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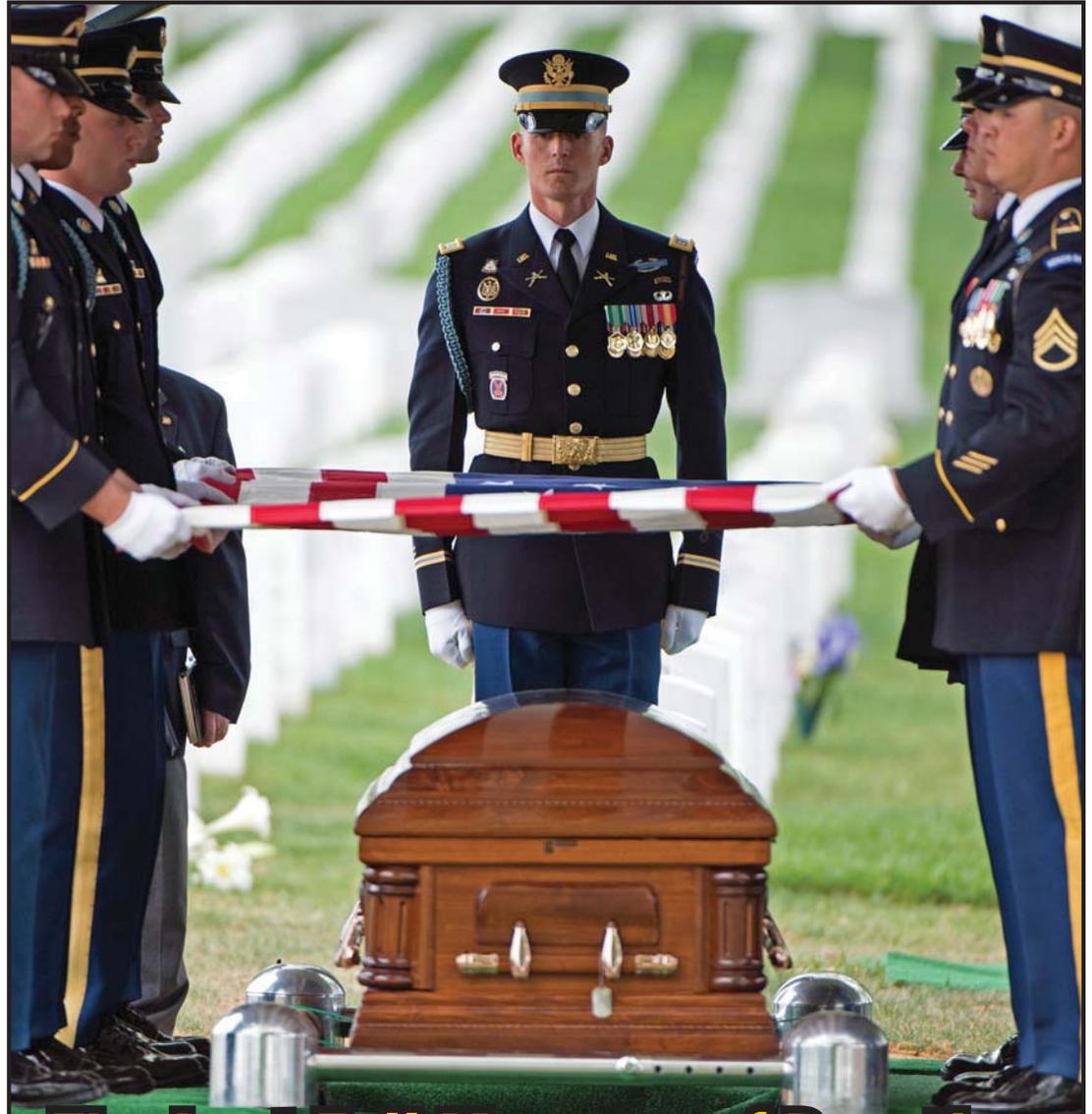
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The Last Full Measure of Devotion

Capt. Victor Farrar, officer in charge of the casket team, and his soldiers from 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) participate in the graveside service for U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Marvin B. Rothman, 21, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, at Arlington National Cemetery, April 19, 2017.

Rothman went missing during a bombing escort mission, April 11, 1944, flying a P-47D Thunderbolt over New Guinea. His remains were recently found and identified. (U.S. Army photo by Rachel Larue)

You can help AUSA destroy the Doomsday Device

View from the Hill

John Gifford
Director
AUSA Government Affairs

Once upon a time, there was a legislative body called “Congress.”

In the summer of 2011, after the Great Recession and looking at a staggering deficit, there was an argument over raising the debt limit, and the two sides were gridlocked over what to do.

One day, after much debate and with no solution in sight, they constructed a “Doomsday Device” called the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011.

This law would first cut proposed discretionary spending by \$1 trillion, and then set up a “Super Committee” to figure out how to cut an additional \$1 trillion.

The law passed with bipartisan support.

The Doomsday Device was meant to be a forcing function that wasn’t supposed to happen.

If the Super Committee couldn’t come to an agreement over how to cut another \$1 trillion, then the Doomsday Device would activate something called “sequestration.”

Sequestration would make across-the-board cuts to any discretionary appropriations that exceeded a new lower level of budget caps.

Some would refer to sequestration as a “goofy meat axe approach” and a “self-inflicted head wound.”

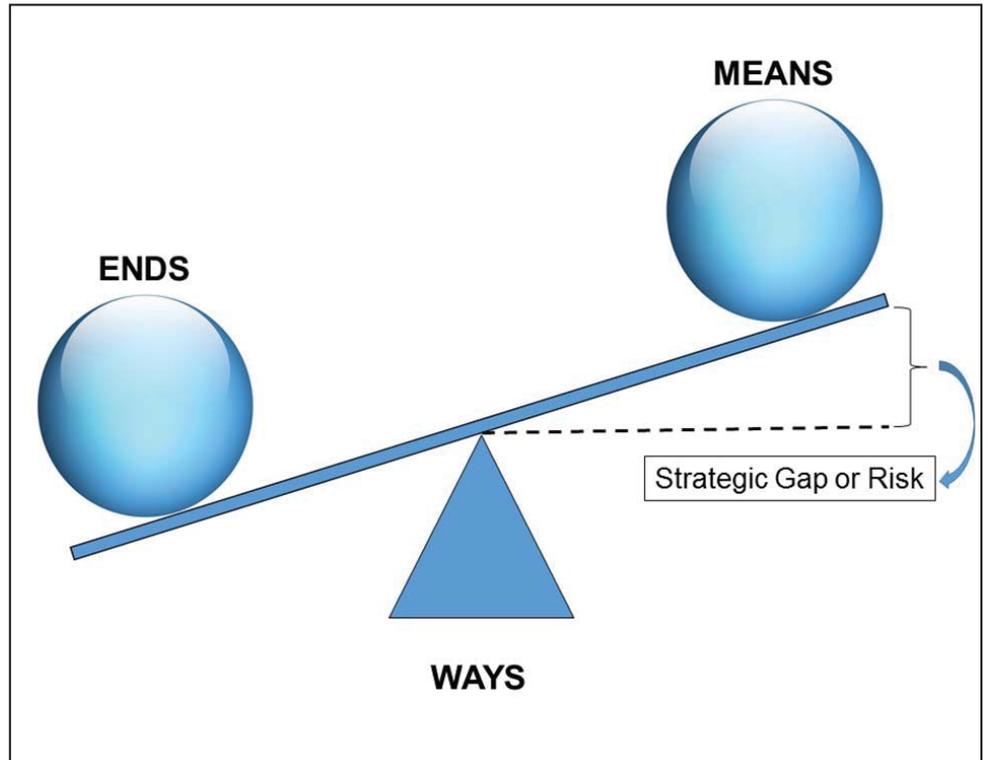
However, when the bipartisan Super Committee failed and the members threw up their arms, the Doomsday Device was activated, and sequestration hit government spending in 2013.

