



Staff Sgt. Robelto Rose, with the 18th Military Police Brigade, gives orders and directions at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. CHRISTIAN AQUINO)

## IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 5  
MAY 30, 2024

### Army Must Maintain 'Dominance' on Land

3

### Drones are 'Complex, Ubiquitous' Threat

4



### Book Program

History of US Military Tanks

6

### Chapter Highlights

Eagle Chapters

7

## AUSA awards Marshall Medal to NCOs

The Association of the U.S. Army's highest honor for distinguished and selfless service is being awarded this year to the United States Army Noncommissioned Officer.

This is not the first time the George Catlett Marshall Medal has gone to a group instead of a person. In 2020, the Marshall Medal was awarded to The Army Family. It was awarded to The American Soldier in 2004.

"From the American Revolution to today, the United States Army Noncommissioned Officer has been the backbone of the force, training, leading, coaching and taking care of soldiers," said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. "They are the standard-bearers, expert profes-

sionals who are the essential connective tissue of the Army's formations and the envy of all other militaries in the world."

Brown added, "This is why I think it's most appropriate to present the George Catlett Marshall Medal, AUSA's highest award, to the United States Army Noncommissioned Officer."

The award will be presented at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition Oct. 14-16 in Washington, D.C.

"While we can never do enough to recognize all that they do to ensure America's Army remains the premier land force on the planet, the Marshall Medal is one way to publicly honor these NCOs for their hard work, dedication and passion every

day, whether at home or in combat," Brown said.

The Marshall Medal, awarded annually by AUSA since 1960, is named for General of the Army George Catlett Marshall Jr., a former Army chief of staff who also served as secretary of state, secretary of defense and U.S. special envoy to China in a public service career that spanned the Spanish-American War through the Truman administration.

"Since 1775, the United States Army Noncommissioned Officer has selflessly served our soldiers, our Army and the American people. In doing so, they have come to be known as the backbone of our Army," said retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan-

See **Marshall Medal**, Page 3

"A powerful and vivid account."  
Mark Bowden, author of *Black Hawk Down*

# WITH MY SHIELD

AN ARMY RANGER IN SOMALIA

JAMES LECHNER



## NOONREPORT

AN AUSA WEBINAR SERIES

# WITH MY SHIELD

*An Army Ranger in Somalia*

with author

**James Lechner**

Moderated by **The Honorable Patrick Murphy**  
*AUSA Senior Fellow*



**6 JUNE 2024**  
1200–1300 EDT



### JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

This webinar will include a Q&A session in which questions submitted by the audience will be selected and asked by the moderator.

A recording of the webinar will be available on our YouTube page the following day.

Join us to hear a presentation by James Lechner, author of *With My Shield: An Army Ranger in Somalia*. As a lieutenant in 1993, and a member of the 3rd Ranger Battalion, Lechner was selected for a top-secret special operations task force being sent to Mogadishu, Somalia, to capture the insurgent leader Mohamed Farah Aideed. The events that ensued would later be adapted into the movie *Black Hawk Down*.



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## Rainey: Army must ‘work now’ to transform, prepare

**A**s the character of war rapidly evolves, the Army must maintain its dominance in close quarters combat and its ability to harness new and emerging technology, the commanding general of Army Futures Command said.

“It would be an understatement to say that we’re not in ... the most disruptive period ... ever,” Gen. James Rainey said. “We’ve got to figure ... out [how to adapt to the needs of the future fight] every month, every six months. We’re in this perpetual state of disruption in the character of war that is really phenomenal.”

During a keynote presentation during the recent 2024 Fires Symposium in Lawton, Oklahoma, Rainey identified close combat dominance as “the single most important competency that we need as a land force.”

“We owe combatant commanders and this country ... dominance of the land domain,” Rainey said. “That’s what deters people. That’s what people are scared of. Nobody wants to fight the United States Army at an intimate range.”

Rainey underscored the importance of fires during future wars, saying, “the ability to blow up objectives with fires, set people on fire, set things on fire with tanks and shoot or stab people with rifle squads, that is not going away.”

In his presentation during the symposium, hosted by the Air Defense Artillery Association and the United States Field Artillery Association, Rainey emphasized proactive leadership and training.

“Train for the known, educate people for the unknown,” he said. “Make

sure whatever size Army we’ve got, and whatever kit it’s got, that we’re well trained. ... If you’re in a formation now or on your way to a formation, focus on going to war with the people you’ve got and the stuff you’ve got.”

During future conflict, leaders’ ability to utilize and train with technology will determine their lethality, Rainey said.

“Unskilled commanders and untrained units are going to pay a cost that they have not paid in the past. A bad day is not going to be 10% casualties; a bad day is going to be your firing brigade being gone,” he said. “But if you become data fluent and understand what’s happening, ... then you’re going to be able to bring the pain train at an unprecedented level of lethality.”

As the Army prepares to meet the demands of the future fight, time is of the essence, Rainey warned.

