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U.S. Army paratroopers and their allies gear up and work together in establishing security at Bezmer Airfield, Bulgaria, during U.S. Army Europe's Saber Guardian exercise on July 20, 2017. Saber Guardian 2017 is an annual, multinational training exercise held in the Black Sea Region to assure our allies and partners of the enduring commitment of the United States. (U.S. Army photo)

See AUSA News Special Report: U.S. Army Europe – Trained and Ready
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Adversaries expanding missile, space offensive capabilities

AUSA Staff

The Army's chief missile defense officer says potential adversaries, including but not limited to North Korea, are expanding missile and space offensive capabilities and offensive cyber capabilities to disrupt American defensive capabilities.

In the six years since assuming power, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has ordered the test-firing of 80 missiles.

"To put that in perspective, his father launched 16 during his 17 years in power and his grandfather launched 15" during the first 10 years of the rogue nation's missile program, said Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson, commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Strategic Forces Command.

So far this year, North Korea has launched 17 missiles, including its first test of an intercontinental ballistic missile on July 4.

While North Korea has the attention of the U.S. and the world, there are other nations also modernizing and expanding their rocket and missile capa-



Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson speaks at the ILW breakfast forum. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

bilities, such as China and Iran, Dickinson said at a breakfast forum hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

While adversaries continue to test their missile and space capabilities, the U.S. must improve its

defensive capabilities. "As we know, there is no sanctuary on today's battlefield, no rear area, not even in space," Dickinson said.

Making certain U.S. space and missile capabilities available when needed requires constant adjustment and expansion, Dickinson said, citing two examples.

Looking for lethal, low-cost and persistently available weapons, the Army has tested 10 kilowatt and 50 kW laser weapons and by 2022 hopes to test a 100 kW, he said. The bigger, more powerful laser will provide the capability of shooting down more distant and faster targets, he said.

The U.S. is about to launch a new surveillance satellite, Kestrel Eye, a small, light electro-optical imaging system that could send pictures directly to tactical-level ground forces, without a U.S.-based relay.

The first Kestrel Eye is expected to launch later this year and will be tested during land forces training exercises over the next several years, he said.

The laser and Kestrel Eye are examples of low-cost solutions to providing significant capability advances, he said.

U.S. Army Europe exercises – from assurance to deterrence

Luc Dunn
AUSA News

The motivation for large-scale military exercises in Europe has changed in the last year from assurance to deterrence in response to Russian posturing, the commander of U.S. Army Europe said.

"That means you have to have more capability, and you have to demonstrate the will to use it," Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said in a teleconference connected with the General Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Va.

"That's what Exercise Saber Guardian is all about," he said of the 23-nation show of force.

Saber Guardian is an umbrella for 18 smaller exercises in the Black Sea region, Hodges said, adding that it's primarily a chance to practice quickly massing combat power in an area before a crisis occurs. "By the end of next week, a total of 45,000 men and women will have participated in those 18 exercises," he said.

The decision to transition from assurance to deterrence was made at the NATO summit in Warsaw last year, Hodges said.

Saber Guardian is similar in size to a Russian-ordered large-scale military exercise known as Zapad 2017 that is slated for September, but Hodges said the primary difference is one of transparency.

The press and public can watch Saber Guardian, but "in the last three years, I have not encountered one journalist who has been invited to a Russian military exercise," while the U.S. invites hundreds of reporters to Saber Guardian, he said.

Hodges spoke via livestream from Bulgaria, where the 173d Airborne Brigade, along with allied airborne units, are conducting a Joint Forcible Entry Exercise near Bezmer Airbase. This exercise and demonstration, known as Swift Response, is a part of Saber Guardian in the eastern region of NATO.

Swift Response consists of 11 U.S. Air Force C-130 aircraft and two C-17 aircraft transporting U.S. Army paratroopers, Hodges said.

Airborne operations may seem like something out of history, but Hodges provided three reasons they are still viable. First, he argued, history has proven that military options thought to be obsolete often are needed again when circumstances change.

Second, from a strategic perspective, airborne

capabilities are an effective option. "If you have a football team, you don't tell your opponent that you're never going to throw the ball. So why would we take a capability off the table, and give our potential adversaries one less thing to worry about?" Hodges asked, adding that for it to be a viable option, it has to be practiced and maintained.

Finally, critics of airborne forces fail to take the human domain into account, Hodges said. Airborne soldiers and NCOs are part of an elite formation with a specific skill set, and when those troops transition to other units, they improve the quality of the force as a whole.

U.S. Army Europe Special Report, Pages 11 – 14



Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade train with allies and partners during Operation Swift Response. (U.S. Army photo)

Member Advocacy Campaign: Letters support national defense

View from the Hill

John Gifford
Director
Government Affairs

As discussed in last month's column, we have launched the 2017 AUSA Member Advocacy Campaign.

If you haven't checked it out yet, all the tools and resources are available at www.ausa.org/voice-forarmy. The website will require you to log in to see the materials, but it is worth the extra step.

Your participation can make a real difference. If our campaign is successful, your Army could gain an additional \$13 billion to \$15 billion a year.

That is a 10 percent increase, which would help solve many, many problems, from readiness to procurement to benefits.

If you have never met with your federal elected officials in the House of Representatives or the Senate, now is your chance. Make it a bucket list item to check off.

Get smart on the issues of sequestration and the defense budget caps using the videos and articles we provide on the website, and then engage as an informed constituent.

Got way too much on your plate already? I'm fairly busy too, so thus far I have only earned the Bronze level of participation.

It only took about three minutes to click on the "Contact Congress" button on the AUSA webpage, fill in my information and hit submit. Automatically, three pre-written letters were sent to my repre-

sentative and my two senators. Two out of the three have already written me back.

Now that the campaign is launched out to the chapters and individual members like you, I plan to start working on earning the Silver level by writing hand-written letters.

If you are hesitating to join the campaign, I urge you to reconsider. The saying comes to mind, "If not me, who? If not now, when?"

You joined AUSA because you believe in a strong national defense and the world's best Army. Here is your chance to make that belief real, to do important work that has national and global effects.

America needs you to do your part in this critical mission. Don't let Congressional inaction continue damaging our Army – tell them to fix sequestration and repeal the defense budget caps. Let them hear from the people who elected them so that they must finally act!

Next month I will let you know how the campaign is going. I'm looking forward to hearing your reports from the field as you earn the incentives we have set up.

August and September will be our primary push for AUSA members to meet with Congress in the states and districts, with AUSA national planning follow-up meetings in September and October. Therefore, please set us up for success by doing the groundwork in your local area this summer.

We cannot succeed without your help. But we can move mountains if we work together.

Thank you in advance for your active support of this very important campaign.

See you on the high ground.



Battlefield backlog of equipment orders is going down

AUSA Staff

Army logisticians are making important preparations for future battles by dramatically reducing the backlog of equipment orders, according to Gen. Gus Perna, who as Army Materiel Command commander is the Army's top logistician.

"We've had the luxury of having a great support system for the last 15 years that adapted to the way we're fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan," Perna said during a Hot Topic forum on sustainability hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, the supply chain capability was enabled through contractors and the positioning of resources and equipment in theater along strategic routes, Perna said. In a "decisive action against a peer competitor, that will not be available to us," he warned.

The Army supply chain was at 70 percent supply availability and 48 percent back orders in November, Perna said. Now there is 87 percent supply availability and back orders are down.

More work needs to be done, he said. Leaders



At the Hot Topic forum, Gen. Gus Perna, AMC commander, said that supply chain back orders are down since November, but more work still needs to be done. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

must have confidence in the supply chain and not overwhelm it by reordering the same parts repeatedly.

"We're working to increase supply availability

up to 100 percent, and reduce back orders down to below 15,000," Perna said.

Adding, "I want to have repair parts on the battlefield where I want them when I want them."

Lt. Gen. Andrew Chambers, former AUSA director, dies

AUSA Staff

Retired Lt. Gen. Andrew P. Chambers, who joined the Association of the U.S. Army's national headquarters staff in 1989 as director of industry affairs following his retirement from the Army, died June 3, 2017. He was 85.

Chambers, a graduate of Howard University, entered the Army in August 1954 and served on active duty for over 35 years culminating in his role as the Third U.S. Army commanding general and U.S. Army Forces Command deputy commanding general at Fort McPherson, Ga.

Earlier in his career, he commanded VII Corps and was the director of the Army's Equal Opportunity Program.

After leaving the AUSA staff, Chambers was director of community service for AmeriCorps, and later was vice president, University of Maryland University College Europe.

Chambers is survived by his wife, five children, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as, three of his siblings.

He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.



AUSA News

Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier

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Senior NCO discussions focus on improving the enlisted force

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 association for education and professional development, and a major supporter of the Army's Soldier for Life efforts.

I spent the week of 19-23 June in El Paso, Texas, with AUSA's General of the Army Omar Bradley Chapter supporting the Sergeant Major of the Army's (SMA) Senior Enlisted Training and Leader Development Conference and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA) graduation.



The week started on Monday for Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey's quarterly Senior Enlisted Council for senior Command Sergeants Major (CSM) from the three Army commands and Army component commands.

These quarterly meetings enable the SMA and his senior CSMs to meet with the subject matter experts on the Army staff and work specific issues focused on improving the enlisted force.

I sat in on the discussions focused on soldier transition and Soldier for Life.

Both topics received considerable attention from the Army over the last several years, and like any programs they must be reviewed and adjusted to meet the needs of an ever-changing force.

