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Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade, maneuver as a squad on Sand Hill at Fort Benning, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY/PATRICK ALBRIGHT)

Wormuth: People are ‘priority effort’

Taking care of people while transforming the Army for the future are among the top priorities of the new Army secretary.

Christine Wormuth, who made history May 28 as the first woman to become the Army’s top civilian leader, called it a “distinct privilege” to “lead the finest men and women that our great Nation has to offer.”

In a letter Tuesday, her first to the force, Wormuth said she and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville will work to “ensure we provide the Army with the resources it needs to succeed through our priorities of People, Readiness, and Modernization.”

Wormuth, an experienced national security expert who previously served as defense undersecretary for policy and most recently was director of the

International Defense and Security Center at the Rand Corp., takes the lead as the 25th Army secretary as the service works on its biggest and most ambitious transformation and modernization effort in decades.

It also is grappling with issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, and is fighting to eliminate sexual assault and harassment, suicide and extremism in its ranks, all while soldiers remain in high demand for missions at home and overseas.

The Army also is facing tightening budgets—its fiscal 2022 request, released the same day Wormuth was appointed to the job, calls for a \$173 billion budget, a \$3.6 billion reduction from the previous year.

Wormuth said she is committed to “continually transforming our forces.”

“Without fail, the Army will continue to provide ready forces capable of responding globally,” Wormuth wrote. “I will ensure the Army continues to adapt and stay ahead of the capabilities of our adversaries, whether they are near-peer nations or newly emergent threats.”

The Army also must maintain readiness, Wormuth said, and “strike a difficult balance between meeting the demands of current operations while also preparing for the future.”

Through it all, “our people are the priority effort,” Wormuth said. “Character and culture matter. I will do my utmost to ensure we have a healthy command climate which fosters Army values at every installation, securing the well-being of our people.”

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Army faces \$3.6 billion budget cut in fiscal 2022

The Biden administration's fiscal 2022 defense budget proposes a \$3.6 billion reduction for the Army that preserves military personnel funding but reduces procurement, research, development, testing and evaluation funds by \$4.2 billion from current spending.

Maj. Gen. Paul Chamberlain, director of the Army budget, said the budget is sufficient to meet demands at home and abroad while providing for quality services and facilities for soldiers, families, civilians, retirees and veterans.

"This budget puts people first," he said.

The \$173 billion budget requested by the Army is part of an overall \$715 billion DoD budget for fiscal 2022.

Army leaders calculate this is a 2% funding decline in the topline, with a 1.8% increase for personnel costs.

In terms of reductions, the budget proposes an 11% drop in procurement, a 15% drop in military construction and a 1.1% drop in operations and maintenance.

There would be slight reductions in troop levels. The Regular Army's authorized troop strength would drop by 900 soldiers to 485,000.

The Army National Guard would lose 500 soldiers for a new level of 336,000, while the Army Reserve's 189,500 troop strength would be 300 less than the current cap.

The budget assumes a 2.7% pay increase for military and civilian personnel, a 3.1% average increase in ba-



While reducing weapons funding, the budget continues the Army's critical modernization priorities. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER HERNANDEZ)

sic allowance for housing, and a 2.4% increase in subsistence allowance.

The Army is the only one of the services to see a reduction in spending in 2022, something defense budget officials and Chamberlain described as a result of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

Even with cuts, the budget allows the Army to continue its child care services expansions, improve barracks, increase health and fitness programs, and provide support for a talent management program for civilian workers.

While reducing weapons funding, the budget continues the Army's modernization priorities, with leaders pledging they are "committed to seeing them through completion."

To make its budget go farther in terms of modernization, leaders have

engaged in what they've described as a "ruthless" process of eliminating lower priority programs.

In fiscal 2020 and 2021 decisions, 134 programs were eliminated, producing \$7.3 billion in savings through 2025. In 2022 decisions, seven programs were eliminated, with more modest savings of \$47.8 million.

Chamberlain said the Army wasn't done with these efforts.

"Overall, the Army's budget ensures we meet our modernization priorities and we take care of our people," he said.

But he also emphasized the need for predictable and sustained funding.

"Knowing how much money we're going to get, when we're going to get it, and that we're going to have sustained funding going into the future" is important for a "good, solid budget."

