



THE HOG CALL!

Newsletter of the Arkansas Chapter
of the
Association of the United States Army
1st QUARTER 2018

Educate – Connect – Inform

4th Region AUSA Leadership Conference Is A Success!

AUSA Arkansas had the honor and pleasure of hosting the 4th Region Leadership meeting 12-14 April 2018. Leadership from eight of the eleven Region Chapters, the 4th Region Headquarters, and AUSA National attended. This was the first time the Region meeting was held in Arkansas and was a great boost to our recognition and status within 4th Region.



4th Region Executive VP JP Hogan (representing 4th Region Director, Gus Rodriguez) and AUSA-AR State President LTC(R) David Cooper make opening comments



CSM(R) Tom and Peggy Broom, CSM Eugenia Brandon (90th SUS BDE) and COL(R) Scott Sanders discussion



AR Chapter President, Harold Tucker speaking with AR State Senator Jane English and her husband COL(R) Don English

The first night 12 April, the Chapter hosted a reception with the 4th Region attendees, AR Congressional member, Senator English, various community partners, 90th Sustainment Bde US Army Reserve and the AR Chapter Executive Board. Entertainment was a string quartet provided by Community Partner, Lynwick LLC.



State President LTC(R) David Cooper; Director Arkansas Department of Vet Affairs (ADVA) COL(R) Nate Todd; LTG(R) Pat McQuistion, AUSA National Vice President, Membership & Meetings; Chapter President COL(R) Harold Tucker all attending the 4th Region Leadership Meeting reception, Little Rock 4/12/18.

Day One of the meeting, the 4th Region Nominating committee presented the nominees for Region president and Executive Vice President. Mr. Gus Rodriguez was approved for 4th Region President and COL Ret. JP Hogan was nominated and approved for Executive Vice President. Next were information briefings from AUSA National representatives, LTG Pat McQuiston, COL John Davies and SMA Ken Preston. We were honored to have such senior representation who spoke on updates and challenges facing AUSA and all elements of the Total Army (all components). It was extremely valuable for all chapters to share their experiences and various ways to meet unique challenges each are experiencing.

The afternoon was complete with lunch at the Clinton Presidential Library, "42 Bar and Table" followed by a two-hour self-guided tour of the Presidential Library. Next was a Trolley tour of Little Rock and North Little Rock. The evening was dinner and beverages at "Lost 40 Brewhouse."



LTG(R) McQuiston explains the new AUSA efforts to reach out to more Americans through its Reserve and Guard members.





4th Region Young Professional representative Donovan Rodriguez speaking to Chapter Presidents

Conference attendees visiting Clinton Presidential Library



Day Two was continuation of the National briefs followed by chapter breakout sessions (small and large chapters). Valuable information was shared between the small chapters and those not situated close to large Army post/facilities. The meetings were concluded after lunch and many departed but some stayed to enjoy the Arkansas Symphony concert that night.

Some key takeaways for the AUSA-AR Leadership that affect our State and we will seek to implement:

- Assist the Army in keeping connections between Active, National Guard and Army Reserve units established over the past 15 years of conflict.
- New associate members strengthen all chapters. They offer us great potential when dealing with changing policies or process that impact the Army Community in Arkansas.
- Keep pushing the goals of "Educate, Inform and Connect" with the civilian population. Our communities, as well as many business or political leaders, do not understand the Army, its three components, or its roles, missions or capabilities.
- SMA Preston described how to maximize social media to Educate and Inform the civilian population about the military impact on each of the 4th Region four states (LA, TX, OK, AR)
- Inform new or potential members of military regarding the PaYS (Partnership for Youth Success) program that guarantees a job interview and possible employment with the PaYS member after the Army. More info at: <https://www.armypays.com/INDEX.html>
- Coordinate with recruiters and local sports venue to have large Veteran recognition ceremony, enlistment or re-enlistment ceremony before sporting event to draw attention to those having served, those now serving, and those about to start their military service.

This was an outstanding event to educate the other chapters about Arkansas and its great resources and opportunities. Many thanks to all who supported the 4th Region meeting and for the recognition brought to Arkansas due to their efforts.



