amplified many times over and heard throughout the halls of Congress, from sea to shining sea across this country, and throughout every small town and community in-between.

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West: We maintain medical, health readiness of our total Army

AUSA Family Readiness

David Suits
Army News Service

Ensuring quality care, combatting opioid addiction, and optimizing support for behavioral health were several critical topics of discussion during a forum convened at the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition that focused on military families.

"Our service members make up the team that protects our freedom around the world," said Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, Army surgeon general and the commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Command.

Adding, "They deserve a coordinated and committed team right here at home that can be relied upon to care for their families, especially their spouses, partners, children and soldiers for life."

Quality care

"Army medicine's uncompromising commitment to quality of care and patient safety is essential to make sure we maintain the medical and health readiness of our total Army, but it is also vital to the health of our families," West said.

She said the Army measures medical outcomes against national benchmarks administered by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the governing body that evaluates and assesses all healthcare facilities in the U.S.

West said 100 percent of all Army medical facilities are joint-commission accredited, and meet NCQA's standards of quality, safety, and standardization of care.

In addition to the joint accreditation, Army medicine works to meet the surgical standards of quality set by the American College of Surgeons' National Surgical Quality Improvement Program. Approximately 13 percent of the best hospitals in the U.S. participate in the program, West said, while 100 percent of Army hospitals participate.

"Not only do we compare favorably, but recently the team at Brooke Army Medical Center [in Fort Sam Houston, Texas,] received a meritorious achievement award from the American College of Surgeons," she said.

Behavioral health

"[Behavioral health] is an extremely important topic and issue for all of us, not just in the military, but in our nation," she said. "Access to behavioral healthcare is a key to maintaining wellness."

To help determine the effectiveness of behavioral health programs, a quantifiable survey has been established to help track and improve the Army's health system.

"Historically, measurement-based care has not existed on this scale," West said. "This is an Army-developed system that represents a novel, real-time



Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, Army surgeon general, speaks at an AUSA Annual Meeting family forum. (AUSA News photo)

standardized approach to demonstrate an individual and population health improvement from the enterprise level to the military treatment facility provider." West said the effort is a "great tool" to better understand if individuals are getting better based upon the interventions that are made.

Currently, soldiers and family members can receive behavioral health services through their primary care managers or an outpatient medical facility. But West said that Army medicine is looking to expand its capabilities through the employment of telephone consultations and virtual health platforms.

Additionally, she also acknowledged the mental health needs of Army families, as 58 percent of all soldiers are married, and 47 percent of the force has children. It is not just soldiers that need behavioral health care.

"Our children are required to move and change schools and make new friends," West said. And sometimes, she said, those children are making those life changes when one or both of their parents are deployed.

To help, Army medicine is testing an in-school behavioral health treatment program to improve ease-of-access to students in need of support.

Military spouses may also need behavioral healthcare support, West said, due to their own unique challenges.

"Spouses and partners face the challenge of finding new jobs, caring for children, tending to [elderly] parents, [and] maintaining a household, all while worrying about the safety and well-being of their deployed spouse," West said. "That is a lot to ask of our families."

National opioid crisis

Communities across the nation have in recent years been struggling with an increase in opioid addiction. The Army community is not immune to that crisis, West said.

"Army medicine has been looking closely at developing a strategy for pain management for over a decade," West said. "We recognize that there are complex, clinical and social consequences with chronic pain and we are deeply concerned about the reduced quality of life for those that abuse opioids and the consequences for their families, friends, and communities."

Opioid use peaked in the Army in 2012, according to West.

Since then, the Army made a concerted effort to address the issue by decreasing the total percentage of soldiers given one or more opioid prescriptions over a 180 day period.

In 2010, the Army created a pain management task force, which garnered 109 pain management recommendations.

Those recommendations helped build an array of best practices for the care of acute and chronic pain, based on the best evidence available; provided tools and infrastructure that supports encouraged practice and research advancement in pain management; and synchronized a culture of pain awareness, education and proactive intervention, according to the general.

West said she knows more can be done.

"We're not going to be happy until we can get this down as close to zero as we can," West said.

Being proactive

"Army Wellness Centers are 'performance triad' platforms that focus on sleep, activity, and nutrition," West said.

Adding, "These services are designed to promote and sustain good health and improve the overall healthy lifestyles of our soldiers, family members, retirees and Department of the Army civilians."

The goal is to create a more proactive approach to a person's health and wellness. This starts by addressing harmful lifestyle behaviors. In turn, wellness center professionals can provide individuals with the tools they will need to make positive changes over time, she said.

Wellness centers and primary care managers work in tandem by implementing a coordinated approach to patient care, West said.

This ensures a proper alignment of treatment for all patients and continuously provides patient progress and oversight.

Additionally, in December 2016, West directed sweeping changes to Army medicine policies related to access to military treatment.

"As a result of the hard work, patients at Army military treatment facilities can make appointments six months out," she said.

"Primary care is now available during every training holiday, and we have adjusted and extended clinic hours to accommodate appointments that are more convenient to our patients."

These changes created an additional 680,000 primary care appointments and increased acute appointment availability by 37 percent.

McCarthy: Army modernization requires ‘radical shift’

AUSA Staff

Modernizing the Army to meet the demands of future warfare is not a simple thing.

It requires a “radical shift” in how the Army does business and a dedicated team to lead the effort, the under secretary of the Army said Nov. 8.

Speaking at a breakfast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army’s Institute of Land Warfare in Arlington, Va., Ryan D. McCarthy said establishing a new command focused on modernization represents the first fundamental reorganization since 1973.

The announcement of the modernization command, which has not been named, was made at AUSA’s Annual Meeting and Exposition in October, McCarthy said, because it was “an opportunity to talk about how we wanted to do this, to communicate to industry, to Congress and to the Army about how we needed to have this radical shift in culture of how we do business.”

