



IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 42
FEBRUARY 20, 2020



Family Readiness

Scholarships for Military Families

4



Chapter Highlights

Fort Jackson-Palmetto State
Coastal South Carolina

7



Lt. Gen. Thomas Horlander said more purchasing power is needed to fund the Army's budget priorities of readiness, modernization, reform and people. (AUSA PHOTO)

Army needs more purchasing power

At an “inflection point” in the Army’s history, more purchasing power is needed to cover the costs of personnel and modernization, Lt. Gen. Thomas Horlander said Tuesday.

Horlander, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for financial management and comptroller, said the Army’s budget priorities are readiness, modernization, reform and people.

The fiscal 2021 budget unveiled Feb. 10 provides \$178 billion for Army programs, with about \$153 billion in the base budget and the remainder designated for overseas contingency operations.

Despite growth in certain areas, the budget is \$2.2 billion smaller than the fiscal 2020 budget, Horlander said, speaking at a breakfast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

“We need 3% to 5% growth” in order to achieve all of the Army’s goals, he said. “We need real purchasing power growth.”

Deep-dive reviews to save money, conducted as part of the 2021 budget process, resulted in 41 programs being eliminated and 39 reduced, Horlander said. The Army also realigned about \$2.4 billion through reforms and other savings to invest in the work being done by its cross-functional teams.

However, these savings will be insufficient as prototypes go into production over the next few years.

“We’re going to see prototypes in 2023, and we’re going to start fielding the first units in 2024 and 2025. That will continue over the remainder of this decade,” he said of the Army’s modernization efforts.

The Army is in the middle of an ongoing and “very aggressive effort” to

modernize and transform, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said at a separate event Wednesday hosted by the Center for a New American Security.

As the service moves forward with its six modernization priorities and starts testing prototypes of key weapons systems, Army leaders will soon face some very difficult decisions, he said.

“If the perfect storm hits and everybody performs on the out years, to highlight the challenges, it’s going to be ruthless prioritization,” McCarthy said. “We’re going to have to make some very hard choices of the weapons systems we need to scale, and then it may require a tiered nature with the units that would receive them.”

McCarthy expects the Army will face these decisions, especially if the service continues to see relatively flat budgets, in the next 24 months.

See **Budget**, Page 3

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Budget*From Page 1*

"It'll be expensive, it'll be very challenging," he said. "When you're 60% of combatant commanders' requirements worldwide, under this current demand, over half of our balance sheet is to finance what's going on in the world."

He added: "We can't pull back, because the world needs America's leadership, they need the U.S. Army forward. We recognize that that's in front of us, and we'll make the hard choices if these prototypes perform."

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, who spoke alongside McCarthy at the CNAS event, said success is when the Army can put these new, next-generation systems into the hands of soldiers in operational units.

"We have to be ready now, but we also have to invest in the future," McConville said. "We're just not talking about new equipment. We're talking about a new way we're going to fight, we're talking about new organizations, we're talking about modernization priorities. We're also talking about how we manage people in the 21st century."

In addition to modernizing its equipment, the Army also is working to improve the way it attracts and retains talent.

About 50% of the base budget pays for personnel, with the remainder mainly dedicated to modernization and readiness, Horlander said.

"Everything starts with people," he



Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy meets with members of the Army Network Cross Functional Team at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. DANA CLARKE)

said. "Nothing happens in the United States Army without talented people in the right place."

The Army is planning a modest growth in end strength and is implementing more effective talent management programs, Horlander said.

The budget also includes a 3.1% pay increase for soldiers—the same raise they received in 2020.

The Army is focused on talent management, McConville said.

"We're in a war for talent," he said. "If we want to keep the best and the brightest, we have to compete for their talents."

This includes implementing more effective ways to match the right soldier with the right job and testing a

new way of screening and selecting the officers who are best suited to command the Army's battalions.

Regarding readiness, Horlander said the Army is very close to achieving its goal of having two-thirds of its brigade combat teams at the highest levels of readiness.

"We see ourselves achieving that," he said.

The Army has the "most hardened and seasoned combat leaders in the history of the republic," McCarthy said, adding that he's confident the Army will reach its readiness goals.

To be successful, the Army needs support from Congress.

"We need timely and predictable funding," Horlander said, referring to the continuing resolutions that have become the norm in recent years.

Under a continuing resolution, spending remains at the previous year's levels, and the Army cannot start new programs.

As a result, continuing resolutions "have a deleterious impact on readiness and modernization," he said.

The soldiers serving today, and those who will serve in the future, deserve the utmost commitment from their leadership, Horlander said.

"We owe this to our country, and we owe it to them," he said.

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

Ron Covill

Systems Support Technician

Ron Covill joined AUSA 21 years ago after retiring from the Army, where he was an infantryman. He is the primary system support technician and assistant domain administrator, and enjoys spending time with his family and friends. When time permits, he is an avid motorcycle rider and enjoys cross-country trips on his Harley.



Scholarships for military families



Secondary schooling can be costly. For many military families, scholarships offer the opportunity to offset the cost of college tuition. (U.S. ARMY/CANDACE MUNDT)

By Patty Barron

Military families value education, but secondary schooling can be costly. For many families, scholarships offer the opportunity to offset the cost of college tuition.

