



Gen. Charles Flynn, commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific, provides a keynote address at AUSA's 2023 LANPAC Symposium and Exhibition in Honolulu. (AUSA PHOTO)

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Land power key in Indo-Pacific region

Gen. Charles Flynn, commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific, launched the Association of the U.S. Army's 2023 LANPAC Symposium and Exhibition on Tuesday with two simple statements.

First, he declared, "The time is now for land power." This isn't a new concept but a reminder of the tremendous potential for the U.S. and its allies at a time of growing uncertainty that requires like-minded nations to work more closely.

Second, Flynn said, the "collective goal" of Indo-Pacific partners must be to ensure that "there is no war" by providing a joint and combined force focused on deterrence.

Twenty-five international delegations, including 13 Indo-Pacific army chiefs, are attending the three-day

AUSA conference in Honolulu in what Flynn said will lead to strengthening Indo-Pacific planning. "I believe the role of land power in deterrence is not receiving the attention it deserves," Flynn said.

"I have never seen this level of multinational cooperation," said Flynn, who has attended LANPAC conferences since 2014.

"Defense is most successful when nations band together," he said, noting that there are positive trends in closer collaboration with allies and partners and an increasing priority on land forces. "We have no time to waste."

War isn't inevitable if allies and partners work together, Flynn said. "We have accomplished a great deal together in a short time" through

joint exercises and other means, he said.

Flynn added, "The pace of change is increasing, and there are no signs of slowing down. The world is becoming more urbanized, information changes constantly, and the speed of human interactions is staggering."

As the U.S. and its allies work to deter conflict, land power can do three vital things, Flynn said. "They seize, hold and defend," he said, and are "the final means that stand between an aggressor, our homes and our people."

The attacker chooses the time and place for a battle, but it is the defender who dictates the tempo, who slows and complicates the attack, he said. Land power is "the oldest form of warfare," he said.



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Evolving technology will shape soldiers of the future

With the rapid evolution of technology, soldiers fighting on the battlefields of 2050 may not look too different from a science fiction movie or a video game, a senior Army leader said.

“Think about if you’re playing a first-person shooter video game, you’re going on the map, you have visibility on your heads-up display, you know where the enemy is, you have unlimited ammo and you have this amazing ability to never die,” said Young Bang, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology.

“Now, we’re not quite there yet, but if you think about some of the things we’re working on right now, those are the foundational pieces to get us there,” Bang said Wednesday at the Association of the U.S. Army’s LANPAC Symposium and Exposition in Honolulu.

Bang said the Army is working hard to transform for the future. Citing as an example the 24 new technologies the Army plans to deliver in fiscal 2023, Bang said those capabilities are “foundational pieces” so that the Army, along with its allies and partners, can “drive this whole thing called integrated deterrence.”

From drone resupply to exoskeletons, the Army is looking at how it can make soldiers more lethal and



Soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division train with the Integrated Visual Augmentation System during Project Convergence 22 at Camp Talega, California. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. THIEM HUYNH)

agile, Bang said. “Take unlimited ammo,” he said. “We’re not quite there but imagine what you could do with drones.”

The Army is experimenting with that at Fort Moore, Georgia, he said. “They were literally dropping off ammo as soldiers were needing it,” Bang said. “It’s an experiment, but those are the possibilities we’re looking at, and the Army needs industry’s help to get us there.”

Soldiers also are testing the use of exoskeletons to carry heavy equipment, and the Army continues to

fine-tune its Integrated Visual Augmentation System and develop robotic combat vehicles, among other capabilities, Bang said. “Imagine what the possibilities will be if you tie all that together,” he said.

As the Army continues its modernization, it faces an increasingly changing world, Bang said. “Change is constant, and the pace is increasing, and technology is increasing the pace of change,” he said. “With technology that’s driving change, humans have to be able to adapt.”

For the Army, that means “you train, you experiment together with the joint and multinational force,” he said. “The humans have to adapt,” he added. “They have to know how to use that technology and think about it differently.”

The Army also must be light, mobile and flexible, and it must view technology as an enabler instead of the solution to every problem, Bang said. “A lot of people, including me, get enamored by the shiny bauble,” he said. “We’ve got to shift from just the technology to also include the procedural—the teaming, the strategy, the employment. How are we going to use this?”

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

Charles McEnany

National Security Analyst

Charles McEnany has been with AUSA since July 2021. He graduated from George Washington University with a master’s degree in Security Policy Studies. Originally from Connecticut, he enjoys rooting for the New York Yankees, New York Giants and New York Rangers and frequently watching Eli Manning Super Bowl highlights.



