



Weapons Qualification



A soldier with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment conducts M320 grenade launcher qualification in support of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group in Bemowo Piskie, Poland. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. TIMOTHY HAMLIN)

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Scholarship applications open Feb. 1

The Association of the U.S. Army will begin accepting applications Feb. 1 to award at least \$320,000 in national scholarships in 2020, with 48 scholarships awarded by AUSA and three administered by the association in conjunction with the Army.

This year, AUSA is adjusting the timing of its annual scholarship awards to align with the beginning of the fall semester at colleges and universities.

Applications will be accepted online from Feb. 1 until May 15. Those selected to receive AUSA national scholarships will be notified by Aug. 15.

To be selected for any of the AUSA national scholarships, applicants must have a current membership in the association.

Membership is not a prerequisite for the three Army scholarships administered by AUSA.

The national scholarships include awards for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, and general studies.

In the STEM category, AUSA will award 10 Delta Dental Oral Health and Wellness Scholarships valued at \$2,000 each; two Joseph P. and Helen T. Cribbins Scholarships valued at \$10,000 each; and six Nicholas D. Chabraja Scholarships valued at \$5,000 each.

The Delta Dental program provides scholarships to Army family members and transitioning soldiers for the advancement of oral health and wellness.

Eligible applicants may pursue a wide range of programs such as den-

tistry, nursing, home healthcare aid, or caregiver training.

The Joseph P. and Helen T. Cribbins Scholarships honor the memory and legacy of Joseph and Helen Cribbins, longtime supporters of America's Army and AUSA, while the Nicholas D. Chabraja Scholarships honor the past chairman of AUSA's Board of Directors.

Both may be used for completing degrees in STEM areas.

The general studies scholarships consist of the SMA Leon Van Autreve Scholarship Program; General Jack N. Merritt Scholarships; complete coursework debt reduction; and three full scholarships for undergraduate or graduate degrees offered by Trident University.

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New battalion commander selection process underway

The first iteration of a new program that fundamentally changes the way battalion commanders are selected is underway at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and it promises to be “transformational,” the Army’s top general said.

The Battalion Commander Assessment Program (BCAP) is part of the Army’s ambitious plan to use a talent management approach to shake up decades-old promotion and command practices.

“This is transformational,” Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said during a video teleconference media roundtable from Fort Knox, where he was on hand to observe some of the activities of the five-day assessment.

Of the 1,800 lieutenant colonels and promotable majors in the Army who were eligible for command, 1,100 expressed an interest in commanding and went through a routine command screening board process.

Of those, 816 were invited to participate in the BCAP at Fort Knox and 769 ended up participating, McConville said.

The assessment began Jan. 15 and is slated to conclude Feb. 9, with a new group of officers reporting every day to begin the five-day assessment.

Officers going through the assessment are evaluated for height and weight standards, physical fitness



Battalion Commander Assessment Program participants work together to negotiate several obstacles as part of the Army’s new talent management initiative. (FORT KNOX NEWS/ERIC PILGRIM)

and past performance, plus they are questioned by a panel in a blind interview and subjected to a psychological evaluation, an assessment borrowed from the special operations community.

Participants are also grouped into teams for a leader reaction course and observed for their leadership and critical thinking abilities as they work their way through a series of tasks.

At the end of the BCAP process, there will be primary and alternate command lists for those deemed “ready,” said Maj. Gen. J.P. McGee, director of the Army Talent Management Task Force.

Those who don’t make the cut will have two more opportunities to go through the assessment program at Fort Knox after they are provided with an opportunity to work on the attributes identified for improvement, he said.

“I am excited about what they’re doing. This is really some incredible work going on down here,” McConville said, adding that battalion commanders are “the most consequential leaders in the Army” as they will become the service’s future strategic leaders.

“We want to make sure we have the right people in these positions,” he said.

Scholarships

From Page 1

In honor of Leon Van Autreve, the fourth sergeant major of the Army, eight scholarships are available: one for \$25,000, one for \$10,000, one for \$5,000, and five for \$2,000, for a total of \$50,000.

