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Florida Army National Guard soldiers help residents of Pine Island, Florida, evacuate in a CH-47 Chinook after Hurricane Ian. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS TRINITY BIERLEY)

Guard remains focused after tough year

From expanding benefits to modernizing its combat forces, the National Guard continues to prioritize its people after a challenging year, the component's top general said.

"What does the future look like for our National Guard? What are our priorities going forward? They're ... people, readiness, modernization and reform," said Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday alongside National Guard Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, Hokanson lauded the "over 430,000-strong" National Guard, adding that more than 40,000 are engaged in missions around the world.

While 2022 provided unique challenges, particularly at home, Guard

members were unflinching in their response, Hokanson said.

"We supported our first responders and rescued American families when hurricanes made landfall in Florida and Puerto Rico, when tornadoes leveled a 7-mile stretch of eastern Kentucky, when wildfires scorched millions of acres out west, and we rescued over 2,400 people when flash flooding hit Montana and Kentucky," he said. "That doesn't begin to cover the impact we make in our local communities every day."

It's critical for the Guard to take care of its troops, Hokanson said as he underscored the importance of duty status reform. This would enable Guard troops to have pay and benefits more aligned with their active-duty counterparts, he said,

adding that "it is also vital to our recruiting and retention efforts."

Hokanson also expressed support for giving all National Guard soldiers and airmen health care under Tricare Reserve Select with no fees or copays, saying it is "the right thing to do for our service members and their families."

To maintain readiness, the Guard is planning to modernize its combat forces to keep the component "seamlessly interoperable with the Army" and increase its combat training center rotations.

"The Army National Guard will modernize its brigades and divisions to produce all-domain combat forces [that are] divisionally aligned with the Army as soon as we can," Hokan-

See **Guard priorities**, Page 3



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Ukraine war highlights need for Army transformation

Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine has provided a stark reminder that the U.S. and its allies and partners must be prepared for large-scale combat operations and for a regional conflict to have global implications, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said.

Speaking Jan. 18 at a Coffee Series event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army, McConville had recently returned from an 11-nation tour that left him "impressed" with how American soldiers are working with troops from other nations.

A few years ago, nobody could have imagined that an intense ground war would change the global landscape, McConville said. The war that began with Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shaken the global economy, killed innocent people and sounded an alarm about the need for instant and overwhelming response.

Among the lessons learned from the Russian assault on a sovereign neighbor is the critical need to press ahead with transformation of the Army's capabilities and doctrine in a way that prepares the force for major combat. This includes having the ability to both see and strike opposing forces at greater distances and fight across multiple domains. For example, the Army needs to be able to strike ships, destroy drones and conduct cyberwarfare.

"You do not want to present an adversary just one dilemma," McConville said. "You want to throw a bunch of balls at their heads, so they do not know which one is the curve.



Pfc. Austin Hurt, of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), throws an RQ-11B 'Raven' drone into the sky Jan. 16 in Smardan, Romania. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. MATTHEW WANTROBA)

All these lessons are being learned in Ukraine, and the Ukrainians are doing a great job."

A priority for McConville is "trying to keep momentum going" on the Army's sweeping transformation effort. If successful, this would deliver 24 new systems into the hands of soldiers in 2023. "Some of the systems are not completely ready for prime time, but we should not give up on them," he said. In some cases, new systems might be delivered incrementally.

The Army—and the other services—might benefit from some long-range thinking about supply chain issues, McConville said.

Efforts are underway to replenish ammunition and weapons systems

that were provided to Ukraine in their defense of their homeland. The goal would be to buy upgraded items instead a previous version, McConville said. "There is a cost associated with that, but it is the intent of what we are trying to do with systems," he said.

McConville expects a global push for other nations to also expand their military capabilities. Nations concerned about security will invest in defense programs, but it could take years to achieve. It might be wise, he said, to also stockpile scarce items needed for future production, he said. "We have to think in a nonlinear way," he said, noting that this is a way to ensure nations can produce items when needed.

Guard priorities

From Page 1

son said. "We will increase our rotations at combat training centers and participation in realistic exercises because training as we fight is the best way to prepare for future conflicts."

Hokanson said the Guard is on

track with its plans to modernize its major weapons systems. "We're in lockstep with the Army on things like multidomain operations, long-range precision fires, main battle tanks, air defense, future vertical lift and more," he said.

Heading into 2023, Hokanson said the Guard is ready to respond to the

nation's needs.

"We have got to be ready for whatever our nation asks us to do," Hokanson said. "So, we're really trying to encourage our Guardsmen and our trainers at every single level of leadership to make sure that we focus on readiness. ... That is something we're absolutely working on."