The discussions and subsequent recommendations that stem from these meetings assist the Army staff in making the right adjustments and changes in their areas of responsibility until final implementation and approval.

It is the nature of the Army to look for continuous improvement, and as I listened to the discussions, we can all be proud of the soldier transition and the continued high performance and expectations of the Soldier for Life programs.

The Tuesday morning conference brought together all the conference attendees, including all the nominative CSMs serving at the 2, 3 and 4-star levels of command serving around the Army and in the combatant commands.

In addition to these serving CSMs, 43 international countries participated in the conference, including 29 international SMAs.

Also attending were former SMAs, Gates, McKinney, Tilley, Chandler and myself. Retired CSM



Sgt. Maj. of the Army (SMA) Dan Dailey (far left), five former SMAs, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Gainey (far right), present retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO (left center), a miniature SMA flag for his contributions to the NCO Corps.

Joe Gainey, the former Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, also attended.

During the conference, I listened to a host of presentations that promoted great discussions and critical thinking about potential policy changes affecting the Army and the enlisted force.

The Army Capabilities Integration Center and the Army Center for Initial Military Training both based out of Fort Eustis, Va.; and the United States Army Recruiting Command from Fort Knox, Ky., provided the initial presentations.

There were several great discussions about recruit fitness, soldier fitness goals and standards for recruits graduating from Initial Military Training.

The entire discussion was a great learning process for all the attendees to fully understand the duties of our recruiters working with future soldiers in the Delayed Entry Program and the implementation of the new Occupational Physical Assessment Test, or OPAT.

The OPAT determines a recruit's physical fitness for service in a military occupational specialty (MOS) just as the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery serves as a predictor of a future soldier's ability to meet the academic requirements needed to do well in a particular MOS.

For those organizations who have soldiers who are considering transitioning from one MOS to another, especially those career fields with high physical demand tasks, local recruiters near military installations will assist in the administration of the OPAT as part of the transition approval process.

As part of the Training and Doctrine Command's series of presentations, NCO 2020 and Professional Military Education (PME) topics prompted several very good discussions.

Part of this discussion focused on manning the force, which is one of the four attributes alongside

equipping, training and leader development for measuring readiness in a unit.

Getting soldiers to the promotion board when they are fully qualified has always and continues to be a constant area of focus and attention for the Army leadership.

For me and several of the retired SMAs, we also had to reinforce the need for leaders at the company, troop and battery levels to get their specialists and sergeants before the promotion boards when they are fully qualified.

With almost 50 percent of the NCO force serving at the sergeant level, high percentages of these young leaders are needed to step-up and fill the vacancies of those staff sergeants getting promoted or leaving the Army.

Equally, more than 50 percent of the junior enlisted serve at the specialist rank and once fully qualified, these senior soldiers are needed to serve in positions of increased responsibility as a sergeant.

A message from our past experiences to new lieutenants and platoon sergeants about priorities for training within their organization has always been to focus on growing sergeants.

Train and develop your bench of leaders by getting them to their PME schools and courses, promote self-development opportunities like Sergeant Audie Murphy, Sergeant Morales Club, NCO and Soldier of the Month, and empower them to make decisions and to learn from their mistakes.

Each of these initiatives combined with working hard every day in the unit grows an organization that will thrive in combat and excel in training.

Challenges in the Army from the past are still challenges for new fledgling leaders today where the SMA and all the senior CSMs will continue to mentor a new generation of leaders.

see next page

Enlisted force from preceding page

As part of the discussion of getting soldiers into school the topic of school seat availability surfaced as some leaders felt the availability of seats in the PME courses did not support their needs.

The Institutional Training Common Operational Picture, or ITCOP allows commanders and their leaders to see the available Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) seats across all components.

ITCOP offers commanders and leaders a holistic view of training slots available for NCOES and MOS-T courses across the United States.

Under the Total Army School System (TASS) all NCOES and MOS-T courses taught by the Regular Army, Army National Guard and the Army Reserve all support the same Program of Instruction (POI) for all career fields.

So, if a NCOES course at Fort Benning, Ga., is not available, a soldier can attend the same course taught by the Army National Guard at Fort Carson, Col., as an example.

ITCOP enables commanders and leaders to efficiently monitor TASS capacity vacancies in near real-time and capitalize on opportunities to schedule soldiers for training as needed.

ITCOP is designed to fully support the Select, Train, Educate, and Promote promotion system as part of the Army's Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System.

Learn more about ITCOP at <http://tradocnews.org/tag/itcop/>

Following the TASS discussions was a follow-on discussion on Structured Self Development (SSD).

As part of a soldier's lifelong learning experience in the Army, SSD links the institutional and operational domains in support of progressive NCOES courses.

SSD consists of five (soon to be six) levels of mandatory development spread across a soldier's career focused on training ahead in preparation for the next level of NCOES.

SSD is supported by a robust evaluation and feedback process that includes self-assessment tools, increased use of advanced technology like the Army Career Tracker, a secure test environment, achievable requirements, and policies that set the conditions for continuous growth.

When fully implemented, SSD will improve Army readiness by integrating self-development into a lifelong learning approach fostering an environment of continuous learning throughout a soldier's career.

Part of the improvement discussions on SSD, which the Army implemented in 2009 as part of NCOES, is that now soldiers can expect SSD to become more difficult.

On average these SSD modules are approximately 80 hours of study topics that must be completed prior to attending the next level of NCOES.

Part of the increase in difficulty will be attributed to how soldiers answer questions as part of the testing process, as multiple choice type questions will be give way to complete answers and original thought responses.

Additionally, a soldier's performance on the SSD exams will be captured and recorded on the Academic Evaluation Report (AER) when attending the follow-on NCOES level courses.

AER's will provide far more detail about the soldier's academic and physical performance, including SSD performance in conjunction with their peers in their requisite level of NCOES courses.

Readiness was another key discussion among the senior CSMs as they discussed the challenges with replacing non-deployable soldiers in deploying units.

These discussions encompassed a host of soldier issues that ranged from permanent profiles to temporary profiles to soldiers pending discharge for any number of Chapter discharges.

The U.S. Army Forces Command pace of operations briefing slide reflected more than 187,000 soldiers currently deployed or forward stationed in more than 140 countries.

With these high numbers of deployed soldiers on 9-month deployments or longer, you need to give these units twice the amount of time, 18 months at minimum, in a nondeployed state to maintain readiness across all four attributes of manning, equipping, training and leader development.

The message was clear: all units in the Army and their soldiers, across all three components must be ready to deploy when their time comes around.

"Deploying as an individual soldier is part of our job description," said one senior leader.

see next page

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Enlisted force from preceding page

Adding, “And if you can’t move, shoot and communicate and lead from the front in a deployed environment, then this is not the business for you.”

There were several discussions about soldiers with permanent profiles and the quality of these soldiers who wanted to continue to serve in some capacity.

“We want all of our games to be away games, and if you can’t get on the bus, then you probably shouldn’t be on the team,” said another senior leader.

Reducing the number of nondeployable soldiers in units across the entire Army will continue to be a focus for the foreseeable future.

In conjunction with readiness, the My Army Benefits briefing was well received.

The website provides a comprehensive layout of benefits for veterans and retired soldiers.

The website includes not only federal-level benefits, but also provides those benefits available to veterans and retired soldiers at the state level.

Each of the 50 states and four territories provides a wide variety of veteran and family benefits that range from non-taxable retirement pay, to child education benefits for veterans, to minimal benefits for all dependent on the state.

The site is great for those looking for a state where they can maximize the deferred benefits they earned over an honorable career.

Check out My Army Benefits at <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>

As part of the SMA’s conference, nine international SMAs were inducted into the International Students Hall of Fame at USASMA.

On Tuesday evening, AUSA’s Omar Bradley Chapter and the city of El Paso hosted the conference attendees at a cultural event at the Southwest University Baseball Park.

The athletes in the group were given the opportunity to hit baseballs in the minor league stadium, be entertained by a local mariachi band and dancers and enjoy the cuisine of West Texas.

The outpouring of support from our AUSA chapter and El Paso was nothing short of amazing, and all the conference attendees were honored with this special recognition event.

On Wednesday evening, all the conference attendees had dinner with those graduating sergeants major in Class 67 and their families who were slated to join their commands in the weeks ahead.

All the conference attendees attended a dinner on Thursday evening where retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and chief executive officer, provided the keynote address at the Centennial Club on Fort Bliss, Texas.

General Ham talked about the role of CSMs and SGMs within the command and the qualities he looked for in a senior enlisted advisor.

Ham said, “I expected sergeants major to tell me when I was off track; ‘General, your policy is driving the brigade commanders and sergeants major crazy.’”



During the Sergeant Major of the Army’s Senior Enlisted Training and Leader Development Conference, AUSA’s Omar Bradley Chapter and the city of El Paso hosted the conference attendees at a cultural event at the Southwest University Baseball Park.

He added, “You are the commander’s most trusted advisor. I relied on my sergeant major’s candid assessment of subordinate leaders, both officers and NCOs.”

He also talked about all the advertising campaign slogans used by the Army since he first enlisted in 1973 at the start of the all-volunteer force.

Ham said, “Of all the slogans, the one I like best, the one that rings true as it did years ago, says simply; ‘when we were needed we were there.’”

He noted, “That’s you, you were needed then, you are needed now, you will be needed forever.”

The conference culminated with the USASMA Class 67 graduation of 565 students representing the Regular Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and 60 international students from 40 different countries.

The distinguished guest speaker for the graduation was Warrant Officer One Glenn J. Haughton, the Sergeant Major of the British Army.

