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Inside the News

2020 Budget Includes3.1 Percent Pay Raise

-2 -

Family Readiness
Privatized Housing Solutions

-3 -

NCO and Soldier Programs
Army Emergency Relief

-6-

View from the Hill Modernization, Sequestration

-7 -

AUSA Book Program
WWII in the Pacific

-9 -

Capitol Focus
Budget Debate Begins

-14-

Perna: 'Night Court'
Saved Army \$30 Billion
- 23 -

Chapter Highlights

Greater Kansas City Sinise Receives Donlon Award

-13-

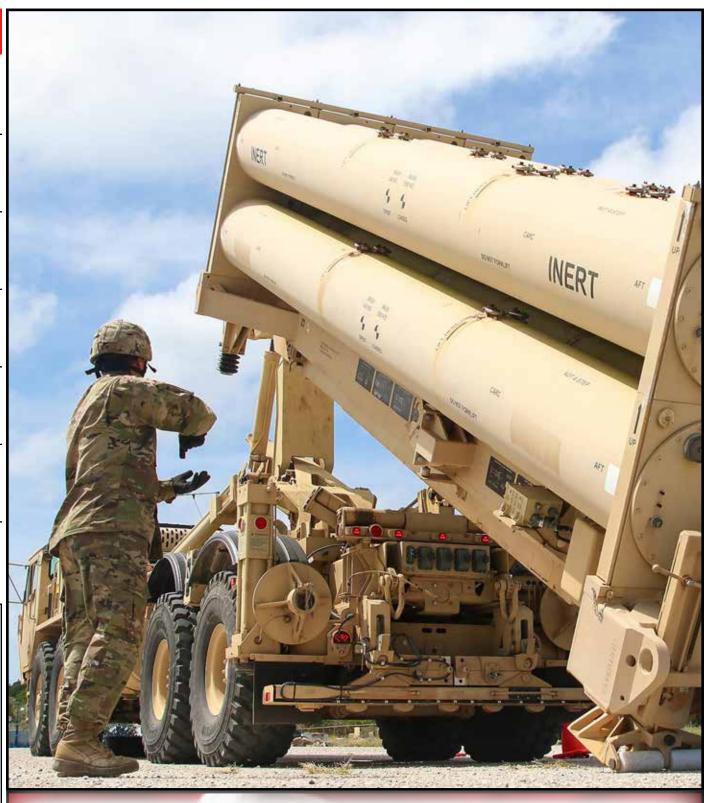
West/Central Alabama Outstanding Women

-17-

Marne
Operation Deploy Your Dress
- 20 -

Sunshine Ham, Preston Visit

-23-



In the future fight, protecting troops and installations from enemy air attacks may prove difficult. At AUSA's recent Hot Topic forum on Army air and missile defense, military and civilian leaders discussed steps the Army is taking toward procuring and integrating critical new capabilities. (U.S. Army/Capt. Adan Cazarez)

See air and missile defense stories on Pages 8, 10, 19, and 20

2020 budget includes largest military pay raise in a decade

he Trump administration is proposing a 3.1 percent military pay raise in 2020—the largest in a decade—as part of a \$750 billion budget request for the Defense Department.

The fiscal year 2020 budget request, released March 11 by the White House, marks a \$34 billion or 5 percent increase for DoD compared with 2019.

Overall, Trump's five-year plan calls for \$3.8 trillion in defense spending.

"The budget enhances the military's readiness and lethality, prioritizing strategic competition with China and Russia," according to the White House. "The budget also sustains efforts to deter and counter rogue regimes such as North Korea and Iran, defeat terrorist threats, and consolidate gains in Iraq and Afghanistan through a resource-sustainable approach."

The 3.1 percent raise is the amount called for by law, matching last year's average private sector pay raise as measured by the Employment Cost Index kept by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A raise of that size could represent an increase in purchasing power for soldiers because consumer prices have been rising at a rate of 1.6 percent.

The 2020 budget funds a total end strength of more than 2.1 million active and reserve military personnel and several key equipment upgrades, in-



The 3.1 percent raise is the amount called for by law. (U.S. Army/Spc. Samuel Keenan)

cluding modernizing nearly two armored brigade combat teams and investing in new weapons and body armor, warfighter recruitment and training, and the development of a next-generation ground combat vehicle.

As the Army Futures Command hits full operating capability in 2020, the White House also is seeking more than \$59 billion in research, engineer-

ing and prototyping activities to maintain the military's technological superiority over all potential adversaries.

The budget also continues work on building a new missile field at Fort Greely, Alaska, with 20 silos and 20 additional Ground-Based Interceptors to help protect the U.S. against intermediate- and long-range ballistic missile threats.

AUSA supports HAVEN Act to protect disabled veterans

he Association of the U.S. Army is supporting the Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need (HAVEN) Act (S. 679) to protect the economic security and well-being of veterans and their families who rely on disability benefits and may be experiencing financial hardship.

The HAVEN Act, recently introduced by Sens. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and John Cornyn, R-Texas, would remove unequal treatment among various disability benefits by excluding VA and DoD disability payments made to veterans or their dependent survivors from the monthly income calculation used for bankruptcy means tests.

"The Association of the United States Army is proud and honored to support this important bipartisan legislation, the Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need Act," said Mark Haaland, AUSA's director of Government Affairs. "Passage of this legislation will help protect America's disabled veterans who are so deserving of this nation's gratitude and support. We thank Senator Tammy Baldwin and

Senator John Cornyn for introducing the HAVEN legislation, and we thank the many United States senators who have announced their support and endorse this bill."

"Forcing our veterans and their families to dip into their disability-related benefits to pay off bankruptcy creditors dishonors their service and sacrifice," Baldwin said in a press release. "These benefits are earned, and we must do right by our veterans and protect their economic security, especially during challenging times," she said.

Under current bankruptcy law, disability benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense are included in the calculation of a debtor's disposable income, increasing the portion of the debtor's income that is subject to the reach of creditors. By contrast, bankruptcy law explicitly exempts Social Security disability benefits from this calculation.

"Disabled veterans fought for their country at great cost, and they shouldn't need to fight to protect their disability benefits from creditors during bankruptcy," Cornyn said. "By providing parity between disability compensation and Social Security for those who have fallen on hard times, this legislation ensures we will continue to honor our veterans and their families."

The HAVEN Act complements recent congressional efforts to combat service member and veteran mental health issues, addiction, suicide, poverty and homelessness—all of which are exacerbated by financial hardship.



The Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need (HAVEN) Act will help protect America's disabled veterans. (U.S. Army photo)

Army leadership responds to privatized housing challenges

AUSA Family Readiness

By Patty Barron

uring the 2018 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition, a town hall with Army Secretary Mark T. Esper, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey was held for Army family members and soldiers. Among the many issues brought up were challenges with military privatized housing, which included chipping lead paint and mold.