Experts recommend more support for women leaving military service



Annie Laura Bailey, left, who joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1943, speaks with 3rd Infantry Division soldiers Spc. Dionna Smith, center, and Spc. Ahmyra Hollis, right, at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Statesboro, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. ELSI DELGADO)

As the share of women veterans in the U.S. grows, they are seeking more access to sources of support during their transition to civilian life, a panel of experts said during a Rand Corp. webinar.

Gaining awareness about women who serve is key to ensuring that women veterans identify with their service, said Ann Treadaway, an Army veteran who is director of Veteran and Military Programs and Services at Rutgers University.

"When people think of veterans, they think of men. That's the visibility aspect," Treadaway said during the "Veteran Women in Transition" webinar hosted by the Rand Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute. "The more we see women as veterans, I think we're creating an environment that fosters them to engage and has them self-identify."

There are more than 2 million veteran women in the U.S., according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. By 2025, the share of veteran women who served in the Army is projected to be 916,948.

Women who serve often feel they must balance their service with their femininity, Treadaway said. "I do

think that there's this fine line when women are serving that you're expected to do your job and do it well, just like a man, but you're also supposed to be walking this tightrope of femininity," she said. "I think part of the transition out [of the military] and the difficulty is figuring out where to go and what to participate in."

At times during their transition, they also may find it difficult to seek the intensity and adrenaline of a deployment in a healthy way. "I had just gotten back from my second deployment to Iraq, and I was getting out a few months later. I think the biggest transitional issue for me was the intensity and adrenaline and the high [experienced during the deployment]," Treadaway said. "So, I came back, and I started to participate in not the healthiest or extreme, adrenaline type of behavior."

Though some patterns emerge among women veterans, Treadaway emphasized the individuality of women veterans and their experiences.

"Women veterans are coming from different places and require different support, and I think veterans in general need more intimate, targeted programming," she said.

AUSA Extra

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AUSA'S HOT TOPICS



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Biography details life and legacy of Vietnam War hero

Most military biographies naturally focus on the soldier being profiled. But anyone connected to the Army knows that no soldier serves alone.

The full story of any soldier includes the wider world of friends, family and community.

No Greater Love: The Story of Michael Crescenz, Philadelphia's Only Medal of Honor Recipient of the Vietnam War is the rare military biography that broadens the scope to include this fuller picture.

It tells the story of an extraordinary young man who volunteered to do his part during the Vietnam War and ultimately gave his

Book Program

life to save his fellow soldiers.

It also tells of those back home who influenced the man Michael Crescenz would become—and how those people rallied decades later to ensure his service would be remembered.

This new entry in the Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program was written by John Siegfried and Kevin Ferris, two fellow Pennsylvanians who worked with the Crescenz family to bring this story to the world. Siegfried is a historian and author of *Six Degrees of the Bracelet: Vietnam's Continuing Grip*. Ferris spent over 30 years at *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as a columnist and an editor, and he is the co-author of *Unbreakable Bonds: The Mighty Moms and Wounded Warriors of Walter Reed* and *Vets and Pets: Wounded Warriors and the Animals that Help Them Heal*.

The AUSA Book Program sat down with Ferris to discuss the new work.

AUSA: How did you connect with co-author John Siegfried on this project?

Ferris: Michael Crescenz's brother, Joe, made the connection. When it comes to Michael's legacy, Joe is a fierce and loyal advocate. And he was instrumental every step of the

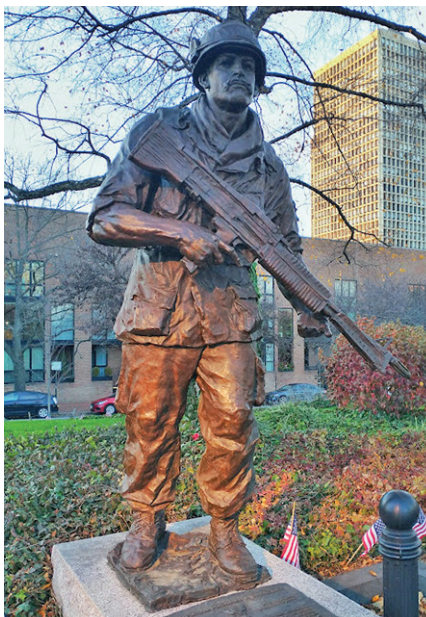


Cpl. Michael Crescenz. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

way, from finding old friends of Michael to interview to now promoting *No Greater Love* around the country.

AUSA: What inspired you to help share the story of this particular Medal of Honor recipient?

Ferris: Michael giving his life to save others was the number one inspiration. Number two is the love and loyalty he inspires to this day—family members, old friends from school, soldiers he saved, the Vietnam veterans who honor all those who serve



At left, a statue honoring Michael Crescenz stands outside the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Philadelphia. (COMMONS PHOTO)

when they pay tribute to Michael's noble spirit and great sacrifice.

