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Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) test the second iteration of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System during an exercise at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (U.S. ARMY/COURTNEY BACON)

Army seeks modernization momentum

The Army hopes with its \$178 billion budget for 2021 to create “irreversible momentum toward a ready, modernized, multi-domain Army, capable to meet future demands,” Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said Tuesday during the first of many hearings where he’ll ask Congress to provide critical support.

The Army needs many things, McCarthy and Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville told the House Armed Services Committee.

Readiness remains the top priority, a need evidenced by the rapid New Year’s Eve deployment of 750 82nd Airborne Division troops that McCarthy called a “no-notice, cold start, emergency deployment.”

“We remain ready today, capable of dynamic force projection,” McCarthy said. “Despite a fixed topline and flat budget, demand for Army forces con-

tinues to rise.”

“We are currently demonstrating Army readiness with our Defender 20 exercise in Europe, the largest of its kind in 25 years, and we will do the same in the Pacific in the fall on a smaller scale,” McConville said.

“Both exercises will further strengthen not only our readiness to deploy U.S. Army forces, but they will also increase our ability to fight alongside our allies and partners and deter those nations or groups who wish America harm.”

Modernization remains a critical need. “We are seeing real results,” McCarthy said, telling lawmakers that prototypes that began in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 are now maturing, with funding needed in fiscal 2021 and 2022 to keep up the rapid pace of work.

“To get to the Army we need in the future requires transformational

change, not incremental improvements,” McConville said.

The fiscal 2021 budget “supports that transformational change,” he said, describing a goal of delivering an Army “that will never be outranged, outgunned or overmatched.”

People—soldiers, Army civilians and families—are also important.

The 2021 budget “funds key quality of life improvements like housing and child care to take care of our people,” McConville said.

The Army plans modest increases in troop levels but is focused on trying to do more with the troops it has.

“Our budget helps us win in the war for talent by moving us from an industrial age personnel management system to a 21st century information age talent management system,” McConville said.

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Space warfighting domain filled with growing threats

A Hot Topic event Thursday at the Association of the U.S. Army took a closer look at space, the warfighting domain above land, sea and air that is increasingly crowded and filled with growing threats to the interests of the U.S. and its partners.

Just 90 days into the job as Army Space and Missile Defense Command commander, Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler said that he's already faced space-based crises involving Iranian missiles fired into Iraq at U.S. troops and Russian satellite operations that threaten U.S. space assets.

"In my 32-plus years an air missile commander, I have never seen the Space and Missile Defense Command more relevant," Karbler said. "We have got to be prepared globally for all threats that are out there."

New tools are coming, like the next-generation interceptor, hypersonic missiles and directed energy weapons, said Karbler, who said he had the opportunity to shoot a 50-kilowatt laser to fry a drone with the help of a 27-year-old Army engineer who used an Xbox controller for targeting.

The soldier targeted the drone, and Karbler fired a two-second blast that melted the drone.



'In my 32-plus years an air missile commander, I have never seen the Space and Missile Defense Command more relevant,' Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler said. (AUSA PHOTO)

"It was pretty darn awesome," he said, adding that directed energy weapons hold promise in other areas.

Industry can help the Army with technology leaps, suggesting faster, cheaper and more capable systems.

Industry also can help cut the time it takes to move ahead on projects by doing some testing alongside the Army rather than separately.

About 90% of testing now done separately is duplicative, Karbler said.

"Why don't you partner with us early on and trust us that we are not going to blackball you and kick you out of the marketplace if you fail the first

time?" he asked.

Also speaking at the event was Lt. Gen. James Dickinson, U.S. Space Command's deputy commander, who said it is time to recognize that space "is not a benign environment anymore. ... Space is now a warfighting domain."

"We have militarized space, but it is because our adversaries have weaponized it and are behaving just like they do in other warfighting domains," Dickinson said.

More people would understand this if they could see what's happening.

"The lack of a visible threat makes some believe it doesn't exist," he said.

Budget

From Page 1

The 2021 budget is flat, with no real growth after taking into consideration planned reductions in overseas contingency operations, and it won't be enough in the long term, McCarthy said.

"Demand for Army forces continues to rise. The Army currently fulfills 60% of the overall combatant commander's demands, with no projected decrease," McCarthy said. "Demand paired with the need to bring new systems online will require us to grow the budget 3% to 5% in the out years."

With a flat budget, the Army would face "nothing but difficult challenges," he said.



A 3rd Infantry Division soldier guides vehicles at the port of Savannah, Georgia, in preparation for Defender-Europe 2020. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. NATHANIEL GAYLE)

Army leaders make the case for 2021 budget request to Congress

By Mark Haaland

Congressional hearings on the fiscal year 2021 budget request began Feb. 26 with Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley appearing on Capitol Hill.

