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Master Sgt. Ryan Joseph helps load food into the trunk of a car during an Armed Forces Young Men's Christian Association food drive in El Paso, Texas. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. MAXWELL BASS)

Awareness, stigma affect food security

Service members experiencing food insecurity may be particularly affected by issues such as stigma and a lack of awareness of resources, a Rand Corp. report found.

Just over one-quarter of active-duty service members were food insecure in 2018, according to the report. Researchers also found that food insecure troops were more likely to be enlisted personnel in the grades of E-4 to E-6, single with children, married without children or a racial or ethnic minority.

Troops facing food insecurity also were “disproportionately” in the Army, the report found.

Rand considered available literature, held discussions with stakeholders at military installations at

eight locations and at the national level and incorporated data from several surveys of active-duty troops and the Defense Manpower Data Center across a five-year span to reach its findings.

“It’s clear from the DoD surveys that food insecurity in the military is a problem that affects a wide variety of military families, but we don’t yet have a good handle on why,” Beth Asch, a senior economist at Rand and lead author of the study, said in a statement. “While DoD has taken an important step to understand the scope of food insecurity, more work needs to be done to grasp the underlying reasons why the rate of food insecurity reported in the survey is so high.”

One challenge could be financial management for service members who are receiving a paycheck for the first time, a senior enlisted leader at an installation said in the report.

“We pull individuals from all walks of life,” the leader said. “For the service members who didn’t have anything growing up, it’s a steady paycheck every two weeks. People aren’t thinking about the future, and it’s the first time they’ve had access to steady income. ... It probably took me eight years to understand that I couldn’t live like that.”

Stigma was the “largest barrier” that prevented service members and their families from receiving food assistance, financial help or counseling,

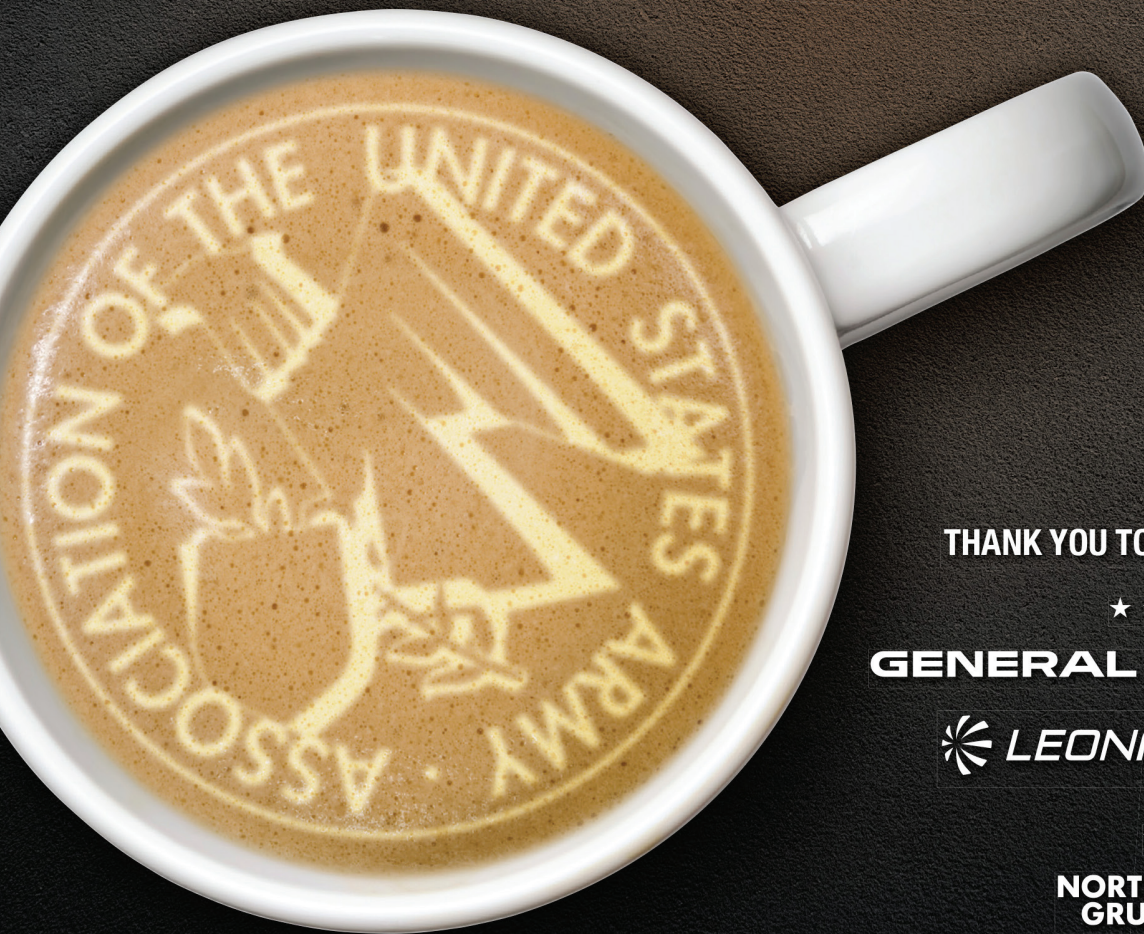
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Crosland takes over as Defense Health Agency director