Tapping into the right pool of people to navigate what is uncharted territory is a top Army priority, with six teams created to make recommendations by February on different parts of the reform, he said.

The search for leaders has involved looking at all post-brigade command-qualified officers who have served in combat. The effort has been spearheaded personally by McCarthy and the Army chief and vice chief of staff.

The teams are charged with looking at different capabilities resident in the Training and Doctrine, Forces and Army Materiel commands, but the most challenging piece, McCarthy said, is going to be the cultural shift this will represent.

“You can write a memo and you can tell people



Under Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy, left, tells retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO, and the ILW breakfast audience that the uncertainty of funding is ‘breeding mediocrity.’ (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

go over here and move the organizational charts, but getting people to behave differently, to work differently with each other” will be a challenge, he said.

Adding, “This is an entrepreneurial greenfield type of effort in an institution that’s 242 years old. Culture is going to be the hardest piece of this.”

McCarthy said he has “worn out a layer of leather on my shoes going back and forth to Congress” to keep lawmakers informed and close to the process because there has been a high level of interest in what the recommendations will be, but the lack of predictable funding hinders long-term planning.

In his conversation with retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO, McCarthy told the

breakfast audience that the uncertainty of funding over so many years was “breeding mediocrity” in the way budget cycles are looked at and how much can be done with less.

He said if the nation wants the Army to continue deploying at the current rate for missions deemed essential to national security, then more troops will be needed.

“It’s simple economics. Supply and demand. Do we have to do everything that we’re doing in the world?” he questioned, pointing out that there are 180,000 soldiers deployed in 140 countries.

“We can do anything, but we just need more troops if they want to keep doing that,” he noted.

Focus

from page 3

In preparation for this change, enrollments in TRICARE health plans will be delayed while beneficiary files are transferred to the incoming regional contractors. The delay period, or an enrollment freeze, will begin on Dec. 1, 2017 and last approximately three weeks, or until the data transfer is complete.

“You’ll still have access to care during the enrollment freeze,” said Mark Ellis, senior health program analyst for TRICARE at the Defense Health Agency. “However, if you wish to make changes to your TRICARE coverage, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.”

If you would like to switch to a different TRICARE health plan, or enroll in a plan for the first time, take action before Nov. 20, 2017. You can enroll in certain TRICARE plans online, by phone or by mail.

Learn about how to enroll in or purchase a health plan on the TRICARE website, www.tricare.mil.

Also on Jan. 1, 2018, the current TRICARE Standard and Extra will be combined into one plan: TRICARE Select. You don’t have to enroll in TRICARE Select if you’re a TRICARE Standard beneficiary as of Nov. 30, 2017.

You’ll be automatically converted to TRICARE Select on Jan. 1, as long as you’re registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and are eligible for TRICARE.

For more information about TRICARE Select, click on this link or visit <https://tricare.mil/About/Changes/Select>.

Beginning Nov. 20, 2017, you will not be able to use the Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE) website to enroll in or dis-enroll from TRICARE Prime options and select or change primary care managers.

Additionally, eligible beneficiaries will not be able to use BWE to enroll in TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) or TRICARE dental options. While the BWE website is unavailable, regional contractors will accept enrollment applications through other communications channels (for example,

phone and mail).

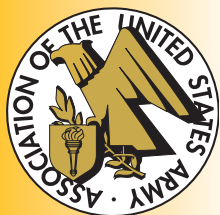
Regional contractors will process these applications once the freeze is complete. Visit www.tricare.mil/changes/enroll to find instructions on how to submit TRICARE enrollment forms during the enrollment freeze.

You will still have access to care during the enrollment freeze. Save your pharmacy and other health care receipts while your enrollment is pending, so that you can get reimbursed for TRICARE covered expenses once the freeze is complete and your enrollment is processed.

If you have a problem accessing care while your enrollment is pending, contact your regional contractor. If you have a problem getting your medications while your enrollment is pending, contact Express Scripts.

Take command of your health care and prepare for the upcoming changes to TRICARE:

- Update your personal information in DEERS
- Make sure you have a current DS Logon
- Sign up for eCorrespondence in milConnect
- Sign up for TRICARE benefit updates



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

News

Special Report: AUSA Annual Meeting Awards

December 2017

AUSA Annual Meeting recognizes AUSA chapters, Army units

Editor's note: AUSA awards to Army units and Association chapters were presented at the Annual Meeting's opening ceremony by Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret., AUSA president and CEO, left, and Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, USA, Ret., vice president for membership and meetings, right. (All photos by AUSA News)



Largest Chapter: Central Texas-Fort Hood

Maj. Gen. John Thomson, III, deputy commanding general, III Corps; Stephanie O'Banion, Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter president; and Command Sgt. Maj. Maurice Jackson, III Corps Home Station command sergeant major.



Largest Active Duty Division: 1st Cavalry Division

Maj. Gen. Paul Calvert, commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division; Stephanie O'Banion, Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter president; and Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Pospisil, III Corps Home Station command sergeant major.



Largest AUSA Membership in a National Guard Division: 29th Infantry Division

Maj. Gen. Blake Ortner, commanding general, 29th Infantry Division; and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Smith, command sergeant major, 29th Infantry Division.



Reserve Command with Greatest Support to AUSA: 99th Regional Support Command

Maj. Gen. Troy Kok, commanding general, 99th Regional Support Command.



Best Chapter (Over 1,500): George Washington Chapter (tie)

Maj. Gen. Michael Howard, commanding general, Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region/Military District of Washington; Col. W. Glenn Yarborough Jr., USA, Ret., chapter president; and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Biggs, Joint Force Headquarters command sergeant major.