Army secretary

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This includes recruiting and retaining diverse and quality talent and providing "the best quality of life possible" for soldiers, families and civilian employees, she said.

"I could not be prouder and more humbled to have this opportunity to serve as the Secretary of the Army," said Wormuth, whose grandfather

and father-in-law served in the Army and whose sister still serves in the Army Reserve.

She promised be a "hands-on" leader at all levels.

"I look forward to meeting with and hearing from many of you in the coming months, and I'm excited about what we can do for our Nation together," Wormuth said.

The full letter is available here.



Army Secretary Christine Wormuth. (DOD/AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. BRITTANY CHASE)

Brown: Allies, partners key to future success of multidomain operations



U.S. and Thai soldiers conduct urban operations training in Phitsanulok, Thailand, during Cobra Gold, an annual multinational exercise. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Multidomain operations, the evolving future warfighting concept that is rapidly moving to doctrine, will work far better for the U.S. with the support of allies and partners than if the U.S. goes it alone, retired Gen. Robert Brown said Wednesday.

“Multidomain is the key to success in the future,” he said. “It must be done together. If not done right, we won’t succeed.”

Brown, executive vice president of the Association of the U.S. Army, speaking to a land warfare conference in London hosted by the Royal United Services Institute, said multidomain operations will require American military forces to work together for operations involving the land, air, sea, space and cyberspace domains. It also requires support from allies.

“There is an African proverb that says, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,’” Brown said. “As we look to how to best integrate allies with varying levels of equipment into complex concepts such as multidomain operations, it’s absolutely key we don’t do it alone.”

In great-power competition, one of the biggest advantages the U.S.

has over Russia and China is its network of alliances and partnerships, Brown said. There are challenges in integrating the forces in terms of systems, equipment and policies, but these are things that can be worked out with time and attention, he said.

The match between forces “is never going to be perfect,” he said.

Even when nations have the same equipment, it could be a slightly different version that doesn’t fully integrate. Militaries have different command procedures and policies that also need to be resolved, he said, and that can be done by building relationships between the forces by exercising together.

“Allies are key,” he said.

Brown has experience in the Indo-Pacific, having served as U.S. Army Pacific commander, and in Europe, where he was a NATO deputy commanding general and the U.S. Army Europe chief of staff.

NATO was a way to reach a consensus on common systems and procedures, he said. The U.S. has major Indo-Pacific alliances, but there is nothing like NATO, requiring harder work on building relationships, he said. Having allies and partners provides “positional advantages” in multidomain operations, he said.

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Start your day with specialty roasted coffee from Call Sign Coffee. A special AUSA coffee, “ATTENTION!”, is a smooth but bold blend of high-grade Guatemalan and Tanzanian beans. “AT EASE,” a premium decaf, contains bright notes of green apple, stone fruit and smooth milk chocolate. AUSA members save 15% on all Call Sign coffees and products with code AUSA15. Click here for more information.



AUSA continues to advocate for on-time Army funding

By Mark Haaland

DoD and the Army provided their fiscal 2022 budget requests to Congress on May 28. Although federal budget requests are due the first week of February, a delay typically happens when there's a new administration.

The Army's budget priorities remain consistent this year: people, readiness and modernization.

Government Affairs

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville is seeking to maintain end strength and readiness given the National Defense Strategy and global threats, while maintaining momentum on the service's sweeping modernization efforts.

McConville's top priority is people—soldiers, families, Army civilians, veterans and retirees.

As a result, the budget request continues to support the Army's new personnel management system, safe housing, quality health care, spouse employment and available, quality child care.

In addition, the Army is requesting a 2.7% pay raise for soldiers and Army civilians.

After last year's 1% pay increase for civilian employees, the Association of the U.S. Army is glad to see the Pentagon is recognizing the important contributions our Army civilians make every day.

The Army budget also allocates money to maintain readiness and grow combat capability through training at all levels, along with logistics, maintenance and sustainment support.

For modernization, the top six pri-

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The Army budget allocates money to maintain readiness and grow combat capability through training at all levels.

(U.S. ARMY/SPC. JESSICA SCOTT)

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Government Affairs*From Page 5*

orities remain the same: Long-Range Precision Fires, Next-Generation Combat Vehicle, Future Vertical Lift, Network, Air and Missile Defense, and Soldier Lethality.

