



Retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, a former Army chief of staff and Veterans Affairs secretary, is the 2023 recipient of the Marshall Medal, AUSA's highest award. (U.S. ARMY PORTRAIT)

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# Shinseki selected for Marshall Medal

**R**etired Gen. Eric Shinseki, a former Army chief of staff and Veterans Affairs secretary, is the 2023 recipient of the Association of the U.S. Army's highest award.

The George Catlett Marshall Medal, awarded for distinguished and selfless service, is presented annually during the association's annual meeting and exposition in Washington, D.C.

Shinseki, a native of Hawaii and 1965 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, was chosen for AUSA's annual award for his decades of selfless service to the United States and particularly because of his many efforts to support the Army and its soldiers and

veterans.

"Gen. Eric Shinseki has dedicated his life to serving his country and others. He is the epitome of a selfless servant, a leader of character and intellect, and a tireless advocate for our service members and their families," said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. "His deep commitment to America's Army and the nation's veterans has had a lasting impact, and I am proud the Association of the U.S. Army is recognizing him with our highest award."

Born less than a year after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Shinseki was inspired to join the Army by his uncles, who served in the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II, according to Britannica.

Upon graduating from West Point,

Shinseki served two combat tours in Vietnam, first as an artillery forward observer and then as commander of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, according to the Army Historical Foundation. Shinseki was wounded twice in combat, including an injury during his second deployment that cost him part of his right foot, according to Britannica and his Veterans Affairs bio. He spent almost a year recovering but returned to active duty in 1971.

Shinseki, who has a master's degree in English from Duke University, served as an instructor at West Point before moving on to assignments in the Pentagon and Europe, according to Britannica.

He would spend more than 10 years serving in Europe, including several assignments in the 3rd Infantry Divi-

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## McConville: Innovations help speed transformation efforts

**T**he Army's new approach to acquiring the systems it needs to modernize is "pretty quick" compared to the cumbersome, yearslong process of the past, said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville.

With 34 major modernization systems coming to bear as part of the Army's transformation through 2040, of which 24 systems are on track to be fielded or in prototype "in the hands of soldiers" this year, the Army has been able to streamline its process by having industry present ideas on paper first, McConville said.

"It's a lot easier to do things on PowerPoint and paper than actually build this stuff," McConville said Tuesday during an event hosted by the Brookings Institution.

"We're moving away from spending years trying to define the requirements and then [turning] it over to our project managers, and industry coming back in seven, 10 years with a product," McConville said, adding that during that time, "technology has really changed, and the requirements are no longer relevant."

In the new, streamlined process, the Army comes up with a requirement, and industry submits white papers, sometimes hundreds of them, he said, which are then whittled down to about 10 papers.

The companies selected then receive money to get to an initial design, "and we take a look at what industry says they can do," McConville said.

The process allows for review and refinement along the way before an item goes into detailed design and prototyping, and it broadens the number of companies that want a crack at making the designs the Army needs.

"With prototyping, we're able to drive or fly before we buy," McConville said.

He used Future Vertical Lift as an example, where the Army is developing the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft to replace its fleet of UH-60



Lt. Col. Denny Dresch, right, product manager for the Integrated Visual Augmentation System, explains the functionality of the technology to Kirsten Taylor, director of investments in the office of the assistant secretary of the Army for financial management and comptroller, during a Feb. 23 visit to Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (U.S. ARMY/JASON AMADI)

Black Hawk helicopters. "The two competitors are actually flying those things, and they are transformational in how they're changing aircraft," McConville said. "They're not helicopters anymore, because one's a tiltrotor configuration and one is the advancing blade concept, and it's allowing them to get the speed and range."

McConville acknowledged that there have been multiple delays with the Integrated Visual Augmentation System, or IVAS, which are goggles with a heads-up display that includes thermal and low-light sensors and

target identification and acquisition aids. It was anticipated to have been in use by soldiers two years ago.

"We have to be patient" as the kinks are worked out, McConville said, because getting it right is critical, much as the Army has incrementally improved night vision goggles over the years.

"People just have to be persistent, and they have to be consistent and stay with it," he said. "It's clunky right now, but what that is going to do is transform the way our leaders and soldiers can operate on the battlefield."



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Spicer, a tactical unmanned aerial systems operations technician with the 5th Armored Brigade, First Army Division West, tests a prototype counter unmanned aerial system at Fort Bliss, Texas. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. RAQUEL BIRK)

## New paper describes modernization as never-ending challenge for Army



A soldier with the 82nd Airborne Division loads grenades onto a Skydio drone during a training exercise in February at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. CASEY BRUMBACH)

**A**s the Army transforms to meet mounting global challenges and increased threats to the homeland, its work to modernize the force will never really end, the author of a new paper writes.

