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ASSOCIATION
of the
UNITED STATES ARMY



AUSA

Voice for the Army - Support for the Soldier

'That's who we are - That's Why We Exist'

See AUSA Special Member Report, Pages 8 - 17

Dailey: Non-deployable soldiers have impact on readiness

AUSA Staff

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey supports a Department of Defense proposal that would separate soldiers unable to deploy on the condition that those forced out for medical reasons are fairly treated.

Speaking at a forum sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare, Dailey discussed a Pentagon proposal that would require units to begin administrative separation of soldiers who are not deployable for either 12 consecutive months or 12 months during an 18-month span.

The proposal responds to a complaint that some units are not fully combat-ready because they are carrying soldiers who that cannot deploy, usually for medical reasons.

Availability of sports-related medicine and rehabilitation at lower command levels might reduce the number of non-deployable soldiers, Dailey said.

Soldiers can also fix deployment issues by keeping medical appointments and meeting other requirements, including addressing dental issues.

The Army can also help create or increase incentives for being deployable, Dailey said. Deployment pay, similar to sea pay provided to sailors, is one idea under consideration, he said.

Separating these non-deployable soldiers will improve readiness by having fully staffed and fully trained units, Dailey said.



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey said at an AUSA Institute of Land Warfare forum that he supports a Defense Department proposal to separate non-deployable soldiers from the Army to improve readiness by having fully staffed and fully trained units. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

He noted, "That doesn't mean we are not going to take care of people," stressing the importance of treating separating soldiers well because it is the right thing to do and because it also helps the image of the Army.

"There is no organization that takes better care of its people," Dailey said.

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper raised deployability as an issue during a recent Pentagon meeting with military and veterans' groups.

The more than 100,000 soldiers in a non-deployable status are "hurting readiness," Esper said.

The secretary said he did not like resorting to administrative separation but felt it was necessary.

Global Force Symposium

Army Futures Command to be introduced at AUSA symposium

AUSA Staff

The Association of the U.S. Army, in conjunction with its Institute of Land Warfare (ILW), will produce the annual unclassified Global Force Symposium and Exposition for members of industry, academia and the military community at the Von Braun Center, Huntsville, Ala., March 26–28.

The theme for this year's event is "Modernizing and Equipping America's Army for Today and Tomorrow." The Army will announce and formally introduce the new United States Army Futures Command during this AUSA professional development forum.

Emphasizing the "why" and "how" changes to Army modernization are necessary, the goal is to fundamentally change the acquisition process and significantly reduce the time between identifying procurement requirements to getting new capabilities into the hands of the warfighter sooner. One initiative of that change is to unify the command and control of the process into the new Futures Command. This evolution will enable our soldiers and units to succeed across the entire spectrum of military operations and environments.

The three-day professional development forum will include presentations from Army leadership to include: the secretary of the Army, the under secretary of the Army, the chief of staff and the vice chief of staff.

Army senior leaders from U.S. Army Forces Command, Army Training and Doctrine Command and Army Materiel Command will also participate.

This timely and relevant AUSA symposium and exposition combines the interests and ideas of warfighters and senior Army leaders with the leaders of the defense industrial base.

It also incorporates innovative leaders from academia and industry who will provide professional development forums that allows participants to learn, network and move our Army forward.

AUSA's Contemporary Military Forums (CMFs) will concentrate on the six Army's modernization priorities with discussions from senior military and civilian leaders and representatives from the Cross Functional Teams (CFT). CFTs consist of leaders from the requirements, acquisition, contracting and sustainment communities who report directly to the Army's senior leadership. In addition to the CMFs, there are programs that will provide further details on the Army's priorities and initiatives.

For example, the CMFs will explore and showcase innovative ways that Army personnel are refining the structure, processes and governance of its modernization enterprise.

The goal of this endeavor is to have an Army that will provide cost-effective, innovative solutions to military problems and will seamlessly reallocate resources as conditions change with the speed and efficiency that adversaries cannot match.

Support to our soldiers will continue to be balanced, focused and technologically superior to any other Army in the world. Discussion leaders will provide a dialog and information on the progress and new efforts to modernize and sustain the force and, more importantly, win on any battlefield.

The key objective is to provide an open forum for attendees to interact and participate in discussions about the Army's efforts to build readiness and the immediate needs of modernizing our Army in support of our soldiers in harm's way.

Participants will be available for challenging questions from the audience.

Pre-registration closes March 22.

Registration will reopen at the Von Braun Center beginning Sunday, March 25. For more information, visit ausameetings.org/globalforce2017.

What's new in Washington, D.C. – It's all about the budget

Capitol Focus

Julie Cameron Rudowski
Assistant Director
AUSA Government Affairs

“Budget,” the current buzz word in Washington, D.C., applies to both the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and the president’s budget request for fiscal 2019.

On Feb. 9, Congress passed and the president signed, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (H.R. 1892), a two-year deal that raises discretionary caps for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 by \$296 billion.

Defense spending caps will be increased by \$80 billion in fiscal 2018, setting the cap at \$629 billion.

Add the overseas contingency account and the total discretionary spending for defense will rise to \$700 billion. For fiscal 2019, the caps will be increased by \$85 billion, setting the cap at \$647 billion.

With the overseas contingency account added, the topline for defense is \$716 billion.

Non-defense discretionary spending caps will rise by \$131 billion for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

The Bipartisan Budget Act includes provisions that:

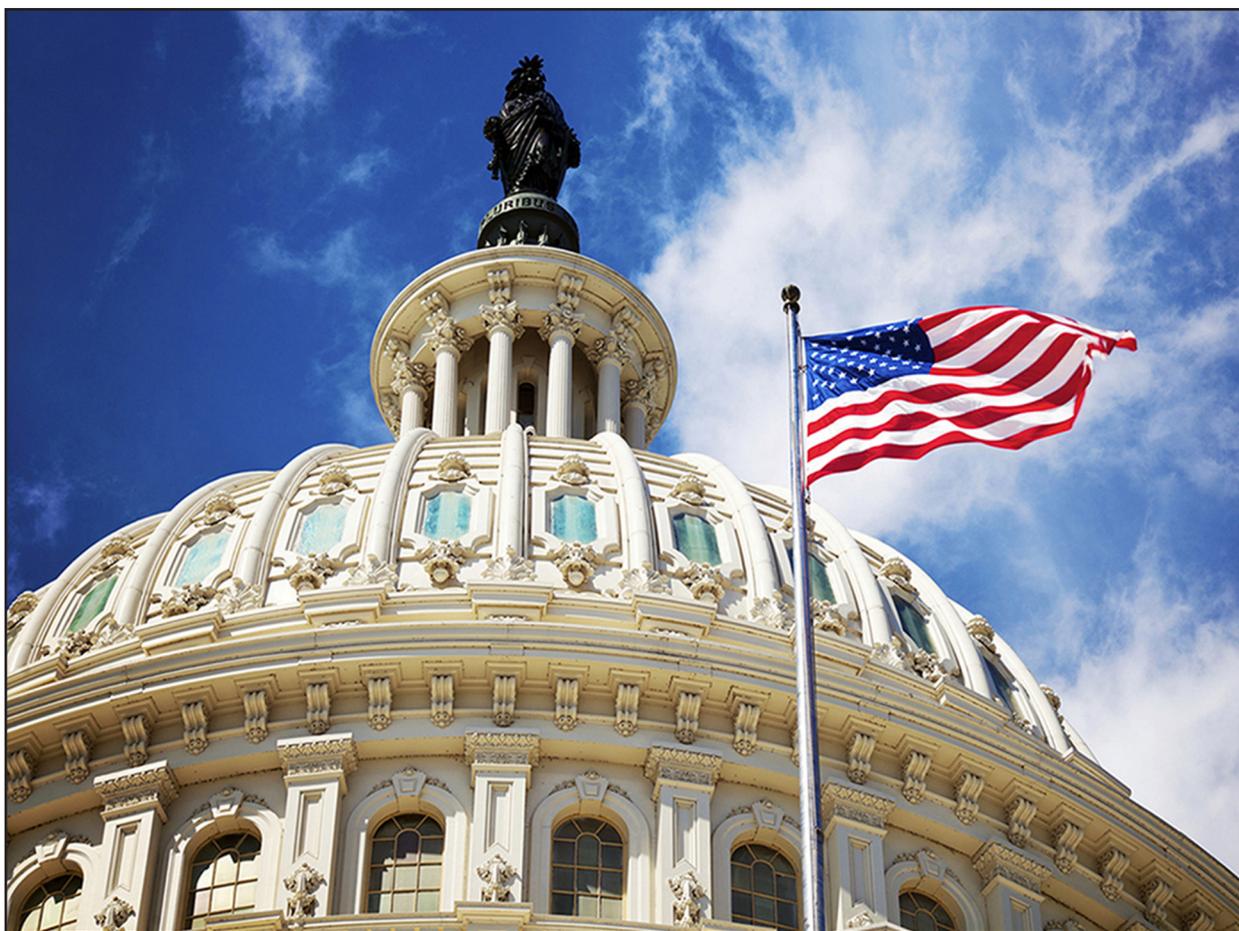
- Extend the statutory debt ceiling through March 1, 2019;
- Provide \$6 billion over two years for anti-opioid and mental health efforts;
- Extend authorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program for the next 10 years;
- Extend several tax breaks for one-year;
- Authorize \$7 billion in total funding for community health centers for two years;
- Provide \$89.3 billion in additional emergency funds for hurricane-affected communities;
- Provide \$20 billion for infrastructure projects such as surface transportation, rural broadband and clean water;
- Provide \$5.8 billion for Child Care Development Block Grants;
- Provide \$4 billion to rebuild veterans’ hospitals and clinics; and,
- Provide \$4 billion for college affordability programs.