Lauren Hope, an Army spouse living in privatized housing, shared her personal story along with health issues she suspected were a result of mold spore exposure.

Paying \$800 in out-of-pocket expenses for mold testing, she brought her results to a community forum focused on housing issues and, according to Hope, "nothing was done."

She went on to say, "I'm really sorry that I have to bring this to you here today, but I know I'm not alone. Please help me hold these companies accountable."

The three senior leaders reported that the Army had already started testing pre-1978 Army homes, of which there are about 36,000, for lead paint, asbestos and lead in the water.

They reiterated that the first step for military families is going to their chain of command to get things fixed, but if the problem was not resolved, to take it "all the way to the top."

That was in October. On Dec. 27, an article titled "Special Report: As their landlord profits, soldiers battle unsafe Army homes," published by Reuters, sent the Military Privatized Housing Initiative into a tailspin (https://reut.rs/2Eb3WrN).

Families on various military installations shared stories of pervasive mold, peeling lead paint, and vermin and bug infestations.

Many family members reported health issues that they attributed to the unsafe environment in which they live.

Unfortunately, according to residents, the response from housing management offices to complaints was a tepid effort to repair the problem.

Mold was identified as "dirt," lead paint had been painted over for so many years that windows could no longer be opened, and vermin and bugs were deemed a "part of the geography" with few options to rid the home of the unwanted inhabitants.

Admittedly, not all privatized housing is in disrepair, but the voices of hundreds of military families could not be ignored.

On Feb. 13, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a joint hearing of the subcommittees on personnel and readiness and management.

Affected family members, the heads of five privatized housing companies, and senior Department of Defense leaders were asked to testify.



Undersecretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy, right, visits the home of a military family at Fort Jackson, S.C. Senior leaders have recently visited several Army installations to hear concerns about military housing. (U.S. Army photo)

To their credit, Army senior leaders, upon learning of the extent and severity of the housing issues, acted quickly.

Esper and Milley immediately set a process in motion where all 87,000 quarters and barracks on 49 installations around the world would, with approval from the resident, be visited by Army leadership no later than March 18.

Primary on the list of questions to ask tenants: Do soldiers and family members feel comfortable where they live? Are there any issues not yet reported? Have work orders been created, and what's their status?

Priority for remediation would go toward life, health and safety issues.

In addition, Army leadership has required all Army installations to host a series of town hall meetings with installation and garrison commanders specifically on housing problems.

There is still much to do, but AUSA is heartened

by the Army's response and the soon-to-be released Tenant Bill of Rights that will provide military housing residents with additional options when it comes to inadequate housing issues.

Your association will monitor the situation and continue to provide a platform for Army families to share their concerns with senior leaders.

Army leadership understands fully that when it comes to the health and safety of Army families, there can be no substitute for strong oversight.

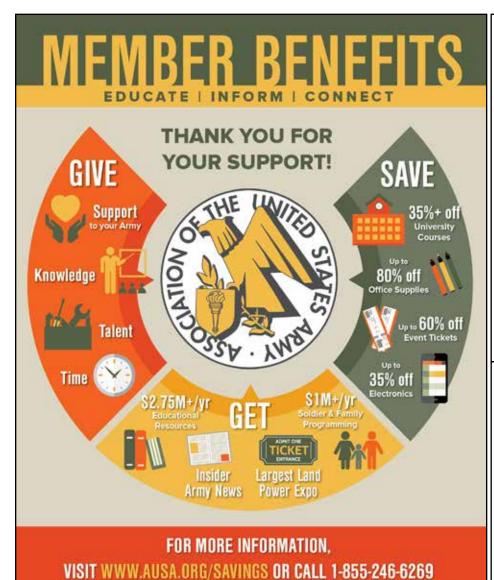
In a statement during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on March 7, Esper said, "Providing a safe, quality living environment for our soldiers and their families is critical to the readiness of the force. This is essential to building trust so when soldiers deploy, they can rest assured their families are taken care of back home.

"To do this, the Army needs to get back involved in the housing business."

Patty Barron is AUSA's Family Readiness Director.



From left, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, Army Secretary Mark T. Esper and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey speak at the 2018 AUSA Annual Meeting. (AUSA photo)



News

Voice for the Army - Support for the Soldier

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Army Emergency Relief supports soldiers and their families

NCO and Soldier Programs

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, USA Retired

reetings from the Association of the U.S. Army, our Army's association for education and professional development, and a major supporter of the Army's Soldier for Life efforts.

The mission of Army Emergency Relief (AER), unchanged for the last seven decades, is to help relieve financial distress on soldiers and their families, an issue that is directly tied to the readiness of the force.

The Army will conduct its annual AER fund campaign from March 1 through May 15. This year's campaign theme is "It's What We Do."

The goal is to ensure 100 percent of the force is educated and informed about AER, and to provide the opportunity to follow in the legacy of the generations of soldiers who have helped their fellow teammates.

"Leave No Comrade Behind" is as important on the battlefield as it is at home station.

AER is proactively engaging corporations, foundations and the patriotic American public to raise funds "outside the gate" to support soldiers and their families in their time of need.

In 2018, AER provided assistance to 36,335 soldiers and their families with \$58,661,357 in financial aid. On average, AER annually provides more than \$61 million in financial help to more than 40,000 soldiers and their families.

In 2018, the board approved additional categories of assistance and enhanced others.

Four existing categories have been changed:

- Dental care for dependents starts at 50 percent grant/50 percent loan, and the \$5,000 cap has been removed.
- Child car seats are a grant-only category of assistance.
- Cranial helmets are a grant-only category of assistance.
- The cap has been raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for dependent spouse funeral expenses.

Two new categories of assistance have been added:

- Passport immigration and visa fees are a grantonly category of assistance.
- Special needs equipment is a grant-only category of assistance.

Lastly, as of Jan. 1, 2018, all emergency leave requests for immediate family members starts at a 50 percent grant/50 percent loan.

AER operates under the authority of Army Regulation 930-4, with the partnership of the garrison command team and the Army Community Service at 74 locations on Army installations worldwide.



The Army will conduct its annual Army Emergency Relief fund campaign from March 1 through May 15. This year's campaign theme is 'It's What We Do.' (U.S. Army photo)

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley reminds us of our three strategic priorities: readiness, the future Army and taking care of soldiers—and AER is aligned with these goals.

Who is eligible for assistance?

- Regular Army soldiers, single or married, and their eligible dependents.
- Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers on continuous active duty for more than 30 consecutive days and their eligible family members.
- Soldiers retired from the regular Army for longevity or physical disability, and their eligible dependents.
- Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers who retired and are receiving Defense Finance and Accounting System-issued retired pay, and their eligible family members.
- Surviving spouses and orphans of soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired.

How can I get assistance through AER?

Company commanders or first sergeants can approve AER loans of up to \$2,000 to assist soldiers with their financial needs.