Two \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded in honor of retired Gen. Jack Merritt, a former president of AUSA.

For young professionals with debt from recent completion of college courses or professional certifications, eight \$2,500 scholarships are available.

Three full-ride scholarships valued at up to \$48,000 each will be awarded for Trident University, an accredited online institution offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees that gives credit for leadership and professional experience.

In 2020, AUSA also has nine new offerings for cadets in Junior ROTC programs, named in honor of retired Lt. Gen. Theodore Stroup Jr., a former vice president of education at AUSA.

These awards will recognize the achievements of high school JROTC cadets based on submission of essays.

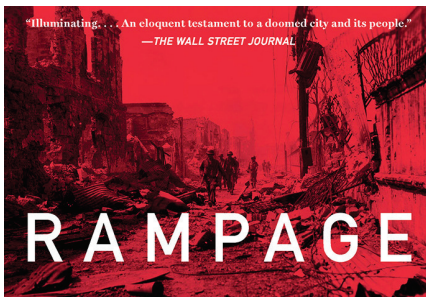
One award of \$1,000 and eight awards of \$500 will be presented, for a total of \$5,000.

The SGM Larry Strickland Leadership Award and Scholarship, the SGM Dawn Kilpatrick Memorial AUSA Scholarship Program, and ROTC scholarships are selected by the U.S. Army and funded by AUSA.

Applicants may apply for all AUSA national scholarships for which they qualify with a single online application.

For more information, including eligibility rules and requirements, or to apply, click [here](#).

New book recounts tragic tale of MacArthur and the Battle of Manila



MACARTHUR, YAMASHITA,
and the BATTLE of MANILA

JAMES M. SCOTT

This coming Tuesday, author James Scott will discuss his book *Rampage: MacArthur, Yamashita, and the Battle of Manila* at AUSA headquarters. (COURTESY PHOTOS)

By Joseph Craig

Seventy-five years ago, toward the end of World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur was planning to retake the Philippine capital city of Manila—a key step in fulfilling his pledge to return to the Southeast Asian nation and liberate the islands.

MacArthur was convinced that the Japanese would abandon the city, and he even planned a victory parade down Dewey Boulevard.

Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita had indeed planned to engage the Americans elsewhere on Luzon, but one of his naval commanders in Manila was determined to fight to the end.

The first American units arrived at the outskirts of the city on Feb. 3, 1945. Three days later, MacArthur declared that Manila had fallen—but he was mistaken. Japanese resistance in the heart of the city flared into weeks of intense block-by-block and even room-by-room fighting.

Japanese forces brutalized the civilian population during the monthlong battle, committing atrocities on par with the Rape of Nanking, and the city was destroyed.

This coming Tuesday, author James Scott will recount this tragic tale in a Lemnitzer Lecture at the General Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center in Arlington, Virginia.

After the presentation, Scott will sign copies of his award-winning book *Rampage: MacArthur, Yamashita, and the Battle of Manila*.

Information on the event can be found on the Association of the U.S. Army website by clicking here.

Two other Lemnitzer Lectures have also been scheduled for the months ahead.

L. Scott Lingamfelter will discuss his forthcoming AUSA book, *Desert Redleg: Artillery Warfare in the Gulf War*, on May 12, and Donald Snedeker will talk about *The Blackhorse in Vietnam: The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, 1966–1972* on July 22.

Details for those lectures are among the listings on AUSA's Meetings and Events page.

Please visit www.ausa.org/books to preorder copies of *Desert Redleg* and *The Blackhorse in Vietnam*.

Joseph Craig is AUSA's Book Program Director.

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Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret.
President and CEO, AUSA

Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, USA, Ret.
Vice President, Education, AUSA

Luc Dunn
Editor

Desiree Hurlocker
Advertising Production and
Fulfillment Manager

Advertising Information Contact:
Fox Associates Inc.
116 W. Kinzie St. • Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 800-440-0231
Email: adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com

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Infantry museum needs votes for readers' choice poll

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center needs your vote in the coming weeks.

The museum, located just outside the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia, is nominated in two categories of *USA Today's* 2020 readers' choice poll: Best Free Museum and Best History Museum.

