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Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, addresses the association's 2025 Global Force Symposium and Exposition in Huntsville, Alabama. (AUSA PHOTO)

Global Force event educates, connects

The Association of the U.S. Army's 2025 Global Force Symposium and Exposition brought together more than 6,500 attendees to Huntsville, Alabama, for three days of key updates from senior Army leaders, professional development and networking.

The event from March 25–27 in Huntsville's Von Braun Center featured presentations by David Fitzgerald, the senior official performing the duties of the Army undersecretary; Patrick Mason, the senior official performing the duties of the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology; Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer; Gen. James Rainey, commanding general of Army Futures Command; Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, deputy commanding general and acting com-

mander of Army Materiel Command; and Lt. Gen. Robert Collins, principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology and director of the Army Acquisition Corps.

Throughout the symposium, Army leaders emphasized the importance of transforming the Army—and quickly. “We have to do more to overtake the rate at which our adversaries are transforming,” Fitzgerald said. “We have to do it better, we have to do it faster, we have to do it together.”

The Army is at a “pivotal moment,” Fitzgerald added. “The character of warfare is changing before our eyes. Our adversaries are transforming.”

The urgency of the Army's efforts was evident in the education and professional development portion of Global Force, which featured panel

discussions on the Army's transformation in contact initiative, agile acquisition, transforming sustainment and institutional training, and the role of NCOs in shaping the future force.

There also were Warriors Corner presentations on all three days on topics such as human-machine integration, the industrial base, innovations in advanced manufacturing, the role of doctrine in the future fight and supply chain resiliency.

Forums such as Global Force enable the Army and industry to come together, which builds relationships, trust and collaboration, and expands professional dialogue, Mason said.

“This is a team sport,” he said, lauding AUSA for providing the forum for those conversations.

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SMA: Army making strides in quality-of-life programs

Efforts to improve quality of life for soldiers and their families begin with training management, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer said Tuesday on Capitol Hill.

“The Army responds in times of crisis and is ready to fight and win when the nation calls,” Weimer testified before members of the House Appropriations subcommittee on military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies. “We are reinforcing the importance of leaders’ obligation to provide stable and predictable training management to give soldiers and their families time to plan against life’s events.”

There are more than 109,000 soldiers deployed across the globe, and 74,000 soldiers serve as part of the immediate or crisis response forces, Weimer said, and the service has taken a comprehensive look at improving everything from barracks quality to child care accessibility to spouse employment opportunities.

In terms of barracks improvements, “we’ve been able to scrub our entire inventory,” Weimer said, so the



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer discusses the service’s efforts to improve quality of life for soldiers and families during testimony on Tuesday before the House Appropriations subcommittee on military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies. (U.S. AIR FORCE/ERIC DIETRICH)

service now knows which buildings need work or improvements. “We’re trying to make sure we stretch every dollar to the furthest extent available,” he said.

The Army also continues to work toward child care accessibility. “We have streamlined the hiring process to combat staffing challenges and increase capacity [in child development centers], as well as provide fee assis-

tance to offset costs for installations and community-based child care,” he said.

Spouse employment is another area of effort, Weimer said. “Spouses are vital to Army readiness,” he said. “Enhancing spouse employment supports military families and retention. Launching the Department of the Army Voluntary Assignment Program and providing employment readiness programs aids spouses during PCS moves, reducing unemployment gaps and providing job predictability.”

For soldiers and their families, quality of life affects every aspect of their day-to-day experience, Weimer said in his written testimony. “Quality of life is more than just barracks, housing, child development centers and dining facilities,” he said. “They are each a pillar of quality of life for soldiers and families, but where soldiers work—ranges, ammunition supply points, motor pools, company operations facilities and maintenance facilities—must be part of the conversation.”

Global Force

From Page 1

This year’s Global Force featured 224 exhibitors, a record for the show.

The strong showing from industry provided Army leaders a valuable opportunity to see the latest technology and equipment and spark conversations about what the Army needs for the next fight.

Rainey thanked the AUSA team for putting together a “world-class event” that connected Army leaders with industry. He and other leaders “did more industry engagements in the last two days” at Global Force, saving “countless” dollars that would have otherwise been spent on traveling to visit each company, Rainey said.

The City of Huntsville, in its City Blog, praised Global Force as one of the city’s largest annual events.