Best Chapter (Over 1,500): Redstone-Huntsville Chapter (tie)

Gen. Gustave Perna, commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC); Col. Sam Torrey, chapter president; Col. John Wright, USA, Ret., immediate past chapter president; and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodger Mansker, AMC command sergeant major.

see next page

Honored from preceding page



Best Chapter (900-1500): Hawaii Chapter

Paul L'Ecuier, chapter president; and Col. Richard Ullian, chief of staff, 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Hawaii.



Best Chapter (500-899): Arsenal of Democracy Chapter (tie)

Maj. Gen. Clark Lemasters, commanding general, Tank-automotive and Armaments Command Life Cycle Management Command; Brig. Gen. Mark Montjar, USA, Ret., chapter president, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin.



Best Chapter (500-899): Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr. Chapter (tie)

Jocelyn Cookson, chapter first vice president.



Best Chapter (250-5499): Monmouth Chapter

Col. John Fuoco, USA, Ret., chapter president; Ellie Smith, chapter secretary; and Frank Brogna, Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.



Best Chapter (Less than 250): Delaware Chapter

Col. Gary Dawson, USA, Ret., chapter president.



Best Overseas Chapter: Stuttgart Chapter

Maj. Mike Pierce, chapter president; and Command Sgt. Maj. Mariano Alvarez.

Army honors outstanding NCOs at meeting's Eisenhower Lunch

Editor's note: Army awards to noncommissioned officers were presented at the Annual Meeting's Dwight D. Eisenhower Luncheon by Gen. Mark Milley, Army chief of staff; Army Under Secretary Ryan McCarthy; and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey.



2017 Army Drill Sergeant of the Year:
Staff Sgt. Chad Hickey, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



2017 Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Platoon Sergeant of the Year:
Staff Sgt. Bryan Ivery, Defense Language Institute



2017 United States Army Recruiter of the Year:
Staff Sgt. Christopher Geber, Chicago Recruiting Battalion



2017 Army National Guard Recruiter of the Year:
Staff Sgt. Brian Campagna, California Recruiting Command



2017 Army Reserve Recruiter of the Year:
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Barcus, Healthcare Recruiting Command



2017 Army Career Counselor of the Year:
Sgt. 1st Class Gwen Van Etten, U.S. Army Special Operations Command



2017 Army Reserve Component Career Counselor of the Year:
Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Wienczkowski, Forces Command, National Guard Bureau



2017 Army Reserve Career Counselor of the Year:
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jones, 7th Battalion, Army Reserve Careers Division

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Holiday shopping? – Check out your AUSA member benefits

Benefits Highlight

Susan Rubel
Director
AUSA Affinity Programs

Here are new AUSA member benefits that are just in time for holiday shopping.



We're pleased to announce a new affinity partnership with Hewlett Packard that provides AUSA members with substantial savings on the full HP online catalog – both personal and corporate – that are not available to the general public.

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With AUSA's new relationship with 1-800Flowers, members save at 1-800Flowers, Fruit Bouquets and Personalization Universe.

■ For flowers and plants – visit www.ausa.org/flowers and use code AUSA for \$15 off orders of \$49.99+.

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■ Personalization Universe – For one-of-a-kind personalized gifts, visit www.ausa.org/pu and use code AUSA20 for 20 percent off site-wide.

For more holiday travel and gift ideas, see last month's AUSA News article that outlines current AUSA member discounts at <https://www.ausa.org/articles/ausa-member-benefits-many-ways-spread-holiday-cheer>.

Book Program authors speak, sign books at Annual Meeting

Joseph Craig
Director
AUSA Book Program

Soldiers and civilians kept AUSA Book Program authors busy throughout the course of the three-day Annual Meeting and Exposition held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in early October.

The AUSA Pavilion, located in the meeting's exhibit hall, provided counters for the authors to display their works, answer questions, and autograph copies of their books.

They drew attention from both casual passers-by and noted figures such as retired Gen. Jack Keane, a former Army vice chief of staff, and now a Fox News analyst.

“[Dr.] Richard Harrison was extremely good at soliciting attendees to buy his books,” said Sam Caggiula, Casemate's marketing and publicity director, referring to a series of Soviet General Staff accounts of WWII Eastern Front battles edited and translated by Harrison.

Capt. John Nelson Rickard, CAF, had another successful AUSA appearance, selling out copies of his new book *Forward with Patton: The World War II Diary of Colonel Robert S. Allen*.

Retired Brig. Gen. Dani Asher, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Reserve, also sold out of his edited book *Inside Israel's Northern Command: The Yom Kippur War on the Syrian Border*.

Two former members of the Israeli Defense Forces joined Asher at the Authors' Forum on the first day of the meeting.



Speaking at the AUSA Authors' Forum were: Top row from left, Capt. John Nelson Rickard, Brig. Gen. Dani Asher, Dr. Richard W. Harrison, and Brig. Gen. Gideon Avidor. Bottom row: Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki, Col. Pesach Malovany and Dr. Brian D. Laslie. (AUSA News photo)

Brig. Gen. Gideon Avidor presented *At the Decisive Point in the Sinai: Generalship in the Yom Kippur War*, and Col. Pesach Malovany discussed *Wars of Modern Babylon: A History of the Iraqi Army*.

Dr. Brian Laslie introduced his book *Architect of Airpower: General Laurence S. Kuter and the Birth of the U.S. Air Force* by addressing the unspoken question: “What's an Air Force historian doing at an AUSA event?”

He reminded the audience that the air service was part of the Army through the end of WWII and noted that Kuter learned to fly to become a better field artilleryman.

After his presentation on *Lossberg's War: The World War I Memoirs of a German Chief of Staff*, Maj. Gen. David Zabecki joined the audience as he answered a series of questions.

