



The Army is increasing its ability to screen and test soldiers and isolate them so they can safely train in large groups, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said. (U.S. ARMY/JOSE RODRIGUEZ)

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Army eyes next steps in COVID-19 fight

Although a great deal of activity remains on a “tactical pause” during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Army is preparing a comprehensive plan for training and deploying soldiers as the service continues to fulfill its national defense mission.

Steps have already been taken to create “safety bubbles” around soldiers, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said April 23.

This includes slowing the shipment of new recruits to basic training to allow for social distancing, quarantining for 14 days soldiers returning from overseas deployments, and restricting travel for much of the force.

As the service works to balance readiness with soldier safety, leaders will continue to build on those measures, including increasing the Army’s ability to screen and test sol-

diers and isolate them so they can safely train in large groups, McCarthy said.

“You’ve seen this; it’s part of a larger national dialogue for robust testing across the country,” he said.

As the Army puts that testing capability in place, commanders must look at units as they move down a readiness continuum, from individual training to collective training and all the way to a deployment, McCarthy said.

“It’s as much the resources to test as it is once you get somebody, you know they’re negative, [then] putting them into an isolated space so they can go out to the field and keep healthy,” he said.

He added that the Army will be rolling out “in the near future how we’re going to do that.”

This includes how the Army should resume rotations to its combat training centers.

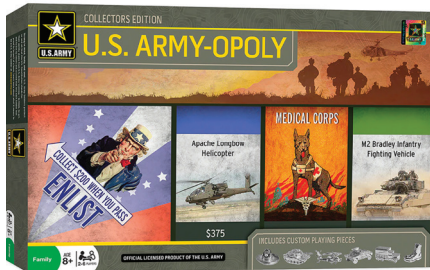
Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said there is an effort underway at each of the CTCs to develop and put in place measures to screen and isolate soldiers who may be positive for the COVID-19 virus.

Those capabilities, he said, “are starting to ramp up.”

When soldiers arrive at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, or the Joint Multinational Readiness Training Center in Grafenwöhr, Germany, they congregate and bunk down in the close proximity of open bay tents before moving on to the training areas.

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AUSA's 2020 advocacy focus areas put people first

The Association of the U.S. Army has established three primary focus areas for its 2020 advocacy efforts: people, strength and growth.

Supporting soldiers from the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve, Department of the Army civilians, families, veterans and retirees, AUSA's focus areas stress the importance of having on-time and sufficient budgets, providing programs and policies that support people, and continuing to grow the force while supporting soldiers and the employers of National Guard and Reserve soldiers.

Each of the advocacy areas contains many details.

On putting people first, AUSA supports a continued call for competitive pay and benefits, affordable and quality health care, improvements in housing, and better experiences when moving to new duty stations.

Child care, spouse employment and education for Army members and families are among the priorities.

To strengthen the Army, AUSA advocates for on-time appropriations and authorization legislation to pro-



AUSA supports recruiting and marketing programs, including a program where Army veterans can help boost recruiting and retention efforts. (U.S. ARMY/ALUN THOMAS)

vide for readiness, modernization and reform initiatives across the Total Army. Support for continued development of the Army's Multi-Domain Operations concept and combat medical readiness are other areas of attention.

There are three parts to AUSA's focus on growing the force.

AUSA supports recruiting and marketing programs, including a program where Army veterans can help boost recruiting and retention efforts.

AUSA also supports an increase in

full-time support troops, which would benefit the Army National Guard, and strengthened support for Guard and Reserve soldiers through the Pentagon's Employer Support for Guard and Reserve program.

AUSA developed the 2020 advocacy focus areas after discussions with national staff, senior fellows, region presidents and a region working group, and feedback from the Army.

[Click here for the full list of focus areas.](#)

Training

From Page 1

"This is a tactical pause. We didn't want to bring people from all over the country into one area while the [virus] curve is where it's at," McConville said April 21.

With the curve beginning to flatten, he said, there is still an obligation to "protect the force so we can protect the nation. We're looking at procedures and processes that we can put in place to safeguard the units that come to the training centers and still accomplish the training that we need to."