In the military, training was stopped, deployments were delayed, maintenance was curtailed, readiness decreased and government civilians were furloughed.

All of this was bad but, luckily, the world didn’t end.

Since then, Congress has applied several temporary fixes to increase the spending caps in the Bipartisan Budget Acts of 2013 and 2015.

Those temporary fixes ran out with the passage of the Fiscal Year 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Bill



during the first week of May 2017, (eight months after the beginning of the fiscal year).

Now, for Fiscal Year 2018, which starts on Oct. 1, Congress must once again face the Doomsday Device.

The Congressional defense committees and the Department of Defense agree that the spending caps are too low, given the strategic situation in the world today.

However, if the administration proposes a budget that exceeds the Budget Control Act budget caps, Congress must either change the law to increase the caps, or the money they appropriate will be cut by sequester to bring the spending back to the level of the budget caps.

This sounds laughably silly until you realize that this BCA is causing a gigantic strategic mismatch. Strategy is the balance between ends, ways and means.

If you want to play a global superpower role (the end), then it requires capabilities (ways) that cost

resources (means).

If your ends exceed your means, then that is called risk. At first you can stretch and do more with less, and still have acceptable levels of risk.

However, like a teeter-totter suspended in mid-air, eventually one side will tilt too far, and the risk becomes unacceptable.

That is where our military is now.

The cumulative effects of insufficient funding since 2012 while mission demand has continued to grow has caused our military to sacrifice the future to keep pace with the present.

Army modernization has consciously been held back to buy current readiness, which we are consuming as fast as we can build.

Our allies and our enemies can see this strain.

They see that our Congress is letting an arbitrary budget device dictate spending levels, while our military is struggling to juggle growing global demands. Still, the BCA extends its doomsday tentacles all the way to the year 2021.

Remember that Forrest Gump’s mom told him: “Stupid is as stupid does.”

Enough.

Join the Association of the United States Army as we begin a campaign to stop sequestration, raise the budget caps and repeal the Budget Control Act.

We need the help of all our members to help save America’s national security before it is too late.

AUSA will soon reach out to our members with details on how to contact your local members of Congress and educate them on the dangers of continuing on our current path.

See you on the high ground.



Decorated Ranger discusses experiences in Korea, Vietnam

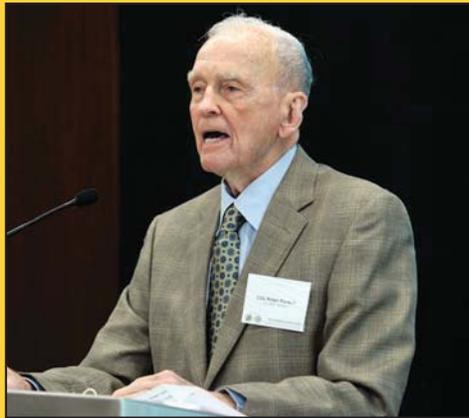
Luc Dunn
AUSA News

A decorated Army Ranger who served in Korea and Vietnam says the U.S. must guard against going into a future conflict unprepared. It has happened before with unfortunate results, he said.

Speaking at a Lemnitzer Lecture hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare, retired Col. Ralph Puckett said there are many reasons to worry. Despite ongoing military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, "we must not forget the 600-pound gorillas – Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea," he said during an event held at AUSA's General Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center in Arlington, Va.

Puckett also spoke about his autobiography *Ranger: A Soldier's Life*, and elaborated on his extraordinary experiences before, during and after the Korean War.

Puckett was a newly minted 2nd Lieutenant when he volunteered for the Korean War, a conflict he said caught the U.S. Army "flat-footed" in terms of training and equipment. "Ninety percent of the 34th Infantry Regiment crew-served weapons were found unfit six months before the war started, and the physical fitness and military training of the soldiers were in equally bad shape," Puckett said.



Retired Col. Ralph Puckett speaks at the Lemnitzer Lecture. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

Why did that happen? "Because World War II had been over for five years, and all the experts said there would never be another ground war. All future wars would be fought with intercontinental missiles," he said. "Unfortunately, those experts never told the North Koreans and the Chinese."

When Puckett arrived in Japan before going to Korea, he was "fresh out of jump school, with not one day of troop duty whatsoever," he said. Despite his lack of training, he was selected to form, train and command in combat the Eighth Army Ranger

Company, "the first Ranger unit established after World War II."

The unit was also the first integrated Ranger Company in the Army.

Puckett said his view at the time coincided with that of his more experienced soldiers: "If our company was the best Eighth Army could turn out, we were in deep trouble." However, a focused training regimen turned that company into "a combat-ready fighting machine."

On Nov. 25, 1950, during one of the toughest battles of the Korean War, Puckett's company seized and held the strategically important Hill 205 overlooking the Chongchon River.

Separated by more than a mile from the nearest friendly unit, 51 soldiers fought several hundred Chinese attackers. Their commander, then-Lt. Puckett, was wounded three times before he was evacuated. "That was when the war ended for me," he said.

For his actions, he received the country's second-highest award for courage on the battlefield – the Distinguished Service Cross – and resumed active duty later that year.

He went on to receive another DSC and a Silver Star for his service in Vietnam, making him one of a handful of soldiers to have received a DSC in two separate wars.

"I owe everything to my soldiers," Puckett said.

Perkins: Logistics and medical care are 'difficult problem set'

AUSA Staff

Sustainment and lifesaving medical care have emerged as hurdles to overcome in the Army's 21st-century Multi-Domain Battle concept for joint combined arms warfare.

Gen. David G. Perkins, the Army Training and Doctrine Command commanding general charged with fleshing out the details of Multi-Domain Battle concept, said there are several challenges when a battlefield has no traditional boundaries, with logistics and medical care emerging as a "difficult problem set."

Speaking at a Bernard W. Rogers Strategic Issues Forum sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare, Perkins said the traditional means of supplying fuel would be a challenge in a battle space where soldiers and units are highly dispersed, logistics bases are far off, and "uncontested windows of superiority" to make delivery are few.

This resupply challenge has been part of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, and would only become more difficult in a multi-domain battle where units and small operations platforms are even more dispersed, he said.

The problem with a commodity like fuel boils down to moving energy around the battlefield, which the Army solves with fuel convoys, Perkins said.



Gen. David Perkins, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command commanding general, discusses logistics and medical challenges at a Rogers Strategic Issues Forum sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

An alternative could be aerial delivery of fuel cells where a hybrid fuel cell combat vehicle could plug in, rather than fuel up with a flowing liquid.

"Maybe it's packaged differently and I consume it differently based on the way it's packaged; it's the ability to move it, not the consumption," Perkins said.

Trauma care is a "big concern" for the same reason, Perkins said, suggesting that a soldier with a sucking chest wound might be cared for by a medical robot controlled by a doctor thousands of miles away who is performing surgery virtually.

The event was held in AUSA's Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center in Arlington, Va.

ROCKS award presented to Ham



Retired Brig. Gen. Earl Simms, chairman of the ROCKS, Inc., national board, presents the Chairman's Award for Exceptional Service to retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO, for supporting the organization's mission to provide and promote mentorship, leader development, and diversity, coaching, scholarship, networking and professional development to maximize and leverage talent across the leadership spectrum.

AUSA News

Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier

Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret.
President

Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, USA, Ret.
Vice President, Education

Peter F. Murphy, Editor

Luc P. Dunn, Production Manager

Advertising Information and Rates Available
Desiree Hurlocker, Advertising Production Manager

Display Advertising

Jerry Foley
Sightline Media
Call: (703) 851-4885
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The Association of the United States Army's professional education program is designed to identify, discuss and influence the outcome of significant issues that affect the U.S. Army and national defense. AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare accomplishes this goal through the sponsorship of writing programs, for which quality manuscripts are needed.

