



Despite challenges in 2020, the Army managed to maintain a high level of readiness and kept its modernization efforts on track, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said. (AUSA PHOTO)

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## U.S. needs 'strong and capable Army'

**T**he Army's modernization efforts remain as critical as ever in 2021 amid a high operations tempo and growing competition from adversaries such as Russia and China, the Army's top general said.

"The Army must always be ready to fight and win," Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said Tuesday during The AUSA Noon Report, a webinar hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army. "In this era of great-power competition, the Army must always be ready to compete to aggressively protect our national interests."

This includes having the strength to deter conflict in the first place, McConville said, with a "strong and capable Army" and "ironclad relationships with strong and capable allies

and partners throughout the world."

Soldiers at home and overseas faced a series of challenges last year, from COVID-19 to overseas operations, McConville said.

The Army managed to maintain a high level of readiness throughout those challenges and kept its modernization efforts on track, but "although our Army still maintains overmatch, it should not be taken for granted," he said.

"In the face of determined adversaries and accelerating technological advances, we must transform today to meet tomorrow's challenges," McConville said. "We must continue to transform our doctrine, build new organizations, change how we train, develop and field new weapons systems and implement a 21st century

talent management system so the Army has the right people in the right jobs at the right time."

Right now, the Army is working to provide the joint force with capabilities such as mobile, long-range fires and forces that can move across a complex battlefield, he said.

It is also preparing for Defender-Pacific 21, an upcoming exercise that will focus on the southwest Indo-Pacific region and include deploying a Multi-Domain Operations Task Force, drawing from Army pre-positioned stocks and exercising Army watercraft, McConville said.

Army leaders also continue to adjust forces in Europe and the Middle East to "ensure we have the right global force posture," he said.

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**KEVIN MAURER**

THE AMERICAN PARATROOPERS  
WHO TOOK BACK CORREGIDOR  
AND EXACTED MACARTHUR'S  
REVENGE ON JAPAN

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## Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy bids farewell to the force

**A**s he bids farewell to the force, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy says he is “going to miss the people.”

A former Army Ranger who served in Afghanistan, McCarthy was sworn in as the 24th Army secretary on Sept. 30, 2019, after serving as the Army undersecretary for about two years. He is resigning as the Trump administration reaches its end.

About leaving, he said, “I get to work with the most dedicated and resilient people in the country, and not seeing them every day will be the hardest part about going.”

He called on soldiers, Army civilians and family members to take care of one another.

“These are very challenging times for the country, and now more than ever we have to take the time to invest in each other,” he said Monday. “Understand your teammates’ challenges, their ambitions, and help them achieve them, because that’s what’s going to get us through the tough times.”

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, speaking Tuesday at The AUSA Noon Report, a webinar hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army, said the Army will say goodbye to McCarthy, whom he called “the best of the best,” on Wednesday.

“What distinguishes him as a leader is his character and the fact that he cares,” McConville said. “He’s always



In his farewell, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy called on soldiers, Army civilians and family members to take care of one another in ‘tough times.’ (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JAMES HARVEY)

done the right thing the right way. ... He’s always cared about our soldiers, our families, our civilians and our soldiers for life.”

John Whitley, assistant secretary of the Army for financial management and comptroller, will become the acting Army secretary, McConville said.

The Army’s readiness remains high and its modernization efforts remain on track, McCarthy said, leading to “a tremendous amount of energy, positive energy in a lot of different fronts.”

But there are also a lot of challenges remaining, he said.

“Sexual harassment and sexual assault, suicide, racial tension are tearing away at the fabric of our institu-

tion,” McCarthy said. “This problem is becoming rampant and something we have to address.”

The Army also will continue to grapple with COVID-19, he said.

“We’ve taken this challenge head-on in the way in which we’ve adjusted our protocols, in how we train, in how we live on our installations,” he said.

As the Army continues to support pandemic response across the country, including in developing and distributing vaccines, “it’s something that’s still in front of us and in the better part of 2021 we’ll have to face.”

McCarthy served with honor and distinction as both undersecretary and secretary, said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO.