McConville noted that safeguards at basic training sites are allowing soldiers to train without the need for large formations.

On a recent trip to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, he said, he saw soldiers doing buddy live-fire drills and other training in small groups where no one is close together, and there are no gatherings in large venues such as auditoriums.

While the civilian world is practicing social distancing, he said, the Army is practicing what it calls "tactical dispersion," much as it would during combat operations, with 5 meters between soldiers that would help protect them, for instance, if there was a grenade attack.

It is not yet known when the CTCs will be ready to reopen.

"The thing we learned from trying to fight this virus is social distancing does work," McConville said. "And

using the masks, using the testing, using quarantines to distance people does work, so we're going to use those measures."

Ultimately, McCarthy said, nine to 12 months from now, "I sure hope we'll be having a conversation about vaccines."

Army researchers have been hard at work on this effort, McCarthy said, praising "some remarkably talented people playing a key role in the national test effort and vaccine."

In the meantime, he said, "we're going to put these safety protocols in place, and downstream we know [Army Medical Research and Development Command] is going to help us find a vaccine, and we're going to turn the corner."

Retired Gen. John Foss, legendary Ranger and AUSA senior fellow, dies

Retired Gen. John Foss, a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame and a senior fellow with the Association of the U.S. Army, died April 25 at the age of 87.

Born in 1933 in Hutchinson, Minnesota, Foss' military career began in 1950 when he enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard. Appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, he graduated in 1956, commissioning as an infantry officer.

Foss went on to serve multiple tours in Europe and Asia, including two combat tours in Vietnam.

His commands included the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the 82nd Airborne Division and the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

He served as the Army deputy chief of staff for operations and training.

His final assignment was as commanding general of Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia. He retired in 1991.

Foss was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 1995. He received the National Infantry Association's Doughboy Award in 2009 and was selected in 2013 as a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Military Academy.

Retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO, said Foss was "a legendary leader."

"I first met him when I was a major working on infantry doctrine, and General Foss was at TRADOC where he stayed personally engaged in ensuring the tactical direction provided to small unit leaders made sense," Ham said. "He never lost touch with the soldiers who had the hard jobs. A great soldier himself, our Army will miss General Foss."

In a 1984 AUSA Landpower Essay on building crisis response forces, Foss wrote, "There are few simple problems and there are even fewer simple solutions."

His paper was written at a time



Retired Gen. John Foss. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

when there were discussions about assigning the role of crisis response to the Marine Corps, something he saw as a mistake.

"Any serious study and analysis of U.S. military deployments and commitments since the fall of the Berlin Wall would deduce that the entire range of our nation's conventional forces has been necessary and useful in meeting these diverse situations and circumstances," he wrote.

In a 1983 paper on the same topic, Foss said, "Preselecting the right military capabilities would be simple if the nature of future crises was more predictable. However, the only safe prediction is that each crisis scenario will be different and will entail one or more of a full spectrum of required responses," a comment that can now be seen as predicting the Army's evolving Multi-Domain Operations concept.

In 2013, the West Point Association of Graduates credited Foss with being a lifetime example of teacher-mentor, saying he "demonstrated combat arms leadership practices by example and is credited with influencing the broader values that helped the Army win in both Operations Just Cause and Desert Storm."

The graduates' association also credited Foss with modernized Army training and development policies, and with expanding and intensifying Ranger School training.

AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier**

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PERK OF THE WEEK

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‘Deliberate haste’ needed to grow multidomain concept

The Army’s evolving Multi-Domain Operations concept for dealing with great-power and peer competition and possible war is driving a “renaissance of thinking,” but not fast enough considering the threats, according to a new Land Warfare Paper published by the Association of the U.S. Army.

“If the Army wants to avoid returning to the tendency to lose its first battles, it must transform,” wrote authors Lt. Gen. Eric Wesley and retired Col. Robert Simpson. Wesley is director of Army Futures Command’s Futures and Concepts Center. Simpson is a subject-matter expert with Valiant Integrated Services, supporting the Futures and Concepts Center.