All soldiers, regardless of rank, are allowed direct access to AER without a unit commander's



review or approval/concurrence with the following conditions:

- Soldiers in the grades of E-1 through E-4 in initial entry training are not eligible for direct access.
- Soldiers with less than 12 months in service are not eligible for direct access.
- Regardless of rank, direct access assistance will be limited to two requests (loan or grant) within a 12-month period.
- Soldiers who exhibit high-risk behaviors for financial problems in accordance with Army Regulation 600-85 are not eligible for direct access.

If soldiers fall under any of these conditions, they may still receive AER assistance by going through their company chain of command.

Access to AER can also be made through the Air Force, Navy/Marine Corps and Coast Guard military aid societies around the world.

Most importantly, if you cannot easily gain access to a military base or one of the military aid societies listed above, you can always get help through American Red Cross Emergency Communication Centers anywhere in the world, anytime.

For 24/7 operations, call (877) 272-7337.

The start of this year's AER campaign provides us with the opportunity to educate and inform every member of the Army Team—leaders, supervisors, soldiers and their families—about AER.

See your AER unit representative to learn more about AER and visit the website at www.aerhq.org.

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.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, USA retired, is AUSA's Vice President for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army.

Budget priorities include modernization, sequestration

View from the Hill

By Mark Haaland

ow that the Defense Department has released its budget, the Army's first posture hearing will be with the Senate Armed Services Committee on March 26.

However, other hearings on topics such as readiness, quality of life and threats to national security have been ongoing since the new 116th Congress took office.

AUSA will provide updates on the Army's budget request as we learn the details and gain useful insights from Armed Services and Appropriations hearings, budget reviews and mark-ups.

In his remarks at AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare breakfast forum on Feb. 26, Undersecretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy told the audience that while readiness remains the Army's top budget priority in the FY20 budget request, the service also is making modernization a major priority to improve lethality and overmatch.

McCarthy noted that the Army has reprioritized more than \$30 billion to support the Army's six modernization priorities.

AUSA is actively advocating for and supporting the Army's budget priorities in our congressional meetings.

As noted in the previous issue of AUSA News, the

overarching budget challenge for DoD and the federal government is the return of the Budget Control Act budget caps in 2020, also known as sequestration.

Without an agreement between the administration and Congress, sequestration will kick in with the new fiscal year.

Absent an agreement, the defense budget will take about a \$71 billion reduction from FY19 levels and the non-defense budget will take about a \$55 billion reduction.

These are big numbers that will have a considerable impact on the Army's priorities for readiness and modernization. So, a solution for the Budget Control Act budget caps and sequestration is a top legislative priority.

Encouraging Congress to pass the National Defense Act and the Defense and Military Construction Appropriations before the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 is equally important.

We understand that the administration's plan for this year's budget is to submit a budget that complies with the Budget Control Act along with a large Overseas Contingency Operations budget that includes funding for DoD for requirements not directly related to overseas operations.

The chairman for the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., has indicated he supports this approach, but House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., has expressed concern, noting the OCO budget is intended to support warfighting requirements and no others.

We will continue to provide updates on the budget, along with the Armed Services and Appropriations committees, as the 116th Congress reviews and deliberates on the submitted budget and acts (or does not act) to pass legislation funding the Defense Department and the Army in time for the new fiscal year.

Please stay tuned.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs Director.



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Army air and missile defense critical in Indo-Pacific region

Integrated air and missile defense will be critical in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly as tensions grow with China, Russia and North Korea, the commander of U.S. Army Pacific said at a Hot Topic forum hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

China and Russia are currently in competition with the U.S., rather than conflict, according to the National Defense Strategy. However, it is a "hypercompetition," said Gen. Robert B. Brown.

"Because of that hyper-competition, you have to have an incredible presence and posture," he said.

The U.S. doesn't want conflict, but if we don't show that we're prepared for it, he said, our adversaries will be "emboldened in their aggressiveness."

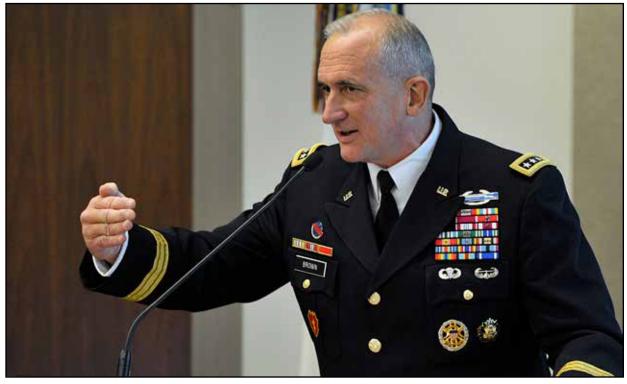
Holding land becomes very important in this sort of competition because it shows persistence, commitment and survivability, Brown said.

The Indo-Pacific region covers 52 percent of the earth's surface, and it is difficult to defend such a massive area

That's why it's so important to have Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) and Patriot missile defense systems in locations such as South Korea, Guam and Hawaii, Brown said.

"I've been in the operations center at Hickam [Air Force Base in Hawaii] when a launch has occurred from North Korea," Brown said.

Within seconds, an air and missile defense sol-



The U.S. needs 'an incredible presence and posture' in the Indo-Pacific region, said Gen. Robert B. Brown, commander of U.S. Army Pacific. (AUSA photo)

dier had identified the landing location and the system needed to intercept, if necessary.

"When I look at integrated air and missile defense in the future, the forward presence is key," Brown said, describing a "layered defense" that would account for long-, mid- and short-range attacks.

He said that one future system the Army is looking at is dual-purpose artillery, which would produce fires as well as a potential air defense against cruise missiles and other targets.

















New AUSA Book Program entry explores WWII in the Pacific

AUSA Book Program

By Joseph Craig

Recent news from Asia and the Pacific highlight several threats the United States faces in the region: North Korea, Chinese actions in the South China Sea, terrorist groups in the Philippines, and more.

The U.S. military is taking steps to counter those threats in conjunction with the new National Defense Strategy.

To understand the best way forward, it is important to understand how we arrived at our current position.

War in the American Pacific and East Asia, 1941–1972 is a new entry in the AUSA Book Program.

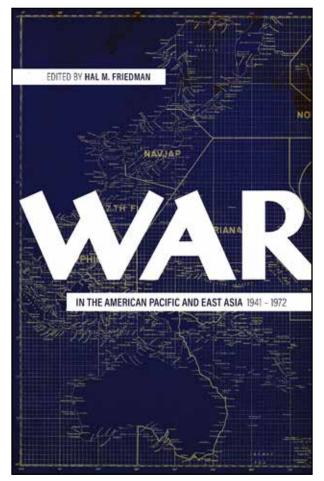
The book features nine essays that explore America's expansion into the Pacific during and after World War II.

