



IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2
MAY 13, 2021

Army Launches Recruiting Campaign

3

British Army Sets Path to Modernization

4

NCO & Soldier Programs

Chinese American WWII Vets Honored

6



Chapter Highlight

Arsenal of Democracy

7



If confirmed, Christine Wormuth, a former undersecretary of defense for policy, will be the first woman to serve as Army secretary. (DOD/GLENN FAWCETT)

Wormuth pledges ‘hands-on’ leadership

Armey secretary nominee Christine Wormuth promised to be a “hands-on” leader who would focus on taking care of people while making sure the Army has what it needs to fulfill its mission.

Wormuth, who testified Thursday before the Senate Armed Services Committee, is a former undersecretary of defense for policy who is director of the International Security and Defense Policy Center at Rand Corp.

If confirmed, she would be the first woman to serve as the Army’s top civilian leader.

“It has been the privilege of my career to work alongside and see firsthand the sacrifices soldiers and their families make, as well as everything they have achieved in answering the nation’s call, time and again,” Wormuth said. “I could not be more hum-

bled and proud to have the opportunity to serve as secretary of the Army and to ensure that we continue to provide the Army what it needs to succeed.”

The U.S. today appears to be at a “strategic inflection point,” she said.

“We have a window to make needed changes to ensure that the Army continues to be the best fighting force in the world, but that window will not be open indefinitely,” she said.

If confirmed, Wormuth said she would work to help the Army continue its transformation as it gears up for great-power competition.

“Seeing these modernization programs through successfully, while also maintaining readiness to meet the demands of current operations will be a top priority for me,” she said.

Another priority is people, she said. “To ensure our soldiers and civilians

have the best quality of life possible, I will strive to continue improving our Army housing, health care, child care and spouse employment opportunities.”

She also will ensure the Army can “recruit, develop and retain the diversity of talent it needs,” while making sure there is a “healthy command climate at every Army installation that fosters Army values and ensures the well-being of all our people.”

Wormuth said she would work closely with uniformed leaders while demonstrating care for the entire Army team.

“I will be the strongest possible advocate for the Army inside the Pentagon and out,” she said, and pledged to work with lawmakers.

“Without regular and constructive dialogue and partnership, we will not succeed in transforming the Army to meet future challenges.”



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New recruiting push seeks to add new talent to the force

Encouraged by the success of more than a year of virtual recruiting, the Army will hold its second nationwide virtual career fair in a bid to recruit young people who can bring needed skills to the force.

In a departure from the first nationwide event, which took place last year over three days, this year's Army National Hiring Days has been expanded to five weeks, from May 10 through June 14, concluding on the Army's 246th birthday.

The longer event "allows [time] for the rest of the Army to get involved at a much deeper level," said Gen. Paul Funk, commander of the Army Training and Doctrine Command, during a May 5 phone call with reporters.

As with the 2020 campaign, this year's effort will focus, in part, on the incentives that come with being a soldier, such as 30 days of paid leave, tuition for college, world travel and technical skills training.

The fair will also showcase 11 priority MOSs that include signing bonuses worth up to \$40,000, such as infantry, Special Forces, human intelligence collector, psychological operations specialist and parachute rigger.

The expectation is that the five-week virtual career fair will result in double the number of credible leads garnered during last year's event, which helped the Army meet its end



Staff Sgt. Kenneth Ryan, a recruiter based in Middletown, Ohio, speaks to Brady Faust of Cincinnati about the benefits of military service. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. TRENTON FOCHE)

strength goal of 485,000.

"We blew ourselves away last year by generating 30,000 leads in this very small period of time, and we were overwhelmed," said Brig. Gen. Patrick Michaelis, deputy commanding general of Army Recruiting Command. "Our goal this year is to get about 60,000 leads. My internal goal is much higher than that based on the time we have available."

Between year-round recruiting efforts and the upcoming Army National Hiring Days, Michaelis said, the Army is on track to meet its fiscal 2021 end strength goal of 486,000 active Army soldiers, plus the number of contracts needed to begin fis-

cal 2022 with new recruits ready to begin basic and advanced individual training.