“Be under no illusion that this academy is the envy of the world in terms of noncommissioned officer development and education. Many armies have used this academy as an example of excellence

and have developed their own type of organizations to best suit their soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the future,” Haughton said.

Haughton added, “I have no doubt that many graduates of USASMA were the driving force of the current ongoing world-wide NCO development.”

Haughton congratulated the graduates of Class 67 on their accomplishments and noted that because of their attendance in the course, “You will be better leaders, but more importantly better human beings which is good because we need your leadership now more than ever.”

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.

**Keep America’s Army Strong!
Take a Stand!**

Still Serving, Still Saluting!



Warrant Officer One Glenn J. Haughton, the Sergeant Major of the British Army and the distinguished guest speaker for the USASMA Class 67 graduation (right), congratulates one of the 565 students representing the Regular Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard, and 60 international students from 40 different countries.

Strategic logistics is a must in joint operating environment

Luc Dunn
AUSA News

In future wars with near-peer adversaries, the U.S. Army needs to be a self-sustaining force for long periods of time, a panel of experts said at AUSA's Hot Topic forum on Army sustainment.

War brings sustainable strength and mass to bear, said Maj. Gen. Doug Chalmers, deputy commanding general - support for III Corps.

"The unique selling point of the U.S. Army is that it's the only force left in the western world that's structured to fight and win wars, not just battles," he said.

Long-term wars need sustainable scaling over time as conditions change, Chalmers said. He compared these types of conflicts to a boxing match: "We all want that knockout punch at the beginning, but if you don't get it, you have to be prepared to go a full 12 rounds."

The Army needs to take a hard look at the basic principles of decisive action and expeditionary logistics, and then adjust them to today's environment, Chalmers said.

Brig. Gen. Charles Hamilton, commander, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support, said one key to sustainment success is understanding the relationship between the military and the industrial base, and creating strategic partnerships.

He pointed to clothing and textiles as an example, noting that since most of that market has moved



Brig. Gen. Charles Hamilton, commander, Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support (right), and Lt. Gen. Stephen Lyons, deputy commander, U.S. Transportation Command, discuss logistics challenges during AUSA's Hot Topic forum on Army sustainment. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

overseas, it can be difficult to work with U.S.-based suppliers. But, "we want to make sure that U.S. companies don't go out of business, so we can potentially call on them next time there's a surge."

The top priority at DLA, Hamilton said, is having the best planning cycle so that when a need arises, procurement will be rapidly responsive.

The Army is a decisive force that must be ready to surge against a high-end wartime production output, said Lt. Gen. Stephen Lyons, deputy commander, United States Transportation Command.

"Strategic logistics is unquestionably a comparative advantage for the United States," he said.

Adding, "We are the only nation that can deliver military force anywhere in the world, at the time and place of our choosing."

However, Lyons cautioned, the Army should not automatically assume dominance and superiority in every situation. "The joint operating environment is changing very rapidly," and the military needs to holistically adjust its warfighting views based on new challenges, he said.

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AUSA member shopping discounts – Something for everyone

Benefits Highlight

Susan Rubel
Director
AUSA Affinity Programs

For this month's benefits highlight, the focus is shopping discounts.

Sometimes discounts for members appear organically. I had a meeting with one of our partners, and the representative left me a pair of socks as a parting gift.

How odd, I thought. I gave them to a friend. He texted me a few days later – “How do I get more of those socks? I need 10 pairs! Throwing my other socks away.”

He has neuropathy, which makes his feet numb. Numbness changes to pain after he's been on his feet an hour into the work day. His feet didn't hurt at all the day he tried them.

He thought it was a fluke and wore his regular socks the next day, but was in pain one hour into his day. I found out where to get them and he ordered 10 pairs.

What's so special about these socks?

The company was started by a marine looking for more comfortable socks during his Iraq deployment. He wrote a friend in the sock business asking for an alternative because of the sand and the heat and problems with blisters and hot spots.

His friend sent him a pair of Sand™ Military Boot Socks and saved the day.

Upon return from Iraq, the two went into business creating a company called Covert Threads to develop a line of socks and other improved garments for the service member – or anyone looking for comfortable, rugged socks that stand up to the rigors of harsh climates.

The Sand™ Military Boot Socks (along with all their other sock styles) are manufactured in the USA and are engineered specifically for hot-to-moderate climates.

They boast a “stay up” top with hugging support, abrasion resistant nylon on the exterior of the Achilles, a special “Y” heel for better fit to the contour of the foot, Silver Lining™ to help prevent infections and fight foot fungus, special wool to fight friction and hot spots helping to prevent blisters, instep flex zone prevents bunching, built-in arch support and breathable vapor mesh.

I contacted Covert Threads and, though they already have military/bulk pricing, they've agreed to an additional discount for AUSA Members. Visit www.covertthreads.com and use code “AUSA”. If you see a deal for 5 percent off to sign up for email, that's in addition to your 7 percent off for a total of 12 percent. Also, you get a free pair for every five you purchase, three free when purchasing 10.

‘Of-the-Month’ Clubs

We've heard from younger members that they like “of the month” programs; specifically Blue Apron and TheRunnerBox. (They named others and we are speaking with those companies.)

Both Blue Apron and RunnerBox agreed to additional discounts for AUSA members, generally better than you should find on your own.

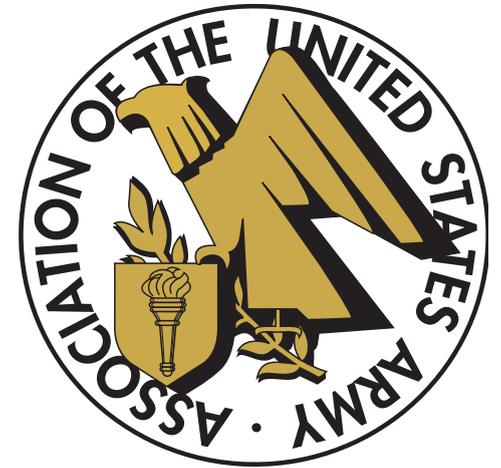
Blue Apron delivers all the fresh ingredients and recipes you need, in exactly the right proportions, to make simple, seasonal home-cooked meals.

Blue Apron's culinary team creates new recipes each week, so you'll learn to cook with new ingredients, cuisines, and techniques. Discover a better way to cook – and as an AUSA member, take \$40 off your first order at www.blueapron.com/ausa.

And for the runners, cyclists and triathletes who also like monthly boxes, try RunnerBox.

Runnerbox curates subscription boxes for runners, cyclists and triathletes. Products are researched, tested and hand-picked just for you. Endurance products delivered to your door, starting as low as \$20.

Choose subscription boxes, one-time gift boxes and Limited Edition specialty boxes. AUSA members receive 20 percent off their first box with code AUSA at www.therunnerbox.com.



In addition to the benefits listed here, check www.ausa.org/benefits regularly to view all your AUSA member benefits!

Premium brands

It can often be challenging to find the best pricing on brands that are considered “Premium.”

I always search for promo codes online that can be added to sales prices – anything to be sure I'm getting the best price possible.

If your preferences run to brands like YETI, Black Diamond, Sperry, Vortex Optics, Costa Del Mar and Benchmade, our new relationship with Provengo may present good deals for you.

Provengo is a defense contractor that has been supplying DoD for more than 12 years. They now have a full service ecommerce website which features 20-60 percent savings on premium brands – and only those they actually inventory.

This means if you order it by noon EDT, it will ship same day. The deals are not open to the general public. Visit www.provengo.com/ausa to sign up.

Another relationship which provides discounts on premium brands is GovX. They have 250+ brands and 60,000+ products. There is some cross-over on brands with Provengo, but the items discounted may differ. You are automatically eligible because of your AUSA membership by using a special link: www.govx.com/ausa.

Just in time for back to school

You may have previously tried to use your AUSA Apple discount and were disappointed to learn it didn't include iPads.

Apple has recently improved its member benefit program, so your AUSA discount is now good on Macs, iPads, AppleCare and some Apple accessories.

Visit www.ausa.org/apple, or call 800-MY-APPLE and identify yourself as an AUSA member/employee.

Or, provide “AUSA” or “Association of the United States Army” ID proof when you're in the Apple Store.

If you're a PC person, we've improved the Dell/AUSA discount as well.

Simply take 10 percent off your order as an AUSA member. Visit www.ausa.org/dell and click “get coupon” for a personalized coupon just for you.



SAND™ Military Boot Sock

Low volume sock engineered specifically for hot to moderate climates

AUSA members may now receive an additional discount for The Sand™ Military Boot Socks (along with all other sock styles) from Covert Threads. Visit www.covertthreads.com and use code “AUSA”.



AUSA News

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Special Report: U.S. Army Europe – Trained and Ready

August 2017

Hodges: Freedom of movement critical to meet Russian threat

AUSA Staff

The commander of U.S. Army Europe has unveiled an “informal shopping list” for European allies who want to help with common defense but not spend on weapons.

“Every president has said allies need to do more and I agree,” Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said at a breakfast forum sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army’s Institute of Land Warfare in Arlington, Va.

A challenge revealed from joint combined exercises and rotational deployments in Europe is the difficulty of traveling long distances, Hodges said, noting guaranteed access and freedom of movement is critical if the U.S. is to meet the threat of a near-peer adversary such as Russia.

That is an area where European allies could help, he said, listing heavy equipment transport trailers, upgraded railheads, ammunition storage and fuel.

“I’m not looking for more German tank battalions or more British artillery battalions. Countries are doing that,” Hodges said.