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

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Operation Deploy Your Dress supports soldiers and families

AUSA Family Readiness

Patty Barron
Director
AUSA Family Readiness

During the weekend of April 29-30, the Association of the U. S. Army's General Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center was transformed into a high-end evening wear boutique.

Military and civilian donors, to include several from AUSA's Fairfax Lee and George Washington chapters, donated over 2,000 gowns, handbags and pieces of jewelry to Operation Deploy Your Dress's (ODYD) first ever pop-up event cohosted with AUSA.

Two hundred happy soldiers and family members visited AUSA and strolled away with the perfect party ensemble leaving Yvonne Coombs, co-founder of ODYD, and her volunteers, with happy hearts.

Coombs said, "I can say without a doubt this event that Operation Deploy Your Dress was able to put on for the amazing military families of the National Capital Region was only possible because of the generosity of AUSA and the cooperative planning between our two groups.

"We distributed over 200 free dresses in two days to help military families of all ranks. Everyone from the recipients to the organizers to the event day volunteers had smiles on their faces."

She added, "The space was perfect, the atmosphere was perfect and the selfless teamwork that the AUSA team displayed left us speechless. We look forward to helping many more military families and hope to work with AUSA again in the future."

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was the repurposing of the Good Morning America dress.

Ellen Zophy, a paramedic who grew up in an Army family, was surprised by her fire station colleagues when they nominated her and she was selected for a Good Morning America makeover.

Not only did the experience leave Zophy with fond memories, she also left GMA with a beautiful off the shoulder red ball gown which she occasionally wore for two years.

When hearing about the ODYD event, she knew that her special dress needed to find a new home.

"Getting a makeover from Good Morning America was very exciting but as an Army brat I was even more thrilled to repurpose my dress in such a meaningful way.

"AUSA and Operation Deploy Your Dress gave me the opportunity to pay it forward and support a group that I have always been proud to be a part of, the Army family."

ODYD volunteers kept a close eye on the GMA dress, not giving away its history but hoping one



Left: Sp. Sade Dantzler shows off the dress she received at the Operation Deploy Your Dress event, held at AUSA's General Gordon R. Sullivan Conference & Event Center in Arlington, Va.



Right: Sp. Dantzler with her husband, Sp. Richard Dantzler and children, Adrian and Amari.

lucky person would select it.

Enter Sp. Sade Dantzler, currently stationed with the HHC 12th Aviation Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Va.. She tried it on and knew immediately it was the dress for her.

A crowd of volunteers gathered around her and began to clap as they explained to the surprised soldier why this dress was so special.

"It fit so beautifully and I felt so special wearing it," said Dantzler, "but I had no idea why everyone was so excited. When I found out why I was excited too."

Adding, "It is wonderful that there is a program

like Operation Deploy Your Dress that supports soldiers and their families in such a way. It can be very stressful to go out and purchase a gown, accessories, shoes; it all adds up. I just want to say thank you to everyone."

"For AUSA it was exactly the type of event we wanted to be a part of", said retired Lt. Gen. Guy Swan, AUSA vice president for education.

He noted, "Our local chapters and the AUSA national headquarters staff thoroughly enjoyed being a part of such a great event.

"Any day that offers the chance to support soldiers and their families is a good day at AUSA."



Over 2,000 gowns, handbags and pieces of jewelry were donated to Operation Deploy Your Dress's first ever pop-up event cohosted with AUSA.

Association of the United States Army Institute of Land Warfare

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EXHIBITS

Lauren Hensley
lhensley@ausa.org

SPONSORSHIPS

Gaye Hudson
ghudson@ausa.org

\$1.07 trillion spending bill signed – Defense up \$19.9B over 2016

Capitol Focus

Julie Rudowski
Assistant Director
AUSA Government Affairs

With no time to spare before a partial government shutdown, Congress passed a \$1.07 trillion fiscal 2017 omnibus spending bill.

On May 5, seven months overdue, President Trump signed the measure into law.

The bill, which funds the government through the end of September, provides the Defense Department with \$593 billion, a \$19.9 billion increase over fiscal 2016 levels.

Another \$2.5 billion could be provided once the Trump Administration presents Congress with its strategy to defeat ISIS.

The agreement fully funds pay and benefits for 1,305,900 active component and 813,200 reserve component troops, a total end strength increase of 36,000 military personnel over the budget request.



The measure also pays for a 2.1 percent pay raise as well as \$48.2 billion for Army operations and maintenance.

The Defense Health Program will receive \$34 billion.

This amount includes an additional \$1.4 billion for defense medical research efforts, a 6.9 percent increase over last year's bill, including \$300 million for the competitively awarded peer-reviewed medical research program and \$265 million for the Department of Defense to advance its own medical research priorities.

In response to a recommendation made by the National Commission on the Future of the Army, the spending bill funds an 11th Combat Aviation Brigade in South Korea.

Hardware

The spending bill includes funds for:

- 52 remanufactured AH-64 Apache helicopters (\$774 million), \$262 million for seven new Apaches, and \$72 million to support advanced procurement needs for an additional 10 aircraft.

- 28 new Lakota helicopters to support ongoing mission requirements at the Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, the Combat Training Centers, and the Army Test and Evaluation Center.

- 15 Black Hawks for the National Guard and five for the Regular Army for an additional \$340 million.

- Javelin anti-tank missiles. The spending bill provides \$31 million in more funding for the weapon as well as \$73.2 million in the supplemental budget.

- M1 Abrams Tank modifications (\$16.3 million).

- Stinger modifications (\$6.6 million) and \$2.4 million in Avenger modifications.

Our two cents

Despite Congress' self-congratulations over

passage of the bipartisan measure, the fact remains that it was seven months late. Instead of concentrating on fiscal 2017 spending bills, Congress should have been focused on fiscal 2018 appropriations.

In a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley told lawmakers that the "failure to pass the budget, in my view as an American citizen and the chief of staff of the United States Army, constitutes professional malpractice."

Milley's words echoed AUSA President and CEO, Gen. Carter Ham, USA, Ret., who wrote in a recent Washington Times Op-Ed: "The single most effective measure to enhance military readiness" would be for Congress and the Administration to "restore adequate, stable, predictable levels of funding for the Army and all of the military services."

Ham also said: "Leadership is needed to provide budgetary stability by stopping the unfortunate and disruptive practice of beginning each new fiscal year under emergency funding. Temporary funding provided through a continuing resolution precludes the start of new projects, wreaks havoc with responsible budget execution and sows uncertainty in the ranks."

With only five months until the new fiscal year starts, Congress has no consensus on overall spending levels, no budget resolution written, no complete White House budget request submitted, no spending bills drafted and a month-long August recess.

This likely means that the new fiscal year will once again start under a stop-gap spending measure.

One senior appropriator recently told a reporter, "We've got plenty of time."

We wish we shared his optimism.

Retired, annuitant pay address changes

Attention all retirees and annuitants. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017.

The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis.

The new addresses are:

Retired Pay

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

The old P.O. Boxes in London, Ken., will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year.

However, sending mail to the old address will add three to five days to the normal processing time.

The telephone and fax numbers are not changing.

Please copy and paste the following web address into your web browser for additional contact information:

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>



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1st Armored Division soldiers named Army's Best Scouts

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.

The 3rd Biannual Gainey Cup Competition began May 1 at Fort Benning, Ga., with 24 six-man scout squads competing to be the best of the best.

The grueling three-day competition is designed to fully test and identify the best scout squads from our Army and international competitors.

Winning this year's competition was the 1st Armored Division's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment (Blackhawks).



Second place in the competition was the 3rd Infantry Division's 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and third place honors went to the 35th Infantry Division's 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment.

