



Soldiers carry a simulated casualty Wednesday during Medical Readiness Command, Europe's Best Leader Competition at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/GERTRUD ZACH)

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Budget delays hamper Army priorities

A 5.2% pay increase for soldiers and civilian employees, more than \$5.3 billion in procurement programs and critical updates to ammunition production facilities could be at risk without a full-year budget for fiscal 2024, the Army's top leaders warned.

Testifying Wednesday before the House Armed Services Committee, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said a stopgap measure, known as a continuing resolution, would be a "significant problem" for the Army.

"This is the most significant modernization of the Army in the last 40 years," Wormuth said. "A [continuing resolution], particularly a long-term CR, will significantly slow down that modernization effort at precisely the time when we're trying to compete

with China."

Continuing resolutions allow federal programs to continue at current spending levels and prohibit the start of new programs. Such a measure at the start of fiscal 2024, which begins Oct. 1, would "essentially tie down about \$5.3 billion in terms of procurement programs," Wormuth said. "There are tens of procurement new starts that we would not be able to move out on, there are dozens of research and development testing new starts that we would not be able to move out on."

Likening it to "fighting with one hand tied behind our back," Wormuth said a stopgap measure would be a "substantial delay and impediment for us."

The lack of a budget also hurts

soldiers, said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, who testified alongside Wormuth. "We've got soldiers out there doing great things, and they deserve a raise, and we need to get that to them," he said.

Without full-year funding, units will slow their spending, and training events can be canceled or delayed, he said. "You can't make up for the training that those soldiers didn't get," McConville said. "I would just ask, anything we can do to avoid a CR would be very helpful for the military."

For fiscal 2024, the Army is seeking a \$185.5 billion budget. It is part of a larger \$842 billion defense request.

On top of one of the largest pay increases in years for soldiers and civilian employees, the Army is gearing up

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Flynn, Rainey, international leaders speak at LANPAC

Leaders from U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Army Futures Command, U.S. Space Command and the Australian and Philippine armies will speak at the Association of the U.S. Army's LANPAC Symposium and Exposition in Hawaii.

An international symposium and exhibition dedicated to land forces in the Indo-Pacific, the three-day in-person event will take place May 16–18 at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu.

This year's theme is "Emerging Changes to Warfare." Topics that will be discussed include how warfare is changing and the consequences for land forces in the Indo-Pacific, and how the armies in the region are collaborating to adapt.

Throughout the symposium, there also will be almost 70 exhibits and a Leadership Forum for a select group of about 100 soldiers conducted by AUSA's Center for Leadership.

To register for LANPAC or for more information, click [here](#).

LANPAC opens May 16 with a keynote presentation by Gen. Charles Flynn, commanding general of Army Pacific, who will discuss emerging technologies and war. Gen. James Dickinson, commander of Space Command, will talk about developments in missiles, long-range fires and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technologies, and



A soldier from the 25th Infantry Division, left, trains with soldiers from the Philippine army March 24 at Fort Magsaysay, Philippines. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. BRENDEN DELGADO)

there will be panel discussions on changes in warfare, observations from the Russo-Ukrainian war and reconnaissance-strike complexes and their effect on land warfare.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston is scheduled to speak, followed by a panel on the role of the NCO corps in the Indo-Pacific.

The second day of LANPAC will start with a keynote presentation titled "Imagining a New Era of Land Warfare" by Young Bang, principal deputy assistant Army secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology.

Lt. Gen. Simon Stuart, Australia's chief of Army, will talk about the contemporary challenges of maintaining military readiness, and there will be panels on increased urbanization and other demographic trends, cyber and information warfare and the role of land forces in deterrence.

The final day of LANPAC begins with a presentation by Philippine Army Chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Brawner, who will discuss the state of multilateral training and exercises in the Indo-Pacific. There will be two panel discussions, on training for future warfare and land warfare myths and misconceptions.

The final speaker is Gen. James Rainey, commanding general of Futures Command, who will talk about emerging and future concepts.

The Indo-Pacific is home to more than half of the world's population, 3,000 different languages, several of the world's largest militaries and two of the three largest economies, according to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

In the region, the Army plays a key role as the U.S. builds partnerships with allies and works to deter countries such as China and North Korea.