What the U.S. needs is for them to “buy fuel, buy ammunition, provide storage sites,” he said. And they could provide transportation so the U.S. isn’t paying for heavy equipment transport.

NATO is paying for an important storage site in Powidz, Poland, for prepositioned U.S. Army equipment, he said.

By 2021, the completed facilities will “help round out all the storage for a full armored division in Europe.”

Aviation brigade

As the debate over rotational versus permanent combat brigades in Europe rages, Hodges said he likes the rotational schedule just fine – with one exception.

“I would prefer an aviation brigade that lived in Europe versus rotational,” he said, citing the advantages of both a permanent aviation brigade and a rotational ground force, each a powerful deterrent.

A brigade combat team’s battalion formations are flexible, they co-locate easily with European allies anywhere in theater, and they obtain their highest state of readiness by working overtime on a level of training they’d never get at home, Hodges noted.

That operational tempo would not be sustainable for a permanent brigade. Furthermore, the Army is struggling to keep up with too many manpower shortages to permanently station a brigade combat team in Europe.

Chief among his concerns for Army aviators is



Citing an article, ‘Bulking Up in Europe’ in the July *ARMY* magazine, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commander, U.S. Army Europe, discusses U.S. allies, aviation requirements, and the possibility of a conflict with Russia at AUSA’s Institute of Land Warfare Breakfast. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

the risk involved with flying nonstop over long distances for months at a time without the benefit of the facilities needed to properly take care of the aircraft, such as those at Fort Campbell, Ky., or Fort Hood, Texas.

“When a brigade flies at Campbell or Hood, it’s all there,” Hodges said of the support that aviation crews and maintenance teams have in garrison to keep aircraft in top shape.

Adding, “A [combat aviation brigade] has got to meet the highest levels of safety, accountability, maintenance and all that.”

The aviation unit operating in Europe now, the 10th Mountain Division’s 10th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), he said, “has to meet the same standards, except [the commander] has got a battalion in Latvia; in Romania; three birds flying in Incirlik, [Turkey]; and the rest back in Germany – and he’s fixing to move into Poland.”

The unpredictability of funding was pegged by Hodges as another reason to keep a CAB on permanent status. “It’s expensive, and we’re paying for it with ERI,” Hodges said, referring to the Europe-

an Reassurance Initiative, a DoD-funded program meant to reassure NATO allies of American support for their security and territorial integrity.

“If ERI dries up or competition for it increases, then my aviation brigade is at risk, and the Russians won’t take us serious if we don’t have an aviation brigade,” Hodges said.

Russia – Zapad 2017

Russia’s large-scale military exercise slated for September doesn’t mean war is likely, but the Army and its European allies will remain poised at the highest level of readiness as if it were, Hodges said.

Zapad 2017 – as the Russian military exercise is known – will take place in Belarus near the borders of Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, a proximity that has some U.S. allies feeling understandably nervous.

“The closer you live to Russia, you absolutely believe [war] is possible. If you’ve ever lived in the shadow of the bear and felt that hot breath, you absolutely believe it because of history. They take it very serious,” Hodges said of U.S. European allies.

Hodges noted that neighboring countries see the buildup in the context of an imminent attack.

He reiterated the U.S. commitment to deterring aggression and defending European allies and partners. He also downplayed the possibility of an attack.

“It’s not inevitable that there’s going to be a war, it’s not inevitable that [the Russians] are going to start one, but I think that they think it’s coming so they’re getting [their country] ready for that,” said Hodges, who explained that the Russians have been working on this exercise for years and are in the process of moving thousands of rail cars with equipment and troops to Belarus as a “whole-of-government exercise.”

While the U.S. Army will remain at the highest state of readiness, “this is not going to be Sharks and Jets out there trying to be seen as provocative,” Hodges said, evoking the image of New York street gangs portrayed in the musical *West Side Story*.

“This is normal, routine military business for us.”

Poised and in place in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland are four combat formations, “each one capable of defeating a Russian brigade,” said Hodges, exhorting the Russians to show the world what they’re up to.

“I call on the Russians to be transparent. If they’re serious about stability and security and avoiding provocation, then invite [observers] to come and watch what they’re doing.”

Saber Strike: 20 nations train to strengthen resolve, capabilities

Sgt. Mark Otte
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Texas Army National Guard

Exercise Saber Strike 17, the annual training event led by U.S. Army Europe, kicked off with sustainment operations that laid the vital groundwork for the training exercises that would further strengthen the resolve and operational capabilities of the 20 participating nations.

Before the exercise was underway, the 1st Infantry Division's Sustainment Brigade began preparing for the 3,500 U.S. troops who would be training alongside 8,000 soldiers from partner nations that spread across four countries.

Providing for soldiers in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland was no small task, but the 1st Infantry Division was up to the challenge, according to Capt. Christina Shelton, brigade planner for the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade.

"Before the soldiers hit the ground, we had to set up a sustainment network, an architecture that can support all of these soldiers," Shelton said.

Adding, "We coordinated the transportation of all of the equipment from the port to the training sites, via U.S. and Belgian heavy equipment transporters, rail and line haul."

Preparations were also made for the exercise's aviation assets. Capt. Chris Meiser, a commander within Task Force Phoenix, convoyed with his soldiers to Kazlu Ruda, Lithuania.

After a few hours of set up, he and his troops were ready to support aviation operations during the exercise.



U.S. Army and Air Force combined with British, Estonian, Finnish and French soldiers conduct a tactical demonstration during Saber Strike 17 at Tapa, Estonia. (Photo by Spc. Matthew DeVirgilio)

The addition of key support elements to his task force allowed him to establish an airfield anywhere that there was space.

"Normally, an aviation battalion falls in on pre-established infrastructure like an airfield," Meiser said.

Adding, "The exercise is different. Now, we are

getting into an expeditionary mindset, so we can go anywhere, it doesn't have to be an airfield, and we can operate for long durations."

With the help of a Lithuanian water purification team, and a 1st Infantry Division shower and laundry team, the soldiers at the remote airfield now have life supporting assets and capabilities to keep them operating at full strength for extended periods of time.

With the ability to purify 1,500 gallons of water an hour, the Lithuanian team says that working with the Americans has given them a chance to build bonds and build working relationships that improve operational capabilities.

"We want to operate at the highest levels," said Master Sgt. Ramunas Grimalauskas of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytenis Main Support Logistics Battalion.

He also noted, "Because of these field trainings, we can work together and fight when and where we need to."

Often, the ability to provide things like showers and laundry are overshadowed by the firepower of tanks and aircraft, but Col. Allen Cassell, commander, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, said that providing these assets to the soldiers not only increases morale, but also increases readiness in the units by preventing battle injuries.

"Adding to the sustainment assets in this iteration of Saber Strike really demonstrates U.S. Army Europe's ability to support itself, even in protracted engagements," said Cassell.

"Now, we are prepared to sustain units in the theater of operation until the mission is complete."



U.S. Army Apache helicopters, from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, provide close air support to neutralize armored forces and aid in the elimination of mechanized forces during Exercise Saber Strike 17. (Photo by Sgt. Steve Johnson)

U.S. Army training exercise improves tactics and techniques

Sgt. Justin Geiger

In the wee hours of the night, soldiers from different NATO countries executed an integrated, synchronized, deterrence-oriented training exercise designed to improve interoperability and the combat readiness of the participating nations' armed forces.

Task Force War Eagle, which is comprised of German, Romanian, Slovakian and U.S. 2nd Cavalry Regiment soldiers, continued Exercise Dragoon Guardian as they utilized three temporary bridging capabilities to conduct a night river crossing over the Olt River in Valcea, Romania in support of Saber Guardian 17.

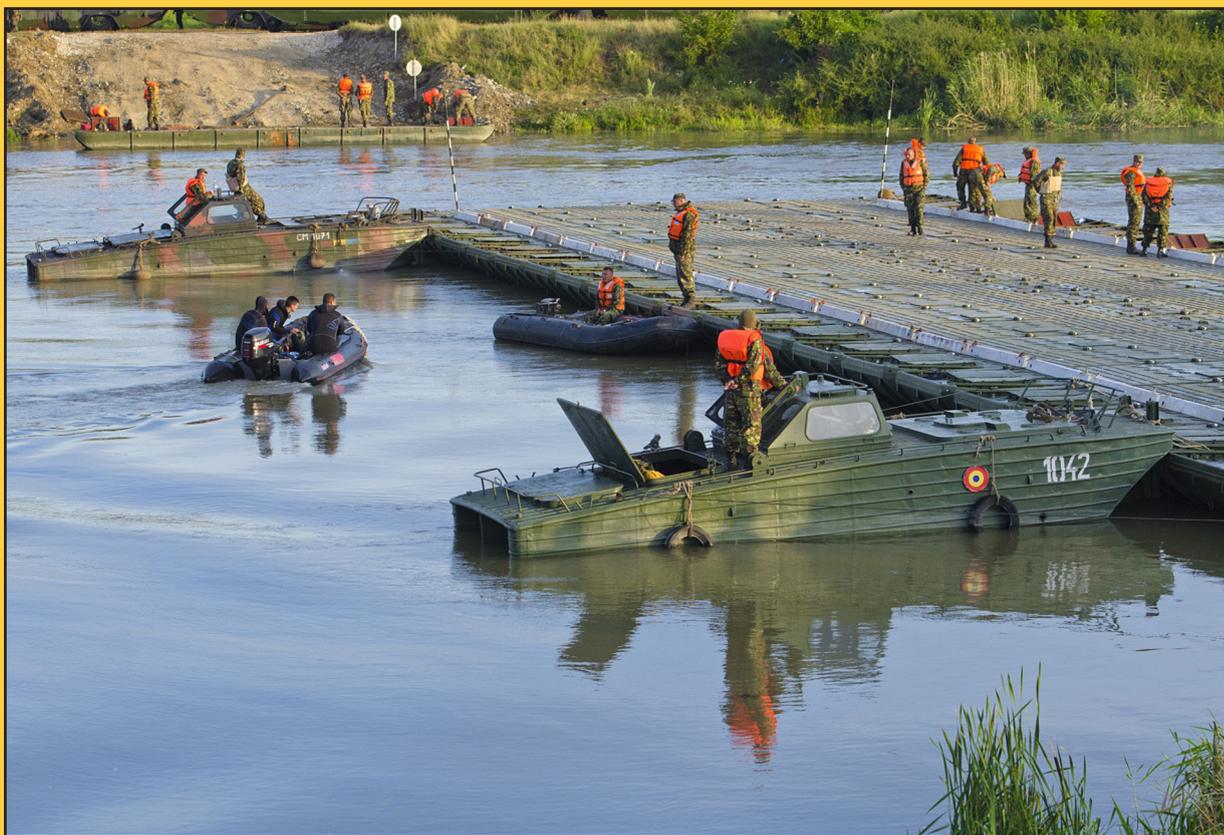
This multinational training exercise that takes place in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania is the largest exercise held in the Black Sea Region this summer.