“The Army must continue to develop the complete MDO conceptual solution to the problem of advanced information age warfare, while rapidly migrating mature solutions into



The Multi-Domain Operations concept will ‘touch on every aspect of the Army,’ including land, air, sea, space and cyberspace, the paper says. (U.S. ARMY/PATRICK ALBRIGHT)

the force,” Wesley and Simpson wrote. “Achieving the right balance requires deliberate haste, a term which accurately describes both the urgency of the problem and—a mixed history since 1775 notwithstanding—the need to get it right, lest we repeat the mistakes of the past.”

The paper urges a dramatic shift because of a “legitimate existential

threat capacity.”

MDO will “touch on every aspect of the Army.” It will be similar but bigger than the AirLand Battle doctrine of 1986, they wrote.

Multidomain operations include land, air, sea, space and cyberspace.

Read the paper, “Expanding the Battlefield: An Important Fundamental of Multi-Domain Operations,” here.

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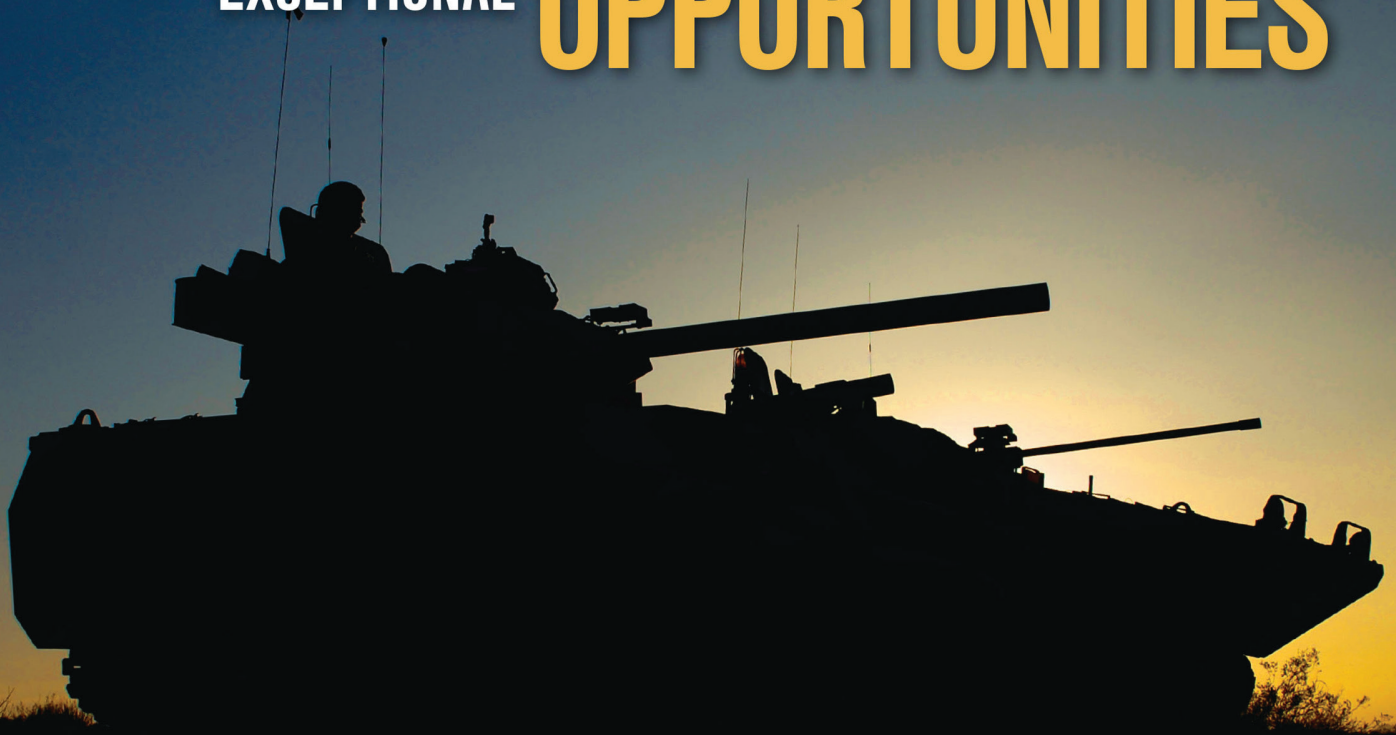
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New book highlights Blackhorse heroics in Vietnam War