The encouraging news so far from the armed services and appropriations committees is they are in support of completing the National Defense Authorization Act and defense appropriations bill before fiscal 2021 begins on Oct. 1.

This is indeed good news, but much work remains ahead.

At the Defense Department level, the fiscal 2021 request is flat from fiscal 2020, with no real growth.

Government Affairs

Esper told the House Armed Services Committee that the department requires 3% to 5% real growth year over year in support of the National Defense Strategy.

However, the DoD has found a way to fund readiness, including a 3% pay raise for the troops and a small increase in end strength.

The defense budget request also includes funding to recapitalize the nuclear defense triad, which is important for the nation but places future budget pressure on other modernization programs.

Unfortunately, the budget request only provides for a 1% pay raise for the DoD civilian workforce.

In his posture statement, Esper emphasized that the 2021 budget request will increase warfighter readiness and lethality, strengthen alliances and partnerships, and reform the way DoD does business.

Taking care of troops and their families is also a budget priority.

Highlights from the Army's 2021 budget request include four priorities in support of joint all-domain operations:



Taking care of troops and their families is also a budget priority. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL)

- Sustain tactical readiness while building strategic readiness.
- Focus on six modernization priorities in support of the Army Vision 2028.
- Realign \$2.4 billion in reforms and other savings to cross-functional team modernization investments.
- Strengthen talent management and focus on five quality of life enhancements: housing, healthcare, child and youth services, spouse employment and permanent change-of-station moves.

The Association of the U.S. Army recently hosted Lt. Gen. Thomas Horlander, the military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for financial management and controller, for a podcast interview on the Army's 2021 budget request.

Horlander explained the strategy behind the Army's request, along with how it supports Army readiness and modernization.

To listen to the podcast, click here.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs Director.

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PERK OF THE WEEK

Battle Digest—The Battle of Cowpens

The Battle of Cowpens is your next free download of *Battle Digest*. Learn how Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan beat British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton in a critical turning point battle of the Revolutionary War. Cowpens stands out not only as a great tactical masterpiece but also as a critical step toward the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of British Maj. Gen. Charles Cornwallis. AUSA members get a free download of this issue and 20% off print subscriptions at www.ausa.org/savings.



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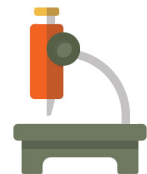
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Infantry museum named 'Best Free Museum' in poll

For the second straight year, the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center has been named America's Best Free Museum in *USA Today's* readers' choice poll.

The museum, located just outside the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia, also finished third in the poll's Best History Museum category.

The 190,000-square-foot museum was the only Army museum nominated in those categories.

"The NIM team is thrilled with a top five finish," said retired Brig. Gen. Peter Jones, president and COO of the National Infantry Museum Foundation.

The museum opened in June 2009 with one guiding mission: to honor the legacy and valor of U.S. Army infantry soldiers. With thousands of artifacts, monuments, interactive exhibits and video presentations on dis-



The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center opened in June 2009 with one guiding mission: to honor the legacy and valor of U.S. Army infantry soldiers. (COURTESY PHOTO)

play, the National Infantry Museum is one of the nation's leading military history destinations.

To learn more about the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, click [here](#).

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Get discounts on gifts, information about the Army

By Susan Rubel

Since March 19 is Incredible Kid Day, my column is focused on gifts for and things to do with the incredible kids in your life.

We're now accepting applications for 44 members-only Association of the U.S. Army national scholarships.

More than \$325,000 in scholarships are available, including 18 STEM scholarships, 10 general studies scholarships, three full-ride scholarships to Trident University and several scholarships for graduates to help pay student loan debt.

Treat your family to an outing with tickets to a local theme park, deals on movie tickets or tickets to a sporting event. You can also introduce them to Broadway with ticket discounts.

Enjoy dinner before the show using your member discount at restaurants and other local businesses near you.

For a sweet tooth, get 20% off at Simply Chocolate with code

Member Benefits

SCARMY20, 15% off at Cheryl's Cookies with code CC0ARMY15, and

15% off at The Popcorn Factory with code TPFARMY15.

Send personalized gifts and take 25% off with code AUSA25.

Find interesting gifts for babies, kids and more at Goodsey, and take 15% off with code GDArmy15.

ProvenGo is for discounts on apparel, footwear, eyewear and gear from names you love like Adidas, Black Diamond, Callaway, Camelbak, Gerber, Hook & Tackle, Nike, Puma, Under Armour, Yeti and many more. Create an account to access the discount prices and take another \$15 off your first order with code AUSA15.

Members get excellent savings on electronics at Apple, Dell and HP. Visit www.ausea.org/savings to access all of these.