The breakdown of the 24 teams competing in the competition consisted of 17 teams from the Regular Army, three teams from the Army National Guard, and four international teams from the Netherlands, Great Britain and two teams from Canada.



Team 5 from 1st Armored Division's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment (Blackhawks,) are presented a plaque and trophy for earning first place in the 2017 Gainey Cup competition. (Photo by Patrick Albright)

The Gainey Cup competition is held the first week in May every two years.

This year's competition physically and mentally challenged all the competing squads by testing their knowledge, tactical competence, and fortitude in the fundamentals of reconnaissance and security operations.

By design, the Gainey Cup competition brings reconnaissance teams together from across the Army and select international partners to showcase the mastery of their profession while building ca-

maraderie and esprit de corps among teams and nations.

The roots of cavalry and reconnaissance operations dates back to December 1776, when the Continental Congress authorized the 1st Regiment Light Dragoons for George Washington's Continental Army.

Today, these scout teams perform reconnaissance and security missions operating close to enemy positions to gain battlefield intelligence for the commander.

This modern day competition is named after retired Command Sgt. Maj. William "Joe" Gainey who served 33 years in the Army as a cavalry scout.

Gainey served as the first senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, retiring from the Army in 2008.

The first Gainey Cup competition was held in 2013, with the second in 2015.

The Gainey Cup competition challenges the competing teams in the performance of their many battlefield tasks. The most critical tasks included call for fire, land navigation, route recon, communications, area recon and observation post operations.

The team from the 1st Armored Division performed consistently well in all of these "bread and butter" tasks.

In a competition of this caliber, you cannot fail in the performance of key and essential tasks.

Additionally, there were dozens of warrior skills, range firing tasks and physical challenges to further separate the best from the rest.

Weather throughout the competition was a factor

see next page



The Maneuver Center hosts a Scouts-in-Action live-fire demonstration at Red Cloud Range to kick off the 2017 Gainey Cup. The live-fire demonstrates the vehicle platforms and lethal capabilities that scout squads bring to the battlefield. (Photo by Markeith Horace)

Gainey Cup from preceding page

with two days of heavy rain and a tornado warning. Thus a challenging course became even more interesting and fun.

Fortunately, the tornado warning occurred on Monday and it did not slow down the competition, according to the head of the Army's reconnaissance and armor training.

"It didn't affect the event at all, other than the participants at some point had to take cover under a hard structure," said Col. Thomas Feltey, commander of the 316th Cavalry Brigade.

All the team members focused on motivating each individual in their respective squads throughout the competition.

Some of the most challenging tasks included a "call for fire" where competitors struggled with target location errors, failing to consider the G-M angle and proper map reading.

Some of the competing teams struggled on the area reconnaissance lane due to a lack of attention to detail, failure to follow provided guidance, and failure to use doctrinal report formats that were provided to each team.

The recon run challenged competing squads to collect and remember critical route information over a 3.5-mile course while the run provided a tough physical challenge.

Those teams who had the opportunity to train on an obstacle type course prior to the competition were evident during the negotiation of the obstacle course on the Army National Guard's Camp Butler.

Obstacles like the "tough one," "inverted wall," "skyscraper," and the "weaver" were significantly challenging for some teams.

The stress shoot lane was one of the spectator-friendly events that enabled visitors to get close enough to the competitors to feel their pain and determination.

Getting to the stress shoot firing line was part of



Command Sgt. Maj. William "Joe" Gainey, for whom the competition is named, speaks at the Gainey Cup awards ceremony. (Photo by Patrick Albright)

the challenge of this event where each squad was evaluated as individuals.

Wearing body armor and carrying their weapon, getting over an inverted wall, crossing an area obstacle on a rope and climbing a rope into a second story building to engage targets physically challenged each individual in the squad.

The collective performance of the individuals was used to determine an overall squad score for this stress shoot event.

For some of the competitors, vehicle identification as part of reporting reconnaissance information was a significant challenge.

In addition to the vehicle identification challenges, the written exam on scout and reconnaissance skills was tough and thoroughly challenged all of the teams.

Out of the 24 teams in the competition, only one

is first and is honored with the title "Best Scouts in the Army."

"All of the participants are the winners of the individual unit competitions back home," Feltey said, "and the ultimate 'Best Scouts' will return home with bragging rights and a great case for promotion."

All of the teams performed very well in the competition, clearly representing their units with their organizational patches proudly worn on their sleeve, and the occasional shout of a unit motto when looking to motivate the squad or the audience.

Talking with the winning team on their preparation strategy for the competition, the scouts reported they spent approximately the last two months preparing for the competition.

All the soldiers in the squad were from the same troop in the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, which they reported was one of their strengths for working together for a long period of time.

Lt. Gen. Sean B. McFarland, deputy commanding general and chief of staff for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, presented the awards to the top three winning squads.

In addition to recognizing the top three teams, the 1st Armored Division Team members were knighted and presented the Order of Saint George by Maj. Gen. (Retired) Terry L. Tucker, 38th president of the United States Cavalry and Armor Association.

One of the greatest benefits of this competition: the soldiers competing learned what it takes to attain excellence in their profession.

With all of the personal dedication and commitment in preparing for this competition and having the opportunity to compete against other teams of their caliber, provided a rare training opportunity for these young and future leaders.

The knowledge and wisdom these soldiers take back to their units will make our Army better for the next generation to follow.

These professional development opportunities are occurring every day all around the Army and across the nation.

If any of the discussions in this article, in this publication or in social media on our webpage, then you need to be part of the team and a member of the Army's professional association.

There is no substitute for the knowledge and wisdom gained through experience and when you are a young up-and-coming Army professional, associating with other members of your profession with varied experiences creates a unique opportunity to learn through the eyes of others.

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!



On the third day of the Gainey Cup, scout squads compete in the Final Charge – a 2.78 mile run followed by seven tasks executed on Brave Rifles Field. (Photo by Markeith Horace)

Fort Bragg Team 20 wins 11th Best Sapper Competition

Dawn M. Arden
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., 1st Lt. Luke Groom and Staff Sgt. Carlos Jimenez, Team 20, emerged victorious in Fort Leonard Wood's grueling 11th Best Sapper Competition.

Groom and Jimenez, assigned to the 307th Brigade Engineer Battalion, defeated 47 other two-man teams and trudged through severe weather during the three-day competition to earn the title 2017 Best Sapper.

Both soldiers agreed that the weather and miles traveled were tough, but not knowing what was coming next made it even harder.

"Not knowing what was coming next, you don't know how to allocate your energy," Groom said.

Adding, "We just decided, we're going to do the best we can for as long as we can."

The teammates stressed that the amount of support they received played a big part in their success.

"I'm very thankful for the support that we received from our families and especially from our unit [that] months before the competition gave us enough time and resources to train and get ready for it," Groom said.

He also noted, "During the competition, too. We had an overwhelming amount of support here and we really appreciate that."

The Best Sapper competition took 48 teams across more than 50 miles in 50 hours, from April 25 to 27.

Placing second and third, respectively, were Team 30, Capt. John Baer and 2nd Lt. Hunter Firebaugh, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile), Fort Campbell, Ky., and Team 28, Capt. Mike Ecklund and Sgt. Arich Erdeski, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley, Kan.



First Lt. Luke Groom and Staff Sgt. Carlos Jimenez, are the Army's Best Sappers after finishing in first place in a 48-team field during the grueling competition that crossed over 50 miles in 50 hours at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. 'We just decided, we're going to do the best we can for as long as we can,' Groom said. (Photos by Michael Curtis)



AUSA announces expanded relationship with USAWOA

Christine Lathrop
Deputy Director
Membership

As part of the Association of the U. S. Army's commitment to support Army warrant officers, AUSA is announcing an expanded relationship with the United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA).