AR Chapter Executive Board members supporting the 4th Region Leadership reception

Chapter Updates

- Welcome to the Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard (EAANG) Membership – AUSA continues to expand its collaboration with other Army support organizations. In addition to the Warrant Officers Association, AUSA has now partnered with the EANGUS. If your membership is current in any state EANG, you are also a member of the Association of the United States Army!



To facilitate sharing of information, coordinating/deconflicting scheduled events, and combine membership support on shared political issues, AUSA-AR leaders met with the (outgoing) State President of the Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard, SFC James Howard on March 13th. SFC Howard said it has been his great honor to be the EAANG President and assured us that his successor would be eager to expand and cement the partnership between our two organizations.

COL Tucker has already sent out a welcoming e-mail to those with info on file.



L to R = BG(R) Jameson, (past AUSA-AR State President); LTC(R) Cooper, Current AUSA-AR State President; SFC Howard (on terminal leave); and COL(R) Harold Tucker, AR Chapter President

REMINDER – “The Hog Call” has Gone Digital!

THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER PAGE IS LOCATED
AT: <https://www.ausa.org/arkansas>
Future **Hog Calls** will be posted at the link at that site. Share the digital version with potential new members!

• **Chapter Army Birthday Celebration** – We are still seeking the right conditions under which to hold our Celebration for best membership attendance. This year, we are holding a lunch-time Celebration on the actual Army Birthday, Wednesday, 14 June. It will be at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History (100 N. Hospital Circle – between the split Main Street) from 1130-1215. We will have a Birthday cake and non-alcoholic toasting beverages. Wear your uniform or come in your work attire, but do mark your calendar to attend! This is not only a military museum, but local historical site. It will be a great venue to wish our Army “Happy 243rd Birthday!”

- **ROTC/JROTC Support Season Again** – COL(R) Tucker kicked off our recognition of Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet leadership with AUSA presentations at the University of Arkansas.

Many – and heartfelt – thanks go out to the individuals who volunteered the time and mileage to travel across our State to make the many AUSA ROTC/JROTC Leadership Award presentations in person. It often means a great deal to a cadet and their family to see someone other than the staff present to make these presentations. Your efforts are GREATLY appreciated by AUSA-AR!



UofA Cadet Carson Wyatt received the AUSA Leadership Medal (L) and Cadet Archer received the History Award (R)



Mr. Jerry Dodd presents the AUSA JROTC Leadership medal to Benton HS Cadet Lieutenant Hunter Ammons



Cadet Keeter of the Van Buren JROTC receives AUSA Leadership medal from LTC(R) David Cooper



LTC(R) David Cooper makes the AUSA presentation to Warren High School Cadet Barbara Miller



COL(R) Harold Tucker makes AUSA presentation to Rivercrest High School (Wilson AR) Cadet Mary Stone



Cadet Cadet Ra'Shawn Canada of North Little Rock High School receives his AUSA JROTC Leadership medal from Mr. Jerry Dodd



Valley View High School (Jonesboro, AR)
Cadet Ethan Carter receives AUSA Leadership
medal from COL(R) Harold Tucker



COL(R) Harold Tucker presents the Leadership Medal
to Cadet Jackson Forthman of Arkadelphia H.S.



Cadet Madison Williams, Harrisburg High School JROTC, receives her AUSA Leadership medal from Chapter President Harold Tucker



LTC(R) Stan Warrick presents her AUSA Leadership medal to Cadet Alizshia Byrd, Wilbur Mills High School JROTC



Chapter President Harold Tucker presents the AUSA Leadership medal to Marked Tree High School JROTC Cadet Brittany Rains



Cadet Jordan Thomas-Frazier of the Watson Chapel JROTC receives AUSA Leadership medal from State President David Cooper

- **Still More JROTC Awards** – Due to the limited number of volunteers to make these AUSA cadet presentations, our presenters often have to count on the JROTC staff to take and/or provide photos of the events. We still have some “due outs” from several such instances. We apologize to the cadets for not including them but WILL post them in the next edition if we receive the photos. (BJ)

- **Continuing JROTC Support** – Our Chapter is committed to the success of the JROTC programs across our great State. JROTC is intentionally NOT a recruiting effort for the Army, but it does teach Army Values, and leadership to our upcoming generation. Just witness the instinctive heroism of the Florida Cadets (see Army News). In addition to the recognition of outstanding leaders in each JROTC unit with the presentation of the AUSA medals, the Arkansas Chapter will continue its support of the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC) event at Camp Robinson end-of-camp picnic on June 7th and presentation of Best Cadet awards on 8 June, 0930 at the Camp Robinson Professional Education Center (PEC).