It shows how the U.S. won the war against Japan, and how it sought to secure that victory and ensure it never faced another Pearl Harbor.

Editor Hal M. Friedman sat down with the AUSA Book Program to talk about this new work.

AUSA: What inspired you to put together this collection?

Friedman: I have published two trilogies on the United States in the immediate post-WWII Pacific, primarily national security policy between 1945 and 1947.



War in the American Pacific and East Asia, 1941–1972 was edited by Hal M. Friedman.

Some years ago, I decided—literally as an academic exercise—to organize a collection of essays.

This was a type of publication I had not completed yet, and so I set out to do so.



Infantrymen cautiously move toward an enemy machine gun position on an island in the Pacific during World War II. (U.S. Army photo)

AUSA: How did you select the contributors for the book?

Friedman: Throughout my research, publishing, and especially attendance at professional conferences, I came into contact with my contributors, most of whom are very close colleagues and friends now.

However, it should also be understood that recruiting contributors took some time. Some original contributors could not be included because of copyright problems, and some had to drop out because of factors such as other professional commitments and family obligations.

AUSA: Which discoveries did you find most striking?

Friedman: The theme, beyond the U.S. in the Pacific, was new directions in American military history in this region and time period. Along those lines, essays that focused on strategic communications, the role of popular culture in the war, the first Cold War failure by the United States to carry out successful military advising to another country, foodways, and the U.S. military's relations with the media all jump out at me.

AUSA: What were the best examples of interservice cooperation during these years?

Friedman: I think the best example was the cooperation between then-Gen. MacArthur as commander in chief of the Southwest Pacific Area on the one hand and then-Adm. William Halsey, commander of the Third Fleet, and Adm. Thomas Kinkaid, commander of the Seventh Fleet, in the South Pacific Area.

However, readers should understand that when it came to interservice cooperation, there was certainly enough of it to win the war, but there was gross, unprofessional competition and conduct all around—so much that Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshall once muttered to his wife that he wondered if the US military was really at war with the Germans and the Japanese or with each other.

AUSA: Naturally, AUSA members are interested in the land power component of the Pacific War. Which Army actions had the largest effect on the region?

Friedman: I think the greatest impact that the Army had was to bite the interservice bullet, swallow its pride, and allow the United States Marines Corps to teach it amphibious assault doctrine.

The Marines had spent much of the interwar period developing this doctrine, and they were the real specialists by 1941.

As Adm. Raymond Spruance, commander of the Fifth Fleet, said in early 1944, naval and air forces were really just support forces that existed to get the amphibious ground forces closer and closer to the Japanese Home Islands.

To order a copy of *War in the American Pacific and East Asia, 1941–1972*, please visit www.ausa. org/books.

Joseph Craig is AUSA's Book Program Director.

Army moving forward on air and missile defense capabilities

he Army is taking big steps toward having critical new air and missile defense capabilities, with an eye on a collection of interconnected systems that provide scalable, mobile and revolutionary protection against current and future threats.

No single system will be able to accomplish what the Army and the nation need, the commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command said March 12 during a one-day event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

Moving forward is important.

"We understand that our potential adversaries have made technological advances in nearly every capability in the past few decades," said Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson, who also commands Army Forces Strategic Command.

"China, Russia and other competitors are working every day to develop and field air and missile defense capabilities with greater mobility, range, speed and precision."

"In the future, we can expect to see a mix of capabilities integrated at all echelons," Dickinson said, warning that there is no easy fix because no single system will have the capability to match every threat.

"There is no one silver bullet," he said.

He was optimistic, however. "We are nearing



Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson speaks at AUSA's Hot Topic forum on Army Air and Missile Defense. (AUSA photo)

completion of an updated vision," he said.

It is based on some simple concepts of having the right capabilities to meet multidomain threats, with the right capacity, with trained and qualified people, and a system that is interoperable and integrated with partners and allies.

"We cannot continue to do the same thing and the same way at the same pace and expect to maintain and increase our technological advantage," Dickinson said.

Experts say U.S. must upgrade missile defense capabilities

lack of missile defense and anti-aircraft capabilities could put Army units and installations at risk in a future large-scale conflict, experts say.

Recent war games show the U.S. "usually fails to achieve our objective of preventing aggression by the adversary," RAND Corp. analyst David Ochmanek said during a March 7 panel discussion at the Center for a New American Security.

The National Defense Strategy defines the Pentagon's top priority as competition and potential conflict with China and Russia, and right now, the U.S. military does not have air superiority over the battlespace, Ochmanek said.

In addition to armored and fires brigades, "you need short-range air defenses for Army bases," he said.

This has been identified as a capability gap in recent years, he said.

"The U.S. Army has the responsibility for base defense, and if we went to war in Europe, there would be one Patriot battery moving. And that's it," said former Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work, referring to an air defense system used by the Army.

"We have 58 brigade combat teams, but we don't have anything to protect our bases with," Work said.

In the 1990s, the U.S. was pursuing more capabilities related to large-state warfare, but that focus changed after 9/11, Work said.

"Now, we have large-state competitors who can match our scale, and we've never gone up against an adversary with the same capabilities," he said, so the U.S. needs to start preparing now. "Until we get a very significant breakthrough in the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of active defenses against enemy missiles, we're going to have to live in that world," Ochmanek said.



Army National Guard soldiers work with an Avenger short-range air defense system at the Ustka Range Complex in Ustka, Poland. (U.S. Army/Pfc. Casey Dinnison)



Each Monday, AUSA's Army Matters podcast brings you vital Army conversations and interviews on issues relevant to Soldiers, military families and all the amazing Army supporters out there.



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Sinise receives AUSA chapter's inaugural Donlon Award

Chapter Highlight Greater Kansas City

he Association of the U. S. Army's Greater Kansas City Chapter recently recognized humanitarian, actor and philanthropist Gary Sinise's almost 40 years of exceptional support to veterans, service members and families with the inaugural presentation of the Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon Patriot Award.

The award honors Donlon as both the first U.S. Army Special Forces soldier to receive the Medal of Honor and its first recipient in the Vietnam conflict.

Donlon personally presented the award to Sinise before an audience of more than 370 veterans, service members and members of the Kansas City community who filled the Count Basie Ballroom of the Kansas City Downtown Marriott.

Friends for over a decade, the two shared a heartfelt embrace as Sinise received the framed U.S. Special Forces insignia carved in Brazilian Cherry wood, with stiletto, set on the red field of the 7th Special Forces Group.

Seven current members of Operational Detachment A-7126 and a three-person team from the 7th Special Forces Group traveled from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for the event.

These quiet professionals joined their fellow soldiers alongside active-duty members of the Marines, Navy and Air Force.

Present in their service dress uniforms, they stood out from among the scores of veterans and civilian members of the Kansas City community.

Those present included members of the Special Forces Association, seven retired general officers, the civilian aides to the secretary of the Army for both Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas, and the organization heads of several of KCAUSA's Community Partners.