Help your children with financial wellness tools at Gradifi, and get free comprehensive SAT/ACT test prep materials through eKnowledge.



Your membership in the Association of the U.S. Army provides many opportunities for discounts on gifts, activities and much more. (AUSA PHOTO)

Check out Covert Threads for cool gear for serious climates and take 10% off with code AUSA. I highly recommend the sand socks for anyone with foot issues.

Gift baskets are fun for kids to open and explore, and AUSA members take 20% off at 1-800baskets.com with code 18BARMY20.

Keep their school supplies and technology current using your member discount at Office Depot.

The AUSA Store has fun items for kids including 3D Army stickers, 3D wooden puzzles, camouflage socks

and flag socks for kids, Jeep Willy collectibles, Liberty the Stuffed Bald Eagle and more.

If your child is a soldier or considering joining the Army, AUSA has information to help you better understand the service.

AUSA's "Introduction to the U.S. Army: Army 101" provides an overview on everything from the Army's organization, mission and demographics, to its end strength and budget.

Our "Profile of the U.S. Army" takes a top-down approach, first describing the Army's role as a key element in the national security structure and then laying out the Army's organization.

Another great reference is "Your Soldier, Your Army—A Family Guide" by Vicki Cody, an author and Army spouse and mother to two active-duty soldiers. It is published by AUSA and provided free for you. To get a copy, email education@ausea.org or call 703-907-4630.

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Soldiers are not in the Army—Soldiers are the Army.
Gen. Craig A. Allen, 2nd Chief of Staff of the Army

AUSA's 'Introduction to the U.S. Army: Army 101' provides an overview on everything from the Army's organization, mission and demographics, to its end strength and budget. (AUSA PHOTO)

Susan Rubel is AUSA's Affinity Programs Director.

Trailblazing pilot honored at Women's Leadership Luncheon

The Association of the U.S. Army's West/Central Alabama chapter recently honored Army National Guard 1st Lt. Kayla Freeman with the chapter's Veteran of the Year award during its annual Women's Leadership Luncheon.

Freeman is the first African American woman to serve as a helicopter pilot in the 200-year history of the Alabama National Guard. She flew more than 250 combat flight hours during a deployment in 2018.

"I never thought I'd be in this position, but I knew I had a dream, I had a goal," said Freeman, who graduated from Tuskegee University with a degree in aerospace science engineering.

Freeman is a CH-47 Chinook helicopter pilot with the Alabama National Guard's 1-169th General Aviation Support Battalion.

In her civilian capacity, she is a flight test engineer for the Army's Redstone Test Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

"I wanted to fly, and I wanted to engineer, and it took a lot of hard work and some of it looked impossible," she said, according to a local news report. "I even told myself, 'There's no way, there's no way.' But I kept my faith in God, and I kept pushing."



Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, right, presents Army National Guard 1st Lt. Kayla Freeman with a Gubernatorial Commendation at the luncheon. (CITY OF TUSCALOOSA/SUSAN BRIDGER GILMORE)

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey presented Freeman with a Gubernatorial Commendation at the luncheon, calling her "a trailblazer in her own right."

"A lot has been done over the years, and there is still more to do. I am proud to see her being one of the trailblazers," Ivey said.

The Feb. 26 event, held at the Tus-

caloosa River Market in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was attended by over 300 people, said retired Lt. Col. Nicolas Britto, the chapter president.

"Freeman is a perfect example of the quality of soldiers we have in our military," Britto said.

Four other women were also recognized at the luncheon: LaTonya Jemison, Becky York, Khristina Motley and Ellen Potts.

Jemison is a guidance counselor at Hillcrest High School and a mentor to Army JROTC students.

York serves veterans through the Tuscaloosa Rotary Club's Honor Flights, which take groups of veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit service memorials.

Motley has been a teacher in Tuscaloosa for 23 years and oversees the Hillcrest High School's Choral department. She directs the school's all-inclusive choir of disabled students.

Potts has served with Habitat for Humanity of Tuscaloosa since 1997, and she has been the organization's executive director since 2013.



Retired Col. Christine Knighton, right, pins aviator wings on then-2nd Lt. Kayla Freeman at Freeman's graduation from the Army Aviation school in 2018. (U.S. ARMY/1ST. LT. JERMAINE THURSTON)



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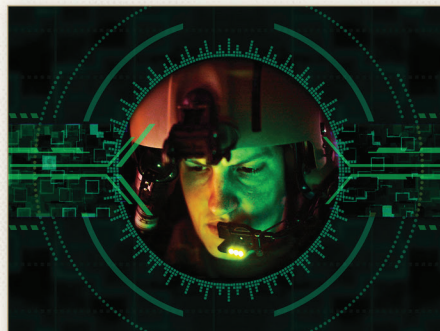
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