Retired Lt. Gen. Richard Trefry, AUSA senior fellow, moderated the forum along with AUSA Senior Fellow retired Lt. Gen. Theodore G. Stroup. Thanks in part to the publicity generated by the new AUSA app, the forum was “the best attended I've seen,” Trefry said.

For more information about the AUSA Book Program, visit: www.ausa.org/resources/book-program.

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Wounded Army combat medic honored for his heroism in Laos

C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

More than 47 years after his heroic actions in the nation of Laos, during the Vietnam War, Capt. Gary Michael Rose was recognized with the Medal of Honor.

"This will enshrine him into the history of our nation," said President Donald J. Trump, during the Oct. 23, 2017, Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House.

During the Vietnam War, Rose served as a combat medic with the Military Assistance Command Studies and Observations Group, part of Special Forces. He was recognized for actions during a four-day period that spanned Sept. 11 through 14, 1970, in Laos. The mission he was part of, called Operation Tailwind, had for many years been classified.

Trump said Operation Tailwind was meant to prevent the North Vietnamese Army from funneling weapons to their own forces through Laos, along the Ho Chi Minh trail. The operation involved about 136 men, including 16 American soldiers and 120 Montagnard fighters, who were Vietnamese indigenous people from the Central Highlands.

The operation put those involved deep inside Laos. The men had been inserted by helicopter.

"Once they landed in the clearing, they rushed to the jungle for much needed cover," Trump said. "Soon, another man was shot outside their defensive perimeter. Mike immediately rushed to his injured comrade, firing at the enemy as he ran. In the middle of the clearing, under the machine gun fire, Mike treated the wounded soldier. He shielded the man with his own body and carried him back to safety."

That was just the start of the four-day mission, Trump said. There was much more to come.

"Mike and his unit slashed through the dense jungle, dodged bullets, dodged explosives, dodged everything that you can dodge because they threw it all at him, and continuously returned fire as they moved deeper and deeper and deeper into enemy territory," Trump said.

"Throughout the engagement, Mike rescued those in distress without any thought for his own safety," Trump said. "I will tell you, the people with him could not believe what they were witnessing. He crawled from one soldier to the next, offering words of encouragement as he tended to their wounds."

Rose would repeat those selfless actions throughout the four-day Operation Tailwind mission.

Rose was himself injured, Trump said. On the second day, Rose was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade, which left shrapnel in his back, and a hole in his foot.

"For the next 48 excruciating hours, he used a branch as a crutch and went on rescuing the wounded," Trump said. "Mike did not stop to eat, to sleep, or even to care for his own serious injury as he saved the lives of his fellow soldiers."



Under Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy, Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Gary Michael Rose, and Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville participate in a ceremony where Rose was inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. (Photo by John Martinez)

On the fourth day in Laos, Rose and others boarded the third of four helicopters that had been sent in to evacuate participants of Operation Tailwind. So many had boarded those first three helicopters that the fourth remained empty. It would seem to be the end of his mission and a return to safety. But it was not.

That third helicopter was already damaged by enemy fire when it picked up Rose and the remainder of the fighters, and it took off with only one engine operational.

Shortly after lifting off, its remaining engine failed, meaning the aircraft would have to be "autorotated" to the ground.

On board that aircraft was an injured marine door gunner who had been shot through the neck and was bleeding profusely. As the helicopter pilots attempted to bring a helicopter with no power safely to the ground, Rose tended to that young marine's neck – saving his life.

Ultimately, that helicopter crashed to the ground, and the resulting wreckage would provide yet another opportunity for Rose to prove his valor.

"Mike was thrown off the aircraft before it hit the ground, but he raced back to the crash site and pulled one man after another out of the smoking and smoldering helicopter as it spewed jet fuel from its ruptured tanks," Trump said.

At the conclusion of Operation Tailwind, thanks to the efforts of Mike Rose, all 16 American soldiers were able to return home. All of them had been injured. All but three of the Montagnard fighters returned as well.

During those four days in Laos, "Mike treated an astounding 60 to 70 men," Trump said. And of the mission, which proved to be a success, "their company disrupted the enemy's continual resupply of weapons, saving countless of additional American lives."

At the White House for the event were members of Rose's family, including his wife, Margaret, his

three children, and two grand-children, and nine previous Medal of Honor recipients.

Also in attendance were 10 service members who fought alongside Rose during the operation. They included Sgt. Maj. Morris Adair, Sgt. Don Boudreau, 1st Sgt. Bernie Bright, Capt. Pete Landon, Sgt. Jim Lucas, Lt. Col. Gene McCarley, 1st Sgt. Denver Minton, Sgt. Keith Planchich, Spc. 5 Craig Schmidt, and Staff Sgt. Dave Young.

"To Mike and all the service members who fought in the battle: You've earned the eternal gratitude of the entire American nation," Trump said. "You faced down the evils of communism, you defended our flag, and you showed the world the unbreakable resolve of the American armed forces. Thank you."

After speaking, Trump placed the Medal of Honor around Rose's neck.

Following the Medal of Honor ceremony, Rose said he believed the medal he'd been awarded was not only for him, but for all those who served – especially those who had fought in combat but who had not been able to be recognized due to the classified nature of their operations.

"This award, which I consider a collective medal, is for all of the men, to include the Air Force and the marines who helped us," Rose said. "This is our medal. We all earned it. And to a great extent, it is for all the men who fought for those seven years in MACV-SOG, and even further than that, for all the Special Forces groups who fought and died in that war."

"In honor of all those individuals that went for so many years, when the military didn't recognize the fact that MACV-SOG even existed, and all of those men that fought – this kind of brings it home. And now our story has been told, and now with this award I am convinced that they have been recognized for the great service they provided to this country."

"Thank you and God bless the republic of the United States."