Saber Guardian 17 is an annual U.S. European Command, U.S. Army Europe-led exercise, which involves more than 25,000 service members from over 20 allied and partnered nations.

The purpose of the exercise is to assure NATO Allies and partners of the U.S. commitment to promote regional stability and security, strengthen partner capabilities and fostering trust.

Not only did the task force have to conduct a temporary bridging operation with limited visibility, but their combat arms soldiers had to engage an opposing force portrayed by Romanian soldiers to seize and maintain an objective before the task force could execute the river crossing.

"Task Force War Eagle executed a contested river crossing mission last night," said Lt. Col. Adam Lackey, commander for 1st Squadron,



Romanian soldiers disassemble one out of the three temporary bridging capabilities during exercise Dragoon Guardian upon completion of the night river crossing over the Olt River in Valcea, Romania, in support of Saber Guardian 17. (Photo by Sgt. Justin Geiger)

2nd Cavalry Regiment.

"Which meant that we had to fight across the river and against a determined 'enemy' who wanted to prevent our operations.

The combined training opportunities that Saber Guardian provides greatly improves interoperability and highlights the flexibility of the ground forces, and enhances professional relationships among participating NATO allies and key regional partners.

"The river crossing was important because it improved interoperability between several countries," said Staff Sgt. Michael Vowell, weapons squad leader for Comanche Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

Adding "Training alongside other allied nations in eastern Europe gives our soldiers a better understanding on how foreign armies operate and what we can do to improve our tactics, techniques and procedures."

Combined Resolve VIII conducts medical evacuation training

Staff Sgt. Ange Desinor
3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team
4th Infantry Division

Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 4th Infantry Division, hosted multinational medical evacuation training at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, in preparation for a two-week combat training center rotation that's part of Combined Resolve VIII.

Soldiers from Romania, Ukraine, Albania and Hungary joined in learning how to load casualties onto each country's tactical vehicles, including hot and cold loads onto helicopters.

"We are familiarizing ourselves and soldiers from other countries on our medevac capabilities," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Howard, the senior combat medical specialist for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team.



A group of soldiers from Albania, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine and the United States watch a demonstration on how to load a casualty onto an M113 medical evacuation vehicle during medevac training. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ange Desinor)

see next page

7 nations join in first-ever combined air – ground assault

Sgt. William Boecker
1st Armored Brigade Combat Team
34th Infantry Division

As the sun began to set on the Lithuanian countryside, the final touches were placed on the camouflage netting designed to conceal the position of the Tactical Action Center, or TAC, of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

As part of the multinational exercise Saber Strike 17, the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, provided support to the Air Assault Task Force commander, Col. Charles Kemper.

As the first-ever combined air and ground assault in the annual Saber Strike exercise, this particular training has set a milestone in testing the

compatibility of the seven nations and various military branches involved.

“We want to reassure all of our NATO Allies that we are in this together,” said Kemper.

Adding, “We’re part of the team and we can demonstrate capability.”

Kemper also stated that the U.S. presence in the European theater is a measure of deterrence, in addition to assurance.

The goal of the U.S. military’s continued involvement in the alliance is to deter any power that poses a threat to NATO allies, and demonstrates the U.S.’s capability to stand ready with its partners.

“This exercise is designed to build and increase the interoperability of all NATO-contributing countries, allowing us to boost our capability to react quickly to any world threat that occurs,” said Capt. Josip Jurjevich, a Croatian air force helicopter pi-

lot attached to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, aviation element.

Throughout the planning process, American soldiers, sailors and airmen worked side-by-side with service members from the United Kingdom, Poland, Croatia, Lithuania and Portugal, testing their ability to work together as one cohesive international unit by forming a NATO-enhanced Forward Presence, or eFP, Battle Group.

Jurjevich noted that one challenge of the exercise was the necessity to overcome cultural barriers that affect the way each participating country’s military operates.

In one example of successful cooperation between partner countries, the U.S. aviation planner implemented input from the two Croatian pilots attached to the TAC to plan helicopter air corridors from the pickup zone to the landing zone.

“Even if something is better than our process, that is great, we’ve learned something, or if it’s not, then we can bring something forward for them to learn,” said Jurjevich.

With all seven nations converging at the Kazlu Ruda airstrip, the newly-formed Task Force Red Bull conducted an air mission brief and a combined arms rehearsal.

Tight living quarters shorten the period of time it takes to become comfortable with one another, said 1st Lt. Josip Perich, another Croatian air force helicopter pilot attached to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

“With 18 of us crammed into only two trucks working together on the mission, we are able to develop trust and confidence in one another very quickly,” he said.

A pre-established relationship between nations through exercises like Saber Strike is meant to lay footwork for a long-lasting rapport with all U.S. NATO allies.

“We were like a family in two small trucks, working together, sweating together for the same collective mission,” said Perich.



Soldiers from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, participate in Saber Strike 17 in Lithuania. (Photo by Sgt. William Boecker)

Training exercise from preceding page

Adding, “We are using the Black Hawk, an HH-60, which is used to medevac patients off the battlefield. We want all participants to be familiar with that assets before we go into the scenario-based part of the exercise.”

The soldiers are among more than 3,400 participants from 10 nations participating in the U.S. Army Europe-led Combined Resolve VIII, which primarily exercises U.S. Army Europe’s regionally allocated forces taking part in Operation Atlantic Resolve by providing a complex scenario focused on multinational unified land operations.

Other medical platforms used during the training were an M113 medical evacuation vehicle, and the Hungarians brought medevac vehicles as well.

“This was interesting,” said Romanian Sgt. 1st Class Sabina Molodoi of the 811th Infantry Battal-

ion. “I have trained with U.S. soldiers before but never have trained with several other countries at once. We see how we all operate, and it’s very similar.”

The training detailed the process of casualty care from the battlefield to the hospital, where initial care is either self-aided or treated by a battle buddy. Combat medics provide first aid before a patient is medevaced to a Role 1 facility, such as a battalion aid station.

“A Role 1 is a facility that has a physician or a doctor and a medical team who provide medical care to stabilize patients. A Role 3 is hospital care,” said Howard.

Aviation combat medics from 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade, who are serving as part of 10th Combat Aviation Brigade’s Atlantic Resolve rotation, also participated.

“We get so used to doing things the 3rd ABCT way, so it’s a great thing that we can combine our personnel and assets for the mission. I’ve participated in Atlantic Resolve but never on this scale before. Too many times you hear about the combined training and don’t always get the unique experience,” said Howard.

As the 3rd ABCT leads more than 3,000 soldiers, of which about 2,100 are actually in the brigade, to the field for a nine-day force-on-force training scenario, the multinational contingent will have plenty of opportunities to test casualty care through defensive, offensive and stability operations.

“We will have that interoperability out there,” said Howard.

Adding, “When we receive casualties while we are in the scenario, we will be able to react without confusion no matter who or where the soldier is from.”



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Our military family: ‘Home’ is wherever your loved ones are

AUSA Family Readiness

Randi Cairns

You’ve likely called a dozen different places home. For as long as you’ve been in the military (or part of a military family), home has always been wherever the Army sent you.

Civilians have no doubt marveled at your ability to pick up and go, to change your geography as easily as some folks change out their seasonal clothing.

They don’t know your secret. That the house may be assigned by the military, but “home” is wherever your loved ones are.

If you’re the parent of a college-bound child, this time it’s one of your loved ones that’s packing up and starting over anew.

It’s one thing to be the one saying goodbye, tearful but firm in your knowledge that you are leaving for a mission and purpose. It’s another thing altogether to watch a piece of your heart walk away, even when you know that they too have a mission to complete – a mission you’ve prepped and trained them for from the moment you met them.

It doesn’t matter that you knew this was coming. From the first time you held your pink or blue swaddled bundle of joy, you knew it was your job to work yourself out of a job. You knew that “success” would be launching said bundle into adulthood.

But none of that knowledge can possibly prepare you for so many conflicting feelings.