The 190,000-square-foot museum is the only Army museum nominated in those categories.

"We were named Best Free Museum in 2016, and we're determined to win again," said retired Brig. Gen. Peter Jones, president and COO of the National Infantry Museum Foundation.

The museum opened in June 2009 with one guiding mission: to honor the legacy and valor of U.S. Army infantry soldiers.

With thousands of artifacts, monuments, interactive exhibits and video presentations on display, the National Infantry Museum is one of the nation's leading military history destinations.

To vote in the Best Free Museum category, [click here](#).



The National Infantry Museum opened in June 2009 with one guiding mission: to honor the legacy and valor of U.S. Army infantry soldiers. (COURTESY PHOTO)

To vote in the Best History Museum category, [click here](#).

You can vote once a day until polls close at noon Eastern time Feb. 17.

The winning museums will be announced Feb. 28.

"This is the kind of recognition and media coverage small-budget museums desperately need," Jones said.

To learn more about the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, [click here](#).

AUSA bids farewell to Preston as NCO vice president

The Association of the U.S. Army bid farewell Tuesday to its outgoing vice president of NCO and Soldier Programs, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Ken Preston.

"He was always thinking about that soldier, about that soldier's family, about that young sergeant. ... It was always about soldiers first for Ken Preston," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO.

Before joining AUSA, Preston was the longest-serving sergeant major of the Army, Ham said.

Preston described himself as "very honored, very humbled, and very blessed."

"Having the opportunity to travel and spend time with all 122 chapters, getting out there to support those volunteers and helping them be a success



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Ken Preston will remain with AUSA as a Senior Fellow. (AUSA PHOTO)

in what they're trying to do to support soldiers and their families, has been very, very heartfelt for me," he said.

Preston will remain with the as-

sociation as one of its Senior Fellows.

"I don't really look at this as a farewell," he said. "I look at this as a transition."

Deployment is family affair for AUSA chapter president

Sgt. 1st Class William Valenza's upcoming deployment is going to be a family affair.

Valenza, president of the Association of the U.S. Army's Capital District of New York chapter, is deploying to the Middle East in early 2020 alongside his wife, Maj. Julie Valenza, and son, Sgt. Andrew Valenza.

"I am very fortunate to be deploying with my wife and my son," William Valenza, a member of the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division, said. "Not every military family has it this easy."

The Valenzas' older son, Mitchell, has been in Afghanistan since July serving as a platoon leader and infantry officer.

Their daughter Camille, a second lieutenant and field artillery officer with the New York Army National Guard, will care for the family home during the deployment.



The Valenza family attends West Point grad Mitchell Valenza's Army Ranger School graduation in April 2019. From left: William, Camille, Mitchell, Andrew and Julie. (COURTESY PHOTO)

"I'm really proud of the choices that they made," William Valenza said of his children.

Julie Valenza, a physician assistant, will be deployed for six months.

William Valenza and Andrew Valenza, a photographer and writer in the division's public affairs office, will be gone for 11 months.

"I think it's a lot easier for us since we are all going together," William Valenza said.

"We watched so many soldiers saying goodbye to spouses and small children. Fortunately, our daughter is older and can take care of the home and dog, but it was still tough to say goodbye for a year."

