



Gen. James C. McConville told the House Armed Services readiness subcommittee that predictable and adequate funding will allow the Army to continue building readiness. (U.S. ARMY/1ST LT. RYAN DEBOOY)

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2
MAY 16, 2019

NCO and Soldier Programs

Army's Best Scouts
3

Tax Credits for Guard/ Reserve Employers

4



Chapter Highlights

Captain Meriwether Lewis
Redstone-Huntsville

7

McConville warns of 'devastating' cuts

A return to sequestration-level funding would be "absolutely devastating" to the Army, the vice chief of staff told lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

"All the readiness gains we made would be lost," said Gen. James C. McConville, who has been nominated to be the next Army chief of staff.

"We would not be able to modernize the Army. We'd have to reduce the end strength, and we would hurt the quality of life of all our soldiers."

McConville, who testified alongside the other service vice chiefs before the House Armed Services readiness subcommittee, pushed for "timely, adequate, predictable and sustainable funding."

The Army is seeking a \$182 billion budget in fiscal 2020, a 2.5 percent increase over current spending.

Getting this amount depends on Congress approving the Trump administration's \$750 billion defense request.

Without an agreement, defense spending would plunge by \$105 billion under the terms of the Budget Control Act.

The impact on the Army is not yet fully known.

The Army saw great improvement in its overall readiness over the past two years, McConville said. The 2020 budget request seeks to continue that trend.

"The budget we've asked for is the

budget we need," McConville said.

Having predictable and adequate funding will ensure the Army is able to continue building toward its goal of having 66 percent of active Army units at the highest level of readiness by 2022, McConville said.

It also will allow the Army to improve its prepositioned stocks around the globe, recruit and retain the high-quality soldiers it needs, maintain a steady schedule of combat training center rotations, and push ahead with several key modernization initiatives, McConville said.

"As we train our forces to the future, we're not trying to fight the last fight better," he said. "We're trying to win the next fight."



LANPAC

SYMPOSIUM & EXPOSITION

21-23 May 2019 | Sheraton Waikiki | Honolulu, HI



1,500+
Attendees



25+
Partner
Nations



65+
Exhibits
& Demos

A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

EXHIBITS

Natalie Norris, CEM
nnorris@ausa.org

SPONSORSHIPS

Gaye Hudson
ghudson@ausa.org

REGISTER NOW!

www.ausa.org/lanpac2019

Soldiers battle to be the Army's 'Best Scout Squad'

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army
Kenneth O. Preston, USA Retired

Greetings from the Association of the U.S. Army, our Army's association for education and professional development, and a major supporter of the Army's Soldier for Life efforts.

The fourth biennial Gainey Cup competition took place April 24-May 3 at Fort Benning, Georgia, with 25 scout squads competing to be the best of the best.

The Gainey Cup is named for Command Sgt. Maj. William "Joe" Gainey, the first senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a distinguished Army leader and cavalry scout. The nine-day competition allows the best scout squads from across the U.S. Army and select international partner militaries to demonstrate their levels of training and proficiency in scout-focused skills and weapons marksmanship.

The winning squad, earning the coveted title of Gainey Cup Best Scout Squad, was from the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

This year's Gainey Cup competition had the largest international team presence to date, with six international teams representing Canada, Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands. Another first for this year's competition was the inclusion of combat vehicles for each of the squads based on their mounted platforms at home station.

"What we did here over the last several days are the most important things a scout should be training on," said Brig. Gen. David A. Lesperance, the U.S. Army Armor School commandant.

"If there is no other time to do anything else than just these tasks, you're going to be a phenomenal outfit in the United States Army. Take that lesson back with you to your formations."

On the gunnery range, one of the



The winners of the 2019 Gainey Cup are scouts from 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. (U.S. ARMY/PATRICK ALBRIGHT)

most challenging tasks tested was the "call for fire" event.

Each squad was challenged with simultaneous engagements using its principal weapon systems while maintaining contact with the enemy and calling mortar fire on enemy locations.

Multiple demanding situations required all soldiers in each squad to be an expert on all scout-related tasks.

The competition ran through three phases. During Phase 1, the squads were tested on their knowledge of Army doctrine, call for fire, land navigation, gunnery and fitness.

The competition picked up the tempo in Phase 2 with an extended run in combat gear. The scouts were tested on their reconnaissance objectives, which included route, area and bridge reconnaissance requirements, engaging targets from their mounted platform, and collecting and then reporting information to their headquarters.

Phase 3, leading up to the awards ceremony on May 3, was the "final charge." The competing teams started the finals with a three-mile run culminating on Brave Rifles Field.