The agreement included language that extends the current continuing resolution (CR) until March 23, the fifth CR Congress has enacted since the fiscal year began on Oct. 1.

This CR will keep the government running while House and Senate appropriators negotiate the details of an omnibus spending bill for fiscal 2018 which will reflect the new budget caps for both defense and non-defense accounts.

Details of president’s budget request for fiscal 2019 released

The president’s fiscal 2019 budget request, re-



leased Feb. 12, requests \$686 billion for DoD, an \$80 billion or 13-percent increase from 2017-enacted levels.

This includes \$597 billion for the base budget, and \$89 billion for the overseas contingency account.

According to the summary released with the budget, it will provide “the resources necessary to continue rebuilding military readiness which has been degraded by budget reductions imposed by the Budget Control Act and more than 16 years of warfighting.

The Army’s budget will grow by roughly 8 percent over fiscal 2018 levels.

That computes to roughly \$13 billion over last year’s request of \$166 billion.

“Increased funding for the U.S. Army would modernize existing forces, provide additional training for U.S. soldiers, and establish new security assistance brigades to support counterterrorism efforts abroad,” the budget summary stated.

The budget proposes to:

- Fund critical ground combat capabilities including new investments in armored vehicles, long-range artillery, amphibious vehicles, rotorcraft, and munitions, accelerate the modernization of the Army’s armored brigades to four over the five-year window and add a 16th heavy brigade combat team.

- Increase Army Active Duty troop levels from 476,000 to 487,500, an increase of 11,500 personnel. Both the Army Reserve and Army National Guard would see increases of 500 personnel – Army Reserve from 199,000 to 199,500, and Army National Guard from 343,500 to 344,500.

- Provide a military pay raise of 2.6 percent.

- Fund a full range of compensation programs from monthly incentive pays to recently expanded retirement benefits.

- Support increased home station training and additional high-end collective training exercises, resulting in 20 combat training center rotations in 2019.

- Sustain family support initiatives by investing more than \$8 billion in spousal/community support, child care for 1 million children, counseling support such as financial readiness and Military OneSource; DoD Dependent Schools and commissary operations at 237 stores.

- Increase ammunition production by investing \$22 billion from fiscal 2019 through fiscal 2022. The \$4.9 billion FY19 request for aircraft sustains AH-64 Apache, UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinook helicopter re-manufacture and new build procurement.

For the first time in years, the president’s budget does not request any increases for the TRICARE military health system including the pharmacy program.

According to the budget documents, DoD will pursue “efforts focused on internal business process improvements and structural changes to find greater efficiencies (e.g., modernize military health care system to an integrated system).”

The bottom line: The president’s budget request is just that – a request and is only the first step in the budget process. Congress will ultimately make the final decision.

Whether or not they go along with the president’s request will not be revealed until they release the details of their defense authorization and appropriations bills later in the year.

Every idea isn't a good one; Keys: Who, what and where

AUSA Staff

In its march toward modernization, the Army needs to understand who it's going to fight, what systems it has and where the fight will take place before it rushes to invent something new.

In remarks at a Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer Lecture series event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare, retired Col. David E. Johnson, a principal researcher at the RAND Corp., said, "There are a pile of concepts that are in the trash bin because they were never about anything other than what we wanted to do rather than what we had to do."

An adjunct professor at Georgetown University and adjunct scholar at the Modern War Institute at West Point, Johnson said the German army began its ascension not with Adolf Hitler in 1933, but in 1918 after World War I when its leadership took a holistic look at its strategic position and, using lessons learned, addressed problems with mobilization, aviation and communications.

"Every army in the world knew these things and only the Germans put them together because they were the only ones who had a strategic problem they had to solve," he said.

This is a lesson for the Army to consider as it is framing its strategy for a possible land war with Russia, Johnson said. "Whether it's Russia in the Baltics or other armies that have Russian capabilities, even the midlevel anti-tank guided missiles and [man-portable air defense systems], Russia makes the best land stuff out there among our adversaries," he said.



David E. Johnson

AUSA News

Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier

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GIVE VOICE TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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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Uncle Sam's long overdue budget conversation

View from the Hill

John Gifford
Director
AUSA Government Affairs

Bob and Janet Smith sat at the kitchen table. They were working on their budget for the year ahead and thinking about any major expenses they could expect over the next three years.

Using the information they had gathered to do their taxes, they wrote down how much they each had made last year from their full-time jobs, their investment income and any interest on their various accounts. This gave them their income – or revenue.

They also had built a spreadsheet of their major monthly expenses, including their mortgage, utility bills, food and entertainment, car payments, insurance and the laundry list of other expenses.

They put this expense listing together with their income information, and were happy to find that when they subtracted their expenses from their revenues, a small surplus remained, which they planned to add to their emergency fund in the savings account.

Looking ahead, they anticipated their home would need a new roof soon, and one of their cars was approaching 10 years old, so a replacement would be on the horizon.

Their budget planning allowed them to look for where they might reduce a few discretionary expenses and save more, so, when the time came, they would be able to pay cash for the roof and have a larger down payment when they financed their replacement car.

Bob and Janet's neighbors, John and Rachel Jones, had a somewhat different process in their home.

John Jones always had to have the newest and



flashiest car. He financed each one, signing up for 60- or 72-month car loans, and then trading them in on the next one before they were paid off.

He also had a significant amount of student loan debt. They rented their five-bedroom home, and ate dinner out at a different restaurant every night.

The Jones family often discussed their finances, but instead of a cooperative budget discussion at the kitchen table, it was usually a shouting match about the other one's rampant spending.

As they got closer and closer to bankruptcy, they would usually settle their arguments by each going out and buying something they wanted in order to make themselves feel better.

A year ago, they had taken out a consolidation loan and paid off their maxed-out credit cards, but since then they had opened three new credit cards which were now approaching their credit limit.