Apart from its economic impact (estimated by the city at \$6.3 million, with attendees occupying about 12,000 hotel rooms), Global Force brings Army, industry and community leaders together for important conversations and networking.

“It’s an opportunity to meet with a lot of companies and talk with executives that might not be based in Huntsville,” Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said in the blog. “We want to hear about how they are doing, what they may be needing. And it’s a chance to talk to people who might be looking to establish a new location or headquarters, and we can talk about everything Huntsville has to offer.”

This year’s Global Force Symposium and Exposition was a huge success, said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. “Global

Force is an important and timely event that delves into the Army’s sustainment and materiel transformation, two areas critical to success on a complex future battlefield,” Brown said. “AUSA is pleased to bring together key Army and industry leaders to share thoughtful dialogue about the service’s warfighting, sustainment and modernization initiatives.”

AUSA looks forward to continuing these critical discussions at future forums, and it is grateful to the city and people of Huntsville and the incredible volunteers from AUSA’s Redstone-Huntsville chapter for their hospitality and hard work in making Global Force such a success, Brown said.

“We couldn’t do it without you,” Brown said. “Thanks for making this the best Global Force ever.”

George: Army leaders should seek feedback, stay curious



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George, second from left, visits with soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team in February at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. THOMAS DIXON)

Effective leaders can successfully solicit feedback from their soldiers, recognize bottom-up innovation and stay curious, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George said during a recent episode of the From the Green Notebook podcast.

"That's up to the leader to go down and see things in the right way. It's up to the leader to ask the right questions ... to make sure that you are soliciting honest feedback," he said. "Whether you're a battalion commander, a brigade commander, you're going to have to do that. ... How you take that feedback, I think, is really important as well."

Leaders also understand that new developments and ideas work their way up the chain of command, George said. He cited the transforming in contact initiative, which began with three brigades and put new technology in soldiers' hands for testing and feedback, and his February visit with one of those brigades, the 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, during a rotation at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany.

"When it's 25 degrees and wet and icy, we learned about battery life

for drones and for everything that's happening over there. ... We really ... refined a lot of the things that the other two brigades had done," George said. "And it just kind of reinforced to me that the bottom-up innovation that we have going on with transforming in contact is what we need to do to help transform and change our Army."

Staying "intellectually curious" and having humility are essential for leaders' self-development, George said. "You do have to be intellectually curious and understand that you have a lot to learn. ... Self-development is a big part of that, and figuring out where you have gaps in those kinds of things and making sure that you're filling that in," he said.

Leaders who genuinely enjoy what they're doing can effectively model that behavior and attitude for their troops, George said as he reflected on leaders who shaped him. "I had really good leaders when I was in, and they ... enjoyed what they were doing," he said. "It's not like we didn't have bad days, but they were happy with their life, and they enjoyed it. And I think that that's a big part of what I saw through the years."

AUSAExtra

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MEMBERSHIP RATES. To celebrate the U.S. Army's 250th birthday, from April 1, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2025, membership rates are reduced to a five-year Premium rate of \$50 and a two-year Premium rate of \$30. Lifetime membership is \$250. A special Premium rate of \$10 for two years is open to E1-E4 and cadets only. Two-year Basic membership with select benefits is free. Learn more at www.ausa.org/join.

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Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: ASPA

The mission of the Army Space Professionals Association is to bring together the Army space community, both military and civilian, to leverage support and foster professional development.

To promote professionalism and help establish standards, education and certifications for the rapidly growing space domain, the association conducts a range of activities, including providing opportunities for networking and mentorship, connecting active-duty and retired soldiers, and sponsoring awards and scholarships for outstanding Army space professionals.

The group also hosts national conferences, bringing other military, intelligence, civil, academic and commercial experts into contact with Army space professionals. It has established seven local and regional



chapters and encourages regular chapter meetings to promote networking and bolster relationships.

All these efforts aim to “enhance the ability” of soldiers and civilians “to achieve the Army’s requirements for and interests in exploiting the benefits of space and space systems,” according to the organization’s website.

“ASPA fosters a sense of community and identity for Army space—military personnel, civilians, contractors, students and retirees with an interest in the Army’s mission in space,” the association’s website says. “We provide a sense of identity, maintain and foster the distinct history and nature of the Army’s space mission.”