The turnout was tremendous and provided proof of the great esteem held for Donlon and Sinise by both local veteran and civilian members of the community.

Their personal friendship helped make the inaugural presentation of the Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon Patriot Award highly memorable.

Donlon retired from active duty in 1988, and following his distinguished military career has ceaselessly volunteered his time and energies in supporting the nation and his community.

As a captain on July 6, 1964, Donlon led his 12-man Special Forces team alongside 300 South Vietnamese soldiers in successfully defending the Nam Dong Special Forces Camp against a concerted, two-day attack from two Viet Cong battalions with a combined strength of well over 800 communist fighters.

President Lyndon B. Johnson presented him



From left: Scott Weaver, executive vice president of AUSA's Greater Kansas City Chapter, actor Gary Sinise, and retired Col. Roger H.C. Donlon at the inaugural presentation of the Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon Patriot Award. The award honors Donlon as both the first U.S. Army Special Forces soldier to receive the Medal of Honor and its first recipient in the Vietnam conflict. (AUSA photo)

with the Medal of Honor on Dec. 5, 1964.

Sinise, who played Lt. Dan Taylor in the movie Forrest Gump, is the author of Grateful American: A Journey from Self to Service, and continues giving back to those who sacrifice for our nation and encouraging others to do the same.



Sinise has committed his time and energy to veterans since the early 1980s. (AUSA photo)

Sinise has committed his time and energy to veterans since the early 1980s, beginning with "Vets Night" free dinner performances for Vietnam veterans at the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago.

Since establishing the Gary Sinise Foundation in 2011, he has led his fellow citizens in doing "all we can to extend our hand in times of need to those who willingly sacrifice each day to provide that freedom and security ... that we, as Americans, should never take for granted."

This is not the first time Sinise has been honored by AUSA.

At AUSA's 2017 Annual Meeting and Exposition, he received the George Catlett Marshall Medal, the highest award for service to the nation presented by the association.

The Greater Kansas City Chapter is especially grateful for the generous support of Country Club Bank, Shawnee Mission Kia, CZ-USA, Friends in Service of Heroes, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Armed Forces Bank, Demaranville & Associates, Honeywell, Kamo Adventures, Valiant Integrated Services, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Armed Forces Insurance, Hodgdon Powder, the Spencer C. Duncan Make it Count Foundation, and Red Team Thinking.

The Greater Kansas City Chapter will host its annual Army birthday celebration dinner on June 15 at the Kansas City Downtown Marriott.

Congress begins debate over \$750 billion defense budget

Capitol Focus

By Julie Rudowski

Republicans from the House Armed Services Committee officially delivered their "views and estimates" of the president's fiscal 2020 defense budget request to the Democratic-led House Budget Committee.

In it, they argue that the Trump administration's \$750 billion budget request for the Pentagon would be required to "continue to restore our readiness and to make progress in meeting the threats posed by near-peer competitors, such as Russia and China."

In the March 11 letter, the committee members, led by ranking member Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, said, "We are committed to restoring the readiness of our Armed Forces and to implementing institutional reforms that ensure that our military has the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay and benefits our nation can possibly provide."

They stress that the Defense Department is "un-

like many other government programs" and that "national security needs must necessarily reflect the strategic environment in which we find ourselves."

"We have consistently received testimony that the United States faces the most complex security challenges in its history from a variety of actors using a multitude of tools and tactics," the letter stated.

It also outlined several areas of concern for the committee members, including what they termed "Readiness Restoration."

"The funding levels Congress provided for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 began to rebuild our military, repairing damage caused by years of high demands and low budgets," the letter said.

"The military services have begun the long process of simultaneously restoring forces and equipment worn down by years of combat and accelerating critical modernization programs to stay ahead of strategic competitors with modern militaries, such as China and Russia.

"A return to an unstable and uncertain budget situation would be incredibly irresponsible, especially when we already know the consequences."

The members highlighted their concerns about

ground forces, saying that they are "struggling to balance executing current and ongoing missions, focused mainly on non-state actors, while simultaneously preparing to deter future conflict."

Operating at that high operational pace coupled with the "consequences of earlier reductions to their authorized personnel levels" have put a strain on the ground forces, members said.

In addition to the focus on non-state actors, "the Army and Marine Corps must also renew their focus on fighting and winning high-end conflicts against near-peer state competitors."

The committee's chairman doesn't agree with the defense budget request.

At a recent conference in Washington, HASC Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., said that he favors a \$733 billion topline for defense spending, less than the \$750 billion requested by the administration.

"The one thing that I would emphasize is there are a lot of ways to deter adversaries, not just through the size of your military," he said.

"The House Budget Committee, the number that they've talked about for defense is \$733 billion."

Julie Rudowski is AUSA's Government Affairs Assistant Director.

ILW has a new book on the Army's campaign streamers

From the Revolutionary War to the ongoing fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, campaign streamers have told the story of the U.S. Army.

Those streamers, which are affixed to the Army flag, are showcased in a new book from the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

Campaign Streamers of the United States Army was first released in 2009. This new edition is its

first update since then and includes the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan as well as Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria.

While the Army's story is told in many ways—through acts of valor, unit patches, the naming of posts and training areas, for example—campaign streamers have a special place in Army heraldry, retired Gen. Carter Ham, president and CEO of AUSA, wrote in the foreword to the book.

"From Lexington to the ongoing campaigns of united-states-army.

today, the Army's streamers span the history of our nation and our Army," he wrote. "They reflect the sacrifice, service and honor of the American soldier through many generations and remind us all how different our nation would be but for those who have worn the uniform of our nation in the hardest of times."

The book is available for download here: https://www.ausa.org/publications/campaign-streamers-united-states-army.







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AUSA chapter honors outstanding women, past and present

Chapter Highlight West/Central Alabama

By Tiffany Stanton

bolitionist, dress reformer and suffragette, Mary Edwards Walker first strode onto a battlefield with her surgeon's bag in 1862. She was a civilian volunteer who had been denied official Union Army enlistment again and again. But three years later, she became the only woman ever awarded the Medal of Honor.

Walker led an incredible life.

She self-funded a medical school education. She was captured by Confederate soldiers after crossing enemy lines to treat wounded civilians, only to later be arrested as a spy.

She spent four months as a prisoner of war, performed countless field surgeries, and was frequently arrested for "impersonating a man" due to her lifelong rejection of skirts and corsets.

As Lt. Col. Nicolas Britto, president of the West/ Central Alabama Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, learned more about Walker's life, he realized she was the perfect lens through which to view the chapter's 2018 Outstanding Women of the Year.

Britto planned the organization's awards luncheon, held in a packed Tuscaloosa River Market and catered by The Pottery Grill on Feb. 28, around reintroducing Walker's historic achievements to modern audiences.

