A tenant bill of rights that commits the Defense Department to ensuring military families living on-post receive quality housing and fair treatment has been signed by Defense Secretary Mark Esper and the leaders of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The Military Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Bill of Rights, which includes the signature of Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, comes after widespread reports of poor maintenance, black mold, pest infestations and other issues in privatized military housing.

“The Department of Defense is fully committed to ensuring our nation’s most valued resource—its military service members and their families—have access to safe, quality, and well-maintained homes and communities on DoD installations,” the bill states.

The document, which will be in full effect May 1, includes 15 rights for military families. The DoD is still working on three additional rights.

They include the right to live in a house and community that meets applicable health and environmental standards; a house that has working fixtures, appliances and utilities and a community with well-maintained common areas and amenity spaces; and a lease with clearly defined rental terms.

Residents also have the right to a “plain-language” briefing before signing a lease; the right to report inadequate housing standards to the landlord, chain of command and housing office without fear of reprisal or retaliation; and the right to have access to an electronic work order system that allows tenants to request and track maintenance or repairs.

The Army has more than 86,000 privatized homes on its installations, and the service has worked for months to fix on-post housing.

Senior Army leaders, including McCarthy and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, have pledged to continue addressing the issue.

“It is our responsibility to provide housing, not simply to code but also to quality,” McCarthy said in December before the Senate Armed Services Committee, adding, “We owe it to the 45% of our force who live on-post.”

To read the full bill of rights, please click here.
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AUSA, Army leaders named to 2020 ‘Wash100’ list

The “Wash100” list of influential executives in Washington, D.C., includes two members of the Association of the U.S. Army’s board of directors, three Army generals and the secretaries of the Army and defense.

Wash100 is a list compiled by Executive Mosaic, an international leadership and media company based in Virginia, and then voted on to see who ranks at the top. This is the seventh year for the awards.

AUSA Chairman of the Board Phebe Novakovic makes the Wash100 list for the sixth time. She is General Dynamic’s chairman and CEO.

AUSA board member Leanne Caret, president and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space and Security, is on the Wash100 list for the fourth time.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper makes his third consecutive appearance on the list, cited this year for leading national defense strategy and cost-saving reform initiatives.

He was Army secretary when named to the list in 2018 and 2019. Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, who succeeded Esper, is named to the list for the first time.

McCarthy was chosen for the list “for leading the U.S. Army’s overall strategy and modernization efforts to implement emerging technologies for the service branch,” according to his induction notice.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Army Gen. Mark Milley makes the Wash100 list for the fourth time.

He made the list for the first time in 2016 after being appointed as Army chief of staff.

Gen. Mike Murray, Army Futures Command commander, makes the Wash100 list for the second time.

His 2020 award is based on his leading efforts to modernize the Army and improve relations with small businesses.

Army Gen. Paul Nakasone, U.S. Cyber Command commander and National Security Agency director, appears on the for the fourth consecutive year. He’s described as one of the most influential voices in government contracting circles on cyberspace and intellectual property matters.

Bruce Jette, Army assistant secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology, also makes the 2020 Wash100 list, his first appearance.

Jette is a former Army science adviser and acquisition expert who has been heavily involved in rapid equipping programs.

New paper contests study group report from Battle of Mosul

The block-by-block 10-month Battle of Mosul in 2016 and 2017 was won through steel, sweat and blood but not from any new doctrinal concepts, says a new Land Warfare Paper published by the Association of the U.S. Army.

Written by Maj. Amos Fox, a squadron executive officer with the 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade at Fort Carson, Colorado, the paper says a study group report issued two months after the conclusion of the Battle of Mosul “reinforces existing doctrinal pre-dilections at the expense of challenging and assessing doctrinal utility.”

As such, Fox says, it has reduced value. “Reports like this run the risk of telling the Army what it wants to hear and not what it needs to hear,” he writes.

“Battles won and battles lost take time to show their true effects, both positive and negative, for all actors involved,” Fox writes, questioning why the Mosul Study Group commissioned by the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command was so quick to produce a report.

“Stepping back from the battle’s minutia and looking overall at how it fits within the concept of modern war in general reveals three distinct trends,” Fox writes.

“First, decisive battles have returned to the battlefield; second, a reciprocal dynamic between layered defenses and sieges has taken root in modern war; and third, proxy wars dominate contemporary armed conflict and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. Further, land-based positional exchanges of attrition dominate modern war and will continue to decide wars moving forward.”

Read Fox’s paper by clicking here. The Mosul Study Group report can be viewed by clicking here.
Upcoming book highlights artillery warfare in Operation Desert Storm

By Joseph Craig

The last week of February 1991 saw the beginning—and the end—of the ground campaign in the Gulf War.

Operation Desert Saber, the official designation of the ground phase of Operation Desert Storm, famously lasted 100 hours.

Following six weeks of extensive aerial bombing, the coalition offensive kicked off on Feb. 24, and President George H.W. Bush declared a cease-fire four days later, after the liberation of Kuwait.