One day, John Jones lost his job, and since they had no emergency fund to tide them over, they missed two monthly rent payments.

Soon, they were evicted from their house.

If Uncle Sam were to sit down with his spouse at the kitchen table, would Mr. and Mrs. America's finances have a closer resemblance to the Smiths, or the Joneses?

A family budget and a country's spending have only a slight comparability, but the spending and saving habits are analogous.

Unlike a family, a country can run a modest deficit indefinitely, however, eventually the interest payments on the national debt begin to crowd out other spending.

Growth begins to lag, and flexibility in a crisis is reduced.

In December, Congress passed tax reform and this legislation may create a welcome stimulus for the economy. It may also add \$1.5 trillion to a national debt that already exceeds \$20.5 trillion.

Congress also has come to an agreement on funding for Fiscal Year 2018 (five months late), but in order to reach that agreement, they had to add \$300 billion in additional spending over two years.

That is like the Joneses dashing out to the store and running up their credit cards so they could stop fighting over the budget that won't balance.

By the way, Congress also suspended the debt limit, so there is no limit on America's credit cards for an additional year.

This column supports funding for America's critical needs, especially defense.

Nonetheless, something must change, and soon.

Perhaps we need to examine the mandatory spending that makes up over 70 percent of the national budget.

It is on autopilot, and it will keep growing if nothing is done.

We don't want to wait for the unexpected event that stuns the economy, when we no longer have the financial flexibility to recover, and we are evicted from being the world's largest economy.

See you on the high ground.

Members nominated for AUSA Council of Trustees

AUSA Staff

Nominations to serve on the Association of the United States Army's Council of Trustees were submitted by the national nominating committee to the council for consideration at its meeting in late January.

Four serving council members, Thomas Arsenault, Leanne Caret, Maj. Gen. Patricia P. Hickerson, U.S. Army, Ret.; Gen. Carl E. Vuono, U.S. Army, Ret., and Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, U.S. Army, Ret., currently serving as vice chairman for National Guard and Reserve Affairs were nominated to serve as trustees for three-year terms.

In addition, Frank St. John was nominated and elected to complete the term of Richard Edwards who stepped down in January.

St. John, CWO Phyllis J. Wilson, U.S. Army, Ret., and Master Sgt. Leroy A. Petry, U.S. Army, Ret., were also nominated to serve three-year terms beginning July 1.

AUSA's deputy chairman, Thomas W. Rabaut, was nominated to serve an additional two-year term.

If members wish to make an additional nomination to the council, the Association's bylaws require that national headquarters receives a petition for candidacy.

Additional candidacies must be in compliance with Article V of the bylaws.

The nominations must be received at national headquarters by March 31, 2018.

Elections will be held at the April Council of Trustees meeting.

AUSA'S ILW HOT TOPICS

ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT

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AUSA News

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Special AUSA Member Report

March 2018

Why we exist: Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier



2017 was quite a year for AUSA. It seems the year simply zoomed by, a blur in many respects. So much changed: a new Commander-In-Chief; a new Secretary of Defense; and, after some delay, a new Secretary of the Army. For our Association, a new Chairman of our Council of Trustees, two new Chapters – Charleston and UAE – and many new Chapter Presidents.

The Army announced formation of a new Futures Command during our Annual Meeting and Exposition, and our series of Senior Executive Roundtables, Hot Topics and Institute of Land Warfare events proved immensely beneficial to the Army and to our industry partners. At your National Headquarters, you'll find several new faces and a new look to our office spaces.

The 2017 Annual Meeting was a great one by any measure, highlighted by the Secretary of Defense and Gary Sinise, the Marshall Medal recipient. And lastly, but certainly at the top of my list, together, AUSA grew our membership each and every month of 2017, ultimately exceeding our goal of 100,000! What a year.

So, what's next?

Unfortunately, 2018 began without an Army budget, continuing an injurious trend dating back to 2009. AUSA has consistently and loudly called for adequate, predictable funding to build and sustain the Army the nation needs, and we will continue to do so, always seeking more effective ways to convey to the Congress the detrimental effects of delayed, insufficient and unpredictable resourcing.

My sense is that Army senior leaders are increasingly seeking opportunities to engage with the many, varied industries that support the Army. AUSA has a key role to play in facilitating such interaction and we'll look for new and innovative ways to enhance

AUSA Membership By-The-Numbers

Total Individual Members

117,283 – Highest on Record

Life Members

14,090

Community Partners

3,039 Partners

National Partners

522 Partners

AUSA Partners

- ❑ U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association
- ❑ The ROCKS, Inc.
- ❑ Patriot Project
- ❑ Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States
- ❑ Civil Affairs Association

the relationships between the Army and our industry partners.

We will build on the great track record of the Senior Executive Roundtables and in 2018 will fully integrate the Army's Cross Functional Teams into the roundtable events.

The stand-up of Army Futures Command affords an opportunity for AUSA to fulfill our education and professional development roles, beginning with the Global Force Symposium and Exposition in Huntsville, Ala., where we anticipate the Army's most senior leaders will roll out key aspects of this new, historic command.

Always seeking to improve and enhance our professional development events, we'll head back to San Antonio for the second year of the Army Medical Symposium. We're on track to conduct our first event focused on autonomous systems, scheduled for Fall 2018 in Detroit. And we plan to conduct our Sustainment Hot Topic in Richmond, Va., supported by the Sustainment Center of Excellence at Fort Lee.

We will maintain our focus on membership, but our emphasis for 2018 will be on improving our membership renewal rate through meaningful engagement with our members. The outreach to like-minded associations proved highly successful in 2017 and we will sustain that effort, particularly engaging Army branch associations that may be interested in joining us.

Our industry partner programs change this year

as we shift from Corporate Members to Community Partners (managed largely at the chapter level) and from Sustaining Members to National Partners (managed by AUSA national). We'll seek specific opportunities to engage Army civilians as a key cohort of our membership and will roll out a new Army family-focused membership program as well.

Though our Association will see much change in the year ahead, we should never forget our enduring missions: Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier.

That's who we are; that's why we exist.

We support America's Army. It is our privilege to stand up for Soldiers, Army civilians, veterans, retirees, their families and the great industry and community partners that support the most powerful land force on the planet.

2017 was a great year. With your support, with the great AUSA team from the national office to the smallest chapter, 2018 will be even better as we, together, do all we can each and every day for America's Army.

Sincerely,

Carter F. Ham
General, U.S. Army Retired
AUSA President and CEO



As the premier voice for America's Soldiers, we are a dedicated team committed to building the best professional and representative association for the world's best Army.



WHO WE ARE

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) is the Total Army's professional association. If you have a connection with the Army—professionally or personally—AUSA is your resource for soldier support, business opportunities, educational resources, philanthropy initiatives, family programs, influential representation, and genuine relationships with a supportive Army community.

OUR MISSION

The Association of the United States Army is a nonprofit educational and professional development association serving America's Total Army, our Soldiers, Army civilians, and their families; our industry partners, and supporters of a strong national defense. AUSA provides a voice for the Army, supports the Soldier, and honors those who have served in order to advance the security of the nation.

- AUSA **educates** its members, the public, industry, and Congress about the critical nature of land warfare and the Army's central role in national defense.
- AUSA **informs** its members, our communities, and Congress about issues affecting America's Army and the Soldiers who serve in the Regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve.
- AUSA **connects** the Army to the American people at the national, regional, and chapter levels.

WHO WE SERVE

All Army ranks and all components are represented in AUSA—including Regular Army, National Guard, Army Reserve, Government Civilians, Retirees, Wounded Warriors, Veterans, concerned citizens and family members.

The Association is open to everyone in the U.S. Army and to those who would simply like to offer support to our Soldiers.

From individuals to local businesses, defense industry companies, and like-minded organizations, each member and partner of AUSA provides vital input into a strong national defense with special concern for the Army.