“To be clear, the Army will never be ‘done’ modernizing,” writes Maj. Roye Locklear, an Active Guard Reserve officer with the Florida Army National Guard’s 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

“As we deliver Army 2030, Army 2040 and beyond, we are laying the foundation to persistently modernize in response to emerging technologies, evolving challenges and our adversaries’ actions.”

This persistent effort is critical, Locklear writes, for the Army to “remain out in front of near-peer adversaries, such as China and Russia.”

“The Army of 2040 will benefit from the current ongoing modernization efforts that seek to change how we fight, what we fight with and who we are as a force,” Locklear writes in “The Army of 2040: An Extension of the 2030 Goals,” published by the Association of the U.S. Army as part of its Land Warfare series.

He notes that the service is “four years into its largest transformational change” in more than 40 years, aiming to build a multidomain-capable force that can deliver speed, range and “convergence of emerging technologies.”

But Locklear also cautions that modernization without transformation could create a well-equipped force that is “short on critical resources.”

By 2040, he writes, China and Russia are expected to be in a position to undermine the United States’ global national security interests. As such, the development and growth of the Army of 2040 must be manned, trained and equipped, and it must lead with a focus on readiness to conduct large-scale combat operations.

“These types of operations are inherently joint in terms of scope and size of the forces committed, and they entail high tempo, high resource consumption and generally high casualty rates,” Locklear writes, adding that such combat will come with “levels of complexity, lethality, ambiguity and speed” not common in other types of operations.

Read the full paper here.

# AUSA Extra

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### PERK OF THE WEEK



AUSA members have access to a variety of car rental savings, including from Alamo, Enterprise and National (all owned by Enterprise); Avis and Budget; Budget Truck Rental; and Hertz, which sometimes has additional coupons to add to your discount.

**Shinseki**

From Page 1

sion and as assistant chief of staff for operations, plans and training for VII Corps and deputy chief of staff for support for the Allied Land Forces Southern Europe, an element of the Allied Command Europe.

From March 1994 to July 1995, Shinseki commanded the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

In June 1997, Shinseki became the first Asian American to achieve the rank of four-star general, assuming duties as commander of U.S. Army Europe, Allied Land Forces Central Europe and the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He served as the 34th Army chief of staff from June 1999 to June 2003. During his tenure, he initiated the Army Transformation Campaign to address the emerging strategic challenges of the early 21st century and the need for cultural and technologi-



Retired Gen. Eric Shinseki speaks at an Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month event at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. (AUSA PHOTO)

cal change in the Army, according to his Veterans Affairs bio. He also led the Army through the early months of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

He retired from the Army in August 2003.

In 2008, Shinseki was nominated

to serve as VA secretary, serving from January 2009 to May 2014.

He is currently chairman of the Army Historical Foundation board.

The Marshall Medal, established in 1960, is named for George Catlett Marshall, who served as Army chief of staff, secretary of state and secretary of defense.

Past recipients of the Marshall Medal include Generals of the Army Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley; Presidents Harry Truman, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush; actor, director, musician, producer and philanthropist Gary Sinise; and retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, the former Army chief of staff and former AUSA president.

In 2022, AUSA awarded the Marshall Medal to Elizabeth Dole, a former U.S. senator and two-time cabinet secretary whose foundation is dedicated to those who care for a wounded, injured or ill service member or veteran.

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## Cold War lessons apply to Indo-Pacific deterrence efforts

Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit this week to Russian President Vladimir Putin serves as a good reminder that while Russia is an acute threat to U.S. national security, China is the pacing challenge.

Finding effective means of deterring China is key to maintaining strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific—and thereby protecting our allies and partners.

President Dwight Eisenhower faced a similar situation in the early days of the Cold War. Americans were war-weary after years of fighting in Korea, and economic considerations further discouraged any thoughts of putting more boots on the ground in Asia. Instead, Eisenhower looked to check the influence of the People's Republic of China through military aid and military advisory efforts.

Eric Setzekorn details these efforts in *Arming East Asia: Deterring China in the Early Cold War*, the latest addition to the Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program.

Setzekorn is a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History and an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University in Virginia and the University of Maryland. We sat down with him to discuss the book and today's situation in the Indo-Pacific.

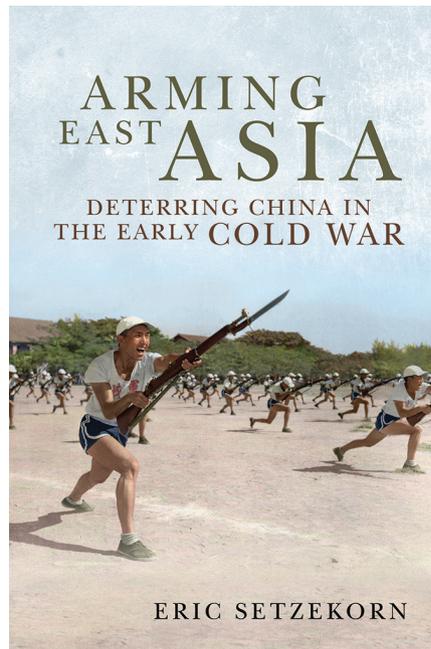
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**AUSA:** What inspired you to become a military historian?

