



A soldier with the 25th Infantry Division trains on the One World Terrain drone and mapping system in February at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. THOMAS CALVERT)

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3-day conference focuses on the future

Global Force Next, the Association of the U.S. Army's upcoming three-day virtual conference, will feature an in-depth look at the Army's modernization efforts.

The March 16–18 event will feature keynote presentations from senior Army leaders and provide the latest from Army Futures Command's eight cross-functional teams.

Attendees also will have the opportunity to connect, network and learn from key industry leaders.

This year's theme is "The U.S. Army: Protecting Tomorrow Through Persistent Modernization."

Senior leaders scheduled to speak include acting Army Secretary John Whitley, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, Gen. Mike Murray, commander of Army Futures

Command, and Gen. Ed Daly, commander of Army Materiel Command.

Whitley will open the event on March 16, immediately followed by a panel discussion led by the Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Cross-Functional Team on the work that's being done on projects including Mobile Protected Firepower, the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle and Robotic Combat Vehicles.

The Long-Range Precision Fires Cross-Functional Team will be up next, with a discussion on field artillery modernization and how limited funding could impact readiness.

McConville will speak at noon, the first of three keynote speakers scheduled throughout the event.

In the afternoon, the Network Cross-Functional Team is scheduled

to discuss how the Army is modernizing its tactical network and how it's collaborating with the other services.

Day 2 of Global Force Next will begin with a panel discussion led by the Future Vertical Lift Cross-Functional Team. Panelists will talk about how the next generation of aircraft and unmanned aerial systems are postured to ensure Army aviation maintains dominance on the future battlefield.

Air and Missile Defense is up next, with a discussion on how air and missile defense will support multidomain operations and an update on the cross-functional team's priorities.

The keynote speaker on March 17 is Murray, followed by a discussion led by the Synthetic Training Environment Cross-Functional Team.

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Army continues fight against extremism in the ranks

The Army's top general had a stern warning for soldiers who harbor extremist views as the service continues to battle "corrosive behaviors" in the ranks.

"There's no room for extremism of any type in the United States Army," Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said. "That's just where we stand, and if you're an extremist, you need to go somewhere else. We don't need you in the United States Army."

Speaking Feb. 17 at a webinar hosted by the Heritage Foundation, McConville said the Army is looking at issues such as extremism, racism and sexual assault and harassment in the ranks.

In addition, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered a one-day stand-down across the military to discuss extremism in the ranks.

In a Feb. 5 memo, Austin directed commanding officers and supervisors at all levels to conduct the daylong event within the next 60 days.

Leaders are to include discussions about the importance of the oath of office, a description of impermissible behaviors, and procedures for reporting suspected or actual extremist behaviors.

This may not be a big problem, McConville said.

"We like to think there's not many,



'There's no room for extremism of any type in the United States Army,' Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, right, said. (U.S. ARMY/REBECCA WESTFALL)

but we want to make sure," he said.

Still, even a few extremists can be a problem.

McConville described extremism, racism and sexual harassment and assault as "corrosive issues that hurt our soldiers, and they break trust with the American people, and we cannot have them in our Army."

"If you're one of those who are doing these types of things, you are not authorized to do that in our Army," McConville said. "You are not authorized to bring discredit to our Army and taint the incredible heroism of

those who've gone before us, the legacy of those who came before us. You have an obligation, when you put on this uniform, to live up to the legacy of those who've gone before us."

The Army is taking these issues very seriously, McConville said.

"We're very blessed that we're a very well-respected institution in the United States, but we should not take that for granted," he said. "We have to earn the trust of the American people every single day, and if we have these corrosive behaviors in our Army, we will lose that trust."

Global Force Next

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Panelists will discuss technologies that will help the Army better replicate the effects of indirect fire, counter-defilade and other battlefield effects, as well as major weapons systems that may be too dangerous or expensive to employ in a live training environment.