THE AUSA COMMUNITY

AUSA's success is credited to its 115,000+ enthusiastic members, partners, and affiliates.

The strength of the Association rests in its 121 volunteer-led chapters located throughout the world. These chapters are devoted to the dual missions of providing a **voice for the Army** and professional **support for the Soldier** while also providing local community support

AUSA and its chapters contribute over \$5,000,000 to awards, scholarships, and programs annually.

YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

AUSA is the only professional association supporting the Total Army. Understanding that the current Army is a professional force, AUSA provides a wide variety of tailored content and professional development programs and events to generate dialogue and take action on crucial issues.



- AUSA Annual Meeting
- Institute of Land Warfare resources
- Hot Topic conferences
- National Security Studies products
- AUSA Book Program
- AUSA symposia and expositions
- ARMY Magazine
- AUSA News

EDUCATE—INFORM—CONNECT



PARTNERS & TEAMMATES

AUSA maintains lasting relationships between the Army and 500+ National Industry Partners and 3000+ local Community Partners through symposia and expositions, chapter networking events, AUSA programs, lectures and fora, international events, and conferences.

The Association has also recently opened membership to other, like-minded organizations, including:

- United States Warrant Officer Association;
- The ROCKS, Inc.;
- Patriot Project;
- Civil Affairs Association; and
- The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

OUTREACH

AUSA speaks out for the men and women of the United States Army who proudly serve out country, with robust connections within the Army, Congress, and media.

Also, understanding that actions can often speak louder than words, the Association represents and offer support for the Army through the following programs:

- National Museum of the United States Army support;
- Army Ten-Miler lead sponsor;
- local philanthropic outreach;
- scholarships and grants; and
- military event sponsorships.



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Army All-American Bowl – Youth excellence for the future

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 had the opportunity to start this New Year with soldiers and their leadership in San Antonio, Texas, for the annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

The All-American Bowl, for those who have never heard of the venue, is recognized by many as the nation's premier high school football all-star sporting event.

For 19 years, the All-American Bowl serves as the pre-eminent launching pad for America's future college and National Football League (NFL) stars.

Each year, the top 100 high school football players are selected from thousands of players in nearly 200 high schools across the country to form two all-star teams for this competition.

These 100 high school football players come from east and west coast schools to form the two elite teams.

A total of 351 All-American alumni have been



Shayne Simon, an athlete from St. Peter's Prep High School in Naples Fla., shakes hands with U.S. Army Drill Sgt. of the Year Sgt. 1st Class Chad Hickey during the pre-game events at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. (Photo by Sgt. Ian Valley)

selected in NFL drafts including star athletes including Tim Tebow, Mark Sanchez, Odell Beckham Jr. and many more.

The 2018 All-American Bowl recorded more than 4.4 million television viewers of the NBC

televised game, making this event America's most-watched high school sporting competition.

Since 2003 when the first two All-American athletes publicly announced their signing with a major university, hundreds of all-star athletes have followed in their footsteps.

The 2018 All-American Bowl included 42 of the top 50 overall recruits in the country.

After college, many of these all-stars head to the NFL where more than 200 All-Americans currently play.

Since the start of the All American Bowl, 52 All-Americans wear a Super Bowl ring; eight of these All-Americans played for the Super Bowl World Champions – the Philadelphia Eagles.

For those interested in statistics, two Heisman Trophy winners and 16 Heisman finalists were All-American players.

Additionally, there have been 11 NFL Rookies of the Year, with six of these in the last five seasons, who played as All-Americans.

The selection process to identify the top 100 high school football athletes from across the country begins the season.

On Jan. 29, 2018, several weeks after this year's bowl, the All-American Selection Committee released the list of class of 2019 graduates set to play in next year's Jan. 5 game presented by American Family Insurance.

The list includes the names of 17 outstanding high school football players nationally ranked among their peers.



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, retired sergeants major Jack Tilley and Ken Preston, the 12th and 13th sergeants major of the Army respectively, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport, Training and Doctrine Command senior enlisted advisor, held a leaders panel on matters affecting the Army as part of the 2018 U.S. Army All-American Bowl week. (Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Fernandez)

see next page

All-American Bowl from preceding page

As an example, Kayvon Thibodeaux of Oaks Christian High School in Thousand Oaks, Calif., is ranked as the number one defensive end in the country.

The research and selection process continued until all 100 high school football athletes were identified.

The 2019 All-American Bowl is already scheduled for national television on NBC from the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

In addition to the selection process for football athletes, the focus on excellence among high school students includes high school band members.

Each year, the top 125 band members are selected and invited to participate at the bowl game during halftime. These 125 members included one drum major, 24 color guard members and 100 marching musicians.

All the halftime shows have featured patriotic themes and have evolved to become one of the key highlights of the game.

The excitement for these students begins in the fall of each year when each athlete and marching band member is honored during a celebratory event at their high schools before their classmates, teammates and bandmates, family members, school administrators and teachers, and the media.

Beginning in September, the Army recognizes 225 high school seniors, football players and band members, for excellence.

Of every eligible senior football player and band member, only the best of the best is selected and honored as All-Americans.

Recognizing these young men and women before their high school student bodies are Army recruiters from local recruiting stations across the country.

Recruiters performing these presentations in front of students, family members, staff and faculty present the Army in a different venue by recognizing students of excellence for their athletic, instrumental and academic achievements.

Committed and dedicated students who have achieved excellence have the same unique qualities sought after for growing our future volunteer Army.

Seeing the Army in this venue firmly plants the idea of military service as a potential career opportunity where this idea may not have been an option previously in a young person's mind.

While recruiting soldiers of excellence is the mission of our recruiters, your Association of the United States Army is focused on professional development and education for retaining our Army's best and brightest for the future.

The Army has evolved and adapted to an ever-changing complex world where we live and work.

Recruiting the best and brightest young people today establishes the foundation for the Army to grow our leaders of tomorrow.

Today, more and more of the Army's missions on the ground involve small teams that are part of a multi-component Army, joint and interagency.

Your association is aligned to help support the development of young leaders who have a broad understanding of strategic missions, have an understanding for all the complex pieces of an operation and can apply critical thinking to a wide variety of options.

Down to the sergeant level, critical thinking young leaders must be focused on meeting the commander's intent for any operation.

In many of the professional development sessions, I am asked about the role of our Army's professional association and the value it provides to leaders of all ranks.

Junior and mid-grade leaders often ask me if

they should become involved in an Army military oriented or veteran service organization and what the professional development, educational or leadership value is for a sergeant or a captain to become a member.

My short answer is YES!!!

Whether these leaders are Army National Guard, Army Reserve or Regular Army, I always say yes! Get involved!

Soldier- and leader-focused organizations are great places to meet new friends, stay active in your military and civilian communities and learn a little more about something of interest to you.

Whether you are considering joining a cultural, social or professional organization, I recommend you check it out and learn about its history, mission and what the organization can do for you.

When you find an organization you really like, get more involved in its activities, contribute your time and, if you desire, grow into leadership roles in the organization just as you have done in your Army career.

The Association of the United States Army's young professional focus is targeted on junior and mid-grade officers, noncommissioned officers and Army civilians.

In support of these young professionals, this month we celebrate the one-year anniversary of "Soldier Today!" our twice-weekly e-letter distributed to all our uniformed and retired soldier members.

Young professionals have asked for professional development, leadership, education and mentoring from their professional association.

"Soldier Today!" will continue providing the information our soldier-members want and need to remain current and competitive in their profession and their occupational specialty.

Your feedback, old and young, helps us shape this digital publication. Keep pushing us to provide you leader book notes that count and make a difference.

If you are not receiving "Soldier Today!" and want to be added to the distribution list, send your email address, preferably a civilian email address, to soldiertoday@ausa.org.