Chapter seeks to raise funds for veterans' service dog initiative



Monmouth

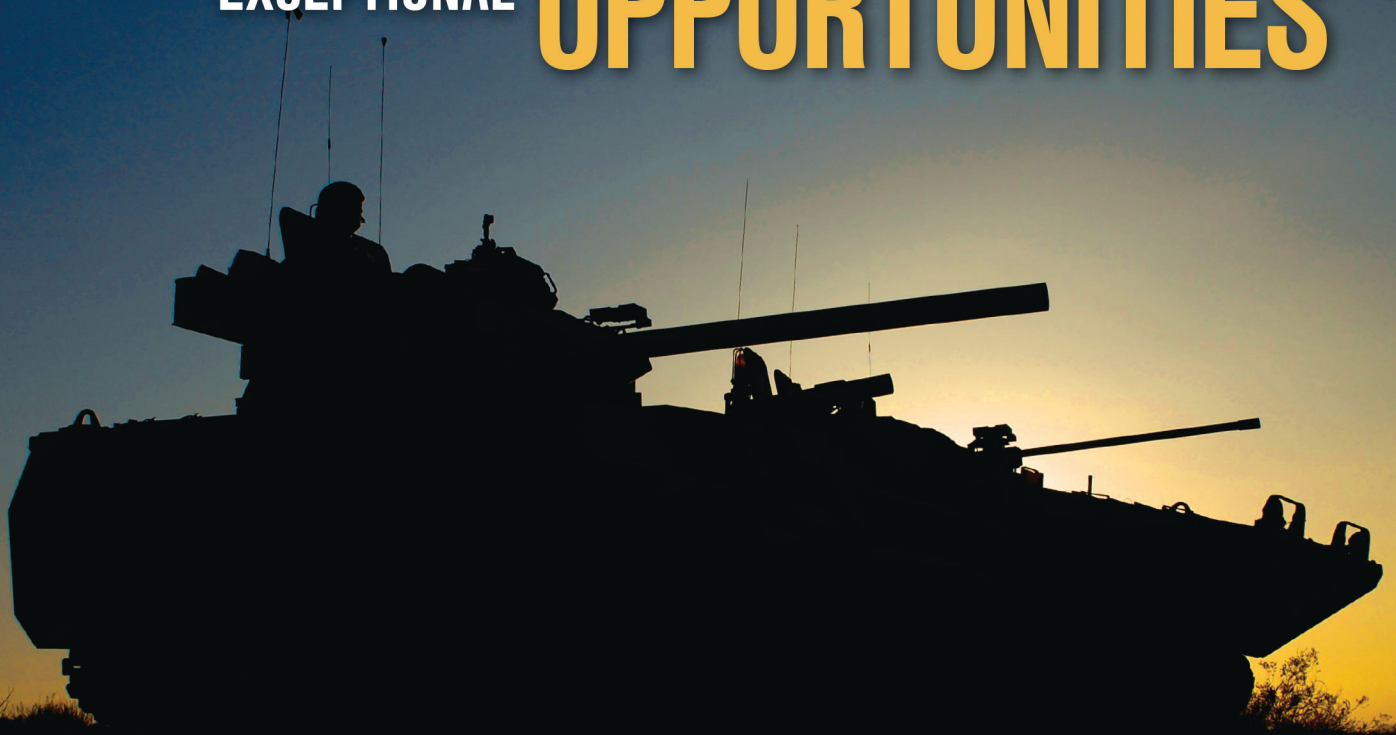
The Association of the U.S. Army's Monmouth chapter held its first executive board meeting of 2020 on Jan. 7. The meeting was hosted by Brian Dragotto of International Planning Alliance in Shrewsbury, New Jersey. New and old business was discussed, with a focus on the chapter's first fundraising event of the year, a pancake breakfast to be held Feb. 16 in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. The event will kick off a yearlong effort to raise \$15,000 for the chapter's Service Dog Initiative: Pairing and Caring for Our Veterans. For more information, please click [here](#). (AUSA PHOTO)

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 is shown in parentheses.

Arkansas (5)	Hellenic (1)
Braxton Bragg (3)	Henry Leavenworth (4)
Capital District of New York (5)	Japan (3)
Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley (3)	Korea (6)
Charleston (5)	Last Frontier (3)
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (3)	Marne (4)
Col Edward Cross (3)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (3)
Cowboy (5)	Minutemen (3)
Denver Centennial (3)	National Training Center-High Desert (4)
Des Moines Freedom (4)	Pikes Peak (4)
Dix (5)	Puerto Rico (5)
Fairfax-Lee (4)	Redstone-Huntsville (4)
Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (5)	San Francisco (4)
Fort Pitt (3)	Silicon Valley (2)
GA Omar N. Bradley (2)	St. Louis Gateway (3)
Greater Kansas City (3)	West Point Area (5)
Greater Los Angeles (5)	Western New York (5)
Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (4)	White Sands Missile Range (2)

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