By Joseph Craig

When the Blackhorse—the famed 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment—was first sent to Vietnam in 1966, many in the Army thought the insurgency was an infantryman's war.

Blackhorse leaders soon found a way to deal with the jungle, the monsoons, and the enemy ambushes to prove the value of armored forces in the conflict.

Over the next 5½ years, approximately 25,000 troopers served in the war as an essential part of the combat team.

The Blackhorse in Vietnam, a new title in the Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program, tells the story of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia from 1966 to 1972.

Author Don Snedeker is a second-generation Blackhorse trooper who arrived in Vietnam in 1969, served as a staff officer and a troop commander in the post-war years, and worked as a speechwriter for two chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After retiring from the military, Snedeker has worked for more than 20 years as the historian for the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

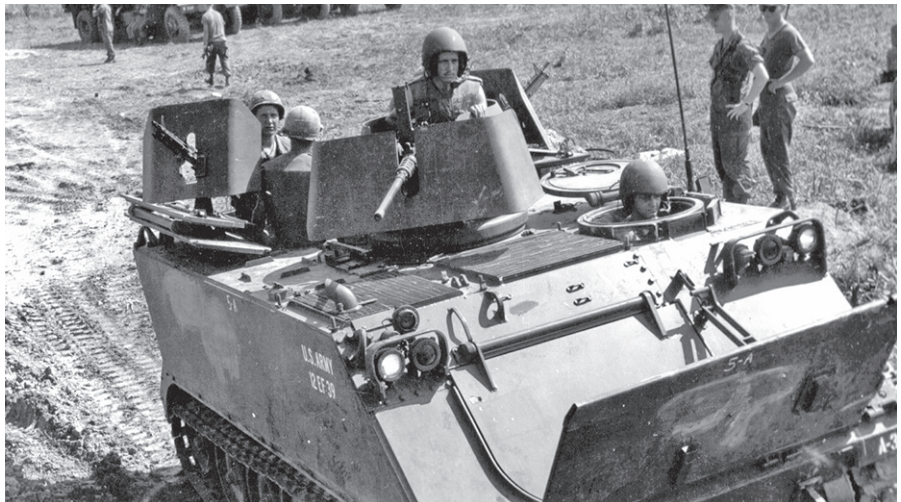
He recently sat down with the AUSA Book Program to discuss *The Blackhorse in Vietnam*.

AUSA: What inspired you to write this book?

Snedeker: The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was a one-of-a-kind unit in Vietnam, and yet there is not a comprehensive history of the regiment's service in the war published to date. Blackhorse veterans and their families deserve to have their story told.

AUSA: Why did you decide to focus on the Vietnam years?

Snedeker: Blackhorse troopers wrote a remarkable story into the mil-



The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was a one-of-a-kind unit in Vietnam. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

itary history books during Vietnam.

Theirs is a story that should be told, as many lessons learned from that era are still applicable today—such as the need for armored protection, heavy firepower and three-dimensional mobility even during an unconventional war.

Somalia was an example where that lesson was not applied, with disastrous consequences.

AUSA: How did the regiment's mission change over the course of the war?

Snedeker: Upon its arrival in country in September 1966, common wisdom said that armored vehicles could

not operate off the roads in Vietnam.

By mid-1967, Blackhorse troopers had proven this to be a myth.

The initial missions of guarding convoys and opening lines of communication expanded to virtually the entire playbook of mission options.

AUSA: What was the most surprising thing you learned about Blackhorse?