Also, the Association of the United States Army's chapters serve as the interface between the Army and the local communities surrounding our military bases.

AUSA's 121 chapters provide opportunities for members to volunteer alongside many corporate sponsors and businesses throughout the community in support of local chapter goals.

All the members of an AUSA chapter are volunteers who have jobs, families and other responsibilities, but are passionate for supporting our Army, our soldiers, Army civilians and their families.

So, the great advantage of these associations why not just AUSA is everyone who volunteers a little gains much more back in fellowship, connections, networking, communication, education and mentoring.



A U.S. Army soldier marches recruits onto the football field at the Alamodome where they took their oath of enlistment before the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Recruiting the best and brightest young people today establishes the foundation for the Army to grow our leaders of tomorrow. (Photo by Sgt. Ian Valley)

see next page

AUSA educational forums, outreach benefit Army families

AUSA Family Readiness

Patricia M. Baron
Director
AUSA Family Readiness

In 2017, the AUSA Family Readiness Directorate focused heavily on educational forums and outreach to our currently serving population of military families.

We began the year by providing a family forum at the Global Force Symposium and Exhibition.

The discussion, titled “Warrior and Family Wellness: It Takes a Team,” featured speakers and panelists from the Army Surgeon General’s office, the Redstone Arsenal Community Health Clinic staff, and a representative from the Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology.

In April, which is the Month of the Military Child, we partnered with Our Military Kids and provided an all-day symposium: “Understanding the Needs of Ill and Injured Military Families.”

Experts in the field of military child psychology and wounded warrior family support discussed the impact of injury on the parenting process and identified gaps in research and support to our young family members.

April also provided us with the opportunity to partner with Operation Deploy Your Dress.

The event, hosted at AUSA national headquarters, allowed military ID card holders to shop for gently used and new formal attire for both women and men at no cost. All items were donated by individuals and businesses throughout the country to include both the AUSA Fairfax Lee and the George Washington chapters.

In May, we had the pleasure of co-hosting 100 Army moms at the fifth annual Mother’s Day Brunch sponsored and co-hosted by the Washington DC Marriott Marquis, the official hotel of AUSA’s Annual Meeting and Exposition.

All-American Bowl from preceding page

These volunteer opportunities provide younger and older professionals with the opportunity to network and build relationships in preparation for their transition into the civilian sector.

Everyone in uniform, at some point in his or her career, must transition to a new chapter in life outside the Army.

Employers today look for professionals who can multi-task, or do multiple types of jobs and tasks.

Employers also look for those professionals who thrive and excel in what many might consider busy lives, and even stressful environments.

The secret of these young professionals is their gradual growth and involvement in education and professional organizations above and beyond their daily jobs.



During the 2017 AUSA Annual Meeting’s 3rd Military Family Forum, panel members, seated from the left, Under Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey pledged to take care of Army families, especially children, at a town hall meeting. (AUSA News photo)

Over 400 Army family members joined us for a beautiful brunch the Saturday before Mother’s Day.

June was an exciting month as we launched our first annual AUSA Facebook Live series called “Army Spouse: Voice for a Simpler PCS.”

Our goal was to help Army spouses build consistency and streamline processes in their new communities. We were able to create new information products, provide a platform for Army spouses to share their challenges with the PCS process, and we had fun.

We reached 66,000 Facebook users over the five-week period.

We also participated in the AUSA Hawaii Chapter’s Wounded Warrior Regatta week.

Partnering with the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, we presented a forum focused on wounded warrior wellness and self-care. Over 120 participants attended the event.

The health clinic staff was pleased that plans are

Becoming part of and contributing to a professional organization is a great addition to any resume, and provides the opportunity to gain some real world experience beyond any military occupational specialty.

Serving in leadership or committee-level positions further demonstrates your abilities to efficiently and effectively prioritize tasks, manage time and see projects through to completion.

Keeping engaged in community-based activities beyond your daily job allows you to learn many more broadening skills that will make you smarter and wiser.

The reason we have the greatest Army in the world is because we have the greatest soldiers.

The legacy of service of each of our veterans who has worn the uniform of a soldier is passed on from one generation to the next.

So if you are on the fence and not sure if you

already underway to partner again in 2018.

The Annual Meeting Family Forums were also well received.

Live streaming the Senior Leaders’ Town Hall through the Army’s Facebook page gave us our biggest online audience to date with over 120,000 views.

With 2017 behind us, we look forward to 2018.

- AUSA will offer a family membership option allowing current members to enroll individual family members at a \$15 for two-year rate.

- We will continue our onsite forum offerings as well as offer a Facebook live event in June.

- We plan to partner again with Operation Deploy Your Dress.

- We will be exploring new and engaging ways to connect with Army families, no matter what their status or where they live.

- We will continue live streaming the Annual Meeting Family Forums.

should join the Association of the United States Army, check us out at www.ausa.org.

The experiences will be worth your time and energy, and you’ll come out with lasting memories and a host of newly acquired skills.

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!

Take advantage of all the benefits of AUSA membership

Benefits Highlight

Susan Rubel
Director
AUSA Affinity Programs

Member Benefits – What’s New?

AUSA is celebrating its 13th consecutive month of membership growth.

We’re excited to welcome our newest members from the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), the Patriot Project and the Civil Affairs Association.

We invite you to take advantage of all the savings available to you with your membership. Visit www.ausa.org/perks for a current listing.

Lower premiums, more coverage

We’re in the midst of revamping some of the AUSA group insurance programs to bring you even better protection and value.

On Jan. 1, premiums on AUSA’s accident insurance plan decreased 12 percent. Find new options at www.ausainsurance.org.

We’ve changed carriers for the AUSA Group Life Insurance Program to The Hartford and improved our policy:

- Maximum age of coverage increases from 65 to 85

- Maximum amount of coverage increases from \$250,000 to \$500,000

- Added \$10,000 “at no cost to our members” Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage

- Added education benefits for spouses and children upon death of the insured

Budget Truck Rental and car rentals

Planning a move soon? AUSA members get 20 percent off Budget Truck rentals Monday through Thursday and 15 percent Friday and Saturday. Visit www.ausa.org/truck to make your reservation.

And, of course, if car rentals are in your future, use any of these links for your AUSA Member Discounts – some have coupons in addition to your discount:

- Avis and Budget car rentals both offer AUSA

members up to 25 percent savings plus additional coupons for \$10–\$25 off, a free weekend day or a free single upgrade. Visit www.ausa.org/avis or www.ausa.org/budget.

- Hertz car rental provides up to 25 percent savings and additional coupons like \$5 per day off, 15 percent additional savings on weekends, one free day on a weekly rental and more. Visit www.ausa.org/hertz.

- Alamo, Enterprise and National offer savings from 5 percent (Alamo and Enterprise) to 25 percent (National). Visit www.ausa.org/aencar to get a rate comparison for all three of these brands. You will need to log into the AUSA website first.

Are there products or services that you’d like AUSA to negotiate savings for members?

Write me at srubel@ausa.org and let me know.

Are you interested in hearing more from AUSA’s NCO and Soldier Programs Directorate?



SOLDIER TODAY

Wisdom and Trivia from AUSA’s NCO & Soldier Programs Directorate



Subscribe to “Soldier Today” by sending a nonmilitary email address to soldiertoday@ausa.org. A nonmilitary email address works best to ensure access to links.

Publishing partners produce wide variety of military titles

AUSA Book Program

Joseph Craig
Director
AUSA Book Program

The Association of the U.S. Army’s Book Program, part of AUSA’s Institute of Land Warfare (ILW), is an important part of ILW’s mission to inform and educate association members, local and national leaders and the American public in general on the nature of land warfare and the U.S. Army’s role in defending the nation.

AUSA works with publishing partners to produce quality books about Army heritage, military theory and policy, and military force in the modern world.

This past year featured a wide range of titles, with most focused on American military history and biography.