"She is an inspiration to all women in our country," Britto said, noting that while thousands of men had earned Medals of Honor, Walker was still the only woman so recognized.

"Her life and efforts to improve the equal rights of women should never be forgotten," he said.



AUSA Alabama State President Dave Seay presents Maj. Gen. Sheryl Gordon, adjutant general of the Alabama National Guard, with a certificate honoring her as the '2018 Woman of the Year.' (Alabama National Guard/Capt. Jacqueline Witt)

Her struggle for recognition is still fought by women leaders, as the story of one Outstanding Woman of the Year, the event's guest of honor, demonstrates.



Hillcrest High School Junior ROTC Cadet Battalion Commander Caitlyn Lewis salutes the memorial table honoring Dr. Mary Walker, the first and only woman recipient of the Medal of Honor, at the Women's Leadership Luncheon sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army's West/Central Alabama Chapter. (Alabama National Guard/Capt. Jacqueline Witt)

Maj. Gen. Sheryl Gordon, adjutant general of the Alabama National Guard, became the state's first female National Guard general officer in 2009, and first adjutant general in 2017.

Britto said that's stunning, considering the Alabama National Guard was first officially recognized in 1903.

But the wait for recognition is not new in women's history. Mary Walker's wait didn't end in her own lifetime.

She became a doctor in an era when few women earned advanced degrees, and her earliest practice failed in part because few people at the time trusted female doctors.

She was a strong advocate of women's rights, refused to repeat the word "obey" in her wedding vows, and kept her own last name after marriage.

She strongly believed the long dresses and numerous underpinnings women of the era were expected to wear were unfairly binding and even unhygienic, and so she stubbornly insisted on wearing pants in public despite the frequent harassment she faced for doing so.

At the start of the Civil War, Walker served as a volunteer surgeon for the Union Army and was reportedly much appreciated by both wounded soldiers and fellow doctors.

She was hired at the pay level of a lieutenant in 1863 and captured by the South when she crossed enemy lines to treat wounded civilians in 1864.

After four months as a prisoner of war and a brief excursion to report her experience to President Abraham Lincoln, she returned to the field ready to serve again.

But decades after she earned her Medal of Honor, it was revoked in a sweeping 1917 readjustment that erased more than 900 honorees from the rolls.

Walker, however, believed it was her work across enemy lines that had earned her the medal, and she continued to wear it throughout her life.

Only in the 1970s, more than 50 years after her death, was the honor officially reinstated.

"It is women like Dr. Walker who inspire us to do better and to be better," Gordon told award winners, event sponsors and Hillcrest High School JROTC cadets who had helped organize the program in Walker's honor

"She engulfed herself in her desire to help others, working for free for the Union Army as a medical doctor, because she knew well the importance of women in the military."

Gordon herself grew up in a military family, surrounded by the seven Army Values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Birmingham-Southern College, a Bachelor of Science in secondary education and a Master of Education in administration from Auburn University of Montgomery, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.



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G-8: Army prioritizes air and missile defense upgrades

he "deep dive" cuts made to dozens of programs in the Army's march toward modernization have resulted in funding for priority air and missile defense capabilities to be fielded over the next five years.

Lt. Gen. James F. Pasquarette, deputy chief of staff, G-8, who heads Army resources and planning, said the Army's reprioritization of funds is in line with the National Defense Strategy, and is aimed at re-establishing "overmatch against China and Russia in areas where we lost it or will soon lose it if we don't get after it now."

In March 12 remarks during a one-day Hot Topic event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare, Pasquarette highlighted the money allocated in the fiscal 2020 budget request and the planned fielding timelines for each of the air and missile defense systems listed as priorities for Army modernization.

More than \$300 million—a 280 percent increase over the fiscal 2019 budget request—is earmarked for the Stryker-mounted maneuver short-range air defense (MSHORAD), which will provide protection for maneuver forces.

The money also begins funding the multimission, high-energy 50 kilowatt laser, a separate but complementary platform to MSHORAD that's expected to be fielded in 2024.

MSHORAD is set for fielding between 2020 and 2021, as the Army plans to equip the first of four planned MSHORAD battalions next year.

The 2020 budget request also contains \$250 million for the indirect fire protection capability (IFPC), an 18 percent decrease from fiscal 2019 based on a restructuring of the program so experiments with another system, Iron Dome, can take place.

Pasquarette said the decrease will not delay fielding of IFPC, expected in 2020, but will allow a decision to be made on what the enduring capability will be.

There is \$427 million planned for the low-tier air and missile defense (LTAMD) system, a \$375



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful test. At a recent AUSA Hot Topic forum on Army air and missile defense, Lt. Gen. James F. Pasquarette said that a new network link between THAAD and Patriot will also come on line in late 2020 or early 2021. (U.S. Army photo)

increase over fiscal 2019, to secure six prototypes and complete software development. Initial operating capability is planned for fiscal 2022, when LTAMD will be fielded to the first Patriot battalion.

A new network link between THAAD and Patriot will also come on line in late 2020 or early 2021 for forces in Korea.

For the Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System, there is \$238 million, a 25 percent decrease from fiscal 2019 resulting from, among other things, underperformance.

The funding will support a limited user test next year and the fielding of initial prototypes in fiscal 2022.

Chapter honors women from page 17

She also completed advanced level military studies courses, and earned decorations and awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

But she feels she worked her way up from second lieutenant and administration officer to liaison officer to assistant adjutant general-Army and, finally, to adjutant general of Alabama under greater scrutiny than a man would have had. She said it's part of being a woman in leadership, in any field.

"We feel like we must be better, and we must do better, than our male predecessors," she said in her remarks. "Otherwise, we're just playing into the archaic stereotypes of women being the lesser of the sexes. We have to demonstrate to whatever organization we're involved in that we are more knowledgeable and fit to lead than our male counterparts."

Hillcrest High School senior and JROTC Cadet Battalion Commander Caitlyn Lewis, who helped organize the luncheon and introduced Gordon to the audience, said Gordon and Walker show her that women have something real to offer the military.

"Women may be less in number" in the military, she explained, "but we are equally as strong."

As the state of Alabama's adjutant general, Gordon is a visible reminder of that strength for female cadets like Lewis.

She said she hopes young women see her success as a realistic goal for themselves.

"When Governor Kay Ivey chose me to lead the more than 12,000 members of the Alabama National Guard, I was truly humbled," she told the crowd. "She called me a trailblazer and said, 'Sometimes, the best man for the job is a woman,' and I think she probably knows a little bit about that."

Along with Gordon, the AUSA Outstanding Women of the Year are Wendy Harris, PARA division manager and local sports historian; Jennifer H. Henderson, U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Western Division; and Dr. Cathy Randall, chair of the board of Pettus Randall Holdings, LLC, and former chair of the board of Randall Publishing Company.

