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Former Army officer and Iraq War veteran Daniel Driscoll, center, is sworn in Tuesday as secretary of the Army by Vice President J.D. Vance as Driscoll's wife, Cassie, holds the Bible. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Driscoll sworn in as 26th Army secretary

**F**ormer Army officer and Iraq War veteran Daniel Driscoll was sworn in Tuesday as the 26th secretary of the Army after being confirmed by the Senate.

A former armor officer who deployed to Iraq from October 2009 to July 2010, Driscoll, 38, left the Army in 2011 at the rank of first lieutenant following four years of service, according to the Army.

"As secretary, I will honor the Army's 250-year legacy of service and sacrifice, and I will stay focused on my mission and shoulder my share of the task as I know our soldiers will do," Driscoll said during his swearing-in ceremony at the White House.

Driscoll was confirmed by the Senate in a 66–28 vote on Tuesday.

In his confirmation hearing Jan. 30 before the Senate Armed Ser-

vices Committee, Driscoll promised that, if confirmed, he would be "the soldiers' secretary" and would prioritize readiness and modernization to make sure troops have the training, equipment and leadership they need to succeed.

He also said that America's soldiers and their families "will be my mission."

He takes the reins at a time when the Army is working to transform—and transform quickly—for an increasingly challenging battlefield and keep up with fast-evolving technology and capabilities such as drones and artificial intelligence.

The service also remains busy supporting disaster relief efforts at home and missions across the globe, while contending with competition from global adversaries.

The Army also continues to work hard on recruiting talented young people after struggling for the past two years to meet its goals.

After missing its recruiting goals for two years, the Army has made strong progress, meeting its goal for fiscal 2024 and continuing to build on its success this year. Driscoll said the Army can "take the momentum" and build a "backlog and pipeline."

He cited as an example the success of the Future Soldier Preparatory Course, which helps potential recruits meet the Army's academic or physical fitness standards. In the Jan. 30 hearing, Driscoll said he would "want to take a look and see if that can be scaled even further."

A third generation soldier whose father served during Vietnam and

See **Driscoll**, Page 3



# NOONREPORT

AN AUSA WEBINAR SERIES

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS: PROVIDING SOLUTIONS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

**LTG William H. Graham**

*56th Chief of Engineers Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Moderated by **LTG Les, Smith, U.S. Army Retired**  
**Vice President, Leadership & Education, AUSA**



### JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

This webinar will include a Q&A session in which questions submitted by the audience will be selected and asked by the moderator.

A recording of the webinar will be available on our Youtube page the following day.



**4 MARCH 2025**  
**1200–1300 EST**

LTG William H. Graham, Jr., 56th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will discuss the origins of USACE's Civil Works and Emergency Response missions, including flood risk mitigation, navigation, hydropower, and ecosystem restoration. He'll also highlight USACE's role in responding to recent emergencies, such as the Maui wildfires and Hurricanes Milton and Helene, and emphasize the importance of partnerships with federal, military, local, and industry partners in USACE's mission.

Don't miss this insightful presentation!



LEARN MORE & REGISTER ONLINE AT

**WWW.AUSA.ORG/EVENTS**



## AUSA launches LANDEURO, a new event focused on Europe

**R**egistration is open for a new Association of the U.S. Army event focused on land forces in Europe.

A premier international symposium and exhibition dedicated to land forces in Europe, the 2025 LANDEURO Symposium and Exposition will take place July 16–17 in Wiesbaden, Germany, home of U.S. Army Europe and Africa.

The theme for the inaugural event is “Transforming with Allies for the Future Fight.” There will be keynote addresses and panels focused on current and future threats in the region, lessons from the war in Ukraine, the U.S. Army’s transformation efforts, building ties with allies and partners in the region and the role of NCOs in land power across Europe.

“We are thrilled to host AUSA’s inaugural LANDEURO Symposium and Exposition in Wiesbaden, Germany, this summer,” said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. “The U.S. Army has a vital role supporting America’s allies and partners in Europe while deterring our nation’s adversaries. We look forward to bringing together the U.S. Army and its partners in Europe to delve into how land forces in the region are transforming for the future fight while building stronger ties and collaboration.”

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



Soldiers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade convoy to Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, on Tuesday in preparation for Exercise Allied Spirit 25. (U.S. ARMY/MARKUS RAUCHENBERGER)

Focused on land power and working with allies and partners, LANDEURO serves to inform U.S., NATO and African audiences about the U.S. Army’s presence and purpose in the region, with a focus on enhancing lethality, advancing warfighting capabilities and ensuring readiness to respond to emerging security challenges.

In addition to keynote addresses and panel discussions, LANDEURO will feature Warriors Corner presentations and exhibits showcasing the latest advancements in technology and capabilities. By bringing together military professionals, indus-

try leaders and government officials from the U.S., Europe and elsewhere around the world, LANDEURO also serves as a key networking event and an unparalleled opportunity to bolster partnerships in the region.