Maj. Gen. Telita Crosland is the new director of the Defense Health Agency, becoming the first Army woman to lead the organization.

Crosland, who most recently was deputy Army surgeon general and deputy commander for operations of Army Medical Command, was confirmed by the Senate for promotion to lieutenant general and is scheduled to receive her third star at a ceremony on Jan. 20.

“It’s humbling to stand here before you as the fourth director of DHA,” Crosland said during a Jan. 3 ceremony at the agency’s headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia, in which she succeeded outgoing director Lt. Gen. Ronald Place.

As she takes on her new role, Crosland said she was asked how she was feeling “at least a dozen times today.”

“I said, ‘Well, any person in their right mind would feel a little bit overwhelmed, but mostly what I feel is excited,’” she said. “I love what we do in our military health system in service to our country and those we are privileged to serve.”

A 1989 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, Crosland takes over a joint, integrated DoD medical system of more than 700 hospitals and clinics and a combined workforce of over 145,000



Maj. Gen. Telita Crosland becomes the Defense Health Agency’s fourth director during a Jan. 3 ceremony in Falls Church, Virginia. (DoD/ROBERT HAMMER)

Army, Navy and Air Force military and civilian staff.

Established in 2013, the Defense Health Agency is a combat support agency that provides a wide number of shared health services across the military health system. These include managing Tricare benefits, providing pharmacy and medical logistics, performing medical research and development and operating health information technology systems, all aimed at providing integrated and efficient service to the joint force.

In close to 30 years of service, Cro-

sland has served in several leadership positions, including commanding general of the Regional Health Command-Atlantic at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and medical leadership positions in Germany, Korea and several Army installations in the U.S.

“You’re getting someone who knows what it means to lead and understands the challenges that our people in the field face,” Place said during the ceremony. “She understands our military mission as well as any medical officer does ... and I know from working directly with her, she’s a leader who gets things done.”

Food insecurity

From Page 1

the report found. Just 14% of service members classified as food insecure made use of food assistance programs in 2018, according to the report.

“They don’t want to signify that they need any help,” an installation representative said. “It has a lot to do with their self-esteem. They’ll avoid going down those avenues at all costs. The military culture prides itself on sufficiency. There is a feeling that I’m failing if I need to access these benefits.”

Soldiers also may not know about available resources and their eligibility requirements.

“I could run into an NCO and talk with them, and they don’t know about all the services and programs that we offer,” an installation representative said. “And I’m thinking to myself, how do you not know that we’re here?”