- **Eagle Chapter, No More . . .** We finally lost our status as an “Eagle Chapter” with a break in our continued and sustained growth of the past year. The Army may have gotten a budget increase this year, but that doesn’t translate into more for our local ROTC/JROTC or Reserve/Guard units. They still must count on the support of AUSA-AR to get the things and hold the events they want for their Soldiers. And we can only continue to support them if we have the revenue stream of membership dues from renewals and new members. Membership is still relatively inexpensive and shouldn’t be a hardship to most folks. **But YOU have to ASK!** Please get out the word – **“If you support our Soldiers, the best way to do that here in Arkansas is by joining AUSA-AR,”**

- **Memorial Day Meeting** – Our next General Membership Meeting will be at the State Memorial Day event, NLR AR Veterans Cemetery and picnic in Sherwood Forrest. AUSA-AR has contributed to the picnic lunch and will have a table to collect membership signature (and contact information verification), offer new membership/renewals, and share information about AUSA-AR mission and upcoming events.

State President

The 4th Region Annual Meeting 12-14 April, hosted by the Arkansas Chapter was a great success and received many nice reviews. Again, this was the first time the Region Meeting has ever been held in Arkansas. State and Chapter Presidents from 4 states attended.

Also attending were retired SMA Ken Preston and LTG(R) Pat McQuistion from the National Office of AUSA. We would like to thank the Holiday Inn Presidential for outstanding support and the following Community Partners for theirs - Clinton Foundation, Whole Hog North Little Rock, Arkansas Flag and Banner, BEI, and Lynwick LLC.

Great job Arkansas Chapter!

Also, as of April, the Arkansas Chapter Membership is now up to 1941!

David Cooper
Arkansas State President



Chapter President

Greetings,

The AUSA Arkansas Chapter hosted the 4th Region Leadership meeting and we received great praise from the 4th Region Leadership and other chapter presidents across the Region. There were three representatives from AUSA National and all enjoyed getting to know more about Little Rock and Arkansas. Events included tours of Clinton Presidential Library, viewing Central High School, and trolley tour of downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock. Great food and beverage was enjoyed by all and each walked away with a greater appreciation of Little Rock and Arkansas hospitality.

Special thanks for the Community partners: BEI Precision Systems and Space, The Clinton Center, AR Flag and Banner and Whole Hog (NLR) who attended or assisted the reception. Lynwick LLC's string quartet provided two hours of outstanding music from various genre. It was a great honor to have Arkansas State Senator Jane English and retired COL Don English also attend.

Finally, this could not have been accomplished except from the great help from BG(R) Bud Jameson, past State President; LTC(R) David Cooper, State President; LTC(R) Stan Warrick and their spouses.

We concluded the JROTC /ROTC Awards season this month and it was an outstanding opportunity to meet the awardees, parents and cadre at each of the JROTC/ROTC schools. We attended or sent award packets to over 24 JROTC/ROTC schools across the state. Congrats to the cadets in high school and those that graduated and also to the new 2LTs as they begin their military service.

The next 45 days are busy times for the AUSA AR Chapter. The AUSA AR Chapter will attend the State Memorial Day ceremony at the NLR Veterans Cemetery on 28 May at 10:00 hrs. followed by a Veterans Day picnic at the Sherwood Community Center. Your AUSA Chapter is co-hosting the event and will be there to meet Veterans and their families.

On 8 June, at 0930, the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC) award ceremony will take place on Camp Robinson at the PEC and we will again recognize the best male and female cadet from the week-long event.

The last big event for June is the Army Birthday celebration. This year the event will be held at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History (N. Hospital Circle Jackson AR 72076). The ceremony will begin at 1130 hours and conclude around 1215 hrs. It will include a historical slide show, brief Army history and the ceremonial cutting of the Birthday cake. This will be great opportunity to meet other Army Veterans/Soldiers and family members that come out for the celebration.