More than 38,500 U.S. Army soldiers serve across Europe and Africa, including 14,000 rotational forces, according to U.S. Army Europe and Africa. With 104 countries in its area of responsibility, the command works to deter aggression and assure allies and partners through more than 60 exercises yearly, featuring more than 100,000 multinational participants, and countless other engagements.

### Driscoll

From Page 1

grandfather during World War II, Driscoll graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and after his military service attended Yale Law School, graduating in 2014. He then began a career in finance, he wrote in a written response to senators.

“The values and experiences I gained through military service molded me into the man I am today and opened

the way for opportunities I could scarcely have imagined when I enlisted,” Driscoll said during the hearing.

He added, “During my time in the Army, I was fortunate to serve and deploy to combat alongside soldiers who represent the very best of America. ... I saw firsthand the immense sacrifices they and their families make to uphold the freedoms we hold dear.”

Among his priorities are readiness and modernization and reinvigoration of the defense industrial base.

“The world is changing rapidly, and we must ensure the Army is prepared to operate in new, complex and contested environments,” he said. “... My sacred duty to our Army is to ensure our soldiers have the world’s finest training, equipment and leadership to accomplish any mission.”

Driscoll succeeds Christine Wormuth, who served as Army secretary from May 2021 to January 2025. Wormuth was the first woman to serve as the Army’s top civilian leader.

## Health care flexible spending accounts offered to service members for 1st time



Health care flexible spending accounts save enrollees an average of 30%, according to the Office of Personnel Management. (U.S. ARMY RESERVE/SGT. JERRY ZUETRONG)

**S**ervice members will soon be able to sign up for health care flexible spending accounts for the first time, according to a Tricare news release.

“An HCFSA is a new benefit for service members,” according to the news release. “It’s a financial tool that allows you to set aside pre-tax earnings to pay for eligible medical, dental, and vision health expenses.”

Active-duty service members and Reserve troops and members of the National Guard performing Active Guard Reserve duty are eligible for the accounts. Eligible service members can sign up for an account between March 3 and March 31 through the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program website and contribute between \$100 and \$3,300 to the account.

Money in the account can be used to cover medical, dental and vision expenses such as copayments, deductibles, dental and vision exams, X-rays, braces, glasses and contact lenses; wellness services such as massage therapy and acupuncture; prescription and over-the-counter

medications; and over-the-counter health care items such as bandages and blood pressure monitors, according to the news release.

To enroll on the website, service members can select the “enroll in a plan” tab, select “qualifying life event” from the dropdown menu, select “special enrollment period for members of the uniformed services March 3–31” and enter the date.

Health care flexible spending accounts save enrollees an average of 30% on eligible expenses, and you can roll over up to \$660 in unused funds in your account from one plan year to the next, according to the Office of Personnel Management.

Though the health care flexible spending account is related to health care, it is “not part of the Tricare program,” so Tricare members will not automatically be enrolled in the account, according to the news release.

After March 31, service members can only enroll in the health care flexible spending account during federal benefits open season or through a qualifying life event.

For more information, click [here](#).

# AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –  
Support For the Soldier*

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## PERK OF THE WEEK

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**NEW FROM AUSA!**

# **2024 PROFILE OF THE U.S. ARMY**



Updated and published every two years, AUSA's *Profile of the United States Army* is an easy-to-read overview of the structure, purpose and activities of the Total Army; it serves as a useful guide to long-time Soldiers, new recruits, veterans, civilians and Army families.

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## Author examines path to recovery for war-torn Ukraine

**P**ease talks to end the Russian invasion of Ukraine have begun. While the length and results of those talks are unknown, one thing is certain: Ukraine faces a long period of recovery.

They will have some guidance for that journey, thanks to retired Lt. Col. Russell Glenn. He is the author of *Brutal Catalyst: What Ukraine's Cities Tell Us About Recovery from War*, the latest title in the Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program.

After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, Glenn commissioned in

### Book Program

the Army as a Corps of Engineers officer and initially served with the 1st Infantry Division. He culminated his 25-year Army career as the director of plans and policy at Army Training and Doctrine Command, and he is the author of more than 50 books and full-length reports on urban operations and other security topics.

In *Brutal Catalyst*, Glenn, who holds a doctorate in American history, examines the challenges facing three Ukrainian cities—Kharkiv, Kherson and Mariupol—in their post-war recovery. He uses case examples of cities devastated in World War II, among them Tokyo, Berlin and Manila, to illustrate the best principles to follow and pitfalls to avoid.