Snedeker: The deep sense of brotherhood that is alive and well today among the Blackhorse veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Attending one of their reunions is to experience the true meaning of service, self-sacrifice and valor.

AUSA: What role do you see for armored cavalry in today's Army?

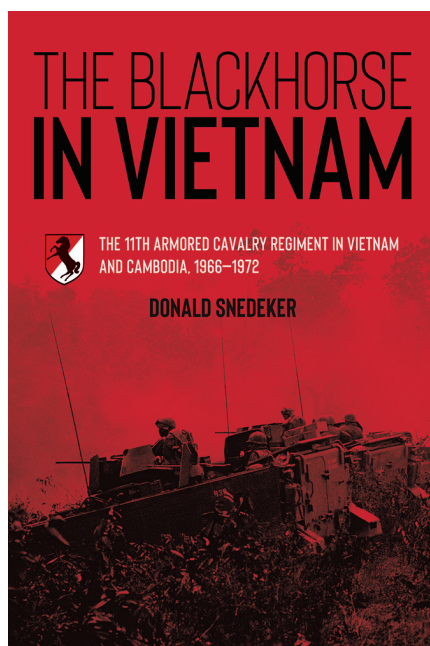
Snedeker: The armored cavalry regiment of the 1960s and '70s was a textbook example of a combined arms team.

The Blackhorse had the perfect balance of mobility, armored protection and firepower to accomplish virtually any mission.

Today's come-as-you-are operations need just such units.

Please visit www.ausa.org/books to order a copy of *The Blackhorse in Vietnam*.

Joseph Craig is AUSA's Book Program Director.



Virtual capabilities help chapter members stay informed

The Association of the U.S. Army's Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon chapter is leveraging virtual meetings to keep members informed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 25, the Georgia-based chapter hosted its monthly update briefing via videoconference with Col. John Batson, commander of the 15th Signal Brigade, as the guest speaker.

Nearly 80 members logged in to hear Batson provide an update on his brigade's training mission, according to retired Col. Kelly Knitter, the chapter president.

"We believe using this tool will become a new normal for our chapter, for meetings, [young professional] events, professional development sessions and augmentation to our breakfast briefings," Knitter said.

The 15th Signal Brigade's core mission is to develop cyber, signal and ordnance soldiers and leaders for the Army, Batson said.

Currently, there are more than



Soldiers from the 15th Signal Brigade make and distribute masks. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

3,900 students in training.

The brigade's mission has not changed during the pandemic, and it continues to receive, train and ship soldiers according to the needs of the Army.

However, some adjustments have been necessary, such as more rigorous medical screening of soldiers before they leave Fort Gordon, Batson said.

Video and teleconferences are excellent ways to keep AUSA members aware of ongoing military activities while maintaining social distance, Knitter said.

"If we can expand our membership reach by incorporating virtual capabilities into our programs, then our lessons learned from the coronavirus may be exponentially greater," she said.

Eagle Chapters

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

Korea (9)	Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (7)	Greater Kansas City (5)
Arsenal of Democracy (8)	Puerto Rico (7)	San Francisco (5)
Major Samuel Woodfill (8)	Des Moines Freedom (7)	San Diego (5)
Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (8)	Greater Los Angeles (7)	MG John S. Lekson (5)
Coastal South Carolina (8)	Pikes Peak (7)	Greater Philadelphia (Penn and Franklin) (4)
Texas Capital Area (8)	Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (6)	Fort Riley-Central Kansas (4)
Rock Island Arsenal (8)	George Washington (6)	Denver Centennial (4)
Connecticut (7)	Virginia Colonial (6)	Stuttgart (4)
Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (7)	Braxton Bragg (6)	New Orleans (3)
West Point Area (7)	Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (6)	Houston Metroplex (2)
Northern New York-Fort Drum (7)	Arizona Territorial (6)	The Villages (1)
Western New York (7)	Minutemen (5)	Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista (1)
Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (7)	Central Virginia (5)	
Emerald Coast (7)	Suncoast (5)	
Marne (7)	Space Coast (5)	



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