“His vision has set the Army on a course of modernization and reform that will ensure the Army is well-postured for a challenging security environment, both foreign and domestic,” Ham said. “His calm leadership in trying times has kept the Army singularly focused on fulfilling its essential missions, and his passion for soldiers and their families has been evident in all that he has done. We at AUSA thank him for his dedication and for his service. He is a soldier for life, and we will miss him.”

## Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

### Nada Spriggs

*Project Manager*

Nada Spriggs has been a part of AUSA’s IT team for two years. She hails from Lebanon and in her spare time she loves re-creating complex meals from her heritage. In addition to providing delicious food, it reminds her of wonderful childhood memories and helps teach her daughter where her mom comes from.



## McQuiston retires as AUSA vice president for membership, meetings



'I love AUSA,' retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston said. 'I'm sorry to leave ... but I plan to stay connected and support as much as I can.' (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

**R**etired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston has retired from the Association of the U.S. Army after more than five years of service.

McQuiston, the association's vice president for membership and meetings, had been with AUSA since 2015. Her lasting impact on AUSA cannot be overstated, said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO.

"She brought energy, focus, imagination and whole-hearted commitment to AUSA's mission, to our AUSA National family and to our incredible cohort of volunteer leaders at the Region, State and Chapter levels," Ham said.

At AUSA, McQuiston had wide responsibilities, including supporting the association's 122 chapters around the world and overseeing events such as AUSA's Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C.

Before AUSA, McQuiston served in the Army for 35 years, including as deputy commanding general of Army Materiel Command at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

"I love AUSA," McQuiston said.

"I'm sorry to leave and will miss being part of the staff, but I plan to stay connected and support as much as I can."

Retired Gen. Robert Brown, AUSA's new executive vice president, will serve as interim vice president for membership and meetings.

Everything McQuiston touched got better, Ham said.

"Membership grew exponentially, leader training improved, new events, a new IT system, better business practices and more," he said.

She also expanded AUSA's scholarship program, allowing the association to support the education goals of more members than ever before.

Last fall, McQuiston's vision and drive built AUSA Now, the association's 2020 virtual annual meeting, into a "world-class event," Ham said.

McQuiston made a big impact in a short amount of time, said Alex Brody, AUSA's director of meetings. "She helped take AUSA in a new direction from day one," he said. "Her impact on this organization will be felt for years to come."

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# AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –  
Support For the Soldier*

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**McConville**

From Page 1

Ultimately, the Army is working toward a target or “aimpoint” of 2035, when the service will be “modernized and prepared to dominate our adversaries and sustain multi-domain operations,” McConville said.

It also has set a waypoint in 2028, when it will conduct a comprehensive reassessment of its assumptions of the future and adjust its investments accordingly, he said.

In addition to next-generation equipment and technology, the Army also is focused on people, he said.

“We win by doing the right things the right way, and we win through our people,” McConville said, as he emphasized the importance of competing for talent and better managing and taking care of people.

He doesn’t anticipate, however, a large increase in the size of the Army.

Previous studies have called for an



In addition to next-generation equipment and technology, the Army also is focused on people, Gen. James McConville said. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. JESSICA SCOTT)

active Army of 540,000 or 550,000 soldiers, but that is “not realistic,” he said, especially as defense budgets are expected to remain flat or even decline.

The Army ended fiscal year 2020 with 485,383 soldiers in the Regular

Army.

“With the size of the Army we have, with maybe a small, modest growth, we can meet the nation’s needs as long as we’re allowed to modernize and keep the Army ready,” McConville said.

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## AUSA director joins DoD as deputy assistant secretary

**P**atricia Barron, the Association of the U.S. Army's family readiness program director, has left the association for a Pentagon job.

She moved to DoD to become the deputy assistant defense secretary for military community and family policy, a job she's spent a lifetime preparing to fill.

In March, Barron was appointed to DoD's Military Family Readiness Council, which provides recommendations on family programs, policies and plans to Pentagon leaders. In her new job, she'll be responsible for implementing those recommendations.