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

Jarad Dahlkoetter

Conference and Event Center Specialist

Jarad Dahlkoetter has been with AUSA for 14 months. Previously, during his events career in Nebraska, he was in charge of the largest Oktoberfest festival in the region. In his spare time, Jarad enjoys visiting his friends and family around the country, following the USA Gymnastics teams, and studying ethics and leadership.



Pre-positioned equipment ‘vital’ for operations in Indo-Pacific region



First Lt. Mary Ann Monnard of the 8th Military Police Brigade keeps accountability of nearly 400 military vehicles as part of Army Pre-positioned Stock 3 Fix-Forward (Afloat) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. RICHARD PEREZ)

Expansion of the Army’s pre-positioned stocks in the Indo-Pacific is essential to joint operations in that vast and challenging theater, two senior Army leaders said.

While the Army has some sets of equipment afloat on leased vessels in the Pacific, work is underway to expand the amount of materiel that can be stored on land in countries like Australia, the Philippines and other locations in Southeast Asia, Douglas Bush, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, said Tuesday during a Senate Armed Services airland subcommittee hearing.

Calling pre-positioned stocks a “vital capability” that the Army is committed to maintaining, Bush said that “expansion of [Army pre-positioned stocks on land] beyond where it is today heavily relies on the work of the State Department and others on getting access to these countries so we can build the locations.”

Whether the equipment is afloat or on land, it will be vulnerable to attack, said Gen. James Rainey, commander of Army Futures Command,

who noted that air and missile defense is “never going to be a total solution.”

“We’re never going to be able to put anything in range [of a potential attack] and assume it’s going to stay safe unless we fight to keep it safe, so it’s a balancing act,” Rainey told the panel. Wherever that equipment is placed, “you better be able to protect it, and we’re pursuing those efforts,” Rainey said.

The Army’s role in the Indo-Pacific theater, Rainey said, will be part of the capabilities that the entire joint force brings to bear, including several enabling responsibilities such as command and control, protection and sustained logistics.

In addition to providing those capabilities, the Army will be vital if deterrence turns to conflict.

“If we do transition to conflict, we’re going to have to be able to take land away from the enemy, and if they defend it, that means taking it the old-fashioned way by killing them and securing it and protecting the joint force,” Rainey said. “So, there’s absolutely a role for our Army and every other service in what would be a horrific war.”

AUSA Extra

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Support For the Soldier

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Army budget

From Page 1

for a “big year” for its modernization programs, from long-range hypersonic weapons to Mobile Protected Firepower, Wormuth said.

The Army also is planning 22 combat training center rotations, investing in its pre-positioned stocks around the world and transforming its force structure to include the new multidomain task forces, indirect fire capabilities and the Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense battalions.

It also continues to support Ukraine while investing \$1.5 billion to modernize the organic industrial base. “One of the most important lessons we’ve learned from the war in Ukraine is the need for a more robust defense industrial base,” Wormuth said.

Part of a 15-year, \$18 billion plan, the planned investments in fiscal 2024 could be derailed without a budget, Wormuth said. Those invest-



Army Secretary Christine Wormuth speaks with soldiers assigned to the 25th Infantry Division during a visit to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. DAVID RESNICK)

ments include new machining tools and new software, she said. “The Army’s organic industrial base is very, very old, so there’s a lot of work to be done,” Wormuth said.

At the same time, the Army “hasn’t taken its eye off” China, which is America’s “pacing challenge,” Wormuth said. The Indo-Pacific “may be

a theater named after two oceans, but the Army has an important role to play there,” she said.

That’s why the Army is contributing every day to deter aggression and build partnerships across the region, she said. “The best way to avoid fighting a war is to show you can win any war you have to fight,” Wormuth said.

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Our Members Are the Mission

AUSA supports national event honoring Vietnam veterans

Half a century after U.S. combat troops withdrew from Vietnam, the Association of the U.S. Army will participate in a commemoration in Washington, D.C., honoring those who served and their families.

“Welcome Home! A Nation Honors our Vietnam Veterans and their Families” will take place May 11–13 on the National Mall. Events include a plaza with historical exhibits, a 2-mile pilgrimage of remembrance from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a multimedia celebration.

