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Sgt. Stacey Collins and military working dog Hugo, both with the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, pose for a photo during training at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. TRISTAN MOORE)

DoD expands online ID card renewals

Family members, retirees and other eligible personnel can now skip the badge office and renew their military ID cards online under an expansion of a DoD pilot program.

The pilot program, which was launched last February, previously was open only to sponsors with a common access card. Now, most retirees and non-CAC holders are eligible for the online service, DoD announced.

"We think modern capabilities like renewing a driver's license online make it easier for people to get what they need when they need it without burdening them with having to take a trip somewhere," Mike Zarlenga, of the Defense Manpower Data Center, said in a DoD news release.

DoD issues about 4.5 million ID cards a year, Zarlenga said. About 2.5 million of those are Uniformed Services Identification cards, and, of those, about 1 million are renewals that are eligible for the online option, Zarlenga said.

Uniformed Services Identification cards are issued to retired and reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed service members and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges and DoD installations.

Under the ongoing pilot program, eligible ID card holders can apply for renewal online via the ID Card Office website here. The online option is available for renewals and not initial

issue ID cards. It also is limited to applicants within the United States, although officials are working to expand the program elsewhere, according to the DoD news release.

Providing retirees and family members with an online option frees up badge offices for active-duty personnel and civilian employees.

"We want to enable the ID card sites today to better service the CAC holders who are our mission enablers," Zarlenga said in the news release. "We want to make sure that people visiting that office can get an appointment when they need one, and they can get their CAC and resume their mission or duties with minimal impact to them or to the department."

For more information, click here.



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Bill authorizes Medal of Honor for WWI, Vietnam heroes

The heroic acts of two soldiers could be recognized with the Medal of Honor under the 2024 defense authorization bill.

The 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by President Joe Biden in December, authorizes awarding the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, to former Pvt. Marcelino Serna and retired Col. Thomas Griffin.

Serna previously was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during World War I, while Griffin received the Silver Star for his actions in Vietnam.

Upgrades of the soldiers' awards to the Medal of Honor must still be approved by the president, but the NDAA waives the time limit that requires the medals to be awarded within five years of the combat action.

'Coolness and courage'

A Mexican national who volunteered to serve in the Army after the U.S. declared war on Germany in 1917, Serna was assigned to the 335th Infantry Regiment, 89th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, and deployed to France.

According to his Distinguished Service Cross citation, Serna "displayed exceptional coolness and courage" in single-handedly "charging and capturing 24 Germans" near



The 2024 National Defense Authorization Act authorizes awarding the Medal of Honor to former Pvt. Marcelino Serna and retired Col. Thomas Griffin. (U.S. ARMY/KEVIN FLEMING)

Flirey, France, on Sept. 12, 1918.

On that date inside the Meuse-Argonne region, Serna was on a scouting mission when he spotted a German sniper. As he explained in a 1962 interview with the *El Paso Times*, he saw a sniper "walking on a trench bank and wounded him from about 200 yards away. I followed his trail into a trench and heard some German soldiers talking. I saw four of them and started shooting. I got three of them."

Serna later got close enough to lob three grenades into the trench, killing 26 German soldiers and prompting the surrender of 24 more. "I herded them into a tight group with a .45 automatic in one hand and a Luger, which I had picked up, in the other. After a few minutes I was able to fire an SOS flare, and my buddies came to help me," Serna said in the interview.

Courage under fire

Griffin was a captain and senior adviser with the 2nd Infantry Division on March 1, 1969, when his battalion was ordered to "forestall an imminent attack threatened by North Vietnam Army units," according to his Silver Star citation.

Coming under attack almost immediately, Griffin exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to direct air strikes. "Captain Griffin continually remained in an exposed position and made numerous trips across fifty meters of open ground to advise his Vietnamese counterpart," the citation states.

As friendly forces stopped 30 meters from the entrenched enemy position, Griffin "took two hand grenades from a Vietnamese soldier and, together with his counterpart, assaulted a machine gun bunker, killing five enemy in that position," according to the citation. Now inside the enemy perimeter, Griffin and his counterpart led the battalion forward, brandishing the captured machine gun and grenade launcher, inspiring the battalion to assault, the citation reads.

When his counterpart was wounded, Griffin ran under the heavy fire to carry him to safety. He then carried four more wounded soldiers to safety and led a final attack, routing the remaining enemy who left behind 59 dead, numerous automatic weapons, ammunition and equipment, the citation reads.