AUSA: What is one thing you would like potential readers to know about the book?

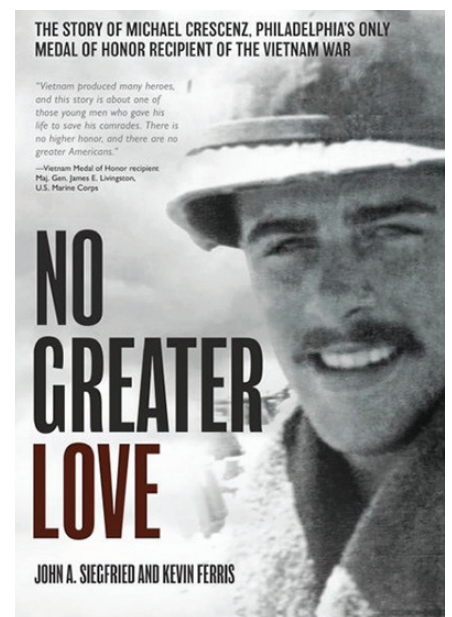
Ferris: That love was the driving force behind Michael's heroic actions in Vietnam. And he learned about love—for others, for his community, for his country—at home, at school, at church and in his neighborhood.

AUSA: How is Crescenz remembered today in Philadelphia?

Ferris: Michael's story wasn't widely known in his hometown until the family moved his body to Arlington National Cemetery in 2008. The resulting media coverage brought his act of valor to light and inspired many tributes: veterans posts and streets bear his name, a larger-than-life statue of him stands guard at Philly's Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the local VA hospital has been renamed for him.

To order a copy of *No Greater Love*, please visit www.ause.org/books.

Joseph Craig is AUSA's Book Program director.



Donation boosts chapter's service dog initiative for 2023

The Association of the U.S. Army's Monmouth chapter in New Jersey recently received a \$16,059 donation for its service dog initiative, "Pairing and Caring for Our Veterans," from ACE Electronics Defense Systems, a chapter Community Partner.

Susan DiVila, vice president for sales and marketing at ACE Electronics and AUSA's First Region president, presented the check to Ed Thomas, the chapter president.

In December, ACE Electronics issued a challenge on LinkedIn for members to repost their Veterans Service Dog Awareness video throughout the month. The company pledged to donate \$3 for each view, resulting in 5,353 views.



Rosie is one of the service dogs from AUSA's Monmouth chapter initiative. (AUSA PHOTO)

With the donation, "we will be able to purchase another service dog. We will be able to find a veteran with special needs, and we're going to be able to do a complete new pairing," Thomas said.

Instead of the one veteran-service dog pairing planned, the chapter will now be able to accomplish two pairings in 2023, Thomas said. "Thank you so much—I don't know what to say," he said.

Eagle Chapters

The following chapters attained Eagle status for December by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1, 2022, is shown in parentheses.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Korea (6) | Des Moines Freedom (4) | Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (3) |
| Magnolia (6) | Emerald Coast-Big Bend-So. Georgia (4) | Henry Leavenworth (3) |
| Major Samuel Woodfill (6) | Gem State (4) | MG John S. Lekson (3) |
| North Texas (6) | GEN Creighton W. Abrams (4) | New Orleans (3) |
| Western New York (6) | George Washington (4) | Newton D. Baker (3) |
| Allegheny-Blue Ridge (5) | Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (4) | SGM Jon R. Cavaiani (3) |
| Arkansas (5) | Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (4) | Space Coast (3) |
| Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley (5) | Last Frontier (4) | White Sands Missile Range (3) |
| Denver Centennial (5) | Milwaukee (4) | Alamo (2) |
| Florida Gulf Stream (5) | Northern New Jersey (4) | Arsenal of Democracy (2) |
| Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (5) | Thunderbird (4) | Catoctin (2) |
| Greater Los Angeles (5) | Utah (4) | Greater Atlanta (2) |
| Houston Metroplex (5) | Virginia Colonial (4) | MG Robert B. McCoy (2) |
| Mediterranean (5) | Capital District of New York (3) | Mid-Palatinat (2) |
| Puerto Rico (5) | Central California (3) | Rhode Island (2) |
| Suncoast (5) | Central Ohio (3) | San Diego (2) |
| Texas Capital Area (5) | Columbia River (3) | Stuttgart (2) |
| Arizona Territorial (4) | First In Battle (3) | Tri-State (2) |
| Central Virginia (4) | First Militia (3) | Leonidas Polk (1) |
| Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (4) | Fort Riley-Central Kansas (3) | Lake Cumberland-PVT Chris Guillen (1) |
| | Ft Lee & Southern Virginia (3) | |



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