On the field before hundreds of cheering fans, each squad member performed

several scout-related mental and physical tasks, including M240 and M2 machine guns, call for fire, land navigation and putting the System Improvement Plan radio into operation.

The competition scores were very close among the top four teams going into the final charge, making this capstone event the decisive test to determine the winners.

Finishing in second place was the 42nd Brigade Reconnaissance Squadron (42 Brigade Verkenning Eskadron) of the Royal Netherlands Army.

The team from the 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, from Fort Bliss, Texas, clinched third place.

This 1st Armored Division team competed as an entrant from the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea, where the unit is currently deployed as part of a rotational brigade.

Next year, the Armor School will host the Sullivan Cup competition to recognize the best tank crews.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston is AUSA's Vice President for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 13th sergeant major of the Army.

NCO & Soldier Programs

AUSA celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Honoring the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States takes more than monuments, a retired four-star general said.

"If we want knowledge—this history, these stories—to be preserved, it's about education," retired Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, the Army's 34th chief of staff and former Veterans Affairs secretary, said during the Association of the U.S. Army's celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

"The spirit of Americanism is there in all of us," said Shinseki, citing the success of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, an all-Japanese American unit in World War II. The unit, which included three of Shinseki's uncles, was one of the most decorated units in military history with 21 Medals of Honor, 9,485 Purple Hearts and eight Presidential Unit Citations.



Retired Gen. Eric K. Shinseki. (AUSA PHOTO)

"Today's celebration is important to remember the history, but also to salute that in this country, greatness resides in our ability to amend," Shinseki said during the event at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

New legislation would give tax credit to Guard and Reserve employers

The Association of the U.S. Army is supporting legislation that would give tax credits to the employers of National Guard and Reserve members.

Under the Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation and Relief Act, an employer would get a \$1,000 tax credit for each employee who is a member of the Guard or Reserve, plus an additional credit of up to \$10,000 for any employee who is activated for 30 days or longer in a tax year.

The maximum credit would apply for activations of 180 days or longer.

The measure is intended to give employers an incentive to hire and keep workers who are members of the Guard and Reserve, and also to offset some of the cost of having employees who are called away on military duties.

AUSA has joined members of the Mil-

itary Coalition, a group of more than 30 military and veterans' associations, in supporting the bill. In a joint letter, the groups said the bill helps everyone.

"This bill addresses one of the biggest challenges that these reservists face—finding and retaining employment with businesses who support their service and bear the costs of lost productivity during periods of training and deployment," the letter says.

"We believe that properly incentivizing outside employers to hire and retain reserve component members within their companies will provide an economic boost to the company while encouraging civilian employment stability for reserve component members," says the letter, which is addressed to Reps. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, and Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., the primary sponsors of H.R. 801.

AUSAExtra

**Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier**

Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret.
President and CEO, AUSA

Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, USA, Ret.
Vice President, Education, AUSA

Luc Dunn
Editor

Desiree Hurlocker
Advertising Production and
Fulfillment Manager

Advertising Information Contact:
Fox Associates Inc.
116 W. Kinzie St. • Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 800-440-0231
Email: adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com

ARTICLES. Articles appearing in AUSA Extra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the officers or members of the Council of Trustees of AUSA, or its editors. Articles are expressions of personal opinion and should not be interpreted as reflecting the official opinion of the Department of Defense nor of any branch, command, installation or agency of the Department of Defense. The publication assumes no responsibility for any unsolicited material.

ADVERTISING. Neither AUSA Extra, nor its publisher, the Association of the United States Army, makes any representations, warranties or endorsements as to the truth and accuracy of the advertisements appearing herein, and no such representations, warranties or endorsements should be implied or inferred from the appearance of the advertisements in the publication. The advertisers are solely responsible for the contents of such advertisements.

RATES. Individual membership fees payable in advance are \$40 for two years, \$75 for five years, and \$400 for Life Membership. A discounted rate of \$10 for two years is available to members in the ranks of E-1 through E-4, and for service academy and ROTC cadets and OCS candidates. More information is available at our website www.ausa.org; or by emailing membersupport@ausa.org, phoning 855-246-6269, or mailing Fulfillment Manager, P.O. Box 101560, Arlington, VA 22210-0860.

PERK OF THE WEEK

Holiday Travel? Member Discounts Save \$

AUSA members save up to 25% at Avis, Budget and Hertz Car Rentals. Combine with additional coupons you'll find on the reservation pages. Alamo, Enterprise and National Car Rentals also provide you a special discount. You also have access to exclusive wholesale hotel rates, which offer up to 60% savings at more than 600,000 hotels worldwide. You'll find nearly all hotel brands participating. Visit www.ausa.org/savings to access your travel discounts.