This month, we are highlighting the Delta Dental Oral Health and Wellness Scholarships offered through

Family Readiness

the Association of the U.S. Army's national scholarship program and the new Gilman-McCain Scholarship offered through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department.

AUSA's Oral Health and Wellness Scholarships, funded by a grant from Delta Dental, consist of 10 \$2,000 scholarships for a total of \$20,000.

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

Eligible applicants must be AUSA members, and they may pursue a wide range of programs such as dentistry, nursing, home healthcare aid or caregiver training.

The application deadline is May 15. Apply today by clicking here.

The Gilman-McCain Scholarship, named after the late Sen. John McCain from Arizona, helps children of active-duty military personnel by providing \$5,000 for recipients to study

or intern abroad during college.

With support from Congress, this scholarship honors McCain's legacy of public service by helping troops' undergraduate children develop leadership and career readiness skills that are critical to U.S. national security and economic prosperity.

The program broadens the student population that studies and interns abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints.

It also aims to encourage students to study and intern in a diverse array of countries and world regions.

The program also provides support for students to study languages, especially languages deemed important to national security.

Applications are now open for overseas programs that start between May 1, 2020, and April 20, 2021.

Applications are due at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on March 3. Students are highly encouraged to apply as early as possible.

There is no cost to apply. For more information, a list of eligibility requirements, and to apply, please visit www.gilmanscholarship.org.

Students or parents with questions can write to Gilman staff at gilman@iie.org or call 800-852-2141 ext. 1.

Patty Barron is AUSA's Family Readiness Director.

AUSAExtra

**Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier**

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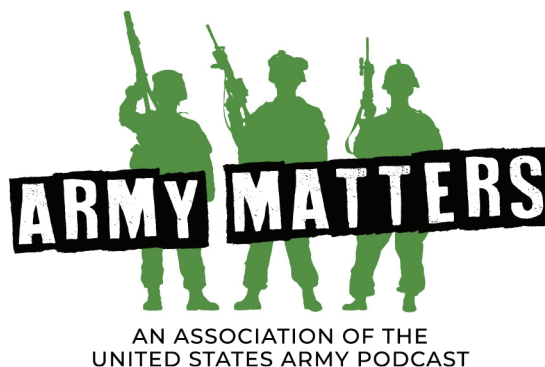
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Ham visits South Carolina chapters, future soldiers

By W. Thomas Smith Jr.

Retired Gen. Carter Ham, president and CEO of the Association of the U.S. Army, addressed members of AUSA's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter during a Jan. 29 reception at the Capital City Club in Columbia, South Carolina.

Ham's visit was part of a trip in which he also traveled to The Citadel, the historic military college of South Carolina, where he met with AUSA's Coastal South Carolina chapter.

Among the guests at the Fort Jackson-Palmetto State event were South Carolina Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette; Kris

Fort Jackson-Palmetto State

McBride, AUSA's Third Region president; Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, adjutant general of South Carolina; and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, the chapter president.

"This is not the first time Gen. Ham has visited us," said Lott, who is also a brigadier general in the South Carolina State Guard.

"To have someone as widely known and respected as he is—in both national and international military circles—speaks to the strong and enduring relationships our South Carolina communities enjoy with all of our military bases and communities, particularly here in Columbia with our vitally important base at Fort Jackson."



Left to right: Retired Maj. Gen. George Goldsmith, Sheriff Leon Lott, Kris McBride, AUSA's Third Region president, and retired Gen. Carter Ham. (AUSA/W. THOMAS SMITH JR.)

Fort Jackson is the largest basic training installation in the Army.

"It was my pleasure to welcome Gen. Ham to our state capitol, and I enjoyed hearing his vision for strengthening the already strong bond that South Carolina has with the U.S. Army now and into the future," Evette said.

In his remarks, Ham addressed the importance of predictable funding for the Army.

"There are a number of very important modernization programs that the Army has been working on for a couple of years," he said. "We're just at that point where they're ready to go from concept to prototype to production.

"That takes authority and money from Congress. If they're not able to come to those kinds of agreements, it's

going to continue to slow things down."

Ham also discussed the critical need for congressional support for military family housing improvements and health care programs for soldiers and their families, retirees and veterans.

The day after the reception, Ham attended a basic training graduation ceremony at Fort Jackson.

Ham then traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, to speak at the Coastal South Carolina chapter's general membership meeting on Jan. 31, where he addressed Army modernization, a top priority for Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville.

"We were honored that Gen. Ham took the time out of his busy schedule to spend time with the newly re-branded Coastal South Carolina chapter of AUSA," said retired Col. Joe Trez, the chapter president.

Ham also spoke at an Army Ball on Feb. 1, hosted by The Citadel's Army ROTC Battalion. More than 300 people attended the event.

"He inspired all of us; cadets of The Citadel Army ROTC Battalion and all the chapter members who were present at the general membership meeting and the Army Ball," Trez said.

W. Thomas Smith Jr. is a member of AUSA's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter.



Retired Gen. Carter Ham greets a cadet from The Citadel at the Army Ball. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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