This past quarter we also welcomed new associate members from the AR Enlisted National Guard Association, U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association, the Civil Affairs Association, Patriot Project members, Infantry Association and the AR ROCKS members. The new associate members are now with us and we STRONGLY encourage each of these associate members to become a regular member of AUSA AR. The larger AUSA becomes then our voice for the SOLDIER will be even stronger. AUSA is the ONLY organization that fights for all ranks and all components of the Army.

We also welcome a new community partner, ARMTAC Suppressors and Gunsmithing of Maumelle, AR. See the community partner page for more info.

If there are issues that you would like the AR AUSA Chapter to address or to pass along to AUSA National please make those known to me for discussion and action.

I am pleased to be your chapter president and look forward to more great things to happen with the AUSA Arkansas Chapter.

Harold Tucker, Chapter President

Army News

- **Army Honors JROTC Cadets for Heroism**
 - The Army has awarded Medals of Heroism – the Army's highest award for its Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets – to the three JROTC cadets killed while defending their classmates from the killer at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14th.

The Medal of Heroism, awarded posthumously to the families of Peter Wang, Alaina Petty and Martin Duque, recognized the JROTC cadets whose achievements "involved the acceptance of danger and extraordinary responsibilities, exemplifying praiseworthy courage and fortitude."

These courageous students represented the best of our young citizens and demonstrate the importance of JROTC programs in our high schools.

- **Total Army to Grow by 26,000 New Soldiers** - The Army sees recruiting struggles ahead to grow all three components by the 26,000 to meet the end strength of the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act. However, for the Army Community in Arkansas, this presents great opportunity for Reserve and Guard Soldiers who have been wanting to transition to the Regular Army. It also means there may be enlistment incentives for Arkansans who want to join our local Army Reserve or Guard units.

• **Army Begins Eliminating Mandatory "Training"** – Following the SecDef's guidance to start eliminating mandatory "training" that isn't related to readiness, the SecArmy has announced the first subjects to be cut. In a recent memo, Army Secretary Mark Esper identified Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS), Media Awareness Training, and the course on Combating Trafficking in Persons Training to be immediately removed from the mandatory list. Also, ALL remaining mandatory training will NOT have a prescribed duration and MUST have alternative methods of delivery that don't require automation or projection systems. Given the limited training time for Citizen Soldiers, this should be welcome news for all our Army units in Arkansas!

• **Pentagon Releases Full List of 126 Active Military Bases With Contaminated Ground Water** – The DoD recently conducted testing of current and past (BRAC'd) military installations and discovered a total of 401 locations with contaminated ground water, including drinking water. The principle contaminants are PFOS and PFOA that has been used in firefighting foams and has been linked to cancers and developmental delays in fetuses and infants. For a complete list, go to www.militarytimes.com/trending.

• **Army Moves Closer to Adopting "Pinks and Greens"** – After debuting prototypes at last year's AUSA Conference in October, the Army has continued to address concerns – especially from female Soldiers – to "get it right" before eventual fielding of the new Class A dress uniform. Both male and female will be more closely alike, with belts and long ties. However, the women's version may come with detached chest pockets to be attached at the personal preference and comfort of the individual Soldier. The design team is also exploring adding an optional "Ike" short jacket and a leather "flight" jacket. To save money on the transition, the Army may use the same distribution system used in combat – shipping directly from the manufacturer to the individual soldier. More to follow!

- **Tax Bill Costs Reserve and Guard Travel Expense Deduction** – It won't apply until you file your 2018 taxes in 2018, but Arkansas Reserve Component Soldiers need to be aware (and advised) of the change in the tax law under the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act". It removed the itemized tax deduction for travel to training of less than 100 miles for IDT (drill weekends) for Reserve and Guard Soldiers. Fortunately, while **this may sound bad** for our Arkansas Soldiers, the new Federal law also raised the standard individual deduction from \$6,350 to \$12,000 (and from \$12,700 to \$24,00 for couples). Along with the change in Arkansas tax law that took effect this year fully exempting ALL Reserve and Guard pay, this change should have little or no impact on **our Soldiers**, who should actually see a **LARGE** tax reduction overall.