Excitement at the thought of date nights, quiet, a new crafting or exercise room. Fear about stranger danger, poor choices, nutrition. Worry about whether they’re ready to be out in the world as a “real” adult.

They’re ready.

Ready to look fear in the eye and forge bravely into the unknown.

Ready to accept a new mission.

Ready to thrive in a new environment.

Ready to see challenge as opportunity.

Ready to grow.

You and this military life have already taught your college-bound child everything he or she needs to know to be successful in school.

They’ve learned how to be independent and interdependent. How to play nicely with others. How to lead and follow. How to plan ahead and be spontaneous. How to ask questions and seek answers. How to build a new village to support you and how to call on it when you need help.

And what about you? Are you ready?

Perhaps the best guidance to survive sending a child off to college is not unlike the guidance you’d give (and take) about sending your soldier off on a deployment.

Don’t ruin the time you have pouting about the little time you have left. Spend time together. Enjoy each other’s company.

Don’t get so caught up in the countdown trap that you waste a single precious moment.

Work out a plan to keep in touch. Discuss each other’s expectations for staying connected when your child is at college. Will you call? Text? Video chat? Take advantage of the opportunity to sneak visits when you can? See each other on the holidays?

There are no right answers to these questions, but work them out in advance so that neither of you is disappointed. And then, prepare to revise and adjust expectations over time.

Be a safe place. Make it clear that while your child is embarking on this new journey on his/her

own, they are not without support. You are ready and willing to help however you can.

But you are also fully confident in their ability to figure things out on their own too. (And try to sound like you mean it, even if you’ve got to resist the urge to step in and try and “fix” things that seem to be broken.)

Take care of YOU. It’s no small feat to physically and emotionally prepare a young adult for college.

You have likely spent a tremendous amount of time shopping, packing, comparing notes with other parents sending their kids off to school, realizing you forgot to buy things, shopping some more, checking in on your kid’s mental status, and trying to cram every ounce of last minute knowledge you can into your child’s head.

Now breathe. There is very little that if forgotten can’t be said, done, or purchased. Step away from the checklist long enough to check in on your own mental status.

Are you taking care of your own health needs? Talking things out with trusted family and/or friends if you’re having a hard time? Do you really need to hear the “put your oxygen mask on first” lecture one more time?

One of the greatest gifts you can give your kid when he or she is away, is knowing you’re there and okay. So make sure you are, for both of your sakes.

You already know that a thousand goodbyes don’t make goodbyes any easier. But you can do this. Both of you.

Because you also both already know that distance is no obstacle to love.

(Editor’s note: Randi Cairns is a nonprofit expert, organizational and personal growth consultant, and author. She’s been an advocate in the military family space for over two decades. You can find her at Randi Cairns Consulting, www.randicairns.com.)

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer receives prestigious Army award

Chapter Highlight Greater Los Angeles

AUSA News

Renowned motion picture and television producer Jerry Bruckheimer was presented the Army’s Outstanding Civilian Service Award at the Association of the U.S. Army’s Greater Los Angeles Chapter’s Army Ball celebrating the service’s 242 birthday at the Long Beach Westin Hotel.

Bruckheimer was cited for his “unmatched” work in telling the “Army Story” through films such as “Black Hawk Down,” “Pearl Harbor,” and the soon to be released “Horse Soldiers.”

This award, one of the highest awards given to a civilian by the Department of the Army, was presented at the AUSA ball by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Broadwater, commander of the National Train-

ing Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., who represented the Army chief of staff.

The recognition also honored his support of all military personnel and first responders through his productions such as: “Top Gun,” “Crimson Tide,”

and the “CSI” television series, to name a few.

Also present for the presentation were retired Lt. Col. Pete Seitz, Greater Los Angeles Chapter president, and retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO.



Honoring Bruckheimer are, from the left, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Broadwater, retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, Bruckheimer, and Pete Seitz, chapter president.

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Chapter celebrates Army's 242nd birthday with a special cake

Chapter Highlight Sunshine

Retired Col. DeLloyd Voorhees Jr., president of the AUSA Sunshine Chapter, said that over 800 attendees from the Regular Army; Army National Guard; U.S. Army Reserve; wounded warriors; Gold Star families; association individual, corporate and family members; and community business and political leaders came together at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Fla., to celebrate

the Army's 242nd birthday.

Also in attendance at the annual Army Ball were Kris McBride, AUSA's Third Region president, and her husband, Mark, and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler.

The event's guest speaker was Dr. Monique Seefried from the World War I Centennial Commission who spoke about what WWI meant to the United States and the changes that affected our nation and the world following the war.

Retired Lt. Col. Ed Kennedy brought his World War I display that was also exhibited at the Association of the U.S. Army's Global Force Symposium in Huntsville, Ala.



25 AUSA chapter leaders attend 4-day training session

Mark Wolf
Assistant Director
AUSA Army Reserve Affairs

The Association of the U.S. Army held a four-day training session at its national headquarters' Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Events Center for 25 AUSA chapter leaders in late June.

"AUSA hosts chapter leader development training to inform our chapter volunteer leaders on the many aspects of membership, and programs and projects of interest to their diverse membership," said Col. John Davies, USA, Ret., senior director of AUSA membership.

Adding, "We also introduce or update them on AUSA developments at our national headquarters that will assist in their leadership roles at the local level."

Lt. Gen. Pat McQuiston, USA, Ret., AUSA vice president for membership and meetings, greeted the chapter leaders and thanked them for attending and for their contributions in their local chapters. McQuiston stressed the importance of strong and committed volunteer leaders who unselfishly give of their time and talents to lead our chapters during these turbulent times for our nation.

Topics discussed during the work sessions included: individual membership and recruiting and retaining members in the Regular Army, Army Reserve, National Guard, to include retirees and veterans; corporate membership; chapter communications; the importance of marketing; the Chapter Leader Portal and Magnet Mail; chapter programs; family programs and projects; and the Young Professionals membership and activities program.

A highlight of the event was a discussion via "Go to Meetings" of chapter success stories led by Lt. Col. Don Spiece, USA, Ret., president of the Tucson – Goyette Chapter.

Rhonda Sutton, vice president for corporate membership from the Redstone–Huntsville Chapter shared her take on best practices.



Lt. Gen. Pat McQuiston, USA, Ret., AUSA vice president for membership and meetings, stresses the importance of strong and committed volunteer leaders who unselfishly give of their time and talents to lead our chapters. (Photo by Stan Crow)

Retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO, closed the training session by thanking the attendees not only for participating in this training program, but also for their dedicated efforts and all they do every day in their chapters for the Army and the Association.

Ham and McQuiston also presented each participant with an AUSA Graduation Certificate.

Attendees

Chapter leader attendees included: Miguel Apon- te, Puerto Rico Chapter; Clayton Brown, Arizona Territorial; Jocelyn Cookson, Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr.; Cindy Crow, Alamo; Brian Dragotto, Monmouth; Ernest Erlandson, Fort Pitt; Melia Flanagan, Robert E. Lee; and Thomas Hallin, National Train-

ing Center – High Desert.

Also attending were: Julie Jarmiolowski, Arizona Territorial; Jeffrey Kline, Mid-Missouri – Fort Leonard Wood; William Medici, New York – Statue of Liberty; Sarah Nelson, MG Robert B. McCoy; Jeanne Savel, Saint Louis Gateway; Charles Seal, Monmouth; Paul Self, Sergeant Major Jon R. Cavaiani; Sarah Smith, Thunderbird; and Jerry Smith, CSM James M. McDonald – Keystone.

Bernard Stolzman, Sixth Region vice president for membership; Rhonda Sutton, Redstone – Huntsville; William Temple, First Militia; David Toops, Greater Kansas City; Jen. Tregarthen, Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr.; Dan Vreeland, Saint Louis Gateway; Montgomery White, Pikes Peak; and Jorge Zequeira, Isthmian, were also in attendance.

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: 65

- 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: 70

- 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: 8

- 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: 17

- 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

Senate Action

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

Cosponsors: 26

- 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: 1

- 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**

Reids named Chapter Army Volunteer Family of the Year

Chapter Highlight Redstone-Huntsville

Jason Cutshaw
USASMDC/ARSTRAT
Public Affairs

Volunteers are usually the unseen heroes, but for one Team Redstone family, the community made sure their contributions were known.

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army, honored Phillis and Robert Reid as their AUSA Chapter Army Volunteer Family of the Year for 2017 at the Redstone-Huntsville Army Birthday Dinner.

“We are truly humbled and honored to receive this award in a community that supports so many causes,” Phillis said. “I am very proud to represent the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (USASMDC/ARSTRAT), and my husband was equally as proud to represent the Defense Commissary Agency here at Redstone. The Huntsville and Madison communities are the best I’ve lived in for supporting our military and veterans.”

The AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award recognizes an exceptional Army family whose dedicated volunteer service significantly contributes to improving the well-being of Army families and the local community. Nominees are submitted by AUSA chapters.

“We volunteer to support our community and because we are passionate about our military and our veterans,” Phillis said. “We are both retired from the Army and recognize the need to support these



Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and his wife, Angie, congratulate Robert and Phillis Reid during the Redstone-Huntsville Army Birthday Dinner. During the dinner, the Reids were named the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter Army Volunteer Family of the Year for 2017. (Photo by Kim Hanson)

organizations, knowing we can make a difference in people’s lives. There are no words to express the overwhelming feeling that comes with being a volunteer when you dedicate yourself to something bigger than all of us.”

The Reids volunteer for several charitable events in the community supporting veterans, surviving family members and other community activities. Robert and Phillis are both currently Department of the Army civilians.