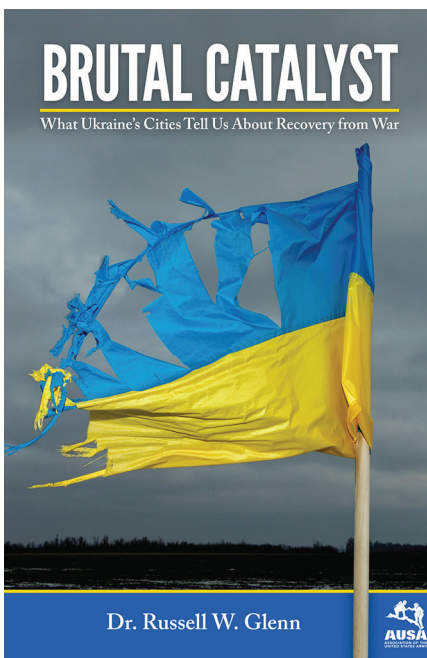
The Book Program recently sat down with Glenn to talk about his new book.

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**AUSA:** How did you become interested in urban warfare when you were in the Army?

**Glenn:** Assigned to Rand as a senior Army fellow during the Black Hawk Down incident, I recognized the need for our military to hone its capabilities in light of the world's increasing urbanization.

**AUSA:** Why is it important for the U.S. Army to focus on urban recovery operations?



**Glenn:** Consider National Guard and active-duty units' responsibilities to assist during and after the Los Angeles fires this year, post-Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and to govern as benevolent occupiers in Iraq beginning in 2003. Those—and the Army's long history of repeatedly finding itself helping cities and their peoples recover—speak to the need for understanding urban systems and populations.

**AUSA:** What is the significance of



Oleksii Makeiev, left, Ukraine's ambassador to Germany, meets with Brig. Gen. Steven Carpenter, commander of the 7th Army Training Command, in Grafenwoehr, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. COLLIN MACKALL)

the book's title, *Brutal Catalyst*?

**Glenn:** War is one of mankind's most punishing disasters, and disasters—war, hurricanes, earthquakes, flooding and others—share much in the way of lessons for recovery. War is also a phenomenon whose character doesn't change. It acts as a catalyst for learning and adapting that provides the tools to anticipate, then plan for, catastrophes to come.

**AUSA:** How do changes in modern cities' size and technology affect the lessons learned from the recovery of World War II-era cities?

**Glenn:** The list of relevant advances is long. A brief sampling includes huge leaps forward in urban planning approaches; cheaper, faster and higher-quality construction capabilities; and an improved recognition that recovery is more than addressing physical destruction alone. Leaders must meld economic, social, cultural and other considerations into the whole that is a successful recovery.

**AUSA:** What priorities would you suggest for Ukrainian recovery efforts?

**Glenn:** First, centralized oversight is key. It abets effective use of funds; helps to minimize redundant efforts; and provides a forum for bringing together local government and community representatives, international experts and other relevant parties. Other priorities should include drawing on lessons offered by history, readying for the challenges inherent when regaining responsibility for occupied populations, and avoiding the pitfalls associated with flawed collaboration policies.

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Please visit [www.ausa.org/books](http://www.ausa.org/books) to order *Brutal Catalyst* and other titles in the AUSA Book Program. Use the promo code W25AUSA for select member discounts when purchasing directly through the publisher links.

**Joseph Craig** is AUSA's Book Program director.

## ***Eagle Chapters***

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

Captain Meriwether Lewis (7)	Gem State (6)	Florida Gulf Stream (5)
Central Texas (7)	Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (6)	Francis Scott Key (5)
Central Virginia (7)	(6)	George Washington (5)
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Moore (7)	Japan (6)	Greater Kansas City (5)
Fires (7)	Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (6)	Greater Los Angeles (5)
First In Battle (7)	Major Samuel Woodfill (6)	Greater Philadelphia (Penn & Franklin) (5)
Fort Campbell (7)	MG William F. Dean (6)	Korea (5)
Fort Riley-Central Kansas (7)	Milwaukee (6)	Lafayette (5)
Houston Metroplex (7)	Monmouth (6)	Minutemen (5)
National Training Center-High Desert (7)	North Texas-Audie Murphy (6)	Potomac-Liberty (5)
Northern New Jersey (7)	PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (6)	SGM Jon Cavaiani (5)
Pikes Peak (7)	Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (6)	Tucson-Goyette (5)
Puerto Rico (7)	Redstone Huntsville (6)	Utah (5)
San Diego (7)	St. Louis Gateway (6)	West Point Area (5)
Alamo (6)	Suncoast (6)	Kuwait (4)
Allegheny-Blue Ridge (6)	Sunshine (6)	Last Frontier (4)
Benelux (6)	Virginia Colonial (6)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (4)
Coastal South Carolina (6)	Arizona Territorial (5)	MSG Leroy Arthur Petry (4)
Columbia River (6)	Arsenal of Democracy (5)	Fort Liberty (3)
Connecticut (6)	Big Bend (5)	Isthmian (3)
Crossroads of America (6)	Catoctin (5)	United Arab Emirates (3)
Delaware (6)	Cowboy (5)	Fort Novosel-Wiregrass (2)
Fort Knox (6)	CSM James M. McDonald-Key-stone (5)	Tobyhanna Army Depot (2)
Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (6)	Dix (5)	
Fort Sheridan-Chicago (6)	Ethan Allen (5)	



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