Army soldiers take top spots in Marine Corps Marathon

All-Army Sports

For the seventh consecutive year, the Army men defeated the other services at the Marine Corps Marathon to win the Armed Forces Championship.

Leading the team was Spc. Michael Biwott who ran a time of 2:30:14 to place 6th out of the more than 20,000 race finishers.

The Army placed four runners in the top 12 with Spc. George Kiplagat, Spc. Peter Koskey, and 1st Lt. Trevor Lafontaine finishing 10th-12th.

Rounding out the team were Capt. Chad Ware and the team's coach, Col. Liam Collins.

Not to be outdone, the women's team dominated the other services by placing three runners in top 10 of all female finishes.

Former race champion Capt. Meghan Curran placed second overall with a time of 2:50:24 and won the Armed Forces Championship for the third time in four years.

Capt. Chelsea Kim and 1st Lt. Jennifer Comfort finished in 4th and 10th, respectively.

Capt. Maggie Smith also ran a strong race finishing in 20th place.

Collins was pleased with his team's performance. He said, "The Navy brought a couple of very strong teams, so it was great to see the Army men and women step up to the challenge and pull out tough wins."



Capt. Meghan Curran placed second overall with a time of 2:50:24 and won the Armed Forces Championship for the third time in four years. (Photo courtesy of Steve Dinote, Armed Forces Sports)

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Staff Sergeants Rangel and Philbin are Army Best Medics

Wesley P. Elliott
Army Medicine

Fifty-six U.S. Army medics competed in two-person teams during the punishing 72-hour Army Best Medic Competition at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Camp Bullis, Texas, from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.

Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Rangel and Staff Sgt. Richard Philbin, representing the 75th Ranger Regiment, won the competition.

Philbin said, "We were definitely surprised, after getting the marksmanship award, I figured that would be our line, I definitely didn't expect [to win] but I know Joe and I tried hard and worked well as a team."

The Army's Best Medic Competition is hosted by the U.S. Army Medical Command and by the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School. This year's competition included 28 teams and is designed to physically and intellectually challenge medics in a simulated tactical environment.

Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, U.S. Army surgeon general and commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Command, said during the award ceremony, "By participating in this competition you have set yourself apart from your peers... you represent the best of Army Medicine."

Philbin believes they were selected because he and Rangel have served together previously and work well together as a team.

Rangel explained that there wasn't a need to prepare for the competition because being a Ranger, Rangers are always expected to perform at a higher level at all times.

"We practice our normal SOPs and protocols throughout the training cycle. We went at it with what we had," said Rangel.



Lt. Gen. Nadja West, left, the U.S. Army Surgeon General, and Army Medical Command Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Ecker, right, congratulate Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Rangel and Staff Sgt. Richard Philbin representing the 75th Ranger Regiment, the winners of the 2017 Army Best Medic Competition. (Photo by Rebecca Westfall)

The competition is designed to test the medics' medical proficiency and leadership while working together as a team.

It is open to all Regular Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard soldiers, who have earned the Expert Field Medical Badge or the Combat Medical Badge.

Competitors must be adaptive leaders who are tested in physical fitness (walking up to 30 miles throughout the competition), tactical pistol and rifle marksmanship, land navigation, and overall knowledge of medical, technical, and tactical proficiencies through hands-on tasks.

Rangel explained that his team had a strategy, "We had a lot of buddies who attended the U.S.

Army Best Ranger Competition and they had hints for us, like stretch out between each event, make sure we are constantly hydrating, and to make sure we are not always trying to push ourselves to the extreme. Don't try and get first place in everything but just try and land among the top five so we have some gas for the next activity or lane."

Competitors' skill sets must be a solid mix of tactical, technical and critical thinking in order to win the competition.

"This [competition] was a test to prepare you for the ultimate test on the battlefield – Go back to your units and share your excellence," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald C. Ecker, U.S. Army Medical Command.

Satellite and ground commo systems may be vulnerable

AUSA Staff

AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare recently published a Land Warfare Paper titled "Satellite and Ground Communication Systems: Space and Electronic Warfare Threats to the United States Army," by Maj. Andrew H. Boyd.

This paper should be of great interest for those who would like to know more about the current communication systems of today's Army, how they have progressed—and how they have failed to progress—over the past few decades, and the larger implications their condition carries for the Army and the defense of the nation as a whole.

In "Satellite and Ground Communication Systems: Space and Electronic Warfare Threats to the United States Army" (Land Warfare Paper 115, Nov. 2017), Boyd argues that the Army's dependence on satellite and ground communication systems leaves it vulnerable to an irresponsible degree.

Given the limitations that come with these communication systems – limits that arise from bandwidth availability, terrain variations, potential enemy interception and natural disaster interference – the Army is ill-prepared to face the future as a competent player in the realm of electronic warfare (EW).

Across the fields of doctrine, training and equipment, military leaders should look back to the emphasis that was placed on EW during the Cold War Era and revise current methods and education accordingly.

Due to waning threats and an apparent technological superiority, disciplined electronic protection has deteriorated over the past 25 years.

Given the threats to satellite and ground communication systems, the U.S. Army is unlikely to be successful in a conventional war against a comparable adversary without significant change.

To access this paper online, go to <https://www.>

[aula.org/publications/satellite-and-ground-communication-systems-space-and-electronic-warfare-threats-united](https://www.aula.org/publications/satellite-and-ground-communication-systems-space-and-electronic-warfare-threats-united).

To obtain a printed copy of "Satellite and Ground Communication Systems: Space and Electronic Warfare Threats to the United States Army":

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CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

A listing of bills that AUSA is currently tracking

ACTIVE DUTY/GUARD & RESERVE ISSUES

House Action

H.R. 1384 (Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act)

Cosponsors: 70

- Amends titles 5, 10, 37, and 38 of the United States Code to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304a and 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services and veterans for certain benefits and for calculating the deadlines for certain benefits.
- Introduced by Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss.