Even when data was adjusted to compare food insecurity between service members and civilians with similar characteristics, military personnel were 16.8% more likely to be food insecure.

The Association of the U.S. Army last year pledged \$1 million to Army Emergency Relief to assist soldiers and military families experiencing food insecurity.

In the future, additional research could help to understand the root causes of food insecurity and how they compare to each other, the study found. “Our research suggests that more information is needed on the root causes of food insecurity and, specifically, the rank order of causes,” it found.

Read the full report here.

Grant to be promoted to General of the Armies of the United States



Ulysses Grant sits astride his horse, Cincinnati, in this 1863 engraving. (COMMONS IMAGE)

More than 150 years after leading the Union Armies to victory in the Civil War, Ulysses Grant is about to be promoted to General of the Armies of the United States.

The move, authorized in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, would make Grant just the third officer to receive the rank. The others are John Pershing, who was promoted to the rank in 1919, and George Washington, who received a posthumous promotion in 1976, according to the Arlington National Cemetery website.

The general of the armies rank is higher than the World War II five-star grade of general of the army, which was held by officers such as George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley.

Grant, who became the nation's first four-star general in 1866 and was elected in 1868 as the 18th president of the United States, attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and later fought in

the Mexican War, according to his White House bio.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Grant was appointed to command an unruly volunteer regiment, which he whipped into shape before rising to the rank of brigadier general of volunteers.

He continued to distinguish himself in battle, fighting at Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh and Chattanooga in Tennessee, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, according to the White House.

In March 1864, President Abraham Lincoln appointed him General-in-Chief. Grant directed Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman to drive through the south while he and the Army of the Potomac pinned down Confederate Gen. Robert Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered, and Grant wrote "magnanimous" terms of surrender that would prevent treason trials, according to the White House.

Grant was president from 1869 to 1877. He died in 1885.

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TaxAct provides online tax filing solutions for every tax situation at a great value and has helped e-file over 90 million federal returns since 2000. AUSA members can save 25% on federal and state tax returns by visiting <http://www.taxact.com/ausa>, and if you own a small business, you can also save on tax filings at www.taxact.com/ausasmb.

Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: ARAA

The Army Reserve Ambassador Association promotes national security by ensuring a viable and healthy Army Reserve component.

The association's primary mission is to support Army Reserve Ambassadors in their work by promoting awareness of their service to the Army Reserve through outreach, recognition and public education opportunities.

Ambassadors are appointed by the chief of the Army Reserve as unpaid civilian employees in the senior executive service with a protocol level similar to that of a major general.

During their three-year terms, ambassadors strive to "educate and inform the public, local/community leaders, and congressional staff offices about the capabilities and values of the Army Reserve," according



to the association's website.

They promote awareness of the Army Reserve and the goals of the component's senior leaders by building regional centers of influence for Reserve initiatives and opening doors with businesses and institutions of higher learning.

Ambassadors also "forge and sus-

tain enduring relationships" between Reserve units and local communities to improve understanding of and appreciation for soldiers and families, according to the association's website.

In addition to supporting ambassadors, the association helps soldiers in many ways, such as nominating deserving ROTC cadets for Minuteman scholarships and providing grants to Reservists in serious need.

For more information, please visit <https://arambassador.org/>.

If your association is interested in partnering with AUSA, please contact Susan Rubel at srubel@ausa.org.

Association Partnership with AUSA is an opportunity for like-minded military service organizations to join AUSA in support of the total Army—soldiers, DoD civilians and their families.

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New paper examines lessons from 1973 Arab-Israeli War

As the Army adopts new doctrine for multidomain operations, lessons from the “highly destructive” 1973 Arab-Israeli War offer insights that can be operationalized for today’s force, the authors of a new paper say.