We have memoirs by noted military commanders such as *Ranger: A Soldier’s Life* by Col. Ralph Puckett and WWII operational histories like *Sabers through the Reich: World War II Corps Cavalry from Normandy to the Elbe* by William Stuart Nance.

The Book Program also examines other military

forces to pick up valuable insights, from understanding Russian ideas of command and control, in the *Soviet General Staff* series edited by Richard W. Harrison, to seeing the Israelis’ effective response to surprise attack in *At the Decisive Point in the Sinai* by Gen. Jacob Even and Col. Simcha B. Maoz.

To promote values such as leadership, we offer titles such as *The Art of Command, Second Edition: Military Leadership from George Washington to Colin Powell*, edited by Harry S. Laver and Jeffrey J. Matthews, with a new foreword by Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster.

AUSA members can get these books at a discount when they order directly from our publishing partners: Naval Institute Press, University Press of Kentucky, Casemate, and Helion & Company.

Links for all Book Program titles can be found on our website.

We are always on the lookout for authors seeking to publish quality military books.

If you know anyone with a good story to tell, please contact me directly at jrcraig@ausa.org.

Look for more information at the AUSA Book Program webpage: <https://www.ausa.org/books>



Retired Col. Ralph Puckett discusses his book *Ranger: A Soldier’s Life* during a Institute of Land Warfare Lennitzer Lecture. AUSA works with publishing partners to produce quality books about Army heritage, military theory and policy, and military force in the modern world. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

Chapters, partners joined forces to surpass AUSA member goal

Christine Lathrop
Deputy Director
Membership

Last year, the AUSA membership team and our association chapters had a very productive year.

Facing the 2017 goal of 100,000 members by the end of the year, we focused our efforts on our chapter volunteers.

AUSA staff members visited many chapters where they observed, surveyed, listened and learned from our volunteer leaders about the rewards and challenges they faced while generating ideas and initiatives to increase their membership at the local level.

We, at national headquarters, put those insights and recommendations to good use by producing and introducing the AUSA Skills Knowledge (ASK) program.

This innovative membership guide is designed to help volunteers engage with their communities and potential AUSA members by using a mentoring or “buddy” program. The ASK program was well received and chapters now using it are having a great deal of success.

We also saw the advent of AUSA’s Association Partner Program.

AUSA partnered with five different organizations that share the mutual goal of supporting the Army and its soldiers and families.

The organizations are: the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA); The ROCKS, Inc; Patriot Project; the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS); and the Civil Affairs Association.

Each of these partnerships helped AUSA reach new audiences while we provided more robust AUSA member benefits to those individual who are members of these organizations.

Finally, in January 2018, after meeting the 100,000-member goal in December, AUSA saw its membership soar to the highest number on record – 117,283 – surpassing our established goal.

With this success, in 2018, we will bring exciting new challenges to our membership efforts with the theme: “Retention through Engagement.”

AUSA plans to develop ASK 2.0 for the chapter volunteers with an updated program that embodies more ideas for recruitment, retention and event planning.

We will again be going on the road with a goal of visiting one chapter in each AUSA region to

ASK
AUSA TOOLKIT



engage their volunteer leaders to assist us in this new membership challenge.

We are looking forward to the year ahead.

★ Eagle Chapters ★

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

Arizona Territorial (6)

Arkansas (4)

Arsenal of Democracy (5)

Braxton Bragg (7)

Buckeye Landpower (6)

Capital District of New York (5)

Captain Meriwether Lewis (5)

Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley (4)

Catoctin (5)

Central California (5)

Central Ohio (5)

Central Texas-Fort Hood (7)

Charleston (6)

Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (7)

Columbia River (7)

Connecticut (4)

Cowboy (1)

Denver Centennial (5)

Des Moines Freedom (5)

Dix (5)

Emerald Coast (5)

Florida Gulf Stream (6)

Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (5)

Fort Knox (6)

Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (2)

Fort Pitt (4)

Fort Riley-Central Kansas (4)

Francis Scott Key (5)

GA Omar N. Bradley (5)

GEN William C. Westmoreland (6)

George Washington (6)

Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (5)

Greater Kansas City (5)

Greater Los Angeles (5)

Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (6)

Henry Leavenworth (6)

Indiana (7)

Isthmian (2)

Japan (2)

Major Samuel Woodfill (1)

Massachusetts Bay (5)

MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (6)

MG John S. Lekson (4)

Mid-Palatinate (6)

Milwaukee (4)

National Training Center-High Desert (6)

North Texas (6)

Northern New Jersey (6)

PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (5)

Pikes Peak (7)

Polar Bear (7)

Puerto Rico (3)

Robert E. Lee (7)

Rock Island Arsenal (7)

St. Louis Gateway (4)

Suncoast (7)

Texas Capital Area (4)

Tri-State (6)

Tucson-Goyette (6)

UAE (7)

Utah (4)

West Point Area (2)

White Sands Missile Range (3)

William Penn (7)

SAVINGS FOR YOU AND SUPPORT FOR THE AUSA MISSION



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Membership Benefits*

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Post your resume and apply for jobs
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10% Off courses for career growth
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For more details visit www.ausea.org/benefits

or contact Member Support at membersupport@ausea.org or 855-246-6269 / 703-841-4300

We support soldiers, educate Congress, inform industry

Chapter Highlight Fort Rucker-Wiregrass

Jeremy Wise
Dothan Eagle

Patricia McQuiston gave the U.S. Army 35 years of her life. To her, that was not enough.

The retired lieutenant general now serves as the Association of the United States Army vice president for membership and meetings.

She joined the civilian organization shortly after her retirement and focuses on ways to strengthen a group that supports the Army in several ways.

"I came into the Army from birth. My dad retired as a first sergeant, I joined ROTC and after college, I joined," McQuiston told the audience at the AUSA Fort Rucker-Wiregrass Chapter's annual Kick-Off Luncheon at the Dothan Civic Center.

"I believe in soldier for life," she emphasized.

In her new role [as AUSA vice president for membership and meetings], McQuiston considers ways to increase the group's membership.

AUSA, which champions itself as the "Voice for the Army," offers a variety of services to soldiers past, present and future, she noted.

Mentorships also provide soldiers with a glimpse of career options after they leave the service.

"We educate the soldiers about career opportunities," McQuiston said. "We'll connect those who serve with those who did and those who will."

Additionally, the organization exists to educate Congress about the challenges facing today's Army, and informs industry leaders about ways they can help the branch.

AUSA also provides information, often conducting research projects on national security matters and publishing the results, McQuiston said.



Retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, left, speaks with Jim Muskopf, middle, and Dothan Mayor Mark Saliba following the AUSA chapter's annual Kick-Off Luncheon at the Dothan Civic Center. Muskopf is the president of the Fort Rucker-Wiregrass Chapter. (Photo by Jeremy Wise)

The former three-star general said today's culture creates a need for "support now more than ever."

"Over 10 percent of our forces are engaged in operations every day in [several] countries," she said.

Adding, "We have more than 1 million soldiers ... but only 1 percent of the nation's population will serve in the military. I know it's hard to think about with Fort Rucker here, but 99 percent of the nation may not be connected in any way to the military."

McQuiston said AUSA conducts "Meet the Army" gatherings in areas where the military presence may not be strong.

"AUSA must get the word out. We must inform the public what the Army is doing," McQuiston said. "With 'Meet the Army,' we get leaders talking to the Army." With the need for more members, McQuiston and her staff have sought ways to encourage enrollment.

One way has been the revamping of the benefits package. Members get discounts on certain items they purchase and also get to share in professional development opportunities.

"We have 86 people who work at the national headquarters," she said.

"We walk in every day asking: 'What are we going to do today to make life better for our members and our chapters?'"

McQuiston applauded the Wiregrass area's support of AUSA.