Most people remember the images of precision bombs finding their targets, and many are familiar with the massive, lightning-quick armored flanking maneuver known as the “big left hook,” and the battles of 73 Easting and Medina Ridge.

Few, however, know about the eight-day barrage of artillery fire that preceded the maneuvers.

Fortunately, this spring the University Press of Kentucky will help tell the story when it publishes Desert Redleg: Artillery Warfare in the First Gulf War by retired Col. L. Scott Lingamfelter as part of the Association of the U.S. Army Book Program.

Lingamfelter was an artilleryman, or redleg, assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in the conflict, serving as operations officer for divisional artillery command.

His book combines military history and personal memoir to provide a boots-on-the-ground perspective on the largest U.S. artillery bombardment since World War II.

Lingamfelter will also share his perspectives during a Lemnitzer Lecture at AUSA’s General Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center in Arlington, Virginia, on May 12.

Details for the lecture can be found on AUSA’s Meetings and Events web page by clicking here.

While victors get to write the histories, it can be instructive to see the experience of the vanquished.

The Iraqi army’s defeat to coalition forces in the first Gulf War is one of three major wars it fought under Saddam Hussein.

The others are the war with Iran from 1980-88 and Iraq’s collapse against the United States in 2003.

Pesach Malovany examines why Iraqi tactics and strategies failed in the Gulf War in his comprehensive work The Wars of Modern Babylon: A History of the Iraqi Army from 1921 to 2003. This award-winning text provides invaluable information for anyone looking to understand modern Middle East history.

Please visit www.ausa.org/books to order these titles and others in the AUSA Book Program.

Joseph Craig is AUSA’s Book Program Director.
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The Association of the U.S. Army has been selected as the Command and General Staff College Foundation’s Corporate Partner for February.

“We use this program to recognize organizations that support not only our foundation but also the Army and the Fort Leavenworth community,” said retired Col. Roderick Cox, the foundation’s president and CEO.

The CGSC Foundation provides resources and support to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in three general areas: scholarships, outreach and soldier/family support.

AUSA is a supporter of the CGSC Foundation and has made significant contributions to the organization’s mission since its inception in 2005.

Last year, retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA’s president and CEO, presented the foundation’s annual Colin L. Powell Lecture for the CGSC class of 2020.

His lecture focused on the contemporary international environment and the strategic challenges facing our nation in the international community.

“We find ourselves in, at least potentially, a fundamentally different environment than that which has existed since the end of World War II,” Ham said. “The rules-based, nation state-centric international order is, if not in decline, is at least in question.”

Ham asked the CGSC students to consider the role of the armed forces, the joint force, and allies and partners around the globe, as well as their individual and personal role, in a rapidly changing world.

“You have to lead this change. Not some general, not some political appointee, you,” Ham told the class. “You are the leaders of your Army; you are the leaders of your service. You’re the ones that are going to make a difference.”

Afterward, Ham visited two classrooms to converse more with the students and answer questions.

“We’re proud of the relationship we’ve enjoyed with the leadership at AUSA national headquarters, and we truly appreciate their support of our mission over the years,” Cox said.

Cox noted that the CGSC Foundation maintains great relationships with AUSA’s local chapters—the Henry Leavenworth and Greater Kansas City chapters.

“We have great relationships with both chapters and enjoy their support as well,” he said.

“To reciprocate that support, we maintain corporate membership in both of those chapters and provide mutual support where possible.”

For more information about the CGSC Foundation, please click here: http://www.cgscfoundation.org/.
The Greater Kansas City chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army recently hosted a membership breakfast at St. Andrew’s Golf Club in Overland Park, Kansas, to honor newly elected officers for the 2020-2022 term.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Morris, AUSA’s 5th Region president, installed retired Col. Scott Weaver as chapter president and retired Maj. Jim Kane as executive vice president at the Jan. 22 event.

Weaver is a retired Army combat veteran who served over 29 years on active duty as an infantry officer and strategist. His operational experience includes Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Kosovo Air War (Operation Allied Force), Operation Northern Watch and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Kane transitioned from active duty in 2018 after 22 years of service as a field artillery officer with overseas tours in Germany, Iraq, Korea, the Arabian Gulf and Afghanistan.

He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 with III Corps, served in the Arabian Gulf in 2009 with the 75th Field Artillery Brigade, and was a NATO planner in Afghanistan during 2016-2017.

Morris also recognized the outgoing chapter president, retired Maj. Emma Toops, for her four years of service.

He praised her dedication and energy in leading the chapter in its many activities in support of soldiers, civilians, veterans and their families in the greater Kansas City area.

The featured program speaker, Mike Hockley, the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for eastern Kansas, gave an educational presentation about the CASA program.

His remarks were supplemented by attending members of the Kansas City Army Recruiting Battalion, who spoke about how the CASA program is providing support to the recruiting mission.

Greater Kansas City