**Setzekorn:** I was in the Army for four years, and I became fascinated by how the Army—and the military in general—changes as an institution and responds to shifting national policies.

**AUSA:** What initially drew you to the subject of deterrence in East Asia?

**Setzekorn:** I lived for many years in East Asia, both while serving in the Army and during graduate school, and the ongoing tensions between



At right, Sgt. Jose Torreszavala of the Oregon Army National Guard leads his squad in cordon and search operations March 7 during Exercise Tiger Lightning near Dhaka, Bangladesh. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. HANNAH HAWKINS)

China and its neighbors are readily apparent across a wide range of political and military issues. Successful deterrence is crucial to ensure tensions do not lead to conflict and to help preserve the economic and democratic gains the region has experienced since 1945.

**AUSA:** How did your view of Eisenhower change over the course of your research?

**Setzekorn:** I think Eisenhower is sometimes seen in popular culture as an old and somewhat out-of-touch president, but the Eisenhower I saw in the archives was efficient, focused and even somewhat ruthless in pursuing his policies. He clearly saw East Asia as vitally important to American national interests and expended a great deal of time and effort to strengthen military forces in the region to deter China.

**AUSA:** What role did Eisenhower see for land power in maintaining security in the Pacific theater?

**Setzekorn:** Eisenhower believed that land power, including both American ground forces and allied armies,



was vital, not just to deter China, but to help align broader regional security. In the 1950s, much like today, land power is resilient, interconnected and presents a credible deterrence without being threatening to potential enemies.

**AUSA:** What one lesson from the book would you like to see the Army apply to the current situation in the Pacific?

**Setzekorn:** I think one lesson is that strengthening the defense infrastructure in the region and positioning equipment is vitally important. East Asia includes numerous well-developed and sophisticated nations, and any potential conflict will likely be fought at high intensity, so supporting both our allies and deployed forces would be a challenge that can be mitigated by good planning and efficient investments.

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To order a copy of *Arming East Asia*, please visit [www.ausa.org/books](http://www.ausa.org/books).

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

## Chapter sponsors West Point cadet leadership conference

The Association of the U.S. Army's George Washington chapter was a silver-level sponsor and provided a \$1,000 scholarship in support of the recent West Point Leadership and Ethics Conference at George Mason University's Arlington, Virginia, campus.

Approximately 200 high school students from Virginia and Maryland attended, with cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Coast Guard Academy, the Air Force Academy and the Naval Academy serving as group advisers.

Retired Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, a former commander of U.S. Army Europe, was the keynote speaker, and he



Dick Winter, second from right, AUSA's George Washington chapter president, meets with students attending the West Point Leadership and Ethics Conference. (AUSA PHOTO)

spoke to the audience on a variety of leadership and ethics principles.

"A sincere thank you to our George Washington chapter members, spon-

sors and community partners for their support of the chapter and its scholarship programs," said Dick Winter, the chapter president.

### Eagle Chapters

The following chapters attained Eagle status for February by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1, 2022, is shown in parentheses.

- |                                    |  |                                |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Magnolia (8)                       | GEN Creighton W. Abrams (6)                  | Fort Pitt (4)                  |
| North Texas-Audie Murphy (8)       | Connecticut (5)                              | MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (4)  |
| Western New York (7)               | Delaware (5)                                 | Arsenal of Democracy (4)       |
| Allegheny-Blue Ridge (7)           | Monmouth (5)                                 | First Militia (4)              |
| Suncoast (7)                       | Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (5)       | Space Coast (4)                |
| Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (7)    | CSM James M. McDonald-Keystone (5)           | Greater Atlanta (4)            |
| Arkansas (7)                       | Greater Philadelphia (Penn and Franklin) (5) | Central California (4)         |
| Texas Capital Area (7)             | Tobyhanna Army Depot (5)                     | MG John S. Lekson (4)          |
| Houston Metroplex (7)              | Central Ohio (5)                             | Stuttgart (4)                  |
| Korea (7)                          | Newton D. Baker (5)                          | Hellenic (4)                   |
| Northern New Jersey (6)            | Virginia Colonial (5)                        | Rhode Island (3)               |
| COL Edward Cross (6)               | Coastal South Carolina (5)                   | Fort Campbell (3)              |
| Northern New York-Fort Drum (6)    | New Orleans (5)                              | Tri-State (3)                  |
| George Washington (6)              | Henry Leavenworth (5)                        | Potomac-Liberty (3)            |
| Florida Gulf Stream (6)            | SGM Jon R. Cavaiani (5)                      | Redstone-Huntsville (3)        |
| Sunshine (6)                       | Columbia River (5)                           | Leonidas Polk (3)              |
| Big Bend (6)                       | National Training Center-High Desert (5)     | Topeka (3)                     |
| Puerto Rico (6)                    | Arizona Territorial (5)                      | PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (3) |
| Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (6) | First In Battle (5)                          | Mid-Palatinat (3)              |
| Milwaukee (6)                      | Minutemen (4)                                | Japan (3)                      |
| Gem State (6)                      | Dix (4)                                      | Silicon Valley (2)             |
| Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (6)      | Ethan Allen (4)                              | Joshua Chamberlain (1)         |
| Denver Centennial (6)              |  | Pikes Peak (1)                 |