"It's nice to be back at Fort Rucker," she said. "I never served here, but I visited a lot. You can't have a conversation about Fort Rucker for long without hearing about the community support. It is an incredible community."

(Editor's note: This article was published with permission from the Dothan Eagle.)

Global Force Symposium

AUSA, Performance Triad sponsor 2018 Walking Challenge

AUSA Staff

AUSA challenges you to have fun at the 2018 Global Force Symposium and Exposition at the Von Braun Center, Huntsville, Ala., by keeping track of how much walking you do at our event.

This new challenge is part of an ongoing AUSA initiative to make walking at our events fun, and to educate attendees about the importance of "activity," one of the three pillars of the Army's Performance Triad.

Powered by the Performance Triad and AUSA, the Walking Challenge kicks off at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, March 26, the symposium's and ends Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Attendees will be able to challenge themselves and others to stay moving, work their way up the Leader Board and, hopefully, be recognized as the overall winner at this important event.

One winner will be announced each day, and an overall winner will be announced at the end of the event.

All winners will be announced on Wednesday, March 28.

As part of this challenge, we encourage you to visit the East Hall where a team from the Performance Triad will have a display and discuss their important initiatives with you.

The East Hall will also feature an Innovator's Corner with additional displays, presentations and keynote speakers.

Let the Walking Challenge begin!

To get started, simply download the 'MyStepTracker' App from the iTunes or Google Play App Store and enter Challenge Code "Global18." It's that easy. Then at 6:00 on Monday, start walking.

The app will automatically track your steps and send your details to the digital Leader Boards throughout the Von Braun Center.

Challenge yourself. Challenge your friends. Have fun.

But most of all, Blast Off to Better Health!

Symposium pre-registration closes March 22.

Symposium registration will reopen at the Von Braun Center beginning Sunday, March 25. For more information, visit ausameetings.org/global-force2017.

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

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EXHIBITS

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SPONSORSHIPS

Gaye Hudson
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Chapter Gingerbread Ball raises \$60,000 for Fisher House

Chapter Highlight Monmouth

The AUSA Monmouth Chapter's "Jewel in the Crown" is the Gingerbread Ball that benefits Fisher House Foundation, held this year at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa, a chapter Community Partner.

The Monmouth Chapter co-hosted this event with four other organizations, to include AUSA Community Partner, Association of Old Crows, Garden State Chapter; The New Jersey Bakers Board of Trade; and the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Greater Monmouth Chapter; and the Army Aviation Association of America, Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

The evening began with a VIP reception for sponsors, and the judging of the Gingerbread House Competition at the Gingerbread Village Display complete with running locomotive and train.

A silent auction, with 85 baskets that were designed with donated items and created by AUSA Community Partners and individual members. The total sales from this event netted \$7,000.

Twenty-three AUSA Monmouth Chapter Community Partners participated with sponsorships, underwriting, ads and donations.

Participating were: Association of Old Crows, Garden State Chapter; Harris Corporation; Ace Electronics; Solari Creative; Booz Allen Hamilton; Ameripack; Ferlise and Associates; Brayco, Inc.; Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Fund; West Point Society of New Jersey; Aspen Consulting Group; and General Conference Services, Central Jersey Recruiting Company, Mid-Atlantic;

Meulener Dental; Purple Glaze; Lotus Blossom



Proudly displaying the \$60,000 check raised at the Gingerbread Ball for the Fisher House Foundation are, from the left, Kit Roache, Monmouth Chapter vice chairman, community affairs; Brian Gawne, Fisher House; retired Air Force Col. Myles Murphy; Donna Petro; and retired Col. Samuel Fuoco, Monmouth Chapter President.

Psychotherapy; Stark Associates Insurance Agency; Molly Pitcher Inn and Oyster Point Hotel; Two Rivers Concierge Services, LLC; Future Skies; Morris Plate Glass; Colts Neck Golf Club and Ocean Place Resort and Spa also donated.

Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling presented the Monmouth Chapter with a New Jersey State Resolution commending the chapter for its outstanding community assistance to New Jersey soldiers, veterans and their families as well as its receiving an AUSA 2017 Best Chapter Award.

Additionally, Houghtaling presented Kit Roache, chapter vice president for programs, and Brian

Gawne, vice president for community affairs, Fisher House Foundation, with a New Jersey State Resolution commending their dedication to the military, veterans and families.

The featured speakers were Gen. Carter F. Ham, president and CEO, Association of the U.S. Army, and Gawne.

Twenty-two Monmouth Chapter members were either committee chairs or members in a program committee totaling 30 volunteers.

AUSA First Region President Col. Dennis Dougherty, USA, Ret.; New Jersey State President Susan DiVila; Dix Chapter President Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Maggs and Picatinny Chapter President Nick Pugliese were in attendance.

Purple Glaze Donuts, an AUSA Monmouth Community Partner participated in the Gingerbread House Competition and donated the December sales of their specially designed Gingerbread Donut to the Gingerbread Ball beneficiary, Fisher House Foundation.

AUSA national headquarters sponsored 20 soldiers who attended this event from Central Jersey Recruiting Company, Mid-Atlantic; the 77th Sustainment Command, 254th New Jersey National Guard and the 99th Regional Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve.

Additional individual members and Community Partners hosted another 24 soldiers from these commands.

As a result of this event, \$60,000 was presented to Gawne for the Fisher House Foundation.

Miss New Jersey 2017, Kaitlyn Schoeffel, was a special guest who was available for photos with the 235 Gingerbread Ball attendees.



Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, second from left, presents a New Jersey State Resolution for outstanding support to soldiers, veterans and their families, to retired Col. Sam Fuoco, Monmouth Chapter president, left, standing with Miss New Jersey Kaitlyn Schoeffel, and Brian Gawne, Fisher House Foundation.



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Global Force Symposium

NCO Panel: Focus on soldier training, education, development

AUSA Staff

A panel discussion focusing on professional development for enlisted soldiers will be included in the three-day Global Force Symposium and Exposition March 24–28, hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army and its Institute of Land Warfare.

The NCO Panel, titled, “Training, Educating and Progressive Development of our Soldiers for Today and Tomorrow,” will be held Tuesday, March 26, at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, AUSA vice president for NCO and soldier programs, will moderate this discussion with current and former command sergeants major and experts in training, education and professional development programs participating.

Invited panelists include: Command Sgt. Maj. David Turnbull and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Parson, Army Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; retired Command Sgt. Maj. John Sparks, Office of the Sergeant Major of the Army; retired Sgt. Maj. John Heinrichs, U.S. Army Human Resources Command; and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder, a senior fellow at



1st Sgt. Daniel Shannon, United States Army Band, left, Retired Command Sgt. Maj. John Sparks, Office of the Sergeant Major of the Army, center, and Command Sgt. Maj. Wardell Jefferson, United States Army Human Resources Command, speak during an NCO panel at last year's Global Force Symposium. (AUSA News photo by Luc Dunn)

AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare.

The panel discussion is scheduled for the second day of the conference, a three-day event that will be highlighted by the appearance of civilian and uniformed Army leaders talking about the creation of the Army Futures Command, the biggest organizational change for the Army since the 1970s.

A Warriors to the Workforce hiring event and

workshop is slated for the same day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The theme of the meeting is “Modernizing and Equipping America's Army for Today and Tomorrow.”

For details on the program, registration and hiring event, please visit <http://ausameetings.org/globalforce2018/>.

 An advertisement for the Registry of the American Soldier. The background is a photograph of several soldiers in olive drab uniforms and helmets, looking forward. In the top left corner, there is a logo for the National Museum United States Army. At the bottom, the text reads "Will you be in the Registry of the American Soldier?" and a green button with white text says "REGISTER FOR FREE".

NATIONAL MUSEUM
UNITED STATES ARMY

Will you be in the *Registry of the American Soldier*?