Also known as the Yom Kippur War, the conflict “continues to hold value not only to military historians, but to contemporary practitioners of the art and science of warfare,” co-authors Lt. Col. Nathan Jennings and Lt. Col. Kyle Trottier write in “The 1973 Arab-Israeli War: Insights for Multi-Domain Operations,” published by the Association of the U.S. Army as part of its Land Warfare series.

“As the U.S. Army embraces modernization and a new battle concept, in the words of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley, to ‘engage in ground combat and be able to conduct sustained land campaigns,’ it would do well to reexamine this seminal conflict from a multi-domain perspective,” they write.

Jennings, an Army strategist and assistant professor at the Army Command and General Staff College, and Trottier, an armor officer assigned to Army Human Resources Command, point out that more recent conflicts,



Egyptian military trucks cross a bridge laid over the Suez Canal in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War. (COMMONS PHOTO)

such as the 2017 siege of Mosul, Iraq, and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, have had “similarly devastating attrition.”

The 1973 Middle East conflict, which saw the Israel Defense Forces fight an existential war against Egyptian and Syrian adversaries seeking to regain lost territories, stunned the world due to the lethality and destruction of the modernizing battlefield, write the authors,

who are both graduates of the School of Advanced Military Studies who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With sudden reversals and massive attrition, the war saw Israeli forces “lose more than 800 armored vehicles and 100 attack aircraft in just three weeks of intense combat as they grappled with a new array of anti-armor and anti-air defenses.”

Likewise, both the Egyptian and Syrian militaries suffered massive losses as they countered a succession of Israeli ground, air and naval counter-offensives that ended with a dramatic crossing of the Suez Canal.

The crossing of the Suez Canal by Israeli forces, commanded by then-Maj. Gen. Ariel Sharon, who called the Yom Kippur War a “real war,” cost the Jewish state more than 10,000 casualties, while Egypt, Syria and Jordan cumulatively suffered three times that many, the authors write.

“While the IDF eventually won a tactical victory through an audacious invasion of Africa, the Arab partners—Egypt in particular—claimed a measure of strategic success for having bloodied the vaunted Israeli war machine,” Jennings and Trottier write.

Read the paper here.

Longtime AUSA volunteer leader Edward Graham dies

Retired Col. Edward Graham, longtime president of the Association of the U.S. Army’s Massachusetts Bay chapter, died Dec. 22. He was 88.

A life member of AUSA, Graham had served as chapter president since 2000 and was a member of the association’s National Advisory Board of Directors for Retiree Affairs.

A native of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, Graham enlisted in the Army in 1953 and served eight years before receiving a direct commission to first lieutenant in 1961.

His assignments as an officer included a deployment to Vietnam as commander of Battery D, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery. He also served in Korea as the supply/logistics officer for the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

Prior to his retirement in 1987, Graham’s final assignment was as project manager of the Distributed Tactical Test Network, Joint Tactical Command, Control and Communications Agency, and deputy commander of the Joint Interface Test Force at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.



Retired Col. Edward Graham. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Professional development, life skills training for soldiers

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs team recently were invited to White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

White Sands is not your typical military installation, and with only a few hundred active-duty personnel assigned, it is relatively unknown to many Army families. But don't be fooled. It is not a sleepy post hidden in the New Mexico desert.

Originally established as the White Sands Proving Ground on July 9, 1945, the installation has been and remains a key asset for the Army and DoD.

The largest military installation in the U.S., White Sands encom-

NCO & Soldier Programs

passes almost 3,200 square miles in southern New Mexico. Seven days after its establishment, the first atomic bomb was detonated near the northern boundary of the range.

Following World War II, the Army used the proving grounds to build and test rockets along with other technologies, a mission that continues to this day.

So, how does the Army accomplish this mission with just a few hundred soldiers? White Sands has and continues to benefit from a highly educated and trained workforce made up of Army and DoD civilians and contractors. Several thousand civilian employees carry out the day-to-day operations of the installation.

This critical workforce is the primary reason the commanding general, Brig. Gen. Eric Little, invited the AUSA team to White Sands.