• **Referred to Committees: Armed Services; Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform**

H.R. 2099 (GI Bill Fairness Act)

Cosponsors: 1

- Amends title 38, United States Code, to consider certain time spent by members of reserve components of the Armed Forces while receiving medical care from the Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.
- Introduced by Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif.

• **Referred to Committee: Veterans' Affairs**

Senate Action

S.492 (Servicemember Retirement Improvement Act)

Cosponsors: 1

- Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow members of the Ready Reserve of a reserve component of the Armed Forces to make elective deferrals on the basis of their service to the Ready Reserve and on the basis of their other employment.
- Introduced by Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas

• **Referred to Committee: Finance**

RETIREE ISSUES

House Action

H.R. 303 (Retired Pay Restoration Act)

Cosponsors: 71

- Permits additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the VA for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

- Introduced by Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla

• **Referred to Committees: Armed Services; Veterans' Affairs**

H.R. 333 (Disabled Veterans' Tax Termination Act)

Cosponsors: 37

- Permits retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation
- Extends eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service.

- Introduced by Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-Ga.

• **Referred to Committees: Armed Services; Veterans' Affairs**

Senate Action

S.66 (Retired Pay Restoration Act)

Cosponsors: 10

- Permits additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the VA for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

- Introduced by Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev.

• **Referred to Committees: Armed Services**

SPOUSE/FAMILY ISSUES

House Action

H.R. 578 (Military Residency Choice Act)

Cosponsors: 7

- Amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect to use the same residences as the servicemembers.

- Introduced by Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va.

• **Referred to Committee: Veterans' Affairs**

H.R. 1796 (Lift the Relocation Burden from Military Spouses Act)

Cosponsors: 39

- Authorizes the military department concerned to reimburse a member of the Armed Forces up to \$500 for "qualified relicensing costs" incurred by the member's spouse as result of a PCS across state lines. "Qualified relicensing costs" are the costs, including exam and registration fees, needed to secure a license or certification to engage in the same profession in the new state.

- Introduced by Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y.

• **Referred to Committees: Armed Services**

H.R. 2850 (Military Patron Protection Act)

Cosponsors: 1

- Establishes the Military Resale Patron Benefits Advisory Commission

- Introduced by Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C.

• **Referred to Committee: Armed Services**

VETERANS' ISSUES

House Action

HR 3272 (Veteran Education Empowerment Act)

Cosponsors: 63

- Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a grant program to provide Veteran Student Centers at institutions of higher education to assist veterans in the pursuit of higher education.

- Introduced by Rep. Lois Frankel, D-Fla.

• **Referred to Committee: Veterans' Affairs**

Senate Action

S.591 (Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act)

Cosponsors: 32

- Expands eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program and to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life.

- Introduced by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

• **Referred to Committee: Veterans' Affairs**

S.1198 (Veterans Care Financial Protection Act)

Cosponsors: 3

- Protects individuals who are eligible for increased pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices.

- Introduced by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

• **Referred to Committees: Veterans' Affairs**

Recruitment, training, equipment influence Army readiness

Larry Moffi
AUSA News

Following a panel discussion among sergeants major and senior DoD civilians, panel moderator Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey summed up the session on preparing the force of the future by unequivocally answering a question from the audience saying: “We cannot lower standards [as other services have done] and we have no intention of doing so in the future. We can get the numbers,” Dailey said, but the changing nature of warfare requires nothing less.

In touching on recruitment, training and equipment, the panel, convened at the Association of the U.S. Army’s Annual Meeting and Exposition, addressed a number of positives – and a fair share of negatives – that have influenced readiness.

That said, there are answers.

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Bowers, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, offered up some stunning figures that reflect both the changing nature of today’s military and that of the greater American society.

Over the past 20 years the proportion of young people with a parent who has served has gone from 40 percent to 16 percent, and the propensity to join the military today ranges 5 percent to 24 percent across the nation.

Perhaps most shocking – or perhaps not – nearly 50 percent of 17-to-35-year-olds queried in a study could not name all active duty military services.

“Our job is to sell the Army,” Bowers said, but the Army is up against stiff future employment opportunities. And there are a number of misconceptions about the military, and there remains a stigma that the Army, in particular, is a last choice among recent high school graduates.

But the Army is addressing these concerns, according to James Cox, assistant secretary of the



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey, speaking at a 2017 AUSA Annual Meeting panel discussion, said regarding recruiting, ‘We cannot lower the standards and we have no intention of doing so in the future. We can get the numbers.’ (AUSA News photo)

Army for manpower and reserve affairs.

A former soldier with 23 years of service, including recruiting stints, Cox explained that the Army is conducting extensive research and marketing tacks in order to address specific issues among the Army desired demographics and is doing so via social media, the “life blood” of potential recruits

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Gragg, U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, addressed, among other things, the Army Combat Readiness Test as a way to determine the likelihood of soldiers to physically perform their tasks.

“We need to rethink our MWR [Morale, Welfare and Recreation] facilities, specifically gyms,” he

said, making them training facilities as opposed to their current purpose as recreational facilities.

Command Sgt. Maj. Rodger W. Mansker, U.S. Army Materiel Command, addressed supply problems and potential fixes in the materiel domain. “We have to reduce excess in the supply chain, particularly storage,” he said, “and we need a strategy to modernize the soldier equipping process,” he said.

A five-year program to do so is now in the works, he said, designed to reduce a \$10 billion excess to something closer to the current \$1 billion allocation.

The panel moderator was retired Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel K. Elder, an AUSA Institute of Land Warfare senior fellow.