SMA: NCOs must build relationships, trust with officers, allies and partners



Soldiers with the 25th Infantry Division demonstrate mortar techniques for Singapore Armed Forces soldiers May 11 during Exercise Tiger Balm 23 in Singapore. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

In the vast Indo-Pacific, where soldiers operate in small groups and alongside allies and partners, trust is critical to success, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston said.

"I would say it's the secret sauce in our Army, this thing called trust," Grinston said Tuesday during a fire-side chat focused on the role of NCOs in the Indo-Pacific on the first day of the Association of the U.S. Army's 2023 LANPAC Symposium and Exposition in Honolulu.

Building trust takes time, Grinston said, and becomes harder to do when working with allies and partners. "How do you keep that open communication?" he said, offering as an example that he has monthly calls with a group of his counterparts in the Indo-Pacific. "What we found is we all have the same problems," Grinston said. "You find ways to connect. ... It takes time."

Trust is just as essential within the U.S. Army, including trust from officers in their NCOs, Grinston said. "We have great authority because our offices trust us," he said. "Never lose that trust. It is fleeting and can go in a second. ... You've got to earn that

every day. You can't screw that up."

Looking at the Indo-Pacific today, Grinston, who served as the senior enlisted leader for I Corps from 2016–2017, said the theater has "changed dramatically."

When he served in I Corps, the Army was still rotating two corps headquarters in and out of Iraq, he said. The Army also was just starting to build its Operation Pathways exercise program with allies and partners. "Even though we said, 'Hey, this is the No. 1 challenge, ... as an Army we kept being pulled away to these other things,'" Grinston said.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 was a wake-up call, Grinston said, as leaders began to grapple with whether a similar invasion could happen in the Indo-Pacific as China eyes Taiwan.

Now, the Indo-Pacific and its challenges "really has all our attention," Grinston said. The Army is putting resources in the region, he said, citing as an example the reactivation of the 11th Airborne Division in Alaska. "It's not just us saying it's the priority theater," Grinston said. "We're putting a lot of resources there."

AUSAExtra

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Army birthday highlights ‘Be All You Can Be’ campaign

On June 14, the Army will celebrate its 248th birthday with “Be All You Can Be” as a tagline and a focus on the possibilities and opportunities provided by the Army.

The birthday campaign aims to support the Army’s recruiting priorities as the service grapples with a tough recruiting environment.

Army leaders revived the iconic “Be All You Can Be” slogan in March after struggling with a shrinking pool of recruits and a declining interest in military service among young people. This new version is a modern take on the beloved slogan that the service used for almost two decades starting in 1981.

“As we reflect on 248 years of Army service, we must recognize that today’s soldiers carry a legacy built by those who served before them,” Sgt.

Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston said in a statement. “Our soldiers perform above and beyond the call of duty time and time again, overcoming every obstacle thrown their way. Their commitment to excellence assures our nation that we will always be there to support and defend the Constitution.”

This year, Army leaders are encouraging soldiers and units from all three components—as well as Army civilians, families, veterans and retirees—to share their stories and emphasize the many possibilities and opportunities for service and growth that the Army has to offer.

“America’s Army celebrates its 248th birthday this year, and it is truly an honor to serve alongside the world’s greatest soldiers. I am also grateful for the commitment of our families who support our soldiers in

defending our country and our American way of life,” Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said in the statement.

In addition to the Army’s events, many chapters of the Association of the U.S. Army around the world will hold celebrations marking the vital role of the service in the nation’s growth and development since its official establishment on June 14, 1775.

“For 248 years, the U.S. Army has served as America’s first line of defense,” Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said in a statement. “We are proud of our Army’s history, and we are proud to be the world’s premiere land fighting force, charged to fight and win our nation’s wars. We stand ready to meet all future challenges and will continue to strive to ensure our soldiers can be all they can be.”



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AUSA hosts 6th annual Operation Deploy Your Dress event

May is National Military Appreciation Month, and the Association of the U.S. Army's Family Readiness directorate expressed its support for military spouses through its continuing partnership with Operation Deploy Your Dress, a nonprofit organization that provides new and gently used dresses and gowns to service members and dependents.

On May 6, AUSA hosted a "Sip and See" gathering at its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, kicked off by a hearty welcome from retired Brig. Gen. Jack Haley, the association's vice president of Membership and Meetings, and his wife, Jennifer.

Family Readiness

The "Sip and See" event provided attendees a chance to hear about the missions of AUSA and Operation Deploy Your Dress and learn about Army traditions, etiquette and protocol. It was a wonderful evening for networking and building camaraderie.

The next day, volunteers from AUSA and Operation Deploy Your Dress gave away more than 700 free dresses and gowns during their sixth annual pop-up event. A special advance time slot was available for AUSA Premium members, and throughout the rest of the day, all military or dependent ID card holders were welcomed.