The 2018 Veteran of the Year, Dorian M. Jenkins, who also is the congressional liaison officer for the Montgomery VA Regional Office, was also recognized.

State Sen. Gerald Allen, the Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority, the City of Tuscaloosa, McAbee Construction, Alabama Power, IHOP, The Pottery Grill, The Print Shop in Marion Alabama, and Freshcoat Painters sponsored the event.

Tiffany Stanton is a staff reporter for AUSA's West/Central Alabama Chapter.

'Operation Deploy Your Dress' opens Fort Stewart location

Chapter Highlight Marne

peration Deploy Your Dress, the Marne Spouses Club and the Association of the U.S. Army's Marne Chapter partnered March 7 to open a sixth boutique at Fort Stewart, Ga.

More than 30 dresses and accessories were given away to DoD ID card holders during the grand opening event.

Operation Deploy Your Dress (ODYD), began at Fort Bliss, Texas, in late 2015, when founders Renee Chapman, Ronya Rendon, Yvonne Coombes, Liz McKenrick and Melissa Riely decided to organize a dress swap among their units' spouses, as a way to defray the costs associated with purchasing formal wear for holiday balls.

It wasn't long before the idea became an organization run entirely by dozens of volunteers.

With the support of Fort Bliss' garrison command and the Fort Bliss Spouses' Club, ODYD set up a location next to the thrift shop.

Soon, other installations expressed interest, and within one year, ODYD opened at Fort Eustis, Va., and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

ODYD is now a well-organized store, albeit one that "sells" its goods for free.

Military service women and military spouses can



At the grand opening event are, from left to right, Liz McKenrick, ODYD; Carla Schreihofer, AUSA Marne chapter president; Yvonne Coombes, ODYD; Thea Green, AUSA Family Readiness program manager; and Barbara Martin, AUSA Marne chapter treasurer. (AUSA photo)

come to ODYD and select one dress and one accessory per year.

They simply need to present their military ID card and sign the record book, and they can walk away without spending a dime.

The boutique at Fort Stewart, staffed by Marne Spouse Club members, will be open on Wednes-

With lots of volunteers, hours, dresses and a vision, the "Sip & See" event and ribbon cutting was the culmination of all the hard work.

Bringing the boutique to the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield community was the vision of Lori Quintas, who was friends with one of the founders and saw the importance of bringing ODYD to the installation.

New ILW paper calls for review of Army nuclear policy

new research paper from the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land War-If are suggests it is time to reconsider U.S. nuclear policy related to tactical nuclear weapons as a deterrent to aggression.

"From the 1950s to 1991, this deterrence mission included the Army's being equipped with a ground-based nuclear capability of truly devastating potential," writes David R. Dorondo, a Western Carolina University associate professor of European military and political history.

Dorondo's paper, "The U.S. Army, the Nuclear Posture Review and Nuclear Deterrence: A European Historical Context," notes the Army has had an important role in strategic deterrence in Europe since 1949, and even after the 1991 withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Europe.

The U.S. 2018 Nuclear Posture Review and National Defense Strategy and increases in Russian nonstrategic nuclear weapons—in a move Dorondo says is "aimed partially at offsetting NATO's conventional technology superiority"—are reasons to rethink tactical nuclear weapons, the paper

Dorondo acknowledges he's out ahead of the

thinking to a renewed national interest in and emphasis on nuclear deterrence does not necessarily require organizational change because of the service's long history of operating within a nuclear construct," he writes.

But Dorondo advocates for a review of the policy because "the Army cannot bring its superior weight of numbers and currently dominant battlefield capabilities fully to bear without once again rehoning its full-strength mobilization skills via Army Materiel Command and Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command."

"Ensuring the success of the Army's efforts with-

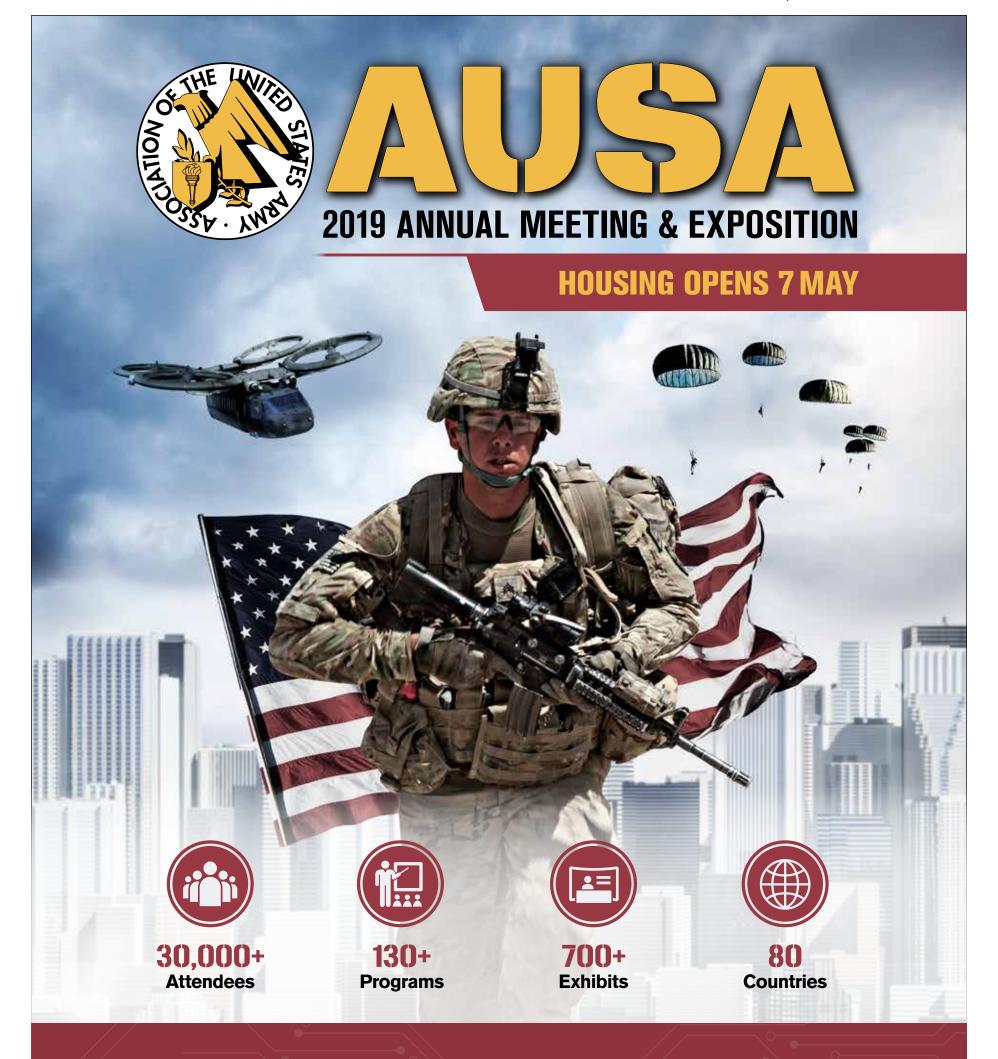
in the framework of non-nuclear deterrence will require an all-forces approach that not only avoids wasteful and time-consuming stove-piping among the individual services but also ensures combat readiness across all U.S. forces," he writes. "Civilian leadership from the White House to Capitol Hill must also support and clearly articulate the public case for such an undertaking, whether regarding nuclear or conventional forces."