"Right now, we're sitting pretty good. ... We're dead in line to make end strength this year," he said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic set in last spring, Army recruiters had been using some social media platforms to augment their in-person contacts. But the Army fell behind by 4,000 contracts when the public health emergency shut down recruiting stations and access to high schools across the country.

Within a month, recruiting had gone completely virtual, prompting the first Army National Hiring Days and several smaller career fairs through the fall and spring.

This year, a limited number of in-person recruiting events associated with Army National Hiring Days will take place where it can be done safely, and recruiters will be boosted by the May 5 launch of a new YouTube recruiting campaign, "The Calling," a series of short, animated videos that make up the third phase of the "What's Your Warrior?" campaign first launched in November 2019.

For more information on Army National Hiring Days, [click here](#).



Capt. Emily Lilly of the North Carolina Army National Guard talks to high school students about the munitions used by an M1A1 Abrams tank during a community education event in Cerro Gordo, North Carolina. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. 1ST CLASS CRAIG NORTON)

British army modernizes, transforms for the future alongside US partners

The British army is embarking on a massive modernization and transformation effort, similar to that of the U.S. Army, as it works to build a more agile, lethal and expeditionary force.

Driven by the recently published U.K. Integrated Security and Defence Review, the effort closely aligns with the U.S. Army's own work to transform after decades of counterinsurgency operations and prepare for a contested, multidomain battlefield.

In remarks May 6 during the Association of the U.S. Army's Thought Leaders webinar, British Lt. Gen. Christopher Tickell, deputy chief of the British Army General Staff, said a key part of the review "is the importance of deepening our relationships" with allies and partners.

He added, "The relationship I would say the British army enjoys with the United States Army has, and always will be, critical to our nations as we move forward."

The British defense review, published in March, is similar to the DoD National Defense Strategy, but it's also a road map for an overhaul of how the British army is manned, equipped and trained and how big the force will be over the next five years.

Challenges facing the British army, Tickell said, include the ability to compete in a multidomain environment, the need to create an organizational design "for purely warfighting," and the "reimagining of modern conventional deterrence to a more layered and responsive answer" to current and emerging threats.

Tickell pointed out that the British army, one of the U.S. Army's closest allies, must keep the lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan but move away from "a warfighting division ... that was organized to deliver an analog fight."



Recent efforts by the British army closely align with the U.S. Army's own work to transform the force. (U.S. ARMY/ANGIE DEPUYDT)

Instead, the British army must use the review as a blueprint as it transforms into a more expeditionary force, one that's "more lethal, better protected, better networked, digitally connected, one that enjoys a global presence, but one that has a warfighting core and ethos," Tickell said.

As both armies work to modernize, Tickell said the British army is very interested and involved in the U.S. Army's Project Convergence.

The series of tests and experiments, led by Army Futures Command, is a model to build closer relationships with industry and create a greater focus on experimentation, Tickell said.

The British army is working with Futures Command, with plans to participate in Project Convergence 2022, but it also is developing its own battle labs for year-round experimentation with industry, Tickell said.

It also is taking lessons from exercises such as Warfighter 21-4 in April at Fort Hood, Texas, in which the 3rd U.K. Division took part.

The close relationship between the U.K. and U.S. armies, Tickell said, "really just reinforces all we have learned over the many decades we've operated together in terms of sharing blood and treasure."

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Korean War hero, Medal of Honor recipient dies at 89

Ernest West, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Korean War, has died. He was 89.

A native of Russell, Kentucky, and honorary life member of the Association of the U.S. Army, West died May 1 in a hospital in West Virginia.

On Oct. 12, 1952, West, a private first class with the 3rd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, volunteered to join a combat patrol near Sataeri, Korea, to look for an enemy outpost.

West and three others were scouting ahead of the main group when they were ambushed and suffered “numerous casualties,” according to his Medal of Honor citation.

After the unit’s leader, 1st Lt. George Gividen, was injured by grenades and small-arms fire, West ordered the patrol to fall back. He then “braved intense fire” to reach his wounded leader, the citation says.



