McConville confirmed as Army chief

Gen. James C. McConville has been confirmed to become the 40th Army chief of staff, a change in Army leadership that is expected to take effect this summer.

Currently the Army vice chief, McConville played a key role in the creation of the Army Futures Command, establishing a list of modernization priorities, and shaping the Army’s efforts to streamline modernization and change the culture surrounding weapons acquisition.

McConville, a 60-year-old Quincy, Massachusetts, native, will succeed Gen. Mark A. Milley, who is nearing the end of his second term as chief of staff.

Milley has been nominated to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs; a Senate hearing on the nomination has not yet been held.

In a statement after McConville’s May 23 confirmation by the Senate, Army Secretary Mark T. Esper said, “General McConville is an extremely accomplished Army officer, and I’m supremely confident in his abilities as the next chief of staff.”

Lt. Gen. Joseph Martin, the director of the Army staff, will succeed McConville as the next Army vice chief.

Martin’s nomination also was confirmed on May 23, and it includes a promotion to four-star general.

As he prepares to become the Army’s next top uniformed leader, McConville pledged to make sure the Army continues to be prepared in an increasingly complex world.

“Winning requires unit cohesion, a cohesion built on a foundation of trained, disciplined and fit soldiers who treat each other with dignity and respect,” McConville said during his confirmation hearing on May 2.

McConville promised that soldiers will always be his top priority, and said he wants the Army—across all components—to be larger.

“I believe a Regular Army end strength of greater than 500,000, with associated growth in Guard and Reserve forces, will allow the Army to more effectively accomplish the missions outlined in the NDS with less risk,” he said, referring to the National Defense Strategy.

McConville also pledged during the hearing that he will “provide innovative ideas that will enhance the organization, training and equipping of the Army for great-power competition.”

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2019 MEETINGS & EVENTS

HOT TOPIC: ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
ARLINGTON, VA
June 12, 2019

SPACE AND THE NETWORK SYMPOSIUM
LONG BEACH, CA
June 7, 2019

ILW ROGERS STRATEGIC ISSUES FORUM – LTG THOMAS C. SEAMANDS
ARLINGTON, VA
June 11, 2019

AUSA JOB FAIR
ARLINGTON, VA
June 5, 2019

ILW BREAKFAST SERIES – SMA DANIEL A. DAILEY
ARLINGTON, VA
June 26, 2019

ILW LEMNITZER LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING – RICK ATKINSON
ARLINGTON, VA
June 26, 2019

For more details visit www.ausa.org/meet
Remembering World War II on historic D-Day anniversary

By Joseph Craig

June 6 is always a special day in the history of American armed forces. It is the anniversary, of course, of D-Day—the beginning of the Allied invasion of northern France in 1944, when more than 150,000 troops landed on the beaches at Normandy.

This year represents a special milestone, as it is the 75th anniversary of that crucial day in the fight against Nazi Germany.

The traditional celebrations will be especially poignant because they likely represent the last major gathering of the veterans who fought on that day.

The Association of the U.S. Army Book Program has several titles that focus on those final stages of World War II.

Normandy to Victory: The War Diary of General Courtney H. Hodges and the First U.S. Army begins on June 2, 1944, with preparations for Operation Overlord. It then traces Hodges as he led First Army through months of brutal combat until the German surrender in May 1945.

Forward with Patton: The World War II Diary of Colonel Robert S. Allen also provides an overview of this final phase of the war. Allen served as Gen. George S. Patton’s executive officer for operations, and his annotated journal entries provide unique insights into Patton and the men who served on his Third Army staff.

Moving to armored cavalry, a new paperback edition of Sabers through the Reich: World War II Corps Cavalry from Normandy to the Elbe provides a comprehensive history of an understated branch of the U.S. Army during operations in the European Theater.

For insight into the German perspective on these and other campaigns of the Second World War, the Book Program is partnering with Casemate Publishers on a series called “Die Wehrmacht im Kampf.” Translated for the first time into English, the books—originally published in Germany in the 1950s and 1960s—provide first-hand accounts of key battles from veterans of the Wehrmacht.

The first four titles in the series are now available: Panzer Operations: Germany’s Panzer Group 3 During the Invasion of Russia, 1941; Vitebsk: The Fight and Destruction of Third Panzer Army; The Battle of Korsun-Cherkassy: The Encirclement and Breakout of Army Group South, 1944; and Dunkirk: German Operations in France 1940.

Look for more to be released in following seasons.

To get your copy of any of these titles, please visit www.ausa.org/books.

Joseph Craig is AUSA’s Book Program Director.

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“We cannot compete in the current information age with an industrial age mentality,” he told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Adding, “We must continue to modernize our Army with the Multi-Domain Operations concept at echelon and in line with our six priorities, fielding new equipment through rapid prototyping and implementing an agile 21st century talent management system.”