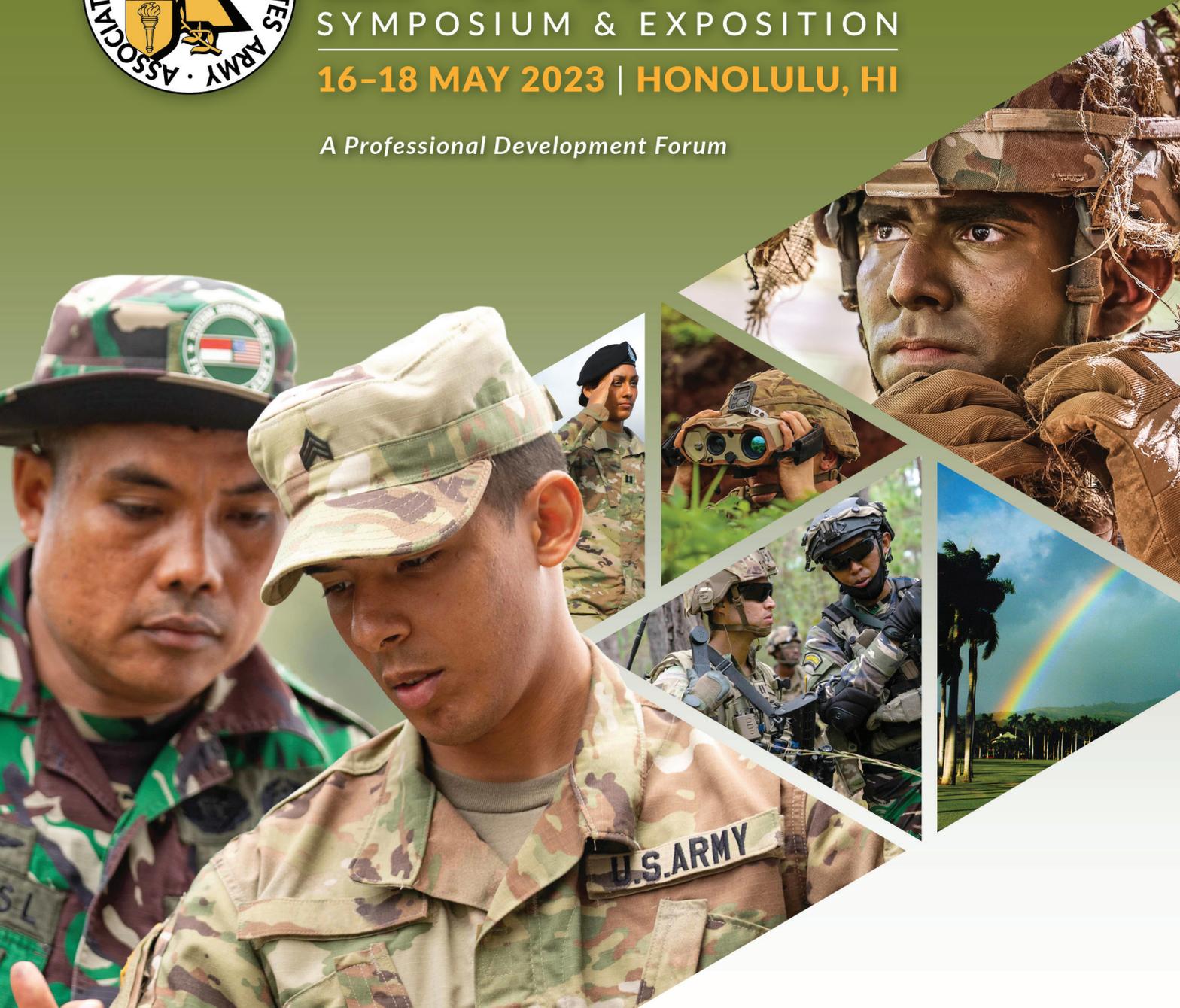


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