To recognize this partnership, warrant officers who are AUSA members will receive a complimentary one-year membership in USAWOA beginning June 1.

This new program will provide AUSA's warrant officer members with a digital subscription to the USAWOA Newsliner and access to educational resources and scholarships specifically addressing warrant officer needs.



Those AUSA members who take advantage of this opportunity will find it beneficial to their professional development.

USAWOA has signed a corresponding agreement with AUSA that will provide a digital AUSA

membership to its nearly 7,000 members.

Those who are already a member of both professional organizations will continue to receive their full benefits.

Over the past five years, AUSA and USAWOA have collaborated on several occasions and events.

For example, AUSA has hosted a reception in honor of the warrant officer birthday and the leadership of both organizations have shown their support by participating in these mutually beneficial events.

This month is the right time for warrant officers to join AUSA and take advantage of this special offer by May 31.

AUSA is dedicated to supporting warrant officers' professional development and we are always looking for other ways to support you.

If you have other suggestions, let us know at comments@ausa.org.

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ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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Army and defense industry need more consistent funding

Luc Dunn
AUSA News

(Editor's note: The AUSA Hot Topic forum on Army contracts was held April 26. On May 4, seven months overdue, Congress finally passed a \$1.07 trillion fiscal 2017 omnibus spending bill. The president signed the measure into law on May 5. See related story, Page 8.)

The inability of Congress to pass an appropriations budget, instead keeping the government running on a continuing resolution (CR), hurts both the Army and the defense industry, experts said at the Association of the U.S. Army's Hot Topic forum on Army contracts.

The U.S. military is dealing with one of the longest CR periods in history, said Lt. Gen. Karen Dyson, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army, financial management and comptroller.

"This is the eighth consecutive year we're operated under a CR," and the unpredictable and uncertain fiscal environment is limiting the Army's ability to build readiness, she said.

Operating under a CR makes it "very challenging to plan" both for the current year and future years, Dyson said. Additionally, the Budget Control Act of 2011 created the threat of sequestration, which could force indiscriminate spending cuts across the Army.

When President Trump came into office, he issued a memorandum asking the Department of Defense to "assess readiness conditions" and provide a report, Dyson said.

That report became a request for additional appropriations, designed to do two things: improve warfighting readiness immediately, and start setting conditions for long-term rebuilding of readiness ca-



Lt. Gen. Karen Dyson speaks at AUSA's Hot Topic forum on Army contracts. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

capability. In the near term, this will mean spending a lot of operation and maintenance dollars in the areas of depot maintenance, training facilities, and weapons systems sustainment, Dyson said.

Kim Denver, senior vice president and chief corporate contracts executive for Leidos, said the defense industry looks at budget predictability in terms of resource management.

"It's about how we are postured to support [the Army]," Denver said. "The more advance notice we have, the more communication is facilitated" which means the Army's needs are met faster and with less expense.

Companies in the defense industry want budget

certainty because they are accountable to investors and Wall Street, said retired Brig. Gen. Jamey Moran, vice president, Army systems, The Boeing Company.

"They want to see predictability in revenue and profits, and if the government's not stable, they'll take their money elsewhere," he said.

He added, "And why should the government care about that? Because [the military] wants a healthy defense industry."

Boeing, for example, has had to cut more than 30,000 employees in the last eight years, and there is competition for labor in the science and engineering arenas, he said. "If we don't have good programs and predictable funding, we'll have difficulty attracting young smart people to come to our industry – and that hurts the Army too."

Louisa Jaffe, president and CEO of Technical and Project Engineering (TAPE), LLC, reiterated the importance of two-way communication between the Army and the defense industry.

"I think the contracting side has an opportunity to really help, but we have to know what exactly it is the Army wants," she said.

The Army is trying to reduce the burden of doing business with the government, said Brig Gen. Michael Hoskin, acting deputy assistant secretary of the Army (procurement) and assistant secretary of the Army (acquisition, logistics and technology).

For example, he said, there are 341 clauses and conditions in a SAT (simplified acquisition threshold) contract. "When you have 341 clauses, what does simplified mean?" he asked.

The Army needs to streamline across the board by moving closer to industry standards, Hoskin said, adding "Wish us luck."

Planning to travel? – Check your AUSA member benefits

Susan Rubel
Director
AUSA Affinity Programs

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We're adding new AUSA benefit programs regularly, so visit www.ausea.org/benefits often.

3 AUSA chapter members ‘have made a difference’

Chapter Highlight Fort Rucker-Wiregrass

Cassie Gibbs
The Southeast Sun

Three members of the Association of the U.S. Army’s Fort Rucker-Wiregrass Chapter were recognized during a luncheon for their efforts to further membership numbers and their support to the association.

“Every year, the [AUSA] Third Region gives out awards at the region meeting, and all the chapters have a chance to nominate people for an award,” Fort Rucker-Wiregrass AUSA Chapter President Jim Muskopf said.

Adding, “I take that quite seriously, as I have my whole life, that awards have to mean something and that awards have to be for something that you have done.

“The folks [who I name] literally have done something, have made a difference in the Fort Rucker-Wiregrass Chapter.”

Stephanie Blankenship, who helped with individual membership recruitment, received the Significant Achievement Award.

“The lady standing up here next to me, over the course of the last year –particularly over the last



Three members of AUSA’s Fort Rucker-Wiregrass chapter receive awards. From left, Mark Jones, vice president of membership; Jim Muskopf, chapter president; Sam MacMaster, chapter treasurer; and AUSA member Stephanie Blankenship. (Photo by Cassie Gibbs)

several months – has done very well, and personally signed individual members, bringing [in] membership applications signed with payment.” Muskopf said.

Mark Jones, vice president of membership, received the Outstanding Achievement Award.

“He has taken his job and his responsibilities seriously, and he has gone after every opportunity that we can have to interact with the communities, to interact with Fort Rucker on individual, on corporate, and life memberships – just about any platform or basis you can have to increase membership,” Mus-

kopf said.

Sam MacMaster, treasurer for the chapter, received the Award of Excellence.

“We have to keep the books straight, and we have a gentleman, our treasurer Sam MacMaster, who has done absolutely fabulously,” Muskopf said.

After presenting awards, Muskopf recognized military members and their families who attended the event.

(Editor’s note: This article was re-printed with permission from The Southeast Sun, Enterprise, Ala.)

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: 57

- 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**

RETIREE ISSUES

House Action

H.R. 303 (Retired Pay Restoration Act)
Cosponsors: 58

- 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: 33

- 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**

Community honors Audie Murphy, soldiers and veterans

Chapter Highlight North Texas-Audie Murphy

Ryan Scott
Herald-Banner Staff

The life and times of America's most decorated war hero as well as all veterans and active-duty soldiers were celebrated during Audie Murphy Day.

The Fletcher Warren Civic Center saw plenty of action as it hosted a special program featuring a presentation of the colors by the Hunt County Veterans Honor Guard and a program that featured many speakers reflecting on the life of Audie Murphy.

Col. Richard Kaniss, Ret., president of the North Texas-Audie Murphy Chapter of the Association of the United States Army based in Dallas was the first guest to speak.

Kaniss spoke at length about what his AUSA chapter does and about the chapter's namesake.

Brett Halsey, an accomplished Hollywood actor who has starred in more than 100 films, spoke about his time sharing the screen with Murphy in the film "To Hell and Back," among others.

"Audie was someone you could always depend on," Halsey said. "Just like when he was in the Army, he always took care of his men."

Music journalist Coy Prather spoke about Murphy's songwriting career, just another one of Murphy's many talents and accolades.

Some of Murphy's songs went on to be performed by stars such as Dean Martin and Charley Pride.

Also in the civic center was a display featuring vintage movie posters featuring Murphy, as well as some of his original musical compositions.