The third day of Global Force Next, March 18, will begin with "Walking Point: Insights on Modernizing the Soldier and Squad," a presentation by the Soldier Lethality Cross-Functional Team.

There also will be a panel by the Assured Positioning, Navigation and Timing Cross-Functional Team that will include a discussion on the challenges and vulnerabilities associated with GPS and how the Army is finding new and innovative ways to overcome those challenges.

Daly, the day's keynote speaker, will speak at noon.

He will be followed by a panel titled "Supporting Modernization," which will look at the relationships, processes and resources essential to maintaining balance between readiness and modernization.

Panelists also will discuss the Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model, or ReARMM, the Army's new force generation model that will prepare soldiers for current and future missions by aligning divisions with geographic regions on predictable deployment and training rotations.

Global Force Next is being held instead of an in-person symposium in Huntsville, Alabama, because of health and safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

AUSA partners with other military nonprofits to advocate for the Army



The legislative priorities include funding for training and reorganization, taking better care of people and modernization across all Army components. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. AALIYAH CRAVEN)

The Association of the U.S. Army has joined three other military nonprofit groups in producing a 2021 legislative strategy aimed at strengthening the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

AUSA, the National Guard Association of the United States, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and the Reserve Organization of America have agreed to a set of legislative priorities.

There are three basic parts to the coordinated effort.

First, the Army needs help from Congress and DoD to have money, authority and policy to better equip, train and reorganize the force. This effort includes expanding capabilities and implementing a 21st century talent management system across all components.

Second, the Army's "people first" initiative requires money, authorization and support to build cohesive teams that display diversity, equity and inclusion. This means taking better care of people—soldiers, civilian employees and their families—across all components.

It also requires identifying and

eliminating institutional practices that inadvertently disadvantage soldiers and civilians, and stomping out prejudicial behavior, sexual assault and harassment.

Third, full funding is required for Army modernization priorities across the three components.

This includes funding the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account, which ensures the components have needed equipment to accomplish their unique mission requirements.

Reserve components also need to receive equipment at the same time as the Regular Army and have their training and readiness requirements fully funded.

Four association leaders signed the strategy.

They are retired Army Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO; retired Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips, Reserve Organization of America executive director; retired Army Brig. Gen. J. Roy Robinson, National Guard Association of the United States president; and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Karen Craig, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States president.

The full strategy is available here.

AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier*

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Rolls-Royce is excited to join Bell and Team Valor to provide exceptional operational capability and affordability over the product life cycle to the U.S. Army for the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) program. Bell and Team Valor will deliver a refined Bell V-280 aircraft design, building on years of experience and flight test, with Rolls-Royce providing propulsion expertise developed across more than six decades of industry-leading, powered-lift experience.

AUSA members save on SAT and ACT prep, virtual events

By Susan Rubel

Do you know a student who will be taking the SAT or ACT this year? Take advantage of a very popular Association of the U.S Army member benefit—practically free test prep materials from eKnowledge.

Members pay just a small service fee for the comprehensive programs, which are endorsed by the National Federation of High Schools: \$15 for the \$350 program and \$40 for the \$750 program.

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If you order before March 31, you'll get an additional one-year license for eKnowledge's new version 10 program.

Learn more and order at www.ausa.org/eknowledge.

New member deals

AUSA participates in MemberDeals, a members-only site for special deals, usually relating to entertainment. Great pricing is available for theme parks, ski resorts, golf resorts, concerts, movies, Broadway shows and more.

Now, receive \$30 off any purchase when you sign up for MemberDeals emails.



Students can use their AUSA member discount to pay just a small fee for comprehensive SAT or ACT preparation programs from eKnowledge. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Of course, this isn't the right time for large crowds at events, so you'll also find discounts on virtual events.