REGISTER FOR FREE

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: 71

- 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

- **Language included in the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act**

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**

H.R. 4633 (Credentialing, Educating, & Relevant Training Initiative For Your Heroes Act (CERTIFY))

Cosponsors: 7

- Permits individuals who are eligible for assistance under a Department of Defense educational assistance program or authority to use such tuition assistance for licensing and certification programs offered by entities other than an institution of higher education.

- Introduced by Rep. Steve Russell, R-Ark.

- **Referred to Committee: Armed Services**

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: 76

- 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: 11

- 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

- **Passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate for action**

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

Cosponsors: 39

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

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

- Referred to Committees: Armed Services

- **Language included in the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act**

VETERANS' ISSUES

House Action

HR 3272 (Veteran Education Empowerment Act)

Cosponsors: 79

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

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

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

H.R. 4571 (Fair Access to Insurance for Retired (FAIR) Heroes Act of 2017)

Cosponsors: 4

- Expands eligibility for the TRICARE program to include certain veterans entitled to benefits under the Medicare program due to conditions or injuries incurred during service in the Armed Forces and to waive the Medicare Part B late enrollment penalty for such veterans.

- Introduced by Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif.

- **Referred to Committee: Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means**

Senate Action

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

Cosponsors: 33

- 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

- **Language included in S. 2193, Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017**

S.1198 (Veterans Care Financial Protection Act)

Cosponsors: 3

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

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

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

S. 2117 (Fair Access to Insurance for Retired (FAIR) Heroes Act of 2017)

Cosponsors: 1

- Expands eligibility for the TRICARE program to include certain veterans entitled to benefits under the Medicare program due to conditions or injuries incurred during service in the Armed Forces and to waive the Medicare Part B late enrollment penalty for such veterans.

- Introduced by Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla.

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

S. 2193 (Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017)

Cosponsors: 0

- Streamlines and strengthens veterans' healthcare services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and in the community to ensure efficient, timely and quality care.

- Introduced by Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.

- Referred to Committee: Veterans' Affairs

- **Passed by Committee on Nov. 29, 2017 and referred to the full Senate**

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Army offers bonus for ‘best and brightest college students’

Maj. Dean Carter
U.S. Army Cadet Command
Fort Knox, Ky.

The U.S. Army is looking for the best and brightest college students in the country to lead America’s soldiers as they conduct operations around the world – from relief efforts in Puerto Rico to combat operations in the Middle East.

The Army understands that college students are seeking a meaningful career once their collegiate days are over.

The Army is offering a limited opportunity to current college sophomores who have the physical stamina and mental agility to lead America’s Army tomorrow and into the future. A newly established \$5,000 bonus will be awarded to current college sophomores who can pass the challenge of attending cadet basic training and accept the mission to lead the finest soldiers in the world.

“We’re looking for high quality college sophomores to join ROTC and attend basic camp here at Fort Knox this summer,” said Maj. Gen. Christopher P. Hughes, commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command.

He added that if the recruits successfully com-



The Army is offering a \$5,000 bonus to current college sophomores who have the physical stamina and mental agility to lead America’s Army tomorrow and into the future. (U.S. Army Cadet Command photo)

plete basic camp, Cadet Command wants to contract them and pay the \$5,000 signing bonus.

Upon graduation, cadets who have successfully completed the military science requirements will receive a position as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

The cadet may elect to be part of the Regular Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard.

The wide range of jobs and occupations within

the Army requires it to recruit officers from all degree fields. The Army also realizes the need for a diverse talent pool to lead soldiers and defend our national interests.

Interested college sophomores should contact their campus Army ROTC department for further details. They can also go to www.goarmy.com/rotc or text “ROTCBONUS” to 462769 on their smart device.



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from the Institute of Land Warfare

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AUSA Books

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Lossberg’s War: The World War I Memoirs of a German Chief of Staff edited by Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki, USA Ret., and Lt. Col. Dieter J. Biedekarken, USA Ret. (University Press of Kentucky, 9 August 2017)

The Budapest Operation 1945: An Operational Strategic Study edited by Richard Harrison, Ph.D. (Helion and Company, 26 June 2017)

Sabers through the Reich: World War II Corps Cavalry from Normandy to the Elbe by William Stuart Nance (University Press of Kentucky, 18 April 2017)

Army Faces



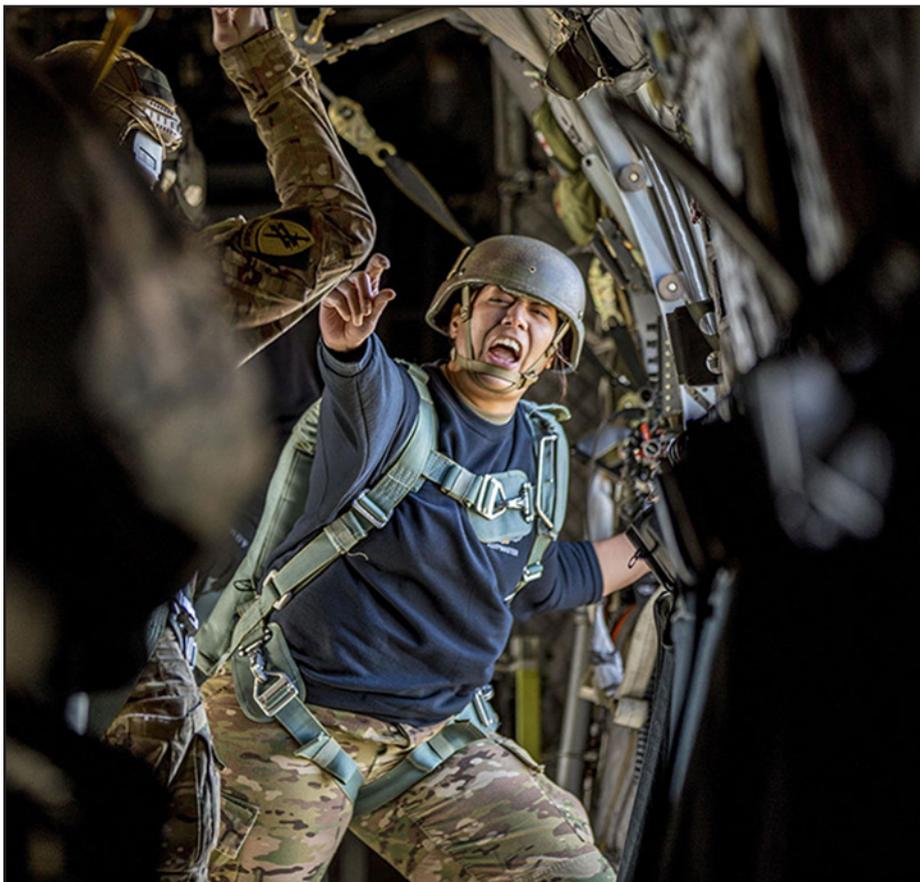
Army Places



Maneuver Center of Excellence leaders, family and friends of Ranger Class 02-18 are watching the Rangers in Action demonstration at Victory Pond, Fort Benning, Ga. (U.S. Army photo)



Cpt. Sebastiano Nane of the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion holds his sons after a redeployment ceremony at Fort Drum's Magrath Gym. Nane held one of his sons for the first time at the ceremony. (Photo by Sgt. Liane Hatch)



A U.S. Army jumpmaster assigned to the 112th Signal Battalion relays commands during the 20th Annual Randy Oler Memorial Operation Toy Drop at Camp MacKall, N.C. (Photo by Spc. Darius Davis)



A soldier with Civil Liaison Detachment Team 59 makes a new friend who helped hand out school supplies and candy to children during a community engagement event near the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre, Amman, Jordan. The project was a cooperative effort between U.S. service members in Jordan and the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army aimed at building strong relationships between the armed forces and local community members. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Margaret Ziffer)