The Audie Murphy American Cotton Museum featured not only a screening of "To Hell and Back" and a question and answer session with Halsey, but a little taste of World War II was on the lawn near

the museum as Able Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, created a World War II living history encampment complete with 1940's Army Jeeps, barracks and a mess hall.

The evening ended with a candlelight remembrance at the cotton museum for all soldiers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

(Editor's note: This article was reprinted with permission from the Greenville Herald-Banner.)



Soups up! A World War II Living History Encampment was set up near the cotton museum by Able Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Parachute Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, for the Audie Murphy Day festivities. (Photo by Ryan Scott)

Science, technology aid in collection of actionable intelligence

AUSA Institute of Land Warfare

The Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare (ILW) recently released Spotlight 17-1, "Army Intelligence: Focus Areas for Science and Technology," that describes

the directional and provisional blueprint for the future of Army intelligence.

This Spotlight explains how the Army will adapt in the near-term (up to 2025), evolve soldiers, systems and organizations into improved warfighting capabilities in the mid-term (2026-2035) and

innovate dominating capabilities for the far-term (2035-2050).

Advancements in technology are fundamentally changing the way militaries collect and transform information into actionable intelligence.

Adapting to this rapid pace of change is critical to ensuring that the Army does not find itself outmaneuvered by its adversaries.

Immediate action is required.

This report describes critical modernization efforts to close gaps in Army Warfighting Challenge #1 that states: "Develop Situational Understanding: How to develop and sustain a high degree of situational understanding while operating in complex environments against determined, adaptive enemy organizations."

In order to succeed in this endeavor the Army should partner its efforts with stakeholders throughout the intelligence enterprise.

These include the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental, industry, academia, and national labs, to understand and adapt the existing forces to emerging threats.

Download the full paper here.



A U.S. Army Military Intelligence soldier demonstrates how to calibrate a direction finding antenna for Afghan soldiers. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class E. L. Craig)

National Guard moves to improve Total Army readiness

AUSA Staff

Efforts are underway in the Army National Guard to improve Total Army combat readiness, the National Guard Bureau's vice chief said at a breakfast sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

One idea is to try to increase authorized manning levels of Army Guard units to compensate for the fact that some people are assigned to jobs for which they are not yet trained, Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson said.

Guard policies assign every new soldier to a specific position in a unit as soon as they are recruited, which means there are almost always new soldiers who have not been trained for the position although the units appear fully manned, he said.

Increasing manning levels so units could be at more than 100 percent of their authorized strength would allow for better trained and ready forces, Hokanson said.

Additionally, Army National Guard units are training to cut mobilization time so they can prepare faster when called, and are looking to see what Regular Army missions could be backfilled by Guard units to reduce the burden on active forces.

Hokanson came to the National Guard Bureau in November after an assignment as the U.S. Northern Command's deputy commander.



Lt. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, vice chief of the National Guard Bureau, said at the Institute of Land Warfare breakfast that in fiscal 2016, the National Guard was called up for a combined 197 domestic operations, and the pace is even higher in fiscal 2017. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

He previously served as the Oregon National Guard's adjutant general.

The National Guard has a wide set of missions, with 448,000 personnel at almost 2,700 installations, he said.

That includes 342,000 Army National Guard soldiers, who make up 39 percent of the Army's operational forces.

In fiscal 2016, the National Guard was called up for a combined 197 domestic operations, he said, and the pace is even higher in fiscal 2017.

There have been 142 domestic operations so far in the fiscal year, he said.

The breakfast was held in AUSA's General Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center in Arlington, Va.

Arlington National Cemetery will reach capacity in 30 years

AUSA Staff

Arlington National Cemetery will reach its burial capacity in about 30 years unless the Army makes some tough choices now.

A report to Congress about the cemetery's capacity offers a dire prediction that veterans of cur-

rent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and the fight against terrorism, and those killed in action and recipients of the Medal of Honor, may not be buried there "within approximately three decades due to the lack of space."

Options to avoid reaching capacity include redefining eligibility criteria, expansion beyond the

cemetery's current physical boundaries, and alternative approaches such as new burial techniques or increased use of above-ground interment.

The eligibility criteria for burial has changed at least 14 times in the past 15 decades, but there hasn't been a significant change in policy since 1980, states the report.

The report is careful to point out that any such change would require a "thoughtful approach" to make sure veterans who could be affected are made aware of the challenges facing the cemetery in the near future and informed of options available at other veterans' cemeteries around the country.

The recent 27-acre expansion at the Virginia cemetery – the first since 1976 – will grow capacity by more than 27,000 spaces, but there is only one additional planned expansion.

Assuming that project moves forward, the first burial wouldn't take place until 2023, the report says.

In more than 150 years, 400,000 people have been buried in the cemetery from every major American conflict.

Currently, the cemetery conducts up to 40 burials a week.

The Department of the Army controls the 624-acre cemetery that was established during the Civil War.



Arlington National Cemetery. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley)

Museum site preparation: Transforming the landscape

Army Historical Foundation

Within a month after the Army Historical Foundation's (AHF) mid-September 2016 National Museum of the United States Army's groundbreaking ceremony, the Army Corps of Engineers began site preparation for the 84-acre museum campus.

The landscape was quickly transformed.

Activities ranged from tree-clearing and stump removal to installation of erosion and sediment control measures to allow leveling of the future roadways, and placement of permanent storm water structures and pipes for management of rainwater runoff from the museum.

Water pipes from American Water, electrical service from Dominion Virginia Power, and a natural gas line from Washington Gas are being installed to provide utility services to the museum.

The main entrance to the museum site was cut in to allow construction equipment direct access from the Fairfax County Parkway.

In early March, AHF President Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, USA, Ret., gave Clark Construction Group, LLC, instructions to proceed with construction.

Footings for the building were excavated, and the concrete foundation for the basement was poured during the month of April.

Coordination for the integration of the museum's macro exhibits into the construction schedule is



The Army Museum's Global War Gallery will cover World War II, exploring the Army's full involvement in the War highlighting technologies and tactics that led to an Allied victory, the story of the Army in Europe, North Africa, the Pacific, and the Manhattan Project.

underway because these large artifacts – a World War I French tank, a World War II Sherman tank, a Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel, and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle – will need to be brought into the museum's footprint before the structural steel and walls can be erected.

In addition, a 20-foot high mock-up of the museum's exterior has been erected on site to evaluate quality control and validate the means and methods

that will be used to construct the museum's exterior stainless steel panels and glazing.

"These are all tangible signs of real progress, especially when you see sections of the facility springing up above the ground," AHF Chairman Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., said.

Adding, "No question about it – vertical construction is proof positive that the National Army Museum is going to be built."



AUSA's Family Readiness director speaks to volunteers

Francis Chung
Staff Photojournalist
Pentagram

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander Patrick M. Duggan and Command Sgt. Maj. Carolyn Y. Donaldson honored members of the JBM-HH community who donated their time and service over the past year during the Installation Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at Spates Community Club.

"We truly are grateful for everything that you ladies and gentlemen do," Duggan told the volunteers who collectively contributed 78,000 hours of labor.

He added, "We recognize how invaluable your time and your expertise is to not only the local community, but the entire nation."

In her keynote address, Patricia Barron, the Association of the U.S. Army's director of family readiness, said that the military volunteers she has met over her decades of service share several traits in common.

"We have passion, we have a need for balance and we also have pride," she said.

She advised volunteers to balance their enthusiasm for serving others with the need to care for themselves and their families. Above all, she urged volunteers to be proud of the invaluable contributions they make to the military community.

Twenty-four volunteers were honored during the ceremony including Rigo Santiago who was awarded a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for 25 years of service.

Judy Jagielski and Alba Thompson received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service for 20 years of volunteering.

Jerrel Catlett and Army Master Sgt. David Parthemore were given the Military District of Washington Helping Hand Award for outstanding service in two or more volunteer organizations.