"Patty Barron's passion for and commitment to Army families is unmatched. She'll bring that same

### Family Readiness

energy and enthusiasm to the entire joint force now, and we'll all be

better for it," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. "While her departure from AUSA is a big loss for us, she has set AUSA on a course for continued support to Army family readiness. I'll miss her, but at the same time I am incredibly proud of her for being selected to serve in her new position."

### Family advocate

Barron is one of the foremost advocates for military families and spouses, said retired Lt. Gen. Guy Swan, AUSA vice president for education and programs.

"Our nation's service members should be very reassured that Patty will be working tirelessly for their families' well-being," he said. "We at AUSA are very proud of Patty."

Since joining the AUSA staff in 2012, Barron oversaw educational and professional development programs at AUSA for Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers and Department of the Army civilians and their families.

This included family-oriented fi-



Since joining the AUSA staff in 2012, Patty Barron oversaw educational and professional development programs at AUSA for soldiers, civilians and their families. (AUSA PHOTO)

nancial education seminars, a partnership with Operation Deploy Your Dress to provide new and gently used formal wear for military ID card holders, and other events.

She also organized an increasingly popular set of forums during AUSA's Annual Meeting and Exposition, including a town hall where Army senior leaders answer questions from family members.

### 'A joy to serve'

"It has been a joy to serve as the family readiness director at AUSA and bring the voices of Army families to the association," Barron said. "The commitment that our leadership and staff have to their successful navigation of military life is inspiring. No other service association offers anything close to it, and it makes me very proud."

Barron added that she has been humbled by the Army's collaboration with AUSA to provide forums and other events for military families.

"It is their support and collabora-

tion that makes our forums can't-miss events," she said.

Barron is the spouse of an Army veteran and mother-in-law of a currently serving soldier.

Before AUSA, she served as director of outreach, Military Family Projects, at Zero to Three and worked as director of youth initiatives at the National Military Family Association, where she oversaw the association's Operation Purple camp program.

Barron served on Zero to Three's "Coming Together Around Military Children" advisory board and the Sesame Workshop's "Talk, Listen, Connect: Phase Two" advisory panel.

She also previously served on the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Policy Taskforce, the Child Care Aware of America Advisory Council, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Military Leadership Council.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of San Francisco and a master's degree from Long Island University.



## Army IG: Honor King with ‘engaged leadership,’ action

**A**s America celebrates the life of Martin Luther King Jr., whose work and leadership helped shape the nation, remembrance should also make way for reflection and action.

“This is a great opportunity for us to come together to remember, to reflect, to think and recommit ourselves to many of the values that Dr. King reminded us are very important in our daily lives,” retired Gen. Carter Ham, president and CEO of the Association of the U.S. Army, said Jan. 15 during an AUSA event to mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

King’s legacy is highlighted by his activism and leadership of the civil rights movement, his role in organized and nonviolent protests, and his influence well after his death.

King became a national figure for the civil rights movement while leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a 13-month campaign that helped end racial segregation on Montgomery, Alabama, public buses.

He continued to organize and lead peaceful demonstrations for desegregation, labor rights, voting rights and other civil rights until his assassination in April 1968.

The first proposal to honor King with a holiday was presented to Congress just days after he was killed, but it didn’t become official until 1983, when President Ronald Reagan



More than 52 years after his death, Martin Luther King Jr.’s work continues to resonate with Americans and soldiers alike. (COMMONS PHOTO)

declared every third Monday in January to be Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

This year, the holiday was observed on Monday.

Speaking during AUSA’s event, Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, the Army inspector general, said change requires vision and direction, as well as “foot soldiers” who can “step up to the plate to do the hard thing.”

“We can all have an impact,” Smith said. “We sometimes have to do uncomfortable things as leaders.”

With roughly 130,000 new soldiers entering the Army every year, Smith said, understanding history—and continuing to teach it—is important.

“Frankly, AUSA is the right place to

lead this discussion,” he said. “Thank you for taking time to remember, to celebrate, but my challenge to you in 2021 [is] that we all have to act.”