JOB FAIR

FOR U.S. MILITARY, DOD CIVILIANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES



WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2019 | 10AM-2PM

AT THE

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 WILSON BLVD, ARLINGTON, VA 22201

REGISTER FOR FREE @ WWW.AUSA.ORG/JOBFAIR

REGISTRATION INCLUDES COMPLIMENTARY RÉSUMÉ POLISHING

Nearby Parking Available | Metro Accessible **OR** **SV**

NEW FROM AUSA!

ARMY MATTERS PODCAST



NEW EPISODE EVERY MONDAY!

Each Monday, AUSA's Army Matters podcast brings you vital Army conversations and interviews on issues relevant to Soldiers, military families and all the amazing Army supporters out there.



AN ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY PODCAST

WWW.AUSA.ORG/PODCAST



**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

Educate | Inform | Connect

AUSA members flip tires to raise money for scholarship fund

The Association of the U.S. Army's Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter hosted two tire flipping fundraisers in April to raise money for the chapter's Col. Jo Swartz Memorial Scholarship, a support scholarship for local graduating high school seniors from military families.

"I've always felt personally that our young veteran community is very much active in the fitness community," said Amy Tiemeyer, the event organizer. "This event supports our new scholarship program, so why not do something young and out of the box?"

Participants were challenged to flip a 360-pound tire as many times as possible in five minutes. Prior to the event, they listed donation pledges for every flip they made, Tiemeyer said.

**Captain
Meriwether
Lewis**

Both events took place in Tacoma, Washington, with the first being held at Spanaway Fitness on April 13 and the second at Tacoma Strength on April 27. About 50 participants competed, raising about \$1,000 in total.

The two winners, one female and one male with the highest number of tire flips, were announced as Jasmine Jones and David Morley. Spanaway Fitness, a veteran-owned business and AUSA member, was also recognized.

Next year, the fundraiser, which Tiemeyer hopes will garner more interest among local gyms, will work with the chapter's young professionals' group.

"If [chapters are] looking for a way to engage a younger demographic, this could be a great way to do things," Tiemeyer said. "I really feel we should be going to where our young veteran and patriot community is engaged."



The event raised about \$1,000. (AUSA PHOTO)

Redstone-Huntsville honors exceptional Army civilians

The Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville Chapter hosted its annual Department of the Army Civilian of the Year awards dinner on April 30. This year's ceremony involved 26 nominees from 11 different commands and celebrated six winners overall.

"Redstone Arsenal has so many organizations on it, and there are a lot of DA civilians and organizations that are working in support of the Army, particularly in the missile area," said

retired Col. Jay Macklin, chairman of the DA Civilian of the Year for the chapter. "I saw every day what the DA civilians did, and they're unsung heroes. They're certainly not on the frontlines, but what they do is just as important on a daily basis, so we take that night to recognize them."

Thomas Webber, director of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Com-

mand Technical Center, was named the overall 2019 Civilian of the Year.

According to The Redstone Rocket, Webber told the crowd he accepted the award on behalf of the talented and dedicated people at SMDC/ARSTRAT.

"To represent Team Redstone means everything," Webber said. "It validates the significance of the work we are doing and recognizes the impact we are making for our Army and for our warfighters."

The award is named in honor of Dr. Richard G. "Dick" Rhoades, who was an Army veteran and lifetime member of AUSA. Winners from six additional award categories were also recognized during the dinner. They included: Webber, Management Executive Award; Sophia Bledsoe and Warren "Wren" Keith, Professional Technical Award; Carol Hermann, Supporting Staff Award; Sophie Colquett, Technical Management Award; Charles 'Ron' Garner, Department of Defense Award; and Melissa Richards, Non-Appropriated Funds Award.

**Redstone-
Huntsville**



Winners of the Redstone-Huntsville chapter Army Civilian of the Year awards are recognized at a dinner. (U.S. ARMY/JASON CUTSHAW)



AUSA MEMBERS CAN SAVE **60% OFF** FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

GAIN MEMBER ACCESS TO...



**\$120,000+ IN
SCHOLARSHIPS**



**TAILORED FAMILY
CONTENT**



**VOICE ON
CAPITOL HILL**



**FAMILY EVENT
INVITES**



**LOCAL CHAPTER
SUPPORT**

ADD TODAY AT WWW.AUSA.ORG/FAMILYRATES



**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

Educate | Inform | Connect