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

Mario Terenas

Deputy Director,
AUSA Center for Leadership

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mario Terenas has been with AUSA for 16 months. He has two daughters—one a platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division and the other a freshman at Millersville University in Pennsylvania. Mario enjoys woodworking and is using his skills to renovate his house in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



Paper highlights lessons from war in Ukraine, 1940 Battle of France



Elements of the German 10th Panzer Division cross the Meuse River during the Battle of France in May 1940. (FRENCH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PHOTO)

As the Army modernizes for large-scale combat operations, an examination of the war in Ukraine and the 1940 Battle of France could provide insights for penetrating organized defenses in an era of high technology, writes the author of a new paper.

Lt. Col. Nathan Jennings, an Army strategist and associate professor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, writes that the Germans achieved victory against French and British forces in 1940 with a combination of “intentional, incidental and accidental asymmetries that allowed them to penetrate and exploit the most imposing defensive construct of their era.”

As such, U.S.-led coalitions will have to “apply similar degrees of novelty and adaptation to negotiate the lethality of the current military environment,” one where swarming drones, relentless surveillance and precision strikes are “wreaking havoc on combined arms offensives,” Jennings writes in “Maneuver and Breakthrough in 1940 France: Insights for the U.S. Army and the Russo-Ukrainian War,” published by the Association of the U.S. Army as part of its Land Warfare series.

For every successful Battle of France, which saw a unique set of asymmetric advantages within fleet-

ing military and political conditions, there are numerous examples—exemplified by the “tank graveyards” in Ukraine—where large-scale ground assaults shattered themselves against defenses primed with fortifications, counterattacks and integrated fires, Jennings writes.

In the effort to develop a force that is optimized for combat at scale, as opposed to the brigade-centric order of battle that fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, Jennings writes, the Army is developing divisions capable of multidomain operations “to serve as the primary unit of action and to provide senior commands with potential to execute ... operational penetration with intent to inflict systemic disruption or even collapse across rear areas.”

Pointing to the Army’s own vision for transformation, Jennings notes that the service must be “prepared to innovate with new manifestations of maneuver warfare that will allow it to avoid, or negate, the attritional and positional trends that have caused frustration and exhaustion across the steppes of Ukraine.”

Read the paper here.

It is an updated version, incorporating lessons and observations from the war in Ukraine, of a paper published in April 2022. The original paper is available here.

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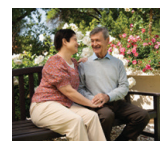
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PERK OF THE WEEK

The holidays can be a time when we notice changes in our elderly relatives. A Place for Mom is the leading senior living advisory service with local experts to help families find the right care for their aging loved ones. Members receive \$350 when they move to a community referred by APFM. For more information, click here.



Global Force 2024 highlights ‘continuous transformation’

Registration is now open for the Association of the U.S. Army’s Global Force Symposium and Exposition in Huntsville, Alabama.

The three-day event will take place March 26–28 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, just outside Redstone Arsenal and home to Army Materiel Command.

This year’s theme is “Continuous Transformation to Deliver Ready Combat Formations,” with keynote speeches and panel discussions focused on the Army’s efforts to become a leaner, more agile fighting force that’s sustainable in a contested environment.

Senior Army leaders from Army Materiel Command, Army Futures Command and the office of the assistant Army secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology are scheduled to participate, along with lead-



Soldiers and defense industry representatives examine new technology during the 2023 AUSA Global Force Symposium and Exposition in Huntsville, Alabama. (AUSA PHOTO)

ers from other Army commands.

Leaders from the service’s cross-functional teams focused on the Army’s modernization priorities also are slated to appear.

Throughout the event, the Army will run the Warriors Corner, fea-

turing presentations by Army leaders. There also will be more than 200 exhibits, showcasing the latest innovations from industry and the Army.

A full agenda will be available soon.

For more information or to register, click here.



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Resources for turning new resolutions into healthy habits

Welcome to 2024. The Association of the U.S. Army's Family Readiness directorate will cherish the memories shared in 2023, but it's time to build our toolkits for the new year.

While many New Year's resolutions relate to physical fitness, expanding our goals to encompass mental, spiritual and financial well-being can lead to a more balanced and fulfilling life. With help from the outstanding programs available to soldiers and families, you can turn good resolutions into healthy habits.

A military family forum at AUSA's 2023 Annual Meeting and Exposition, where many resources were discussed, is a good place to start.

Family Readiness

Follow us on Facebook at AUSA Family Readiness to watch the forum and connect with us.

Holistic Health and Fitness is one example. It is a brigade-based program that helps units thrive by assisting with physical, spiritual, mental, sleep and nutritional growth.

Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness, which includes Master



Robyn Mroszczyk, an Army spouse and the financial education program manager in the Army G-9, discusses holistic resources for military families during a forum at the 2023 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

Resilience Training, is another program that helps soldiers and families achieve strong and healthy psychological and physical fitness growth. The program offers performance centers manned by experts in sports or performance psychology, kinesiology, counseling, education and more.