Last year, the Army released a five-year plan to improve diversity, equality and inclusion through a series of structural, organizational and command changes.

It also has taken other steps to reduce bias, including the removal of photographs and identifying information from promotion files, and the Pentagon also is tackling the issue.

“In order to act, you have to be present,” Smith said, stressing that “engaged leadership” is a critical part of influencing change.

### McQuiston

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Her achievements are “too long to list here, but what stands out is the incredible growth of our membership program,” Brody added.

Five years ago, AUSA membership numbered fewer than 60,000, he said.

“Today, we have more than 240,000 members. That is nothing short of phenomenal, and it’s a testament to Lt. Gen. McQuiston’s creativity and leadership ability.”

John Davies, AUSA’s director of membership, praised McQuiston’s passion and energy for supporting soldiers, their families and those who support them.

“Her outside-the-box thinking has led to a number of programs, all contributing to raising that level of support while growing the membership and furthering the mission to educate, inform and connect,” he said.

Davies also credited McQuiston with improving the relationship between AUSA National and its Re-

gions, States and Chapters.

Ham agreed.

“While these and many more individual accomplishments are extraordinary and worthy of note, I think her greatest contribution has been in fostering a sense of common purpose between AUSA National and our Regions and Chapters,” Ham said. “I’ll miss her wise counsel, her innovative thinking and her genuine passion for her team, for our association and for the soldiers, families, veterans and businesses we support.”

## Command honors AUSA member for outstanding service

**A** lifetime member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Pikes Peak chapter was recently honored as one of Army Space and Missile Defense Command's 2020 Civilians of the Year.

Joseph "Erik" Hartel, the command's signals intelligence branch chief, was recognized in the technical/technical management category for "exceptional leadership and management contributions" that "enabled SMDC to reach mission goals that would not otherwise have been achieved," according to SMDC public affairs.

"It is an honor and a complete surprise," Hartel said of the award. "To me, it means two important things. First, I have an excellent chain of command committed to recognizing their people. Secondly, I am truly privileged to have an incredibly talented team of military and civilian professionals working for me whose tireless commitment to the Army space mission and raw intellectual horsepower directly led to this rec-



Joseph 'Erik' Hartel. (COURTESY PHOTO)

ognition."

Hartel's dedication and direct support "improved SMDC G-2 processes, saved intelligence community resources, and improved the Army's success with the new U.S. Space Command," a release said.

"I enjoy this job because of the genuinely stellar people with whom I work

and the mission. My branch is one of the few organizations in this command that has continued to work [on-site] through the pandemic because we provide intelligence support to deployed 1st Space Brigade personnel and multiple combatant commands. Additionally, space is a domain that presents new and complex analytical challenges daily, so there's never a dull moment," Hartel said.

In addition to his membership in AUSA, Hartel has volunteered as an assistant race director for the Colorado State Road Race Championships every year since 2016, as a community bike ride leader for Trails End Trailblazers and as a mechanic at Kids-On-Bikes.

Two other employees were also recognized as Civilians of the Year for 2020: Lou Moss of the Army NASA Detachment Military Liaison Office in the supporting staff category, and Timothy Shaffer, a Space and Missile Defense School course manager/instructor, in the professional/technical category

## Chapter hosts gift donation drive for soldiers, families

**T**he Association of the U.S. Army's Indiana chapter recently partnered with the local chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers to host the annual "Gifts for Troops" drive in support of soldiers and families.

On Dec. 19, more than 150 gifts were wrapped for 25 families in need during the holiday season. The families included soldiers from the Indiana National Guard, the Army Reserve's 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and two Gold Star families.

The gifts were donated by soldiers, civilians and family members from AUSA, ASMC, Army Financial Management Command, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and the Army Reserve pay management team.



As a result of the annual 'Gifts for Troops' drive, more than 150 gifts were wrapped for 25 families in need during the holiday season. (AUSA PHOTO)

"With the current COVID-19 crisis, there are many families struggling. The Christmas 'Gifts for Troops' pro-

gram is a great way to help soldiers and families during the holidays," the chapter said in a newsletter.



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