"I have an incredible workforce here at [White Sands]," Little said. "They are a unique body of doctors, scientists and specialists in a range of fields that carry out important missions for our nation every day. What I owe them is the opportunity for them to continue to develop personally and professionally."



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, left, AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs, assists a soldier with vehicle maintenance during a life skills training session at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. (AUSA PHOTO)

To meet that goal, Little created the Test and Evaluation Analysis Talk series. Known as "TEA Talks," the series exposes the White Sands workforce, both military and civilian, to professional speakers on a range of topics.

The AUSA NCO and Soldier Programs team was asked to lead a discussion on work-life balance and organizational change. The opportunity to engage with the White Sands team was inspiring, and it was equally inspiring to see its leaders' continuing investment in their most precious resource—their people.



Following a professional development session, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, left, shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Eric Little, White Sands Missile Range commanding general. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

And, of course, after traveling more than halfway across the country, the AUSA team took the opportunity to do much more. After the postwide leader development session, we spent time engaging with NCOs from all branches at a senior NCO luncheon hosted by the installation's senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Melendez.

The NCO and Soldier Programs team then hosted a life skills training session at the White Sands auto skills center. Service members from across the installation were taught how to perform vehicle safety inspections and routine vehicle maintenance.

As was the case when we hosted the first life skills training this past summer at Fort Bliss, Texas, we picked up the tab and provided a free oil change for all who participated.

Thank you to the service members and leaders of White Sands Missile Range for the incredible opportunity.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and we look forward to supporting our chapters throughout the coming year.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.

New chapter seeks to carry on legacy of fallen soldier

The newest Association of the U.S. Army chapter is the Lake Cumberland—PVT Chris Guillen chapter in Somerset, Kentucky, near the tourism hub of Lake Cumberland.

Established in 2021 as a subchapter of the Lexington-based CPL Bill McMillan-Bluegrass chapter, the group met all the requirements to become its own chartered chapter on Nov. 1, 2022. It has had an active program and growing membership under the leadership of Sgt. 1st Class Brad Armentrout, commander of the Army recruiting station in Somerset.

Lake Cumberland—PVT Chris Guillen

group met all the requirements to become its own chartered chapter on Nov. 1, 2022. It



Sgt. 1st Class Brad Armentrout, right, president of AUSA's Lake Cumberland—PVT Chris Guillen chapter, and his wife, Melissa, the chapter secretary, pose for a photo with donations from a care package drive in November. (AUSA PHOTO)

“Our chapter covers 15 counties surrounding Lake Cumberland, with the largest density of members being in the city of Somerset in Pulaski County,” Armentrout said.

The chapter has continuously supported the local community while advancing AUSA's priority of supporting Army Recruiting Command as the service faces recruiting shortfalls.

Its namesake is Pvt. Christopher Guillen, who enlisted in the Army Reserve on June 13, 2019, as he was heading into his senior year at Pulaski County High School. On Sept. 20, 2019, Guillen died in a vehicle accident.

“The Lake Cumberland-PVT Chris Guillen chapter was established to

make a difference in our community ... to carry on the honor and legacy of a young man that swore an oath to the United States but was unable establish his own legacy,” Armentrout said. “We will carry on his commitment and passion to our community, state and the United States of America.”

AUSA donations support community organizations

In December, the Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army provided donations to three local organizations.

They include the Salvation Army of Pulaski County, the Waynesville High School Junior ROTC program and the Waynesville R-VI School District “Snack in a Pack” supplemental food program.

Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri

of Pulaski County, the Waynesville High School Junior ROTC program

“Working together to make our community a better place continues to prove its worth. Thank you for sharing your stories with us and for working tirelessly to make a difference,” the chapter said in a Facebook post.



Members of AUSA's Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri chapter present a \$500 donation to the Waynesville High School Junior ROTC program. (AUSA PHOTO)



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