



Gen. Robert B. Brown told LANPAC conference attendees that the presence of land forces in the Pacific is a deterrent to aggression. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS CLAUDIO TEJADA)

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Brown speaks to ‘best LANPAC ever’

The U.S. Army Pacific commander praised the Association of the U.S. Army for a three-day LANPAC conference in Honolulu that provides a major assist to the Indo-Pacific region.

Gen. Robert B. Brown, who has been the U.S. Army Pacific commanding general since 2016, said the conference that involves more than 25 nations allows attendees to get more done in three days than if they had traveled the region for two years, and is something the Army couldn't do on its own.

“We could certainly never do an event like this,” he said. “We could never pull it off.”

“You can say you were at the best

LANPAC ever,” Brown said during his keynote presentation on the first day of the conference, May 21.

He also praised the presence of industry partners at LANPAC.

“We certainly cannot do what we do without our industry partners,” Brown said.

Indo-Pacific, the name used for the region since 2017, has more people than the “rest of the world put together” and will soon contain 70% of the global population, he said.

It is a region of natural and humanitarian disasters, where joint and multinational operations are critical to saving lives.

It also contains security threats from criminal and extremist groups,

and from major military powers, many of them armed with nuclear weapons.

Not all of the problems, challenges and threats can be solved by land power, he said. “Land enables other domains,” he said.

“Boots on the ground are the greatest signal of resolve,” he said, saying the presence of land forces is a deterrent to aggression.

“When our land forces work together, we can accomplish great things,” he said, citing the 2018 combined humanitarian effort to rescue members of a Thai junior soccer team trapped in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand.

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Operation Deploy Your Dress returns to AUSA

The Association of the U.S. Army's General Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center was recently transformed into a high-end evening wear boutique.

Military and civilian donors gave thousands of gowns, handbags and pieces of jewelry to the third annual Operation Deploy Your Dress pop-up event in the Washington, D.C., area.

The event, co-hosted with AUSA Family Readiness, was April 26-27.

Military family members visited AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, and strolled away with the perfect party ensemble, leaving Yvonne Coombes, co-founder of Operation Deploy Your Dress, and her volunteers with happy hearts.

Founded in 2015 by five Army spouses at Fort Bliss, Texas, Operation Deploy Your Dress is a 100% donation-based, volunteer-run non-profit. To date, approximately 8,000 dresses have been "deployed," saving service members and their families an estimated \$800,000.

Family Readiness

Operation Deploy Your Dress also boasts six brick-and-mortar stores at Army installations across the country, including Fort Stewart and Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort Bliss, Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia, Fort Irwin, California, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.

The pop-up event at AUSA is by far the group's most popular event, Coombes said.

"When we partnered with AUSA in 2017, we thought it was for a one-time dress distribution event," she said. "Three years later, we never could have imagined what it would grow into."

And it's not just about the dresses, said Patty Barron, director of Family Readiness for AUSA.

"It's about camaraderie and paying it forward. At a recent dress drive, a woman donated a dress that was over 50 years old," Barron said.



Military family members visit AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, for the third annual Operation Deploy Your Dress pop-up event. (AUSA PHOTO)

"It had great sentimental value to her, and she could not bear to part with it. It hung in her closet for years, but after hearing about ODYD and their mission, she knew it was time to donate it."

The Operation Deploy Your Dress weekend event began with a "Sip and See." This evening reception allowed local military senior spouses and com-

munity leaders to get a first look at the gowns, suits and accessories that were brought in from across the country.

On Saturday morning, local AUSA members had a "members-only" shopping hour, giving them first choice of the event's offerings, before it was opened to pre-registered guests.

"Last year, we had an open call, and it seemed as if 600 family members showed up at one time," Coombes said. "This year, we wanted a more structured approach to the shopping day. We still have kinks to iron out where time segments are concerned, but we keep getting better and better at it."

With the success of the pop-up events, AUSA is taking the next step, recently entering into a one-year teaming agreement with Operation Deploy Your Dress.

"We have had such a positive experience working with ODYD here in D.C., we decided to support brick-and-mortar shops as well," Barron said.

"By teaming up with ODYD, we have an opportunity to get our local AUSA chapters involved and support military families at the installations," she said.

"It is a win-win for everybody."



To date, approximately 8,000 dresses have been "deployed," saving service members and their families an estimated \$800,000.