Ernest West in 2009. (COMMONS PHOTO)

While evacuating Gividen, West was attacked by three enemy soldiers. Covering the lieutenant’s body

with his own, West “killed the assailants with his rifle, then carried the helpless man to safety,” losing his left eye in the process, according to the citation.

Despite his injuries, West “courageously returned through withering fire and bursting shells to assist the wounded.”

While saving two members of his unit, he killed three more enemy soldiers, the citation says.

After recuperating from his injuries, West received the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest award for valor, from President Dwight Eisenhower on Jan. 12, 1954.

“We didn’t leave nobody,” West said about the battle, the *Washington Post* reported. “I was raised that way. I always figured that someone would come to get me if that were to happen, if I got down. I’d say it was because of brotherhood we all got back.”



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Chinese American WWII veterans honored for service

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey,
U.S. Army retired

It's never too late to thank a soldier. This is exactly what Ken Wong, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Pennsylvania-East, thought when he heard that more than 18,000 Chinese Americans who fought for the U.S. during World War II would be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. The legislation was enacted in 2018, nearly 75 years after the war's end.

Wong, an executive board member with the Association of the U.S. Army's Greater Philadelphia (Penn & Franklin) chapter and the son of Chinese immigrants, has dedicated many years of his life to advocating for the military and educating his community about the value of military service.

His great-uncle, Pfc. James Louie, returned to China during World War II to fight the Japanese with the First American Volunteer Group, famously known as the Flying Tigers, and later became a B-24 tail gunner with the Army Air Corps.

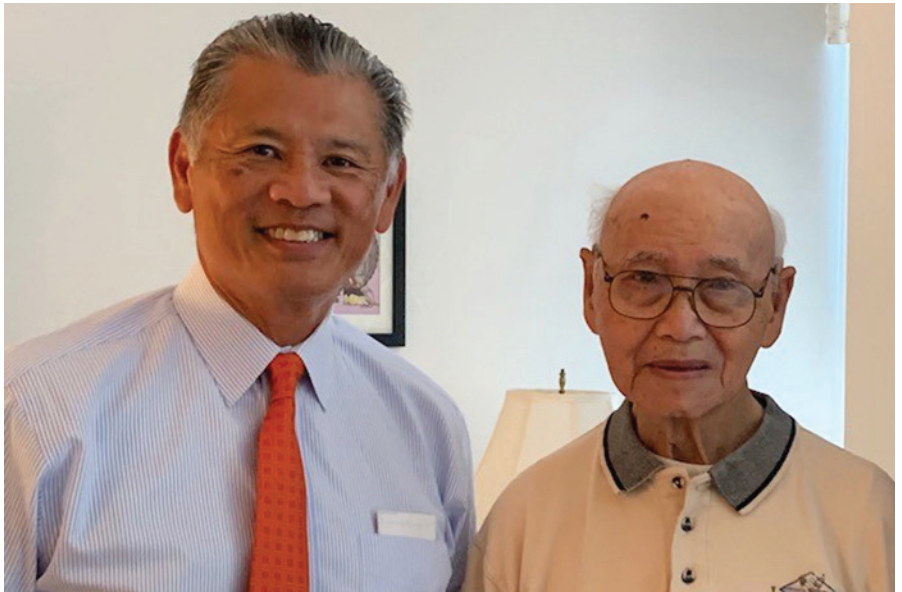
With these family connections, it is easy to understand Wong's passion for honoring Chinese Americans' contributions during World War II.

Unwavering commitment

Nearly one in four Chinese Americans served during World War II, even though 40% of them were not citizens because of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prevented citizenship and encouraged discrimination across the country.

However, this did not dim the personal commitment felt by thousands of Chinese immigrants who were determined to fight for their new country. Chinese American troops served in all branches of the military and all theaters of operation.

This loyalty to their country is what inspired Harry Jung.



