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'Aggressive reform' funds modernization

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acing a fiscal 2021 budget that is 1.1% less than current spending, Army leaders turned to what they are calling "aggressive reform" to find money for their top modernization priorities.

The \$178 billion Army budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 includes a base budget of \$150.3 billion, which is \$4 billion more than the 2020 budget, and \$25 billion for overseas contingency operations, which is a \$6 billion reduction.

It is part of a \$705.4 billion defense spending request that Pentagon officials say is aimed at improving readiness, investing in modernization, supporting soldiers and their families, and strengthening foreign alliances.

Maj. Gen. Paul Chamberlain, Army budget director, said that the \$2 billion reduction in the budget results from "potential" changes in U.S. troop levels in the Middle East.

The 2021 budget "supports the Army's priorities of readiness, modernization and people. It also demonstrates the Army's unwavering commitment and investment in our most precious asset, our soldiers, civilians and their families," he said.

Reform actions by the Army produced \$2.4 billion in savings in the 2021 budget and \$13.5 billion over the next five years by eliminating 41 programs and reducing or delaying 39 others, and changes in training programs to produce efficiencies, according to the Army's budget briefing.

The savings contributed to a 26% funding increase for Army modernization priorities, including a 220% increase for soldier lethality projects, 62% more for air and missile defense projects, an additional 36% for future vertical lift and a 20% boost for longrange precision fires.

Chamberlain called 2021 "a pivotal year for Army modernization as we mature our processes and establish momentum."

The proposed budget includes a 3% pay raise for troops and a 1% raise for Department of the Army civilians.

It also invests in housing and barracks, modernizes training facilities and includes \$1.1 billion for 31 construction projects.

The budget supports 31 active component brigade combat teams, including 13 infantry BCTs, 11 armored BCTs and seven Stryker BCTs. Additionally, it supports 11 combat aviation brigades and five security force assistance brigades.

The Army plans to keep growing troop levels, although at modest rates, while keeping a civilian workforce of about 197,600.



An Army UH-60 Black Hawk flight crew supports the validation of air assault instructors Jan. 31 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. SARAH SANGSTER)

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 41 FEBRUARY 13, 2020

NCO & Soldier Programs

Send Us Your Ideas 3

Army To Activate Corps Headquarters 4



Chapter Highlights Utah Braxton Bragg 7

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New NCO and Soldier Programs VP wants to hear from you

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, U.S. Army Retired

reetings from the Association of the U.S. Army, the professional organization for our Army and our soldiers.

This year, our association will celebrate its 70th anniversary. Born on July 5, 1950, AUSA has remained steadfast in its commitment as the premier voice for the American soldier.

Since its inception, AUSA has stood to educate and inform its members, industry and Congress.

Throughout the decades, we have helped to establish unbreakable connections between our Army and the American people.

Although our association still firmly stands on the same basic principles

NCO & Soldier Programs

on which it was founded, it has evolved and adapted the way it does

business to meet the ever-changing requirements of our Army and those who exist to preserve and improve it.

Uncertainty and change are most certainly to be expected for the foreseeable future. Therefore, we must be willing to embrace and accept change in order to maintain relevant support to our members and the Army.

In just a few short years, our Army will celebrate its 250th birthday. That same year, AUSA will celebrate its symbolic 75th.

We must ensure that AUSA is postured to support our Army's efforts as it nears the refined age of 250.

Throughout its history, AUSA has served and continues to serve six different generations of soldiers, beginning with the Greatest Generation through the Silent Generation, to the baby boomers, Generation X, millennials and now Generation Z.

Each one of these generations has made a lasting impact on the history of our nation, our Army and our association, and each one of them in their own unique but positive way.

As one would expect, each one of



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, right, speaks with cadets from UCLA and California State University, Fullerton during a recent town hall-style forum. (AUSA PHOTO)

these generations has demonstrated its own likes, dislikes and attributes.

AUSA has demonstrated its ability to adapt to the needs of current and future generations while maintaining support to those who came before them.

Today is no different. We must maintain relevance with those we serve and those we will serve in the future.

So, in keeping with Abraham Lincoln's wise counsel, where he said, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by invading it today," this past month, NCO and Soldier Programs hosted a strategic planning group to evaluate our mission, goals and objectives.

The planning group was made up of representatives from the NCO and Soldier Programs staff, the Office of the Sergeant Major of the Army, the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, AUSA chapters and industry partners.

For three days at AUSA national headquarters, the group received briefings from AUSA staff, evaluated our current programs and made recommendations on how to improve our mission, objectives and future initiatives.

All that's left to do now is sort through all the great ideas and present them to AUSA leaders.

What does all of this have to do with the title of this article?

Well, we want to hear from you.