All participants received a complimentary AUSA Basic membership, with the option to upgrade to a Premium membership and receive access to benefits such as AUSA scholarships and *The Army Spouse Handbook*.

Other organizations, including Military OneSource, Hiring Our Heroes, PCS Grades, the Military Child Education Coalition and National University, were onsite during shopping hours to provide free resources to attendees.

The dress giveaway continued May 8, when AUSA and Operation Deploy



Leaders and volunteers from AUSA, Operation Deploy Your Dress, DoD and other organizations gather for the sixth annual pop-up dress giveaway for service members and dependents at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. (AUSA PHOTO)

Your Dress welcomed spouses from the Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year program. These exceptional spouses heard firsthand about the impact Operation Deploy Your Dress makes in our communities from Yvonne Coombes, the organization's co-founder and the 2020 Army Military Spouse of the Year.

"Not only did we give away a record 766 dresses at this year's event, but we also reached military families farther away than ever by hosting a special shopping event for the Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouses of the Year," Coombes said. "They came from installations all over the world and from all branches of service.

"There is no better team than AUSA and ODYD. Thank you to everyone who came out to 'deploy' a dress and to our volunteers, who make all the magic happen," she said.

Many of the dresses and gowns were worn May 11 during the Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., where spouses from each service were recognized for

their commitment and contributions.

During the ceremony, Army spouse Evie King was announced as the 2023 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year.

King is known for her advocacy for mental health support and the overall well-being of military spouses. She is the president of the nonprofit organization InDependent, a wellness community built by military spouses for military spouses that offers a positive and inclusive platform to connect through virtual wellness programs and resources.

AUSA Family Readiness is thrilled and honored to celebrate military spouses in May and throughout the year, especially during special events such as the Operation Deploy Your Dress pop-up, the Military Spouse of the Year Awards Ceremony and the Independent Wellness Summit hosted by King's organization.

Thank you to all our military spouses—we are grateful for all of you.

Holly Dailey is AUSA's Family Readiness director.

Chapter event celebrates Army Reserve's 115th birthday

The Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter recently hosted a breakfast at the Jackson Center in Huntsville, Alabama, to celebrate the Army Reserve's 115th birthday.

The Army Reserve's birthday is April 23.

Mike Dove, the chapter's vice president for Army Reserve and National Guard affairs, highlighted the Reserve's contributions to two

Redstone-Huntsville

world wars, the Cold War, the wars in Korea and Vietnam, the Persian Gulf wars and other missions. "What began in 1908 as a small corps of medical professionals held in readiness for duty is now the Army's global operational reserve force," Dove said, the *Redstone Rocket* reported.

Lt. Col. Sean Harshey, the event's keynote speaker, said he didn't join the Army Reserve looking for a career. "I joined the Army late in life. I was one of those guys who felt a sense of duty" after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, he said, according to the *Redstone Rocket*.

Harshey, who is the deputy staff judge advocate for the Army Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, had been practicing law for 10 years before he visited a recruiting office in Indianapolis. About 14 months later, he was deployed to Baghdad with V Corps.

In 2019, Harshey deployed again to Iraq as group judge advocate for the 641st Regional Support Group. "It's been really good for me, it's been a constant challenge," he said of his second career in the Army Reserve, as reported by the *Redstone Rocket*.

Over the past two decades, the Army Reserve has transformed into a truly operational force, Harshey said. The Army's mission is "to deploy, to fight and win our nation's wars by providing ready, prompt and sustained land dominance as part of a joint force of all U.S. military.



Lt. Col. Sean Harshey, deputy staff judge advocate for the Army Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, speaks at the Army Reserve birthday celebration hosted by AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter. (REDSTONE ROCKET/ERIN ELISE ENYINDA)

This mission, now more than ever, includes the United States Army Reserve," he said.

According to the fiscal 2022 Army Reserve posture statement, the component makes up nearly 20% of the Army's personnel, more than 50% of its quartermaster and medical formations, more than 80% of its civil affairs, legal, psychological operations and religious units, and more

than 40% of its chemical and transportation forces, Dove said.

"Your Army Reserve [soldiers] are trained, equipped and ready to meet the nation's requirements," he said.

Soldiers serving in the Reserve, retired Reserve soldiers and first responders were recognized at the event. Rhonda Sutton, president of the AUSA chapter, presented Harshey with a special chapter coin.

Cadet receives chapter scholarship



Retired 1st Sgt. Wayne Howard, left, a board member with AUSA's National Training Center-High Desert chapter in California, presents a chapter scholarship to junior ROTC cadet Carlos Orozo, center, of Oak Hills High School. (AUSA PHOTO)

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