Ken Wong, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Pennsylvania-East, left, and Harry Jung, a Chinese American World War II veteran. (AUSA PHOTO)

Jung, who was born in Philadelphia to Chinese immigrants, left his job to join the military at the age of 18 after hearing an announcement about Germany seizing control of large portions of Europe.

Following basic training, Jung was assigned to the 414th Infantry Regiment, 104th Infantry Division. He served honorably throughout World War II in Germany, and his awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the World War II Victory, European Campaign and American Campaign Medals.

After the war, like millions of others, Jung returned home to start a family and a new career.

He was proud when he heard that Chinese Americans would at last be recognized for their service and looked forward to receiving his Congressional Gold Medal alongside his brothers in arms.

Delayed recognition

These plans, like many others, were upset by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After postponing the ceremony once, Congress decided to conduct a virtual ceremony on Dec. 7, 2020, so

as not to hold up the well-deserved recognition of those who served.

Wong was grateful that the nation was honoring these great patriots for their service. But for him, it just wasn't quite complete.

Wong, who has known Jung for 35 years, organized a ceremony in Philadelphia to award Jung his Congressional Gold Medal in person and give him the recognition he and his fellow Chinese Americans deserve.

"As a young man, my father explained to me the sacrifices made to come to America because of the opportunities and freedoms for success that exist here for anyone willing to work hard," Wong said. "Those opportunities and freedoms are protected each and every day by our men and women in uniform."

He added, "I'm proud to say that Asian Americans have served in our military going back to the beginnings of our nation and continue to be an integral part of the fabric of our future."

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.

Top Michigan ROTC cadet recognized by AUSA chapter

A former Army National Guard soldier is the top ROTC cadet in Michigan, as selected by the Association of the U.S. Army's Arsenal of Democracy chapter.

Cadet Caleb Goodell of Western Michigan University received an Army officer's saber on April 13 from retired Lt. Col. Chuck Cogger, the chapter's director for ROTC and Army Recruiting.

“WMU ROTC program has produced some of the finest officers the United States Army has ever seen. All thanks to the diligent cadre support at WMU Army ROTC, cadets always are provided the opportunity to excel in their leadership skills, fundamentals, physical strength and mental fortitude,” Goodell said, according to a WMU News article.

Arsenal of Democracy

A 2021 Distinguished Military Graduate, Goodell, now a second lieutenant, graduated May 1 with degrees in justice and sociology.

He commissioned as an active-duty infantry officer and will attend the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, in June, with the goal of serving as a battalion commander.

Goodell “has held almost every leadership position in the Bronco Battalion, made the dean's list for the last seven semesters, [and] serves as the VP of his fraternity where he assists with their philanthropic efforts to support the Kalamazoo Special Olympics,” according to the chapter.

Additionally, he participates in the university's intramural soccer, volleyball, basketball and football.

“This outstanding cadet incredibly manages to simultaneously hold three jobs. He is a graduate of airborne and air assault schools and even earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in Gold while a cadet at WMU,” the chapter's award selection letter said.



Retired Lt. Col. Chuck Cogger, the chapter's director for ROTC and Army Recruiting, right, presents a saber to Cadet Caleb Goodell of Western Michigan University. (AUSA PHOTO)

“To me, the program has meant honor, respect and duty. Honor for the opportunity to follow in so many great shoes that paved a way before me to be successful. Respect for those warriors who have sacrificed so much for this opportunity. Lastly, arguably the most important, duty. The duty



‘To me, the [ROTC] program has meant honor, respect and duty,’ Goodell said. (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PHOTO)

that I must ensure the freedom of the United States stands strong and to guide the future leaders of the United States military to success,” Goodell said, according to WMU News.

Each year, the Arsenal of Democracy chapter selects one outstanding cadet from the seven universities in Michigan that conduct Army ROTC, said retired Brig Gen. Mark Montjar, the chapter president.

The award was not presented in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

Candidates are reviewed by a board of senior active-duty officers at Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command in Warren.

Requirements include a written recommendation from the school's professor of military science, significant military leadership excellence, and exceptional academic achievement in the ROTC program and overall.

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