Our chapters and our members are the direct conduits to those we aim to serve.

The day-to-day interaction you have with fellow members, soldiers, families and community partners is an invaluable resource we want to tap into.

And, we would like to give each of our members the opportunity to be part of the future of NCO and Soldier Programs.

Our request is simple. I want to hear your thoughts and ideas on how we can best support our soldiers past, present and future.

Please send your ideas to me at ddailey@ausa.org or to Troy Welch, director of NCO and Soldier Programs, at twelch@ausa.org.

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.

Army to reactivate Fifth Corps this fall to bolster support to Europe



Lt. Gen. James Terry, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. William Johnson case the V Corps colors in Wiesbaden, Germany, prior to a 2012 deployment to Afghanistan. (U.S. ARMY/KARL WEISEL)

he Army is bringing back Fifth Corps, also known as V Corps, almost seven years after it was inactivated, the service announced.

The corps, which is expected to be operational by fall, will have about 635 soldiers. It will be located at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Once the unit is stood up, about 200 of its soldiers will support an operational command post in Europe on a rotational basis, the Army said.

"Combatant commanders know they can count on highly trained and ready Army forces as they implement the National Defense Strategy around the world," Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said.

"The activation of an additional corps headquarters provides the needed level of command and control focused on synchronizing U.S. Army, allied and partner nation tactical formations operating in Europe."

V Corps will enhance U.S. Army Europe and U.S. European Command "as they work alongside allies and partners to promote regional stability and security," McConville said.

The activation of V Corps will give the Army four corps headquarters.

The others are I Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas, and XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"I am thrilled to know that V Corps—an operational U.S. Army headquarters—will stand up soon ... to support our European allies to promote peace and stability in the region," said retired Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker, who commanded V Corps from 2007 to 2009.

The corps' history dates to 1918, when the unit was activated during World War I during combat in France, according to the Army. The corps fought in the Lorraine, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns and was dubbed the "Victory Corps."

It later took part in the D-Day invasion and liberation of Europe during World War II, defended Western Europe during the Cold War, and saw service in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Army.

Most recently, V Corps had its headquarters in Germany.

It was inactivated in 2013 as part of a larger restructuring of Army forces in Europe.



Voice for the Army – Support For the Soldier

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FORSCOM CG: 'We win in the Army through our people'

en. Michael Garrett, commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command, discussed the recent deployment of 3,500 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division during the Association of the U.S. Army's Braxton Bragg chapter Community Partner and general membership meeting.

"The rapid deployment of the Devil Brigade of the 82nd represents only the most recent example of the

Braxton Bragg

brave forces that FORSCOM proglobally," vides Garrett said during the Jan. 22 event.

The last of the Fort Bragg, North Carolina-based soldiers were in the air and on their way to the Middle East 94 hours after being notified, he said.

The soldiers, from the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, deployed in January amid rising tensions with Iran after a U.S. airstrike killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

The soldiers are part of the Immediate Response Force, which is designed to deploy within hours, if called, to



Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, wait to deploy to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. HUBERT DELANY III)

respond to contingencies around the world.

Forces Command, the Army's largest organization with 745,000 soldiers and 96,000 civilians, is responsible for the Army's readiness.

"Worldwide, Army soldiers are defeating adversaries, supporting allies, building relationships with our local communities," Garrett said.

At the meeting, Garrett also talked about the Army's efforts to improve the quality of life for soldiers and their families.

Senior leaders are working on several initiatives aimed at improving family housing, barracks, health care, child care and spouse employment.

"We win in the Army through our people," Garrett said.

Gold Star wife Jennie Taylor sworn in as CASA for Utah

ennie Taylor, a Gold Star wife and a member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Utah chapter, is now the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Utah.

Taylor was one of eight CASAs sworn in by Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy during a Jan. 14 ceremony at the Pentagon.

"I'm the representative for the sol-

Utah

dier, the recruiter. the commander, the unit in Utah

to make sure their voice is heard in D.C.," she said.

Taylor's husband, Maj. Brent Taylor, was killed Nov. 3, 2018, while deployed to Afghanistan with the Utah Army National Guard.

She sees her new role as raising

the profile of local service members and their families, who sometimes may go unrecognized.

"Find out who those families are, and in a respectful way maybe help tell their stories and keep those memories alive," she said in a local news report.

"Another thing I always say, we need to make sure we don't wait until a soldier becomes Gold Star to care and to show our love and our support," she said. "We've got a lot of living soldiers that are doing great and wonderful things every day, and they deserve our honor and respect."

"I took the same oath my husband took 17 years ago," Taylor said of the ceremony, "and I've never put on combat boots."



Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, left, swears in Jennie Taylor as a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army during a ceremony at the Pentagon. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. DANA CLARKE)



INGS & EVENTS



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