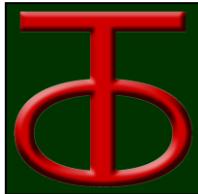
- **Commissaries Now Stocking Beer and Wine** – According to a recent DoD memo, military Commissaries will begin stocking beer and wine by mid-summer. Prices are being set comparable to those in the Class Six stores and Exchanges. Distilled spirits will still only be available at the latter. Measures will also be implemented to promote the responsible consumption of alcohol. If anyone sees the new items at the LRAFB Commissary, please notify us!

- **MRE Pizza is Back!** In response to Soldier demand, the Army is putting the pizza meal back into its MRE lineup, along with beef goulash. The cost? The Asian-style beef strips and beef brisket meals are being eliminated!

- **Army Continues As Test Bed For Social Change** – The Army recently announced it will open four more major commands to women in its armor and infantry units. The six commands now accepting women into combat formations are the 1st Cavalry Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Armored Division, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 4th Infantry Division, and 173rd Airborne Brigade.

ARKANSAS ARMY RESERVE NEWS

- **AUSA-Arkansas Welcomes New Senior Army Reserve Commander in Arkansas** –



In March, COL Daniel Hershkowitz assumed command of the 90th Sustainment Brigade, USAR, at Camp Pike, North Little Rock, AR. A decorated combat Soldier, veteran of multiple tours, he brings deep understanding of and broad experience in Sustainment to the 90th. In his civilian career COL Hershkowitz works for the Department of the Army as the Director of Logistics Division at Headquarters, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. A native New Yorker, COL Hershkowitz and his wife, Julia, now live in St. Louis.

As an AUSA member, he is eager to partner with AUSA-AR to support not only the units of his command here in Arkansas, but also those in Texas and Oklahoma (or coordinating for more local AUSA support), in the years ahead.

COL Hershkowitz asks that we post this list of his warrant officer vacancies to inform the newly gained Warrant Officer Association members of possible career opportunities.

Engineering Tech, CW3 MOS- 290A0
Food Service Advisor, CW3 MOS- 922A0
Mobility Officer, CW2 MOS- 882A0
Mobility Officer, CW3 MOS- 882A0
HR Tech, CW2 MOS- 420A0
Info Svcs Tech, CW2 MOS- 255A0
Ammo Tech, CW3 MOS- 890A0
Arms Sys Maint, CW3 MOS- 913A0
Network Mgmt Tech, CW2 MOS- 255N0
Network Defense Tech, CW3 MOS- 255S0



NEWS FROM AUSA NATIONAL

- **Past Chief of Army Reserve/Commander of Army Reserve Command Joins AUSA –** LTG(R) Jack C. Stultz – who commanded the USARC from 2005-2012 – has been appointed the AUSA Vice Chairman, Guard and Reserve Affairs. We wish him well and know he will be a great addition to the AUSA leadership.
- **SMA Leon Van Autreve Scholarship application period is now open.** These scholarships honor the memory and legacy of SMA Leon Van Autreve. SMA Van Autreve served in WWII and in Vietnam. He held every leadership position, culminating his career as the fourth Sergeant Major of the Army. His war time experience combined with his senior leader positions focused his commitment to setting the highest standards for the noncommissioned officer corps. To increase professional standards and military education, Van Autreve was instrumental in establishing the Noncommissioned Officer Education System. These scholarships showcase recipients that share SMA Van Autreve's vision of an Army and Army Family of highly motivated and educated professionals by providing educational support to Soldiers and family members who have dedicated themselves to service to the Nation and pursuing self-improvement.

Deadline for the SMA Leon Van Autreve Scholarship is July 31, 2018. A total of 8 Van Autreve scholarships will be awarded. One \$25,000, one \$10,000, one \$5,000, and five \$2,000 scholarships for a total of \$50,000. **Each applicant must be an AUSA member or a dependent child of a member.**

For application instructions requirements here: <https://scholarship.ausa.org/> and click

- Other Scholarship Links
 - <https://scholarship.ausa.org/> also has links to the following Non-AUSA Scholarship Resources for service men and women, veterans, and their families: AFCEA Education Foundation; American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Grant; AMVETS Scholarships; Army Scholarship Foundation; Army Tuition Assistance (TA); Council Of College And Military Educators; Fisher House Scholarships For Military Children; Folds Of Honor Foundation; Fry Scholarship; Heroes' Legacy Scholarships; National Military Family Association Spouse Scholarship; Pat Tillman Foundation; Special Operations Warriors Fund; Student Veterans Of America; Thanks USA Scholarships; Veterans Of Foreign Wars