Industry members now Community and National Partners

AUSA Staff

The Association of the U.S. Army is preparing a change to industry membership categories to update, simplify and customize options for businesses and organizations of all sizes.

Under the proposed changes in the AUSA Industry Partner Program, the Sustaining Member and Corporate Member categories that sometimes confuse people will be rebranded as National Partner or Community Partner, names that better reflect their reason for being part of AUSA.

Partner benefits will depend in part on size, with Community Partners with 10 members receiving some benefits previously available only to national industry members.

For example, Community Partners with 10 members and all National Partners will be eligible

for membership discounts for registration and exhibit space at AUSA events. Community Partners with at least five members can be listed in AUSA’s online registry, the AUSA Industry Guide [www.ausa.myindustrytracker.com/en/buyersguide].

Both Community Partners and National Partners will be eligible for discounted posting of job openings on the AUSA Career Center [careers.ausa.org]. They will also receive 10 percent off advertising rates in AUSA publications and 10 percent off on items purchased from the AUSA Store.

Under the new program, Community Partners may have up to 10 members aligned with an AUSA chapter. National Partners may have up to 50 members and may be affiliated with up to three AUSA chapters.

Members of both Community and National partners will receive AUSA print and digital publications, including *ARMY* magazine, AUSA News and

Institute of Land Warfare papers.

Here is the new fee structure for this program:

■ Community Partners with two members join for \$175 for one year and \$475 for three years.

■ For five members, the cost is \$370 for one year and \$1,000 for three years.

■ With up to 10 members, the fee would be \$685 for one year and \$1,750 for three years. Those rates have not increased in more than 10 years.

Dues for National Partners would increase to \$7,000 beginning Jan. 1. This is the first increase in dues for these members since 2012.

Partners who pay their 2018 dues before the end of 2017 may pay at the 2017 rates.

For more details on the planned changes, contact Lynette Nichols, National Partner program manager, at lnichols@ausa.org, or Mark Wolf, community partner program manager, at mwolf@ausa.org.

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S INSTITUTE OF LAND WARFARE

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**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

AUSA-ROTC Annual Meeting lunch honors future leaders



Gen. Gus Perna, commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command and a Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduate, addresses the over 400 ROTC senior and junior cadets attending their special luncheon.



Retired Lt. Gen. Guy Swan, AUSA vice president for education, presents the Association's \$6,000 scholarship check to Cadet Keith Rowan, Jackson State University.



Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Kraus, Army Cadet Command, right, present the command's \$114,390 scholarship check to Cadet Austin Eberhart and his mother. Eberhart attends Georgetown University.

AUSA-ROTC Best Company Awards and \$3,000 checks from Lockheed Martin Corp. are presented by retired Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, Lockheed Martin, left, and retired Maj. Gen. Ray Mason, AUSA luncheon host, right.

Top: Cadet Karriem Davis, Bison Company, Howard University.

Middle: Cadet Anthony Twitty and Dr. Bonita Jacobs, president, University of North Georgia.

Bottom: Cadet Colton Busse, Fighting Saints Battalion, St. John's University.

(All photos by AUSA News)

Book/TV series

1st Cavalry Division soldiers fight 8-hour battle in Sadr City

AUSA Staff

Broadcast journalist, war correspondent and author Martha Raddatz said the current TV series based on her book *The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family*, would not have been possible without the Army's "extraordinary" support.

First published in 2007, the book, and the eight-part miniseries now airing on the National Geographic Channel, offer a detailed and heart-wrenching account of 1st Cavalry Division soldiers who fought for their lives in April 2004 during an eight-hour battle in Baghdad's Sadr City.

Eight were killed and more than 70 wounded.

In remarks Nov. 15 at the Association of the U.S. Army as part of the Institute of Land Warfare's Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer Lecture Series that features authors of books on military topics, Raddatz gave a behind-the-scenes look at how the series came together and how it would not have been possible without the support of the Army and the inclusion of the soldiers' families.

"I think it's extraordinary the Army backed this project," Raddatz said of the officials at Fort Hood, Texas, where the series was produced on a realistic set the size of three football fields.

Adding, "This production and this story would not have been told without people opening the door and understanding that what some of us want to do is actually cover this and tell



Broadcast journalist Martha Raddatz, speaking at an AUSA Institute of Land Warfare Lemnitzer Lecture, said her book now TV series, 'The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family,' give an account of 'what our service members do, what our families do who are backing up and supporting those service members.' (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

the American public what our service members do, what our families do who are backing up and supporting those service members."

Raddatz, an Emmy Award-winning correspondent with ABC News, encouraged the audience to "make people listen" to their stories of war as a way of fighting the isolation of being in a military most of the country doesn't understand.

In his closing remarks, retired Gen. Carter F.

Ham, AUSA's president and CEO, praised Raddatz as a "national treasure" who has "opened a window, a door, a vision that even some of us who have had the privilege of serving in uniform don't always get."

He acknowledged the "multigenerational" crowd that attended the event, which included veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, and ROTC cadets.

AUSA members: Vote now on proposed bylaws revisions

AUSA Staff

The AUSA Council of Trustees has elected to adopt a new process for categorizing association membership.

The Council also recently voted to accept the proposed revisions to the association's bylaws submitted by the Advisory Board of Directors' Standing Bylaws Committee.

The Standing Bylaws Committee has recom-

mended the following changes to the existing bylaws

The items that would be modified are: Article III – Sections 1 through 4 and renumber Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Individual Membership. Individual membership in the Association of the United States Army shall be open to any individual subscribing to

Article II of these bylaws. Individual membership includes life, and family membership.

Section 2. Industry Partner Membership. The industry partner program with both national and community members shall be open to businesses and organizations of all sizes that wish to support the aims and purposes of the association. Industry partner member organizations as such are not entitled to vote, but each will be authorized to designate individual members who shall have full privileges of membership.