For more information, please visit www.armyspace.pro/home. You can email the association at armyspacesecretary@gmail.com.

If your association is interested in partnering with AUSA, contact Susan Rubel at srubel@ausa.org.

Association Partnership with AUSA is an opportunity for like-minded military service organizations to join AUSA in support of the Total Army—soldiers, DoD civilians and their families.

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Community connections critical for soldiers, families

Last month, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, the Association of the U.S. Army's vice president of NCO and Soldier Programs, and I went deep in the heart of Texas to further AUSA's mission of connecting, informing and educating the force.

We talked about leader development and shared what AUSA does—not only for soldiers and their families, but for surrounding communities.

Fort Cavazos, Texas, is referred to by soldiers and civilians stationed there as “The Great Place.” Formerly Fort Hood, the installation was redesignated in 2023 in honor of Gen. Richard Cavazos, a Texas native who served as the III Corps commanding general from 1980–1982. Cavazos fought in Korea and Vietnam and was awarded the military's highest honor, the Medal of Honor, for actions during the Korean War. He also was the first Hispanic four-star general in the Army.

We began our day at The Great Place by conducting a leader development session with soldiers and leaders from the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, followed by lunch



Chris Albus, right, president of AUSA's Central Texas chapter, recognizes one of the chapter's newest Community Partners, the Temple Area Builders Association, during an event at the Temple Chamber of Commerce. (AUSA PHOTO)

with several sergeants major at the Blackjack Dining Facility.

Outside the gates of Fort Cavazos are Killeen and Temple, where a fantastic community event at the Chamber of Commerce in Temple was held that evening. AUSA's Central Texas chapter had the privilege of partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to host a Community Partner Social, filled with fellowship, networking and shared commitment.

Chapter members, leaders from the Chamber of Commerce and prospective Community Partners attended, and Dailey provided remarks.

The event, which had 46 attendees from 20 companies, led to several new members—including Life members—and new Community Partners for the chapter. Chapter leaders also recognized one of their newest Community Partners, the Temple Area Builders Association.

Community partnership with AUSA provides local organizations the opportunity to demonstrate to the community that they support soldiers and their families, while strengthening their own organizational and business objectives. Community Partners include local businesses, large corporations, civic groups, veterans' organizations, societies and other community groups.

Dailey took time to connect with the chapter and community by sharing valuable insights on leadership, service and the vital role of community support for our military. Establishing that connection for soldiers and families, regardless of where they are stationed, is imperative to feeling that they are an integral part of that community. Many service members change locations frequently, and opportunities like AUSA chapters, their Community Partners and events like these provide unique opportunities to connect.

At AUSA, we stand beside those who serve, striving to strengthen the bond between our military and the American people. Immense gratitude for soldiers' service was palpable throughout our visit to this tightly knit military community.

Follow NCO and Soldier Programs on Instagram @ncosoldierprograms and the Central Texas chapter on Facebook @centraltexasausa.



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, AUSA's vice president of NCO and Soldier Programs, discusses leadership, service and the vital role of community support for the Army during a Community Partner Social in Temple, Texas. (AUSA PHOTO)

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Julie Guerra is AUSA's director of NCO and Soldier Programs.

Chapter commemorates key WWII Rhine River crossing

In March, the Association of the U.S. Army's Gen. Creighton W. Abrams chapter hosted a ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Remagen, a critical point in World War II when soldiers of the 9th Armored Division accomplished the first crossing of the Rhine River in Germany.

"It was an immense honor to organize the wreath-laying ceremony in Remagen, marking the 80th anniversary of the Rhine River crossing during World War II," said Gemma McGowan, the chapter president. "We should all take great pride in our AUSA chapter and the ceremony we conducted as a team."

**Gen.
Creighton W.
Abrams**

Chapter member Mike Clauss, who serves as the historian for U.S. Army Europe and Africa, provided "insightful and informative" remarks during the commemoration about the history of the Remagen bridge crossing and its significance in the war, McGowan said.

On March 7, 1945, U.S. forces captured the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, which spanned the Rhine River. The bridge, a crucial German supply route, was vital to the Allied advance into the heart of Nazi Germany, as the Allies had systematically bombed bridges up and down the river for months, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The next day, U.S. troops began crossing the bridge. Infantry and armor units established a defensive position on the opposite bank while engineers worked rapidly under constant enemy fire to build alternate crossings.