AUSA will attend and participate in the commemoration. In addition to an AUSA tent, there will be an AUSA membership booth, and several local AUSA chapters will participate. The AUSA tent will be located at one of the JFK hockey fields in the nation’s capital.

Soldiers who served in Vietnam want to make their sacrifices known, retired Lt. Col. Lawrence Clements told the Army. “It’s important, because I think there are still people that don’t think about Vietnam and the sacrifices made,” said Clements, who served two tours in Vietnam. “It’s important for people to know.”

After deploying advisers in the early 1950s, the U.S. began sending combat troops in July 1965. The last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam on March 29, 1973, according to an Army webpage.

During the war, approximately 153,303 American service members were wounded, and approximately 58,220 Americans died, according to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Today, there are about 6.1 million living Vietnam War-era veterans.

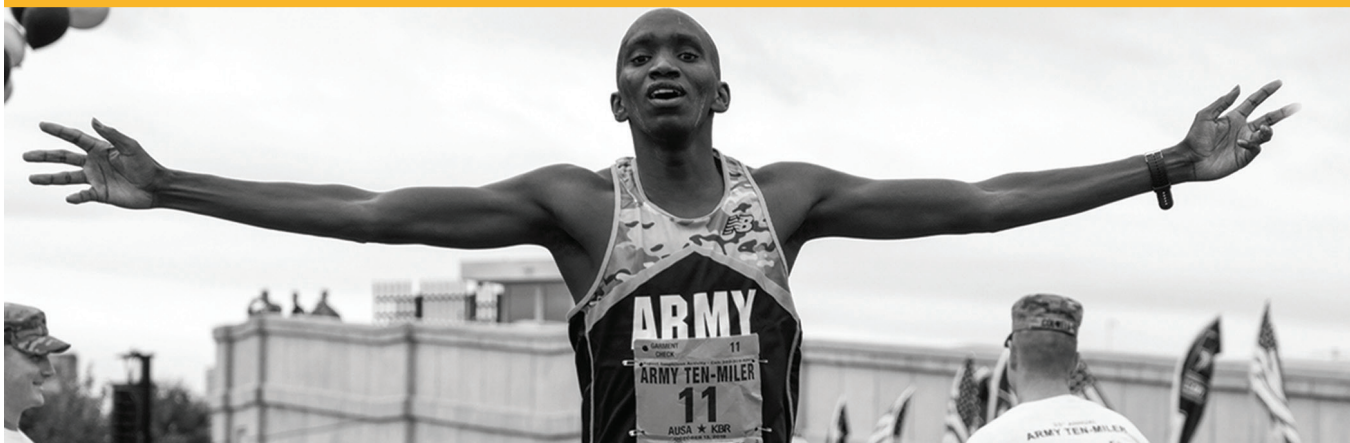
The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, which was authorized by Congress and launched in 2012, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. The commemoration will continue through Veterans Day 2025.

After serving, Vietnam veterans returned home to a divided country and a cold reception. For Vietnam veterans, commemorations give them a new kind of homecoming.

“It was 13 years before anybody thanked me for my service,” Vietnam Army veteran Tom Reilly said during an interview with the Witness to War Foundation. “It makes such a big difference for us to be able to walk down the street ... and have people just say two words: thank you. That’s all we ever asked for.”

For more information on the commemoration, click here or here.

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Region meeting showcases commitment of volunteers

Volunteering can be a time-consuming commitment, but seeing the fruits of your labor and how you have helped someone other than yourself is a rewarding feeling.

The Association of the U.S. Army recognized the many efforts of its volunteers on behalf of soldiers and families during its Third Region meeting March 22–26 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

“Bienvenida a Puerto Rico!” That was the warm welcome we received from retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Cristino Lozado-Cruz, AUSA’s

Family Readiness

Puerto Rico chapter president, as we kicked off the region meeting. The association’s Third Region includes chapters in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Panama, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Lozado-Cruz and the chapter members were gracious hosts as they welcomed Third Region President Bruce Flechter, leaders from other chapters and members of AUSA’s national staff with a well-organized, fun and educational experience.

The meeting began with briefings at Fort Buchanan in Guaynabo. Scott Abell, director of Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Fort Buchanan, talked about the programs available to soldiers and their families, including events organized on the first Friday of every month specifically for families and civilians. AUSA’s Puerto Rico chapter supports these events.