Patricia Barron, AUSA's director of family readiness, told the audience of volunteer honorees: 'We have passion, we have a need for balance and we also have pride.' (Photo by Francis Chung)

Army Spc. Shawn Kula, Lorraine Thompson, Larry Steele and retired Navy Capt. Gerrish Flynn were recognized as Volunteers of the Year.

Other individuals acknowledged during the ceremony include: Frank Bernardo, Helen Bernardo, Alice Butler-Short, David Denniston, Jan Ebeling, Caryl Finnerty, Elaine Freeman, Evelyn Majauskas, retired Army Chief Warrant Officer Bettye Mayes, Michelle Morgan, Mary Nicholson, Carol Offield, Lorraine Thompson, Miriam Towey and Carroll Towey.

In addition, recognition was also given to volunteer organizations including: the American Red Cross, Arlington County Chapter at Andrew Rader

U.S. Army Health Clinic; the Program for Employment Preparedness; the Army Officers' Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area; the Fort Myer Thrift Shop; the Armed Forces Hostess Association; and the Army Arlington Ladies.

Also honored were: Army Community Service; Fort Myer Chapel Congregations; Fort Myer Fitness Center; Fort Myer Legal Assistance Tax Center; JBM-HH Retiree Council; the Army Ten-Miler; the United Service Organization; 1st Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Family Readiness Groups; and 4th Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Family Readiness Groups.

Trustees appoint 5, re-appoint 15 members to Advisory Board

AUSA Staff

The AUSA Council of Trustees appointed five new members and re-appointed 15 current members to serve three-year terms on the Association's Advisory Board of Directors beginning July 1.

The newly appointed members are: John L. Baily, GA Omar N. Bradley Chapter; Master Sgt. Marissa McCray, USA, Ret., GA Omar N. Bradley Chapter; Col. Charles G. "Gregg" Stevens, USA, Ret., Alamo Chapter; Col. John T. Wright, USA, Ret., Redstone-Huntsville Chapter; and Col. Michelle Yarborough, USA, Ret., Fairfax Lee Chapter.

Re-appointed to the advisory board were: David R. Barber, George Washington Chapter; Col. Duane H. Bartrem, USA, Ret., Arsenal of Democracy



Chapter; Maj. Gen. William L. Bond, USA, Ret., Fairfax Lee Chapter; Lt. Gen. Charles Dominy, USA, Ret., George Washington Chapter; Col. Dennis J. Dougherty, USA, Ret., Northern New Jersey Chapter; and Lt. Col. Paul H. Elliot, USA, Ret., Redstone-Huntsville Chapter.

Maj. Gen. Jerry C. Harrison, USA, Ret., Fairfax Lee Chapter; Ronald W. Johnson, Fairfax Lee Chapter; Karen R. Lowe, George Washington Chapter; Col. Ian T. Patterson, USA, Ret., George Washington Chapter; Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, USA, Ret., George Washington Chapter; Diane Randon, Fairfax Lee Chapter; Command Sgt. Maj. Robert W. Van Pelt, USA, Ret., Capital District of New York Chapter; Wesley Walters, Fairfax Lee Chapter; and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Phyllis J. Wilson, George Washington Chapter.

Advisory board members serve on one of the Association's standing committees to include: Army civilians; awards; chapter operations; finance and audit; NCO and soldier programs; reserve components; retiree and veteran affairs; and standing by-laws.



2017 AUSA

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Phebe Novakovic appointed AUSA council chairman

AUSA Staff

The Council of Trustees of the Association of the U.S. Army announced at its April 24 meeting that Phebe N. Novakovic, General Dynamics Corporation chairman and CEO, has been appointed as council chairman of the Arlington, Va.-based nonprofit association.

Novakovic succeeds Nicholas D. Chabraja, a former General Dynamics CEO, who has served as council chairman since 1999.

"I think we are very fortunate to have a person of Phebe's caliber to head this organization," said Thomas W. Rabaut, the council's deputy chairman.

Novakovic joined the AUSA Council of Trustees in 2015.

She has been at the helm of General Dynamics since January 2013.

She joined the company in 2001 and has served in several leadership positions including planning and development and the company's Marine Systems group.

Previously, Novakovic served at the Department of Defense as special assistant to the secretary and deputy secretary of defense.

She has served on the board of directors at Abbott Laboratories since 2010.

She also serves on the boards of trustees of Northwestern University and Ford's Theatre, and on the boards of directors of several charitable



Phebe Novakovic, General Dynamics Corporation chairman and CEO and AUSA council chairman, stands with Nicholas Chabraja, left, immediate past chairman, and retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. Previously, Novakovic served at the Department of Defense as special assistant to the secretary and deputy secretary of defense.

organizations, including the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation and the National Military Family Association.

Novakovic graduated from Smith College and

received an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

She is a former intelligence officer at the Central Intelligence Agency.



2017 AUSA

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A Professional Development Forum

9-11 October 2017 | Walter E. Washington Convention Center | Washington, D.C.

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Perna to ROTC cadets: Competence, commitment, character

Chapter Highlight Redstone-Huntsville

The Army's senior logistician urged nearly 200 Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) senior and junior cadets to be competent, committed and of high character.

Gen. Gus Perna, Army Materiel Command's commander, closed out the 2017 Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare Global Force Symposium and Exposition in Huntsville, Ala., by sharing words of wisdom at a special ROTC luncheon with cadets from more than 10 local high schools and two universities.

The luncheon was sponsored and hosted by AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville Chapter.

Perna called his journey to ROTC "divine intervention or maybe pure luck."

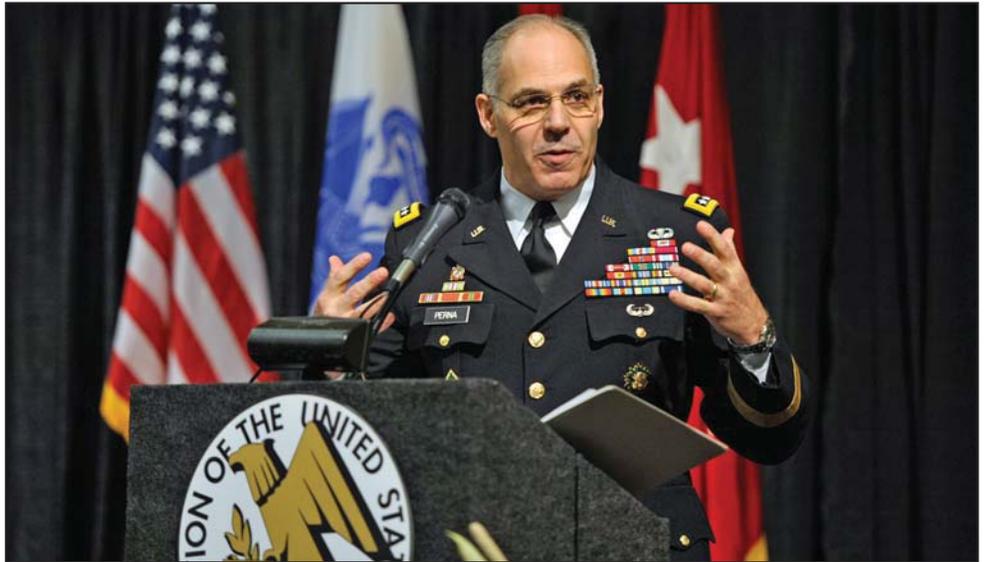
After an unsuccessful semester at one school, and realizing he would not play professional football, he ran into a friend enrolled at Valley Forge.

"I took the test and I got in," said Perna. "And it changed my life."

Today, as a four-star general, Perna leads an organization with a presence or impact in all 50 states and 144 countries and nearly 120,000 soldiers, civilians and contractors supporting the warfighter around the world.