The full paper is available here:

https://www.ausa.org/publications/us-armynuclear-posture-review-and-nuclear-deterrenceeuropean-historical-context



"As far as the Army is concerned, adjusting its A new ILW research paper suggests reconsidering U.S. nuclear policy. (Department of Energy photo)



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Perna: 'Night court' talks led to \$30 billion in cuts, savings

In the program-cutting process the Army has termed "night court," representatives from every corner of the Army were given a voice in "passionate" discussions to define requirements, said Gen. Gus Perna, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Led by Army Secretary Mark T. Esper and Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, the night court sessions were undertaken over the last 18 months to identify Army programs that could be cut or reduced to free up money for modernization priorities.

The process has directly affected 186 programs—eliminating 93 programs and reducing or delaying 93 others. Details of the affected programs have not yet been made public.

In remarks at a Lemnitzer Lecture Series event hosted March 14 by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare, Perna said the clear identification of priorities set forth by Esper and Milley were "very helpful" as it "allowed us to see what we need to focus on and hold ourselves accountable."

Perna described the process as one of detail and rigor in which no voice went unheard. Presentations were made "from the workforce through the general officers and [Senior Executive Service officials] through the three-stars and into the four-stars" in "very detailed, very passionate conversations"



Gen. Gus Perna, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, speaks at the Institute of Land Warfare Lemnitzer Lecture. (AUSA photo)

"I can attest to the detail and rigor that we approached every single program. We all were allowed to have our say," Perna said. "Every program was reviewed. Every. Single. Program. All, each. It was mind-numbing."

At a Pentagon briefing on the Army's fiscal 2020

budget, Army Undersecretary Ryan D. McCarthy said the night court sessions identified "north of \$30 billion across the entire budget" for modernization priorities.

He said it was the best way to ensure the money was available to "finance our ambition."

National AUSA leaders visit chapter, soldiers in Florida

Chapter Highlight Sunshine

etired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO, and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Ken Preston, AUSA vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs, recently visited AUSA's Sunshine Chapter in Orlando, Fla.

Ham was the guest speaker at the chapter's general membership meeting, where he and Preston were welcomed by the chapter president, retired 1st Sgt. Daila Espeut-Jones.

After the meeting, the group visited the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), where they received an overview from Brig. Gen. Michael Sloane.

PEO STRI executes a multi-billion dollar program annually and is staffed by more than 1,000 military, civilian and service support contractors.

Ham, Preston and the chapter leadership also met with Lt. Col. David Jones, the University of Central Florida's professor of military science, and many of the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets.



Retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, center, AUSA president and CEO, and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Ken Preston, AUSA vice president for NCO and Solder Programs, left, meet with representatives from the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation during a visit to AUSA's Sunshine Chapter.

★ Eagle Chapters ★

he following Chapters attained Eagle Chapter status for February by showing positive membership growth since last month and since the start of the operating year (July 1, 2018). Membership growth for Eagle Chapter is measured by the sum of individual, life and community partner members. The number in parenthesis is the number of months so far this year the chapter has attained this status.

Capital District of New York (2)

Central Texas-Fort Hood (5)

Charleston (7)

Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (4)

Col Edward Cross (4)

Columbia River (8)

Des Moines Freedom (2)

Emerald Coast (4)

Fairfax-Lee (7)

Florida Gulf Stream (4)

Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista (4)

Fort Riley-Central Kansas (5)

Fort Sheridan-Chicago (4)

Francis Scott Key (6)

Gem State (4)

GEN William C. Westmoreland (5)

George Washington (7)

Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (5)

Henry Leavenworth (4)

Indiana (3)

Last Frontier (2)

Marne (2)

Milwaukee (4)

Mission Trails (3)

Monmouth (3)

National Training Center-High Desert (2)

Robert E. Lee (4)

Rock Island Arsenal (5)

San Diego (3)

SGM Jon R. Cavaiani (3)

St. Louis Gateway (3)

Texas Capital Area (7)

UAE (4)

White Sands Missile Range (3)



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ILW SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Key to any of our events is securing well-informed speakers who can educate attendees and readily respond to any questions from participants. To that end, our Institute of Land Warfare Speakers' Bureau provides a group of men and women with diverse backgrounds in military history, ongoing national security concerns and anything in between.



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One of AUSA's goals is to provide professional development to Army Civilians as well as build and foster professional relationships. AUSA is expanding its current professional development offerings by making it possible for Army Civilian Career Programs to provide professional education at AUSA symposiums and programs.



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The Institute hosts a variety of programs throughout the year, including the General Lyman L. Lemnitzer Lecture Series, featuring prominent authors, and the General Bernard W. Rogers Strategic Issues Forum, which invites high-ranking civilian and military officials to discuss current national security issues.

For more information, visit WWW.AUSA.ORG/ILW

ILW PUBLICATIONS

The Institute publishes a wide variety of professional research papers, essays and special reports. The latest publications are listed below:



The U.S. Army, the Nuclear Posture Review and Nuclear Deterrence: A European Historical Context by David R. Dorondo, PhD (Land Warfare Paper 124, March 2019)

Operational Energy: A Decisive Enabler and Critical Liability in 21st Century Warfare by LTC Benjamin A. Bennett, PhD, USA and Lt. Col. Ron Owens, USAF, Ret. (Landpower Essay 19-2, March 2019)

In Pursuit of a General Theory of Proxy Warfare by MAJ Amos C Fox, USA (Land Warfare Paper 123, February 2019)

Training the Machines: Incorporating Al into Land Combat Systems by LTC Stephan Pikner, USA (Landpower Essay 19-1, January 2019)

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Army Faces



Army Places



Capt. Julissa Myers, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade, puts the finishing touches on her face paint camouflage in preparation for a blank-fire exercise as part of Lipizzaner V at Pocek Range in Postonja, Slovenia.



Pfc. Kyle Ridge, Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, tries various insects as food during exercise Cobra Gold 19 in Phitsanulok, Thailand. (U.S. Marine Corps/Cpl. Robert G. Gavaldon)



A soldier takes down an airman during an Army combatives course exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Army/Cpt. Adan Cazarez)



Lt. Col. Jamie LaValley, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, reunites with his daughter Mira during a homecoming ceremony at the William 'Bill' Reed Center, Fort Carson, Colo. (U.S. Army/Spc. Robert Vicens)