Section 3. Association Membership. The association membership program furthers the partnership between the Association of the United States Army and other likeminded associations for the mutual benefit of members in those associations.

A vote of the AUSA membership is necessary for ratification as required by Article XI.

A copy of the bylaws reflecting the recommended changes is available at <https://www.ausa.org/sites/default/files/november-2017-ausa-bylaws.pdf>.

To vote, please visit www.ausa.org/vote or use this printable ballot.

Complete and mail the below ballot to Ann Belyea, Corporate Secretary, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201

2017 AUSA Bylaws Voting Ballot

I vote _____ on the proposed bylaws revisions:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Full Name: _____

Email or Address: _____

★ Eagle Chapters ★

The following chapters attained Eagle Chapter status for October by showing positive membership growth since last month and since the start of the operating year (July 1, 2017). Membership growth for Eagle Chapter is measured by the sum of individual, life and community partner members. The number in parenthesis is the number of months so far this year the chapter has attained this status.

A.P. Hill Rappahannock (3)	Dix (4)	Hawaii (1)	Pikes Peak (4)
Alamo (4)	Emerald Coast (2)	Henry Leavenworth (3)	Polar Bear (4)
Arizona Territorial (4)	Fairfax-Lee (4)	Houston Metroplex (2)	Redstone-Huntsville (4)
Arkansas (3)	Fires (1)	Indiana (4)	Rhode Island (3)
Arsenal of Democracy (3)	First Militia (4)	Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (3)	Robert E. Lee (4)
Braxton Bragg (4)	Florida Gulf Stream (4)	Last Frontier (2)	Rock Island Arsenal (4)
Buckeye Landpower (4)	Fort Campbell (4)	Magnolia (3)	San Diego (4)
Capital District of New York (3)	Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (3)	Marne (1)	SGM Jon R. Cavaiani (3)
Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley (3)	Fort Knox (4)	Massachusetts Bay (3)	Silicon Valley (3)
Catoctin (3)	Francis Scott Key (4)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (3)	Space Coast (4)
Central California (3)	GEN Creighton W. Abrams (4)	Milwaukee (3)	St. Louis Gateway (1)
Central Texas-Fort Hood (4)	GEN John W. Vessey, Jr (4)	Minutemen (3)	Suncoast (4)
Central Virginia (4)	GEN Joseph W. Stilwell (3)	Monmouth (3)	Sunshine (1)
Charleston (3)	GEN William C. Westmoreland (4)	National Training Center-High Desert (4)	Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (3)
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (4)	George Washington (4)	New Orleans (4)	Thunderbird (4)
Columbia River (4)	Granite State (4)	Newton D. Baker (3)	Tucson-Goyette (3)
Connecticut (3)	Greater Atlanta (3)	North Texas (3)	UAE (4)
CSM James M. MacDonald-Keystone (2)	Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (2)	Northern New Jersey (4)	Virginia Colonial (3)
Delaware (2)	Greater Kansas City (4)	PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (3)	William Penn (4)
Denver Centennial (4)	Greater Los Angeles (4)	Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (2)	
Des Moines Freedom (3)	Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (4)		



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- **SL 17-1 – Army Intelligence: Focus Areas for Science and Technology** (April 2017)

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- **LWP 114 – Reconnecting Athens and Sparta: A Review of OPMS XXI at 20 Years** by COL Susan Bryant and COL Heidi A. Urben (October 2017)
- **LWP 113 – Conventional Munitions Industrial Base** by COL(R) Scott S. Haraburda (July 2017)
- **LWP 112 – Making Sense of Russian Hybrid Warfare: A Brief Assessment of the Russo-Ukrainian War** by MAJ Amos C. Fox and MAJ Andrew J. Rossow (March 2017)
- **LWP 111 – Characteristics of Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Leader Development** by Dr. Steven Estes, LTC Joel M. Miller and LTC(R) Marcus D. Majure (October 2016)
- **LWP 110 – Is India's Military Modernization Evidence of an Aggressive National Security Policy?** by COL Christopher L. Budinas (October 2016)
- **LWP 109 – The Uncertain Role of the Tank in Modern War: Lessons from the Israeli Experience in Hybrid Warfare** by MAJ Michael B. Kim (June 2016)

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- **DR 16-1 – Until They All Come Home: The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency** (February 2016)

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The Budapest Operation: An Operational-Strategic Study edited by Richard Harrison, Ph.D. (Helion and Company, 12 June 2017)

The Battle of Kursk: The Red Army's Defensive Operations and Counter-Offensive, July–August 1943 edited by Richard Harrison, Ph.D. (Helion and Company, 19 August 2016)

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Architect of Airpower: General Laurence S. Kuter and the Birth of the U.S. Air Force by Bran Laslie, Ph.D. (University Press of Kentucky, 6 October 2017)

Wars of Modern Babylon: A History of the Iraqi Army from 1921 to 2003 by Col. Pesach Malovany, IDF Ret. (University Press of Kentucky, 4 July 2017)

Ranger: A Soldier's Life by Col. Ralph Puckett, USA Ret. (University Press of Kentucky, 7 March 2017)

Lossberg's War: The World War I Memoirs of a German Chief of Staff edited by Maj. Gen. David Zabecki, USA Ret., and Lt. Col. Dieter J. Biedekarken, USA Ret. (5 September 2017)

Inside Israel's Northern Command: The Yom Kippur War on the Syrian Border edited by Brig. Gen. Dani Asher, IDF Ret. (University Press of Kentucky, 8 February 2016)

Forward with Patton: The World War II Diary of Colonel Robert S. Allen by Robert S. Allen (University Press of Kentucky, 4 August 2017)



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