Perna reminded the young cadets of the numerous career paths ahead of them.

"You don't have to join the military full time," said Perna.



Gen. Gus Perna, Army Materiel Command's commander, speaks to ROTC cadets at a luncheon hosted by AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

Adding, "You could grow up to be a Supreme Court judge; you could grow up to own Walmart or you could grow up to be a four-star general."

Justice Sam Alito and Sam Walton are both products of ROTC programs.

"Your destiny is in front of you," said Perna. "What ROTC does whether you are a junior or a senior is to provide you opportunity."

Perna left the students with three important traits he visualizes as a triangle that must be equal at all times to be successful professionally. Those traits are: competence, commitment and character.

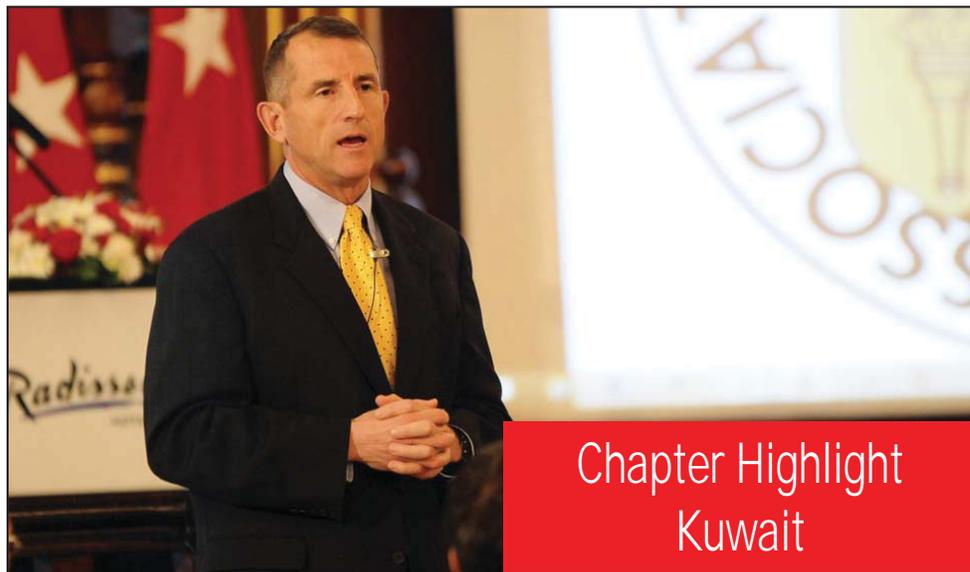
"At no time can you sacrifice one for the other. You must always be competent; you must always be committed; and you must always be of high character," said Perna.

He added, "If you are going to be in our Army or a senior leader in our community, these three things are unyielding to one another. At all times your character must be beyond reproach.

"We are responsible for training soldiers and sending them to combat."

(Editor's note: This story is based on an article by Cherish Gilmore, Army Materiel Command)

Hickman speaks at Kuwait Chapter banquet



Chapter Highlight Kuwait

Maj. Gen. William Hickman, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Central, speaks to U.S. armed forces service members and civilians during the Association of the United States Army's 11th Annual Troops and Sponsors Appreciation Banquet in Kuwait City, Kuwait. (Photo by Sgt. Kimberly Browne, ARCENT Public Affairs)

AUSA Council of Trustees re-elects 3 members

AUSA Staff

The Association of the U.S. Army's Council of Trustees re-elected three current members to serve on the Association's council – AUSA's governing body.

The council met April 24 at the Association's national headquarters in Arlington, Va.

Elected to serve as trustees for additional three-year terms were Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, USA, Ret.; Lt. Gen. Larry R. Jordan, USA, Ret.; and Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, USA, Ret.

In addition, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley, USA, Ret., vice chairman for noncommissioned officer and soldier programs; Lt. Gen. David H. Ohle, USA, Ret., vice chairman for retiree and veteran affairs; and Philip E. Sakowitz, vice chairman for civilian affairs, were elected to serve as vice chairmen for additional two-year terms.

Simpson tells industry: Army contracting is a ‘team sport’

AUSA Staff

The Army’s top contracting official is concentrating on two goals: getting new weapons and equipment more quickly into the hands of soldiers, and having a more open and transparent contracting process.

The two goals are linked, said Maj. Gen. James E. Simpson, Army Contracting Command commanding general, because improving the contracting process is a key part of faster delivery to the field

Speaking at a Hot Topic forum on contracting sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army’s Institute of Land Warfare, Simpson said poorly written requirements, incomplete feedback on losing contracts and a lack of accountability are areas for improvement when it comes to the process of getting material to soldiers all over the world.

“It starts with a requirement,” he said.

Adding, “Poorly written, incomplete or late requirements directly affect our ability to execute a contract in a timely manner.”

Simpson stressed the need to get ahead of the problem by anticipating needs, standardizing requirements packages and providing training to customers on how to better develop their submissions to avoid the “ping-pong back and forth” that can cause delays, misunderstandings and blame.



Maj. Gen. James Simpson said at the Hot Topic forum on Army contracts, ‘All of us have to be accountable to getting the right product to our warfighter.’ (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

The number of protests by losing bidders is on the rise, he said, which could be remedied with better communication and transparency on the part of Contracting Command and the contracting personnel who debrief the bidders.

“My organization owes it to you to give constructive feedback so when you bid on the next contract that you understand exactly what you did wrong with the last one so we can make it better,” Simpson said to an audience that included defense contractors.

“We can’t be pointing fingers. All of us have to be accountable to getting the right product to our warfighter,” Simpson said.

He noted, “It’s important that we be as transparent and accountable as possible so that we can translate requirements into contractual actions.”

He encouraged more help from industry, describing the contracting process as a “team sport,” and acknowledged the challenge of uncertain funding.

The next AUSA Hot Topic forum, focused on Army Sustainment, will be held on June 29.

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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.	209	Delaware	16
Tobyhanna Army Depot	201	MG Robert B. McCoy	16
Major Samuel Woodfill	190	Texas Capital Area	16
Arsenal of Democracy	170	Carlisle Barracks – Cumberland Valley	12
Rock Island Arsenal	169	St. Louis Gateway	12
Rhode Island	164	Korea	11
North Texas – Audie Murphy	163	Fairfax Lee	8
Redstone – Huntsville	163	Last Frontier	8
Arizona Territorial	117	Greater Atlanta	7
Tucson – Goyette	110	Newton D. Baker	7
Capital District of New York	106	Greater Augusta – Fort Gordon	4
Maj. Gen. Harry Greene, Aberdeen	106	SGM Jon R. Cavaiani	3
Gen. William C. Westmoreland	106	Indiana	3
First Militia	102	MG William F. Dean	3
Central Ohio	92	San Francisco	3
Kuwait	87		
Northern New Jersey	59		
Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson	39		
Houston Metroplex	39		
George Washington	19		
Monmouth	19		
Stuttgart	17		

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 April 30, 2017

Chapter	Increase
George Washington	22
Northern New Jersey	15
Chattahoochee Valley – Fort Benning	15
Fairfax Lee	13
Monmouth	13



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- **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)
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- **LWP 106 – American Landpower and the Two-war Construct** by Richard D. Hooker, Jr. (May 2015)

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- **Lead Story: NCO Writing Excellence Program** (3rd Quarter 2016)

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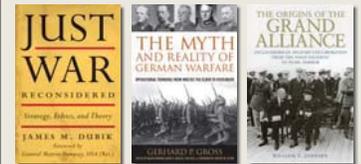
- **DR 16-3 – Strategic Readiness: The U.S. Army as a Global Force** (June 2016)
- **DR 16-2 – National Commission on the Future of the Army: An Initial Blueprint for the Total Army** (February 2016)
- **DR 16-1 – Until They All Come Home: The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency** (February 2016)
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