Phillis is the lead project coordinator for the

USASMDC/ARSTRAT hosted events honoring Survivor Outreach Services, or SOS, family members. She is responsible for the planning, coordination and execution of two events per year consisting of more than 65 surviving family members and more than 70 volunteers. Phillis is a committee member of the annual Black Tie Charity Ball that raises money for the Tut Fann State Veterans Home as well as organizing the annual Toys for Tots program at SMDC.

Robert supports various fundraising activities including an annual pancake breakfast fundraisers and a 5K fun run.

“We have been serving the community since we moved here in late 2009,” Phillis said. “We started volunteering as we met people associated with different organizations and became involved.”

They both volunteer each year for the flag line at the Cotton Row Run on Memorial Day supporting the Redstone Arsenal SOS and community awareness of fallen heroes and the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans.

After the run, they also lay 44a wreath honoring military veterans at a local cemetery. Robert and Phillis also support the annual Semper Fi Community Task Force Heroes week, the Army Historical Foundation and the Huntsville Botanical Gardens.

They both support other charitable organizations such as the League for Animal Welfare.

“If you are going to volunteer, make sure your whole heart and soul are into it,” Phillis said. “Volunteer for something you are passionate about and remember when you make that commitment, people depend on you to continue to provide support. The need is there, it will always be there.”

AUSA partners with the ROCKS, Inc.

AUSA Staff

AUSA, in partnership with the ROCKS, Inc., is pleased to welcome members of the ROCKS as members of AUSA.

Under a new Military Service Organization (MSO) partnership model, the Rocks joined AUSA for one year and all of their current members are designees under that membership.

All MSO designees will receive an AUSA membership card, a digital subscription to ARMY magazine and AUSA News, and access to all AUSA member benefits.

The ROCKS mission is to “strengthen the United States and Uniformed Services Officer Corps and Senior Government Civilians by serving as a world-class organization that provides and promotes mentorship, leader development and diversity, coaching, scholarship, networking

and professional development to maximize and leverage talent across the leadership spectrum.”

The programs the ROCKS have developed to accomplish this mission are well suited for AUSA’s mission to Educate – Inform – Connect.

Our expectation is that every level of AUSA will connect with their ROCKS counterpart to develop plans and programs to support and learn from each other, toward our common purpose of advancing the security of the United States by contributing to the professional development of its leaders.

To learn more about the ROCKS, visit their website at www.rocksinc.org.

If you have any suggestions for strengthening this relationship, or you know of other organizations/association which would be good candidates for a Military Service Organization membership, please email regionalactivities@ausa.org.

Institute of Land Warfare paper discusses Putin, Russia

ILW Publication

AUSA Staff

A new Institute of Land Warfare paper shows the vexing problems created for the U.S. by the growing global influence of Russia and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One of the predictions in the paper, written by Army Capt. Elihugh M. Abner, is that Putin will work to weaken NATO to put Russia in a better position as leader of a multipolar world.

“He will not only try to resist NATO but will also endeavor to create a rift in the alliance by attempting to demonstrate to its members Russian diplomacy and military superiority over the United States,” Abner writes in a Landpower Essay that is part of an Association of the U.S. Army’s Institute of Land Warfare program to stimulate professional discussion.

“Putin does not need to destroy NATO to create a multipolar world. He needs NATO to destroy itself for him to solidify Russia’s place as a leader in a multipolar world,” he writes.

He continues, “Russian President Vladimir

Putin’s overarching goal is to create a multipolar world in which Russia is a leading entity. He will attempt to do this by regaining his control over Ukraine, expanding his interests in the Middle East, strengthening partnerships with China and undermining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

“Putin is a strong believer in the Spheres of Influence concept in which larger nations will attempt to exert leverage over smaller nations to advance their own strategic interests.”

Russia’s involvement in Syria, where President Bashar al-Assad is unlikely to be removed from power as long as Russian forces are present, improving relations with Turkey and closer economic and political ties with China are all part of the changing global picture, Abner writes.

His conclusion:

“American strategic planners can counter these threats by stationing larger numbers of forces in Europe where they could defend the Baltic States in the event of a Russian military incursion.

“U.S. planners should concede the fact that the Syrian government will remain in power as long as it is supported by the Russian military. After doing so, U.S. planners should cease operations

in Syria and allow the Russian and Syrian government to stabilize the country themselves, forcing the Russian government to spend resources that it does not have to prop up Syria’s failing government.

“To prevent Moscow from expanding its foothold in the Middle East, the United States must shore up its relationship with its remaining Middle Eastern allies.

“More specifically, it should focus its attention on assisting Iraq in the liberation of its remaining cities from ISIS and on working to create a stable, legitimate government in that country.

“Ultimately, Western planners must realize that the past three decades have been an anomaly in world history. Never before in the history of the world has one power, such as the United States, held global hegemony.

“In fact, the world is returning to a state of normalcy, a state in which multiple powers are in competition with one another for finite resources.

“Western planners and thinkers must learn to adapt to this old, yet new, reality.”

View the full essay here: <https://www.ausa.org/publications/putins-multipolar-world-and-what-it-means-us-strategy>



Recent Publications

from the Institute of Land Warfare

ILW Spotlight

- SL 17-2 – Integrating Army Robotics and Autonomous Systems to Fight and Win (July 2017)
- SL 17-1 – Army Intelligence: Focus Areas for Science and Technology (April 2017)

Land Warfare Papers

- LWP 113 – Conventional Munitions Industrial Base by Scott S. Haraburda (July 2017)
- LWP 112 – Making Sense of Russian Hybrid Warfare: A Brief Assessment of the Russo-Ukrainian War by Amos C. Fox and Andrew J. Rossow (March 2017)
- LWP 111 – Characteristics of Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Leader Development by Steven Estes, Joel M. Miller and Marcus D. Majure (October 2016)
- LWP 110 – Is India’s Military Modernization Evidence of an Aggressive National Security Policy? by Christopher L. Budihas (October 2016)
- LWP 109 – The Uncertain Role of the Tank in Modern War: Lessons from the Israeli Experience in Hybrid Warfare by Michael B. Kim (June 2016)
- LWP 108 – Are U.S. Army Capabilities for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction at Risk? by Thomas C. Westen (September 2015)
- LWP 107 – Integrating Landpower in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Through 2020: Analysis of a Theater Army Campaign Design by Benjamin A. Bennett (May 2015)

National Security Watch

- NSW 16-1 – African Horizons: The United States Army Working Toward a Secure and Stable Africa by Douglas W. Merritt (February 2016)

- NSW 15-4 – These Are the Drones You Are Looking For: Manned-Unmanned Teaming and the U.S. Army by Richard Lim (December 2015)
- NSW 15-3 – Innovation and Invention: Equipping the Army for Current and Future Conflicts by Richard Lim (September 2015)

NCO Update

- Lead Story: SMA Preston Named AUSA Vice President (1st Quarter 2017)

Special Reports

- Profile of the U.S. Army: a reference handbook (October 2016)
- Your Soldier, Your Army: A Parents’ Guide by Vicki Cody (also available in Spanish)

Torchbearer Issue Papers

- Delivering Materiel Readiness: From “Blunt Force” Logistics to Enterprise Resource Planning (June 2016)
- The Mad Scientist Initiative: An Innovative Way of Understanding the Future Operational Environment (May 2016)
- Sustaining the All-Volunteer Force: A Readiness Multiplier (April 2016)
- Strategically Responsive Logistics: A Game-Changer (October 2015)
- The U.S. Army in Europe: Strategic Landpower in Action (October 2015)

Defense Reports

- DR 16-3 – Strategic Readiness: The U.S. Army as a Global Force (June 2016)
- DR 16-2 – National Commission on the Future of the Army: An Initial Blueprint for the Total Army (February 2016)



- DR 16-1 – Until They All Come Home: The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (February 2016)
- DR 15-2 – Building Readiness to Sustain Global Responsiveness and Regional Engagement (April 2015)

Landpower Essays

- LPE 17-1 – Putin’s Multipolar World and What it Means for U.S. Strategy by Elihugh M. Abner (June 2017)
- LPE 16-1 – The State of the Cavalry: An Analysis of the U.S. Army’s Reconnaissance and Security Capability by Amos C. Fox (June 2016)
- LPE 15-1 – Strategic Landpower in the 21st Century: A Conceptual Framework by Brian M. Michelson (March 2015)

All publications are available at:
www.ausa.org/ilw

AUSA Books

Learn about the AUSA Book Program at:
www.ausa.org/books

At the Decisive Point in the Sinai: Generalship in the Yom Kippur War by Maj. Gen. Jacob Even, IDF Ret., and Col. Simcha B. Maoz, IDF Ret. (University Press of Kentucky, 5 September 2017)

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)

The Iasi-Kishinev Operation: The Red Army’s Summer Offensive Into the Balkans edited by Richard Harrison, Ph.D. (Helion and Company, 19 August 2017)

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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July 4th patriotic parade honors all American veterans

Chapter Highlight Rock Island Arsenal

Luke Cummings
QC Online

Thousands of Quad-Citians dressed in red, white and blue packed themselves along 15th Avenue for the 59th annual AMVETS Fourth of July Parade.

The parade, which was put on by the Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of Association of the United States Army and the City of East Moline, included just shy of 50 entrants from local organizations and businesses, and it took about an hour from start to finish.

“There are a lot of people involved; we’ve got a lot of really solid groups,” said Julie Johnson, president of the Rock Island Arsenal Chapter. “It’s a pretty big deal for East Moline.”