- **Date Set for 2018 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition** – Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2018 AUSA national meeting set for 8 – 10 October at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. This is a professional development forum of the highest caliber for all members of the Army Community as there is something for everyone. For more information – tickets, room reservations, travel information, exhibitor info, special events, and complete schedule, go to: <http://ausameetings.org/2018annualmeeting/>

- **Army Medical Symposium** – AUSA will host the AMS in San Antonio, TX, June 26th & 27th at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. For more information, contact Suzanne McCollum (Registration) at 703.907.2416 or SMcCollum@ausa.org



- **Quarterly Links to AUSA's Army News**

April 2018 -

http://ausanews.usa.org/publication/?m=44147&l=1#{%22issue_id%22:%22483266%22,%22page%22:0}

March 2018 -

http://ausanews.usa.org/publication/?m=44147&l=1#{%22issue_id%22:%22476515%22,%22view%22:%22contentsBrowser%22}

February 2018 -

http://ausanews.usa.org/publication/?m=44147&l=1#{%22issue_id%22:%22470030%22,%22view%22:%22contentsBrowser%22}

- **Quarterly Links to AUSA's Army Magazine – April 2018 –**

<https://www.usa.org/issues/army-magazine-vol-68-no-4-april-2018>

March 2018 –

<https://www.usa.org/issues/army-magazine-vol-68-no-3-march-2018>

February 2018 –

<https://www.usa.org/issues/army-magazine-vol-68-no-2-february-2018>

For those of us who like the feel of an actual magazine, you can also download and save it in a .pdf format, or even print it out!

REMEMBER, our own quarterly **Hog Call** can be linked to from the AUSA homesite at:

<https://www.usa.org/blog/hog-call-arkansas-chapter-quarterly-newsletters>



Other News You Can Use

- **AUSA Membership Rates** – As you spread the word about all that AUSA Arkansas does to Educate, Inform, and Connect with all Arkansans, they will undoubtedly ask about the cost of membership (and for your own renewal!). For cadets and junior enlisted, the cost is still only \$10 for two years. For all others it is \$40 for two years, \$75 for five years, or only \$400 for a Life Membership. Joining or renewing can be done on-line at www.usa.org or email to membersupport@usa.org. Don't forget to include our Chapter (C4101) when completing the application form.

Membership Brings Benefits → Voice On Capitol Hill – advocate for the entire Army Community → Benefits & Discounts – Discounts on insurance, car rentals, hotels and more → Professional Development → Civilian Jobs links – careers.usa.org/ → Stay Informed – Army Magazine and other AUSA Publications that keep you connected to what is happening in **YOUR Army**.

- **LRAFB 19th Medical Group Holidays and training down days & Pharmacy Closures:**

- **May** – 25/28/31
- **June** – 28
- **July** – 4/5/31
- **August** – 23/31
- **September** – 3/27
- **October** – 8
- **November** – 12/22/23
- **December** – 24/25/31

- **Expired Medication Drop Box** – LRAFB has installed a drop box for expired medications at the Clinic Pharmacy. Just look for the big blue “MedSafe” metal bin in the pharmacy lobby.

- **VA Announces Rollout and Application Process for New Veterans ID Card** – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that the application process for the national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service. This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans, and the rollout of the ID card fulfills that promise.

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit <http://www.vets.gov/>, click on “Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card” on the bottom left of the page and sign in or create an account. Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov. A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.

- **LRAFB Pool Opens 26 May** – Summer is almost here, but the heat and humidity has already arrived. Beat it at the base pool! Open TUES-SUN, 1300-2100. \$3/day pass, \$75/season pass, or \$125/family pass. Lap swim TUES-SAT, 1100-1300.

- **The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)**, www.LTCFEDS.com, is an important piece of the military retiree benefit package. It offers a means of protecting hard earned assets from the high costs of long term care, helping to ensure independence and reduce reliance on loved ones should long term care be needed. The FLTCIP is a federal program and is the largest long-term care insurance program in the country. It is administrated by LTC Partners, insured by John Hancock with oversight from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). LTC Partners is also the administrator of Benefeds which is the on-line enrollment portal to the FEDVIP. As you may already know, Benefeds will be performing a big role in facilitating dental and vision insurance coverage for all military retirees and their family members later this year.