For example:

- Save more than 10% on Symphony Space's "Virtual Selected Shorts—Fame and Infamy with Dylan Marron" and more than 25% on Passport Interactive's "Stream of Consciousness" featuring comedians Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood.
- View "That Night at Gatsby's: A Seize the Show Experience" for more than 20% off.
- Save up to 50% on One Day University, where college professors from across the country educate, entertain and inspire through live and on-demand lectures.
- "The Escape Game Unlocked—Digital Escape Experience," a virtual escape room experience that you can play anywhere on any device, is available at a 30% discount.
- Save 40% on "Painting and Vino" live events.

MemberDeals also has expanded into other discount areas.

Here's a sample of what's new on the site:

- Save 10% on Varsity Tutors, which connects students with top tutors capable of providing an incredible

learning experience. Experienced education consultants assess every student's unique needs and learning style, and help students identify a tutor who is the best fit.

- Save on food deliveries, including Hello Fresh, Blue Apron, Green Chef and Thrive Market.
- Get 15% off all Sonos products.
- Save up to 25% at RVshare, a recreational vehicle rental service.
- Save up to \$770 on select computers and accessories at the Microsoft store.
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Susan Rubel is AUSA's Insurance and Affinity Programs Director.



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Chapter, Army recruiter support student archery contest

By Frank Cannavo

The Association of the U.S. Army's Cpl. Bill McMillan-Bluegrass chapter in Lexington, Kentucky, recently partnered with Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Armentrout, an Army recruiter, to support an archery competition for local students.

Archery training and competition are significant activities in Kentucky elementary, middle and high schools. Every year, high school students receive scholarships to compete on intercollegiate archery teams.

From Jan. 29–31, about 243 students from several schools met at Southern Middle School in Pulaski

**Cpl. Bill
McMillan-
Bluegrass**

County, Kentucky, to compete for awards at each level. The school

year's competition schedules had been eliminated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but with less than a month to go, the state association authorized this meet, leaving organizers to scramble to set it up and arrange for awards.

Enter Armentrout, an Army recruiter in Somerset, Kentucky. While in a local restaurant three days before the contest, Armentrout struck up a conversation with Aaron Atwood, the archery coach at Southern Middle School who was coordinating the competition.

Atwood told Armentrout about the competition and mentioned the difficulty in arranging for awards and enough personnel to run the tournament on such short notice.

Armentrout knew this could be an opportunity for the Army. Realizing that archers would have developed solid self-discipline and marksmanship skills, it seemed these students could have great potential as soldiers.

Armentrout offered to provide awards for the winners in return for some mention at the competition, and Atwood readily agreed. Typically, the winner receives a competition



Left to right, Pulaski County High School coach Kim Worley, AUSA member Frank Cannavo, contest winner Layla Blevins and Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Armentrout. (AUSA PHOTO)

bow, second-place competitors get a competition target and arrows, while those in third place receive arrows.

The target and arrows were available at Paul's Discount, a popular local sporting goods store, but the bow had to come from the only manufacturer of special low-draw bows.

When Armentrout told them the story, the manufacturer offered to make the bow risers in desert tan and print the Army star and "U.S. Army" on them. This would be a first for them, and they were eager to do it.



The chapter provided funding for prizes including a competition bow, a competition target and arrows. (AUSA PHOTO)

Armentrout was willing to pay out of his own pocket if the expenses were not authorized by Army Recruiting Command, but he remembered that the local AUSA chapter had previously supported several Army recruiting events.

After he contacted the Cpl. Bill McMillan-Bluegrass chapter, its members swung into action, and in one conference call, chapter officers authorized the expenditure and offered to send a representative to the awards ceremony.

On Jan. 31, Armentrout and I joined Atwood in awarding trophies and medals to all grade winners, the target and arrows to overall second and third place winners, and the unique Army recruiting bow to overall winner Layla Blevins, a Pulaski County High School senior.

Blevins is tied for sixth place in the nation and already has scholarship offers from four colleges.

The Kentucky state-level competition is scheduled for March 12–13 in Louisville, and Armentrout and AUSA members plan to be there in support.

Frank Cannavo is the Cpl. Bill McMillan-Bluegrass chapter's vice president for membership.

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