Soldiers and families also can use Master Resilience Training to learn

skills such as the resilience skill of "Hunting the Good Stuff" to counteract negativity and create positive emotions, as well as the steps to and benefits of setting concrete goals.

Whether it's taking daily walks, starting a workout routine or visiting an Armed Forces Wellness Center to meet with a nutrition specialist for a new recipe or diet, small changes can yield significant results over time.

It's also important to have a strong circle of support, to include friends, family, coworkers and leadership. For times when we need a little more support, Military OneSource has confidential military and family counseling services to help with the everyday challenges of military life, including relationships, grief and loss, communication and more.

There also are licensed counselors available worldwide to help in-person or virtually.

The beginning of the year is the best time to evaluate your financial goals and create a realistic budget. With the rising costs of living, a holistic view on finances has never been more important.

Financial Frontline provides soldiers and families with programs, policy and educational resources to achieve financial readiness. Through its website, you can register for classes on money management, budgeting and investing in your future or find a personal financial counselor for one-on-one assistance. Establishing a solid financial foundation provides a sense of security and peace of mind.

What is your New Year's resolution? Remember, the key to successful resolutions lies in setting realistic goals, celebrating small victories and embracing the journey toward overall wellness.

May this year be a transformative chapter in your pursuit of a healthier, happier and more fulfilling life.



Military family members participate in a yoga session as a part of the Holistic Health and Fitness program in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. ANDREW JO)

Kaylee Spielman is AUSA's Family Readiness intern.

Chapter honors outstanding NCOs, marks Guard birthday

The Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter recently presented its annual Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Awards and celebrated the National Guard's 387th birthday during an event at the Jackson Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Ordway, the award's namesake, played an important leadership role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803, exercising responsibilities such as issuing provisions, appointing guard duties and keeping registers and records. The chapter created the awards program in 2005 to honor outstanding NCOs in all three Army components.

This year's recipient for the National Guard was 1st Sgt. Steven Davis, of Headquarters and Headquarters

Redstone-Huntsville

Company, 142nd Military Police Brigade. During his 35 years of service, Davis has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and served in every leadership position from team leader to first sergeant for three military police companies.

Davis "is an outstanding leader that can be counted on to take appropriate actions in the absence of orders," said Mike Dove, the AUSA chapter's vice president for Army Reserve and National Guard affairs, as reported by the *Redstone Rocket*. "First Sgt. Davis is extremely passionate and dedicated to the mission and always places his unit, the soldiers, and the Army's needs above his own."

Master Sgt. Arthaniel Turner, assigned to the 13th Battalion, 108th Ordnance Regiment, was the award recipient for the Army Reserve. He has served on active duty and with the Army Reserve since 1988 and is responsible for more than \$1 million in equipment and the training, health and welfare of 36 soldiers.

"Master Sgt. Turner is a true leader who cares about his troops. He



Receiving awards from AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter are, from left to right, Claus Martel, father of Maj. Patrick Martel; Sgt. 1st Class Holly Schmidt; 1st Sgt. Steven Davis; and Master Sgt. Arthaniel Turner. (REDSTONE ROCKET/ERIN ELISE ENYINDA)

embodies the Army values and never fails to achieve and go beyond what is required of him," Dove said, according to the *Redstone Rocket*.

The active Army recipient was Sgt. 1st Class Holly Schmidt, the NCO-in-charge at the Redstone Arsenal Veterinary Treatment Facility. She "is a servant leader who lives by the noncommissioned officer creed and the Army values," Dove said.

Schmidt mentored officers and



Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Alred, senior enlisted leader of the Alabama National Guard's 203rd Military Police Battalion, speaks at an awards breakfast hosted by AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter.

(REDSTONE ROCKET/ERIN ELISE ENYINDA)

updated the clinic's practices while overseeing more than 1,200 patient encounters over the past year, Dove said. "She is an empathetic leader who knows her soldiers and patients and always places their needs above her own," he said, as reported by the *Redstone Rocket*.

The chapter also presented its President's Award to Maj. Patrick Martel of the 142nd Military Police Brigade for "faithfully serving his country and state as an Alabama National Guard soldier," Dove said. His father, Claus Martel, accepted the award on his behalf.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Alred, senior enlisted leader of the Alabama National Guard's 203rd Military Police Battalion and the breakfast's keynote speaker, said the National Guard is "a living testament to the enduring spirit of freedom."

"Freedom as we know it is a precious and fragile gift," Alred said. "It requires not only the resilience of our ideals but also the commitment of the individuals willing to defend them. The National Guard stands as a beacon of that commitment, a force that embodies the essence of freedom."

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