Long term care is NOT health care and is not covered by TRICARE or Medicare. It is non-skilled care to assist with the activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, eating, transferring, continence, toileting, etc. Almost everyone knows someone who has needed long term care and are aware of the burden, both financial and on family life, it can have. The FLTCIP offers services for in-home care, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, hospice and adult day care. Military members, retirees and dependents, as well as federal employees, retirees and their family members are eligible to enroll.

- **Beat the Summer Heat. Go Bowling!** Bowl unlimited games for two hours in air-conditioned comfort at the Strike Zone on LRAFB for only \$18/lane, Wednesdays from 1600-2100 through May and June. Shoes included!

- **Arkansas Wine Tour** – LRAFB's Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT) is offering this uniquely Arkansas experience on 9 June, 0730-1800. Participants will be bused to this tour and tasting at 3 different Arkansas wineries. Register NLT 5 June. Cost: \$25, does not include food or other purchases.

- Golfing at Deer Run** – LRAFB is offering “Half Price Mondays” from 0700-1700 excluding tournaments or holidays. Carts not included.
- Summer Scramble** – Deer Run at LRAFB is hosting a two-person shotgun start scramble on 23 June, starting at 0800. \$20/person. Includes greens & cart fees & lunch for players. Register as soon as possible.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Memorial Day Ceremony @ Sherwood Forest – 29 May @ 1100hrs, the Arkansas Veterans Coalition, supported by AUSA-AR, will again sponsor a cookout for the families of Veterans. Please come out and support AUSA-AR. This will be a General Membership Meeting.
- REMINDER** – 14 June: AUSA-AR’s Observance of the 244th Anniversary of the Establishment of the United States Army at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History at 1130.
- 5K/2K Run/Walk/Roll For Veterans** – Saturday, June 16th, at Fort Roots @ 0800. For more information: <http://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/> or call Mr. Michael R. Dobbs, Chief, Voluntary Services (135/NLR), Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System at 501-257-3293

2018 AUSA-AR Officers

State President – LTC(R) David Cooper
Little Rock Chapter President – COL(R) Harold Tucker (ausa.ar.pres@comcast.net)
Chapter VP for Membership – Lyn Lewis
Chapter Treasurer – Terry Hirsch
Chapter Legal Counsel – Mr. Jerry Dodd
Director of Public Relations – BG(R) Bud Jameson
Chapter Chaplain & Chapter Webmaster – Vacant

Editor's Final Thoughts

Let me begin by apologizing for the delay in getting out this 1st Quarter edition. No excuses. Look for the 2nd Quarter in mid-July.

Our Chapter continues to grow and it is my honor to document everything that is being done in support of the entire Army Community in Arkansas. I hope that our Newsletter is proving to be of value to our membership. I would be remiss to not point out that your input is encouraged and very welcome (as would be any volunteers desiring to take over the effort!). Please send your stories, photos, or notices to Chapter President Tucker.

I want to reiterate COL Tucker’s thanks to the “above and beyond” support of our Community Partners – Clinton Library Store, Whole Hog Café, Arkansas Flag and Banner, and Lynnwick, LLC – in making the 4th Region Leadership Conference such an overwhelming success. PLEASE show your appreciation by patronizing our Community Partners and thank them, in person, for their support to the Arkansas Army Community.

We are up to an entire (and crowded) page for our Community Partner Members. I know there are literally hundreds of other businesses and enterprises that support our Army and our military. Just look at how many proudly offer military discounts. I would challenge our membership to explain what AUSA is and how AUSA-Arkansas would enable those businesses even more access and opportunities to support Soldiers (Present, Past, and Future) and their families. Let’s shoot for two full pages dedicated to Community Partners by the end of the year!

BRJ

**“Once A Soldier,
Always A Soldier!”**

Community Partners Page



Whole Hog North Little Rock – 10% off for military Every Monday!



Clinton Museum Store – 15% discount for military, everyday!



Security Signals, Inc. – Quality Products since 1948!

Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken

– 15% military discount EVERY DAY with valid ID



Welcome to our Newest Community Partner!

ARMTAC
Suppressors and
Gunsmithing – Sound
Quality in Weaponry

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