When asked by the Senate Armed Services Committee to describe the greatest challenges facing the Army, McConville said, “Great-power competition with Russia and China, unpredictable state actors such as North Korea and Iran, radical violent extremist organizations, rapidly evolving technological advances that could potentially revolutionize the conduct of armed conflict, and increasing global disorder will continue to present significant challenges for the U.S. and its allies and partners over the next four years.”

To face this, “the Army must continue to modernize and increase its readiness,” McConville said. “To succeed in these efforts, we must receive timely, affordable, predictable, and sustainable funding.”

McConville, who has been the Army’s vice chief of staff since June 2017, is a West Point graduate who has commanded at every level.

He commanded the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), leading the division to Afghanistan. He also commanded 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, including during a deployment to Iraq, as well as 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, and C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment.

He also was the Army deputy chief of staff for personnel (G-1), executive officer to the Army vice chief, and G-3 for the 101st Airborne Division.

McConville is a senior Army aviator, qualified in the AH-64 Apache, OH-58 Kiowa Warrior, AH-6, AH-1 Cobra and other aircraft.

www.ausa.org
Piggee: Logistics must move faster

The Army’s top logistician says it is time to take both a holistic and tactical look at sustainment to start taking advantage of today’s technology while planning for the future.

Speaking at a one-day Hot Topic forum hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army’s Institute of Land Warfare, Lt. Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, deputy chief of staff for logistics, said the Army of 2028 and beyond will need new, smarter, and more agile, resilient and self-sufficient capabilities to serve combat forces.

“The bottom line is we have to be ready whenever our nation needs us,” Piggee said.

This means having delivery capability at the point of need, however far forward and in the middle of chaos that point may be, and having the capacity to sustain a long fight, he said.

Autonomous distribution is one possibility that could meet speed, mobility and flexibility needs while also reducing the risk of soldiers assigned to logistics, sustainment and maintenance jobs being killed or wounded while moving into battle, he said.

Army doctrine on battlefield operations is evolving, looking at issues such as fuel distribution, tactical mobility and other challenges.

“We have to be able to move faster,” he said.

“I constantly raise the need to utilize today’s technology today,” he said, citing things like using smartphone applications to do inventory and order supplies if cybersecurity issues can be resolved.

“The truth of the matter is we are still in catch-up mode in a lot of areas,” he said.

Army reinforces Indo-Pacific ties, partnerships during LANPAC event

The 2019 LANPAC Symposium and Exposition, attended by more than 1,600 attendees and exhibitors, concluded May 23 with a reminder that the Indo-Pacific theater remains one of great challenge, but both the Army and industry have solutions.

This was the seventh consecutive year the Association of the U.S. Army has hosted the Pacific land forces event, which drew representatives from 24 nations and U.S. military leaders from around the globe.


“It is important that it is a complex world, and there are so many problems,” he said. “One thing we did conclude is we have to do it together.”

“We cannot wait until the crisis to form a relationship,” Brown said of the ability to meet with industry partners and representatives of foreign military during the three-day event.

Retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO, said, “We view it as our mission to be as supportive and enabling as we can be to the U.S. Army.”

AUSA will hold a 2020 LANPAC event from May 19-21, Ham said.

In addition to the event in Honolulu, AUSA sponsored financial readiness forums at Schofield Barracks, forums on military health care partnerships with Pacific partners, and a discussion on the importance of basic soldiering skills in a period of rapid Army modernization.

Healthy Paws Insurance

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Memorial Day ceremony honors the fallen and their families

A Memorial Day ceremony hosted by the Utah Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army honored Maj. Brent Taylor, a Utah National Guard soldier killed in action in November.

“Today, Memorial Day takes on a deeper, more personal meaning,” Jennie Taylor, his widow, said during the ceremony at the historic Fort Douglas Cemetery.

Taylor, the mayor of North Ogden in his civilian capacity, was on his fourth deployment to the Middle East—two each to Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was supposed to spend 400 days with his unit before returning to his wife and seven children.

Instead, he gave “the last full measure of devotion,” Jennie Taylor said, citing President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

“And it now it falls upon us,” she said, “to give our full measure of devotion, by the very way we live.”

The ceremony started with a march from the Fort Douglas Museum to the cemetery. It included patriotic music, a wreath laying at the gated entrance, and ended with the playing of taps and a military prayer.

Open house brings together veterans, community supporters

The Association of the U.S. Army’s Monmouth Chapter hosted a Community Partner & Veterans Services Open House in May at Saint John Vianney High School in Holmdel, New Jersey. Sixteen community partners, 11 veterans organizations and 36 veteran-friendly businesses and organizations participated. (AUSA PHOTO)