The regulars include veterans organizations like the Korean War Veterans Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, Mexican-American Veterans Association, and the Civil Air Patrol, as well as American Veterans, the group that first started the parade 59 years ago.

“It’s a little bit smaller than in years past, but we have a lot of new entries, meaning that there are more new people that want to be involved, which is exciting,” said Deana Woodall, organizer of the entire event.

Woodall works for Event Solutions Group and has been brought in by AUSA’s Rock Island Arsenal Chapter to organize the parade for the past three years.

In addition to East Moline elected officials and representatives of the city’s fire and police departments, both the Democrat and Republican parties of Rock Island County were well represented at the parade, along with businesses such as Skate City and the youth soccer club QC Legends.

The Rock Island Arsenal was represented by



Children applaud members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 229 as they walk during the annual AMVETS parade in East Moline. (Photo by Meg McLaughlin)

Col. Kenneth J. Tauke, garrison commander. Tauke served as master of ceremonies for the parade and rode in a Corvette with his wife.

Even though Woodall was asked to take on the massive organizational role as part of her job, she said she really does it as a way to honor her country.

“It is a lot of work, but it’s just the best way to celebrate the birthday of our fine country,” she said. “It’s the best way that we can show respect for our country, to our veterans that continue to be so proud to serve our country.”

Amid all of the political strife going on in Illinois and the rest of the nation, the parade offers a great way to forget about that for an hour and just celebrate what we have, Woodall said.

“It’s a great way to get rid of all the party lines and take a moment out of your day to respect our country,” she said. “We really need to celebrate it

now more than ever because there’s always something going on, but the United States of America is awesome.”

Johnson, who became president of the AUSA chapter July 1, wants to continue the organization’s mission of advocating for service members and getting the community’s support, and she said that the parade is a great way to do that.

“It makes sense for us to be involved in something like this,” she said. “The AUSA is the voice of the Army ... the Army is made up of people with families that love them, and we need to give them support.”

Judging by the crowds, the parade is a huge annual success, and Woodall encouraged everyone in the area to come and see it in the future.

“Everybody has a good time, everybody’s here for the right purpose and that’s to celebrate our country,” she said.

Homeland Security exhibits at 2017 AUSA Annual Meeting

AUSA Staff

The Department of Homeland Security is returning to the Association of the U.S. Army’s Annual Meeting and Exposition in October with plans for a large pavilion in Hall A of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

This exhibit will showcase the agency’s many missions.

The 2017 exhibit space will be about one-third larger than in 2016, and the agency also plans to have demonstrations and so-called tech talks dur-

ing the three-day conference.

DHS human capital officers will also be on hand to talk about job opportunities at the agency.

The AUSA event will be held Oct. 9-11.

The Homeland Security Pavilion will include exhibits from the many divisions within the department.

They include:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- U.S. Secret Service
- U.S. Coast Guard

- Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
 - Transportation Security Administration
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - National Protection and Programs Directorate, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications
 - Science and Technology Directorate
 - Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
 - Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
 - Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer
- More details on the annual meeting exhibits, agenda, registration and housing are available here: <http://ausameetings.org/2017annualmeeting/>

21 students receive Fairfax-Lee Chapter scholarships

Chapter Highlight Fairfax-Lee

On June 16, the Fairfax-Lee Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) held its annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon at the Hilton Springfield.

Twenty-one deserving applicants received \$20,000 in cash scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000.

A total of 29 applications were received from students with a wide range of interests and scholastic achievement.

Areas of intended study include ROTC, veterinary medicine, nursing, speech and language pathology, physical education, engineering, business, law, and theater.

The recipients are:

William Akridge
Jonathan Albus
Kelsey Anderson
Caroline Austin
Gillian Barth
Grace Barth
Hannah Bauman
Mikayla Dukes
Kylie Hayes
Blair Hobbs
Charles Hogeboom

Rosalie Horton
Jana Jedrych
Amanda Kelling
James Magee
Hope Mesngon
Tina Pearce
Sydney Salter
Sarah Simon
Donna Voelkel
Christian Westbrook

Special guests at the event included retired Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Gibbens, president, 2nd Region, AUSA, Donald Tison, senior fellow, AUSA, and Ron Putman, PAL (Peduzzi and Associates LTD.) The guest speaker for the event was Sgt. Maj. Samuel B. Gitchell, Army National Guard G1.

Gitchell spoke to the audience of students and supporting family members of the importance and

relationship between education, training, and learning.

In conjunction with the Scholarship Awards Luncheon, the Fairfax-Lee Chapter also conducted a general membership meeting and election of officers.

Elected to the office of president was retired Lt. Col. Ken Britt and to the office of first vice president, Kathy Callahan.

Prior to the election, Britt served on the Board of Directors as VP for individual membership. Callahan will continue to serve as the chairperson for the chapter's Scholarship Committee.

Lastly, being only two days after the Army's 242nd Birthday, the chapter helped celebrate with an Army birthday cake.

John Hodges, the outgoing chapter president, along with Tison, Gitchell, Britt, and Johnson concluded the luncheon with the ceremonial cutting of the cake.

Former Army under secretary Murphy named senior fellow

AUSA Staff

Former under secretary of the Army Patrick J. Murphy is joining the Association of the U.S. Army as a senior fellow with the Institute of Land Warfare.

The 43-year-old is a third-generation veteran who deployed to Bosnia in 2002 and to Iraq in 2003 as part of the 82nd Airborne Division. Murphy was also a U.S. Military Academy constitutional law professor. He served for five months in 2016 as acting secretary of the Army.

"I'm proud to join my fellow soldiers for life to ensure our nation is doing all it can to keep our families safe here at home," Murphy said. "It is critical during these defining moments that our troops have the technical and tactical advantage over our enemies."

Murphy also had praise for AUSA. "I couldn't be more proud to work with retired Army Gen. Carter Ham and some of our nation's best minds here at AUSA."

AUSA is excited to have Murphy on the team, said retired Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, AUSA vice president for education who oversees the Institute of Land Warfare.

"Former under secretary Murphy brings vast knowledge of our Army and he is widely known and respected for his infectious enthusiasm. He will be a tremendous asset for us," Swan said.

Joining the ranks of other senior fellows such as retired Army Gens. John W. Foss, William "Buck" Kernan, Frederick J. Kroesen, Leon Salomon and Louis C. Wagner, Murphy brings to AUSA his experience as an ROTC cadet, his four years in the Army Reserve and four on active duty, his two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives after

his 2006 election as the first Iraq veteran in Congress, and his appointment during the Obama administration as undersecretary and briefly acting secretary of the Army.

As undersecretary, he was the Army's chief management officer overseeing a \$148 million annual budget with a workforce of 1.3 million.

His big initiatives included recruiting more than 130,000 millennials as soldiers and civilian workers, expanding Soldier for Life initiatives and boosting the Army's social media presence, working closely with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley.

Murphy is a Philadelphia native, the son of a police officer and legal secretary, who worked weekends as a security guard while in high school and

was captain of the hockey team at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he was student government president and a member of the Sigma Kappa Sigma fraternity.

At the same time, he was also an Army ROTC Cadet at the nearby University of Scranton. He attended the Widener University School of Law after his commissioning, graduating in 1999. His active Army career began in 2000, deploying to Bosnia in 2002 and Baghdad in 2003.

Elected to Congress in 2005, Murphy served on the armed services, appropriations and intelligence committees and was instrumental in enacting the Hire Our Heroes Act, the Post-9/11 GI Bill and repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell.



Patrick J. Murphy, an Army veteran who deployed to Bosnia and Iraq, and is a former member of Congress, addresses an AUSA Hot Topic forum at the association's national headquarter while serving as Army under secretary. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

★ Star Chart ★

Each month, in which a chapter achieves and retains a growth equal to or greater than its assigned membership goal, it will be classified as a Star Chapter. The chapter name will be listed on this monthly Star Chart with the number of consecutive months as a Star Chapter listed to the right.

Gen. John W. Vessey Jr.	211	St. Louis Gateway	14
Tobyhanna Army Depot	203	Last Frontier	10
Major Samuel Woodfill	192	Greater Atlanta	9
Arsenal of Democracy	172	Newton D. Baker	9
Rock Island Arsenal	171	Greater Augusta – Fort Gordon	6
Rhode Island	166	SGM Jon R. Cavaiani	5
North Texas – Audie Murphy	165	Indiana	5
Redstone – Huntsville	165	MG William F. Dean	5
Arizona Territorial	119		
Tucson – Goyette	112		
Capital District of New York	108		
Maj. Gen. Harry Greene, Aberdeen	108		
Gen. William C. Westmoreland	108		
First Militia	104		
Central Ohio	94		
Kuwait	89		
Northern New Jersey	61		
Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson	41		
Houston Metroplex	41		
George Washington	21		
Monmouth	21		
Stuttgart	19		
Delaware	18		
MG Robert B. McCoy	18		
Carlisle Barracks – Cumberland Valley	14		

Corporate Member Growth

Corporate members provide the leadership, as well as goods, services and the financial means that assist chapters with their programs and projects designed to support our soldiers, civilians, retirees and their families. The following chapters have increased their corporate member companies by 10 or more since July 1, 2016.

As of June 30, 2017

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Increase</u>
George Washington	26
Chattahoochee Valley – Fort Benning	18
Northern New Jersey	16
Monmouth	15
Fairfax Lee	13
Stuttgart	12
Maj. Gen. Harry Greene, Aberdeen	11
Mediterranean	10

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