Other initiatives include a multiyear improvement of the installation’s physical fitness center and work to expand outdoor recreation at Las Casas Lake in Guaynabo with kayak, canoe and paddleboard rentals and more opportunities for unit and private events.

On the second day, we received a briefing from the Puerto Rico Nation-



Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Cristino Lozado-Cruz, center, president of AUSA’s Puerto Rico chapter, and other chapter leaders welcome attendees to the association’s Third Region meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (AUSA PHOTO)

al Guard. We had the honor of meeting retired Maj. Gen. Marta Carcana Cruz, who served as the Puerto Rico National Guard’s first female adjutant general from 2015–2017.

The day ended with a trip to the south side of the island. It was amazing to fellowship with our chapter leaders as we drove through the scenic mountains and towns and learned more about the history of Puerto Rico.

I had the opportunity on the third



Thea Green, center, AUSA’s deputy director of Family Readiness, meets with chapter leaders during the association’s Third Region meeting. (AUSA PHOTO)

day to brief AUSA leaders on Family Readiness directorate efforts. One of the hot topics during our conversation was the association’s Volunteer Family of the Year Award, presented annually in recognition of an exceptional Army family whose dedicated volunteer service improves their local community.

AUSA is accepting nominations for the 2023 Volunteer Family of the Year from all nine region presidents.

The region meeting concluded with a dinner and awards presentation, with entertainment provided by musician Angel Rivera of Guitars for Vets, a nonprofit organization that helps struggling veterans through the healing power of music and community.

Muchas gracias to the Puerto Rico chapter for hosting the Third Region meeting. It was an honor to attend and get to know many of our awesome volunteer leaders.

To all of AUSA’s volunteers, continue to do your best and know that your service has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for all you do every day to support soldiers and their families.

Thea Green is AUSA’s Family Readiness deputy director.

Current, former commanders honored at chapter dinner

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri chapter recognized current and former commanders of Fort Leonard Wood during their annual dinner in April.

Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, AUSA's vice president for Leadership and Education, and Maj. Gen.

Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri

James Bronner, commander of the Army Maneuver Support Center of

Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood, received the chapter's highest award, the COL Edward A. Owsley Superior Service Award, for their contributions to the installation and the Army.

During the dinner at the Cowan Civic Center in Lebanon, Keith Pritchard, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Missouri (West), provided an introduction and history of the Owsley Award. Col. Edward Owsley, a staff officer working in the Pentagon after World War II, was one of the principal officers responsible for establishing AUSA, which was formed by merging the Infantry and Artillery Associations.

Owsley retired from the Army in the mid-1960s after serving as the Fort Leonard Wood chief of staff and remained in the area, continuing to volunteer and serve the Army through the AUSA chapter.

This year's awards were present-



Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, AUSA's vice president for Leadership and Education, speaks after receiving the COL Edward A. Owsley Superior Service Award from the association's Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri chapter. (AUSA PHOTO)

ed by Brennon Willard, the chapter president, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Morris, AUSA's Fifth Region president. This was the first chapter dinner to be held in Lebanon, Willard said.

Smith was the first chemical officer to command the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood, from 2013–2015. He served as the Army's 66th inspector general before retiring in 2018.

Joining the AUSA team after retiring from the Army was an easy choice because of the teamwork that

has been built within the association's leadership, Smith said.

"I am proud of all we do as an organization to support soldiers, their families and our Army," Smith said.

Bronner emphasized his pride in the collaboration between Fort Leonard Wood and its surrounding communities. "Fort Leonard Wood will always be home," he said.

The AUSA and community leaders present, including Waynesville Mayor Sean Wilson and Jared Carr, mayor of Lebanon, highlighted the chapter's accomplishments over the past year, including its efforts to work with other local and community entities on behalf Fort Leonard Wood.

"Our success comes from decades of building trust with our Army leaders and our Community Partners," Morris said. "We want everyone to know that AUSA is the connecting point for all supporting organizations for Army leaders and our soldiers."

Brittany Raines is the executive consultant for AUSA's Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri chapter .



Leaders from AUSA, the Army and the local community gather for the annual dinner of the association's Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri chapter. (AUSA PHOTO)