“We’re all in it together,” he said. “The way we are training, the way we work with our allies, the way we maintain moral responsibility when we fight, we’re going to do OK. But we need to put the ... work in now, because, if not, we’re going to trade blood for these lessons.”

On June 3, Rainey will talk more about the Army’s transformation during the Strategic Landpower Dialogue, a quarterly speaker series co-hosted by AUSA and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

For more information and to register, [click here](#).



Soldiers with the Illinois Army National Guard conduct an artillery fire mission May 11 during Exercise Immediate Response 24 in Ustka, Poland. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS CHAD MENEGAY)

### Marshall Medal

From Page 1

iel Dailey, AUSA’s vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs. “Awarding the Army NCO the George Catlett Marshall Medal is a fitting testament to the selfless efforts of all NCOs past, present and future.”

Past recipients of the Marshall Medal include Presidents Dwight

Eisenhower, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush; General of the Army Omar Bradley; and retired Army Gens. Gordon Sullivan, Lyman Lemnitzer, Colin Powell, Bernard Rogers, Maxwell Taylor, John Vessey Jr. and Martin Dempsey.

Other recipients include two former defense secretaries who also served as directors of the Central In-

telligence Agency, Leon Panetta and Robert Gates; Duke University head basketball coach and U.S. Military Academy graduate Michael Krzyzewski; comedian Bob Hope; and actor Gary Sinise.

Last year’s recipient was retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, the 34th Army chief of staff and former Veterans Affairs secretary.

## Army undersecretary warns drone threat is ‘transforming’ battlefield



Paratroopers with the 82nd Airborne Division train with Dronebuster counter unmanned aircraft system weapons at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. (U.S. ARMY/PVT. JAYRELIZ BATISTA-PRADO)

**T**he prevalence of unmanned aerial systems presents a ubiquitous threat that is fundamentally transforming the battlefield, Undersecretary of the Army Gabe Camarillo said.

“What we’re seeing, and not just in Ukraine, but really around the world, is that the availability and the impact of small, unmanned aerial systems and the threats that they present on the battlefield is here to stay,” Camarillo said May 17 during a discussion on drone warfare hosted by the Center for a New American Security.

“We see that the threat is complex, it’s ubiquitous and is really transforming what the battle space looks like,” Camarillo said. He pointed out that the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities brought about by the unmanned systems “prevents any forces from being largely concealed or massed together.”

“It’s changing the way that, at least in Ukraine, both sides are fighting, and we anticipate it will change the character of how warfare is conducted in the future,” he said.

Soldiers will have to operate, move and maneuver within an environment where everything they do can be seen. This means they will have

to be vigilant about the reach of their electromagnetic signatures, the size of their command posts and how they communicate. Camarillo said the days of “large antenna farms” that were so easily discoverable over decades of war in Iraq and Afghanistan won’t be feasible in future conflict.

“We can safely assume, looking ahead to the future, that really low cost, mass, attritable sources of [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] are going to be available in any battle space,” Camarillo said.

With the pace of change rapidly accelerating, counter-unmanned aerial systems have been “a major focus area for the Army,” Camarillo said.

Between fiscal years 2017 and 2024, he said, the Army invested about \$1.8 billion on a “range of different approaches” to countering the threat. These include kinetic solutions, investment in the maturation of directed energy solutions and upgrades to the components of counter-UAS defeat systems.

“Because the threat is so current and real and currently affecting or presenting threats to forces even today, we have had to accelerate and put a lot of emphasis on what’s available now,” Camarillo said.

# AUSA Extra

Voice for the Army –  
Support For the Soldier

**Gen. Bob Brown, USA Ret.**  
President and CEO, AUSA

**Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, USA Ret.**  
Vice President, Leadership and Education,  
AUSA

**Luc Dunn**  
Editor

**Desiree Hurlocker**  
Advertising Manager

**Advertising Information Contact:**

Fox Associates Inc.  
116 W. Kinzie St. • Chicago, IL 60654  
Phone: 800-440-0231  
Email: [adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com](mailto:adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com)

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## PERK OF THE WEEK

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## Author details US tank evolution from 1917 through WWII

It would be hard to imagine the U.S. Army without tanks. American tank production exploded during World War II, going from about 300 tanks in 1940 to almost 30,000 three years later.

Armor has been a mainstay of the force ever since—and will continue to be so, despite periodic declarations of its demise.

The latest entry in the Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program details the development and performance of Army and Marine Corps tanks from their invention through the end of World War II. *US Battle Tanks 1917-1945* is filled with photos, technical illustrations and battlefield artwork to show how American armor fared in combat across the globe.

Author Steven Zaloga is a defense consultant who has written numerous works on military technology and history. AUSA's Book Program recently sat down with him to talk about this new book.

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**AUSA:** You have written extensively about armored warfare. What led to your initial interest in tanks?

**Zaloga:** My dad and grandfather served in the U.S. Army in World War II, and most of the men in my neighborhood were veterans. I was equally fascinated by aircraft and tanks as a kid. Once I started writing, I found that there were hundreds of other writers covering military aircraft but hardly anyone writing about tanks.