(AUSA PHOTO)

House, Senate panels endorse 3.1% military pay raise, largest since 2010

Two powerful congressional committees have endorsed a 3.1% military pay raise as they pass their portions of the 2020 defense budget. This would be the largest basic pay and drill pay increase in a decade.

The House Appropriations Committee included the increase in its version of the fiscal year 2020 defense funding bill, and the Senate Armed Services Committee approved the pay raise in its annual defense policy bill.

Two other congressional panels, the House Armed Services Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee, have yet to weigh in on the raise.

If the raise becomes law, it would take effect on Jan. 1.

The increase matches last year's average private sector pay raise and is the biggest increase since troops received a 3.4% raise in 2009.

It remains uncertain when defense legislation will pass Congress because the Republican-held Senate and Democrat-held House of Representatives



The raise would apply to basic pay and drill pay for reservists. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

don't agree on the size of the defense budget nor about spending for other federal departments.

The Trump administration requested a \$750 billion defense budget but shielded more than \$97 billion from budget caps by designating it as contingency operation funds.

The Senate Armed Services Committee endorsed the idea. The House Appropriations Committee did not.

Negotiations between congressional leaders and the White House have not resulted in an agreement.

Abrams: U.S.-South Korea alliance remains critical for economics, security

The alliance between the U.S. and South Korea "is stronger and more ready than ever," the top U.S. general in the Republic of Korea said May 22.

Speaking at the Association of the U.S. Army's LANPAC Symposium and Exposition in Honolulu, Gen. Robert B. Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces Korea and U.N. Command-Combined Forces Command, said the 65-year-old alliance between the U.S. and South Korea remains critical for economic and security reasons.

"Our bilateral relationship is special," he said, describing South Korea as a reliable and ready military partner. "It serves as a model for others."

"We are now inseparable, unbreak-

able," he said. "Our combined defense posture is as good as it has ever been, if not better." Against North Korea's aggressive action, "we stood strong," he said, referring to missile testing.

Exercises continue, although on a different scale for diplomatic reasons.

"We continue to train every mission task but with a lower profile," he said. "We feel unquestioned dominance across all domains."

"I have been in three wars. I have no burning desire to be in another war," Abrams said in defense of diplomatic efforts that include steps to reduce tension and reduce the chances for mistakes or miscalculations leading to war. "How can you not be in favor of that?"

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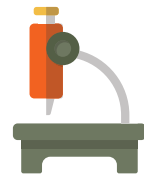
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Special Forces soldiers recognized by AUSA chapter

The Association of the U.S. Army's Braxton Bragg Chapter recently recognized the winners of the 2019 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) Best Warrior Competition, Staff Sgt. Aaron Egan and Spc. Nicholas Wallace.

Both soldiers are assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Carson, Colorado.

The competition is designed to identify the soldier who can best thrive in adversity, display mental and physical toughness, demonstrate expertise across the entire spectrum of military tasks, and can apply their knowledge in fast-paced, combat-like scenarios.

The overall winners of the Army-wide competition are traditionally announced at the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition in October.



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, executive vice president of the Braxton Bragg Chapter of AUSA, congratulates Staff Sgt. Aaron Egan. (AUSA PHOTO)

Membership breakfast brings together community leaders

The Association of the U.S. Army's Henry Leavenworth Chapter held a membership breakfast on April 30 at June's Northland Restaurant in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Chapter members, leaders from Fort Leavenworth and the community, including elected and appointed officials, as well as junior ROTC cadets

and Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers members, attended the event.

Robert Kuehl, deputy chief of the Kansas City, Missouri, police department, was the guest speaker.

Kuehl addressed the group on risk and building trust within his organization, which presents similarities to the military's mis-

sion command challenges.

"Bob took the basics of unpacking risk management and reassembling it in a different way," said Calvin Johnson, president of the Henry Leavenworth Chapter. "He took what some would say is an underused, somewhat ill-defined concept into what he now considers in his own organization as a force multiplier."

Kuehl also presented techniques and strategies to manage or mitigate risks and offered an approach to looking at risk management.

Kuehl redefined risk management for the Kansas City Police Department and implemented accountability systems for all ranks, including a new risk management paradigm that reduced documentation of officer policy violations and personal incidents by 50%.

"He gave an excellent presentation about a common-sense, effective risk management program," Johnson said.

Henry Leavenworth



Chapter members, leaders from Fort Leavenworth and the community, as well as junior ROTC cadets and Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers members attended the event. (AUSA PHOTO)



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