Over the next 10 days, the Germans made several efforts to destroy the temporary bridges and the Ludendorff Bridge, including launching V2 rockets from the Netherlands—the only time the missiles were fired at a tactical target in Germany during the war—and repeated aerial bom-



Members of AUSA's Gen. Creighton W. Abrams chapter maneuver a World War II-era DUKW amphibious truck during a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Rhine River crossing in Remagen, Germany, during World War II. (AUSA PHOTO)

bardments. In response, American soldiers positioned "the largest concentration of anti-aircraft weapons during World War II," according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Allies were able to transport five divisions across the Rhine before the Ludendorff Bridge collapsed on March 17. Twenty-eight U.S. sol-

diers were killed when the bridge fell, but U.S. forces had established a critical foothold on the eastern side of the Rhine. The daring capture and defense of the bridge "expedited the invasion of Germany and thus shortened the Second World War," according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

"The bridgehead provided a serious threat to the heart of Germany, a diversion of incalculable value. It became a springboard for the final offensive to come," then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshall said of the battle.

During the recent ceremony, five wreaths were laid by distinguished guests, including Helen Patton, granddaughter of Gen. George Patton. The chapter's military history team also organized an authentic crossing of the river in a World War II-era DUKW amphibious truck.

"It was truly incredible to witness history come alive on the 80th anniversary of the crossing," McGowan said. "We are proud to pay tribute to the courageous soldiers who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice at Remagen 80 years ago. They will never be forgotten."



Gemma McGowan, president of AUSA's Gen. Creighton W. Abrams chapter, speaks during a ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Remagen in Germany. (AUSA PHOTO)

Longtime AUSA volunteer leader receives VA award

Retired Lt. Col. Larry Dandridge, a longtime volunteer leader with the Association of the U.S. Army's Coastal South Carolina chapter, recently was honored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs with a Commendation of Meritorious Service for his years of support for veterans and their families.

Dandridge, who has served as the chapter's vice president for veteran affairs for the past two decades, received the award

Coastal South Carolina

from Scott Isaacks, CEO of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, during a ceremony in the center's auditorium. The award recognizes Dandridge's "extraordinary service, dedication, and unwavering support for veterans of this great nation," according to the award citation.

Over the past 21 years, Dandridge has "tirelessly advocated for our nation's heroes and loved ones' health and well-being," Isaacks said.

Dandridge's accomplishments include his work to end a parking shortage—which led to veterans missing appointments due to a lack of parking—at the VA medical center; helping veterans improve their



Lt. Col. Larry Dandridge, left, vice president for veteran affairs with AUSA's Coastal South Carolina chapter, receives a VA Commendation of Meritorious Service from Scott Isaacks, CEO of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston. (AUSA PHOTO)

job searching skills, resulting in good jobs for dozens of veterans and their spouses; and writing more than 200 articles for the *Beaufort Island News* and over 20 other magazines and newspapers on how to apply for veterans' benefits and appeal VA decisions.

With the AUSA chapter, Dandridge established the "Wounded, Ill, Injured, and Needy Troops/Veterans Fund," which has provided same-day

grants totaling over \$50,000 to veterans referred to AUSA by VA social workers and others. He also raised more than \$30,000 through the chapter for a donation to the VA Medical Center Volunteer Program.

The award commendation, Dandridge said, "should bring credit to AUSA for its enthusiastic and commendable support of our military services, the Army, our soldiers and our veterans."

Chapter Challenge Winners

The following chapters are the winners of AUSA's Chapter Challenge in their award categories for the third quarter of AUSA's fiscal year 2025. Each winner for growth in Community Partners or Premium Members receives a cash prize and five points toward Best Chapter in their group.

Community Partnerships

- Redstone-Huntsville – Group 1
- Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri – Group 2
- Sunshine – Group 3
- Marne – Group 4
- Tucson-Goyette – Group 5
- Korea – Outside Continental U.S. Group

Premium Memberships

- Redstone-Huntsville – Group 1
- Arsenal of Democracy – Group 2
- Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Moore – Group 3
- COL Edward Cross – Group 4
- Tucson-Goyette – Group 5
- Korea – Outside Continental U.S. Group

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