**AUSA:** Why weren't tanks a priority for the Army following the First World War?

**Zaloga:** After the "War to End All Wars," most American leaders thought that the U.S. would not be dragged into another European conflict. The Army's role in the 1920s and 1930s saw little use for tanks, and there were several hundred tanks left over from World War I. Until war clouds started brewing in the late



An M5A1 crew from the 761st Tank Battalion waits to clean out scattered German machine gun nests in Coburg, Germany, in 1945. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

1930s, there was very little reason for the Army to spend a lot of money on tanks.

**AUSA:** How did American tank policy differ from that of the other allied powers in World War II?

**Zaloga:** One of the main differences was a stronger American emphasis on reliability. U.S. equipment was usually deployed thousands of miles away from America's industrial heartland, so the Army had a strong incentive to test vehicles exhaustively to ensure that they were reliable, as well as easy to repair if they did break down.

**AUSA:** When most people think of armored warfare in World War II,



they think of North Africa and Europe. How important were tanks in the Pacific theater?

**Zaloga:** Tanks were less important in the southwest Pacific in 1942–43, such as in the Solomons, since the mountainous jungle terrain made their use almost impossible. But tanks were extensively used in the Central Pacific in 1944, and in the later campaigns such as the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Altogether, the Army deployed about a third of its separate tank battalions to the Pacific theater, though none of its armored divisions.

**AUSA:** What was the most important lesson the Army learned about armored warfare during these years?

**Zaloga:** The Army realized that tanks were an essential element of combined-arms warfare against any near-peer adversary. That lesson was immediately lost after the war, as was painfully evident in Korea in 1950. But that's a subject for the next book in this series that covers 1946–2025.

\*\*\*\*\*

Visit [www.ausa.org/books](http://www.ausa.org/books) to order a copy of *US Battle Tanks 1917-1945*. Use the promo code "AUSA" to get a discount from Osprey Publishing on this book and all their other titles.

**Joseph Craig** is AUSA's Book Program director.



## ***Eagle Chapters***

**The following chapters attained Eagle status for April by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1 is shown in parentheses.**

Arizona Territorial (10)	Houston Metroplex (9)	Catoctin (7)
Florida Gulf Stream (10)	Indiana (9)	COL Edward Cross (7)
Fort Sheridan-Chicago (10)	Magnolia (9)	Des Moines Freedom (7)
GEN Creighton W. Abrams (10)	Marne (9)	First In Battle (7)
George Washington (10)	MG William F. Dean (9)	Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista (7)
Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (10)	Milwaukee (9)	Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (7)
Greater Philadelphia (Penn & Franklin) (10)	Minutemen (9)	Fort Pitt (7)
Massachusetts Bay (10)	Picatunny Arsenal-Middle Forge (9)	Henry Leavenworth (7)
National Training Center-High Desert (10)	Silicon Valley (9)	Joshua Chamberlain (7)
Newton D. Baker (10)	Space Coast (9)	Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (7)
North Texas-Audie Murphy (10)	St. Louis Gateway (9)	MG John S. Lekson (7)
PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (10)	Tri-State (9)	Southern Virginia (7)
San Diego (10)	Alamo (8)	Stuttgart (7)
Suncoast (10)	Capital District of New York (8)	West Point Area (7)
Texas Capital Area (10)	Central Ohio (8)	Western New York (7)
Thunderbird (10)	Central Virginia (8)	Connecticut (6)
Virginia Colonial (10)	Columbia River (8)	Fort Knox (6)
Allegheny-Blue Ridge (9)	CSM James M. McDonald-Keystone (8)	GA Omar N. Bradley (6)
Arkansas (9)	Denver Centennial (8)	GEN Joseph W. Stilwell (6)
Arsenal of Democracy (9)	First Militia (8)	GEN William C. Westmoreland (6)
Benelux (9)	Fort Riley-Central Kansas (8)	Greater Augusta-Fort Eisenhower (6)
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Moore (9)	Korea (8)	Greater Kansas City (6)
CPL Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (9)	Major Samuel Woodfill (8)	Hellenic (6)
Delaware (9)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (8)	Big Bend (5)
Dix (9)	New Orleans (8)	Coastal South Carolina (5)
Fort Campbell (9)	Potomac-Liberty (8)	MSG Leroy Arthur Petry (5)
Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (9)	Puerto Rico (8)	Northern New York-Fort Drum (5)
Fort Liberty (9)	Redstone Huntsville (8)	Pikes Peak (5)
Francis Scott Key (9)	Rhode Island (8)	Tucson-Goyette (5)
Gem State (9)	San Francisco (8)	Guam (4)
Greater Atlanta (9)	SGM Jon Cavaiani (8)	MG Robert B. McCoy (4)
Greater Los Angeles (9)	Sunshine (8)	Monmouth (4)
	Utah (8)	Central California (3)
	Captain Meriwether Lewis (7)	