Beginning this fiscal year, DoD will no longer submit a separate request for overseas combat operations. Instead, those costs are now included in the base budget request.

Congress has been calling for this change, but AUSA is concerned that quality of life programs and readiness could suffer if sufficient funds are not budgeted to support contingency operations.

AUSA also is concerned that the Army's fiscal 2022 budget request is \$3.6 billion less than the previous year.

Even as the mission in Afghanistan winds down, the Army will have reset and reconstitution funding requirements to maintain readiness. In addition, the commission that reviewed the 2018 National Defense Strategy recommended annual defense funding increases of 3% to 5%.

Both the fiscal 2021 and 2022 DoD budget requests have been or are flat budgets in terms of year-over-year growth, and the budgets actually decline due to inflation.

An overview of the Army's budget



request is available here. Despite delays in passing defense-related legislation, AUSA remains optimistic and will be advocating in support of sufficient Army funding. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

request is available here.

Now that the budget has been submitted to Congress, the House Appropriations Committee plans to markup and pass all 12 federal appropriations bills in June and July.

However, the Senate Appropriations Committee has not started its hearings to review budget requests, and we do not expect its markup until after July 4.

This will create pressure to complete the defense appropriations in time for the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

Further, the schedule for the House Armed Services Committee is uncertain at this time, and the Senate Armed Services Committee does

not intend to markup until July.

Although these delays are not encouraging, time remains to pass defense-related legislation before the new fiscal year. We remain optimistic on this and will be advocating in support of sufficient funding for the Army.

Defense leaders have emphasized the importance of on-time defense appropriations and an on-time National Defense Authorization Act.

AUSA continues to advocate for on-time legislation as our top priority with congressional defense committees.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs Director.

AUSA chapter leader James Barrett Jr. interred May 28

Retired Lt. Col. James Barrett Jr., a longtime volunteer leader with several Association of the U.S. Army chapters, was interred May 28 at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

Barrett died in February 2020 after a battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. He was 74.

During his time with AUSA, Barrett served as president of AUSA's Arizona Territorial chapter in Phoenix, president of the St. Louis Gate-

way chapter, and acting executive vice president of the Suncoast chapter in Tampa, Florida.

A resident of Lakewood Ranch, Florida, Barrett served in the Army as a military intelligence officer, according to his obituary.

He then worked in the private sector as a defense contractor specializing in hardware for the Apache AH-64 helicopter, the obituary says.

Barrett is survived by his wife, Molly; his daughters Katie, Susan and Lucy; stepsons Chris and Chad; and ten grandchildren.



James Barrett Jr. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Hearing correction savings available to AUSA members

By Susan Rubel

I remember when my father used to keep the volume up so loud on the TV and radio that it became uncomfortable for everyone else.

He used to complain that kids today mumble and don't enunciate, and people need to speak up because they're hard to hear. He always thought other people were the problem, but instead, it was him.

Does this sound like you? Perhaps people are not mumbling or talking too low—you may be experiencing hearing loss.

People are sometimes hesitant to correct hearing loss. We get regular eye exams and adjust our glasses and contacts to deal with vision problems. But people can think hearing correction makes them look and feel old, or that hearing aids are too expensive and won't work well.

None of that is necessarily true.

Risks of hearing loss

Hearing correction is more than just a way to better understand what people are saying. Your ears play a big role in your balance, so you may be at risk for falls.

Here are some other interesting facts I learned:

- Studies show that hearing loss can double or triple the risk of dementia.
- When deprived of sound, the hearing nerves can atrophy.
- 44 million Americans have hearing loss, but only 23% of them have hearing aids.
- People with diabetes are more than twice as likely to experience hearing loss.
- Untreated hearing loss increases hospital costs 46.5% over 10 years.

In addition, hearing loss is the No. 1 service-connected disability among veterans, with former military members experiencing 30% greater hearing loss than the general population.

The American Academy of Audiolo-



EARGO hearing aids are designed for mild to moderately severe hearing loss, which covers 90% of the affected population. (EARGO IMAGES)

gy estimates that more than 1 million veterans receive disability compensation for service-connected hearing loss.

The Association of the U.S. Army recently partnered with EARGO, an American hearing aid manufacturer in San Jose, California, to provide a hearing benefit to members.

EARGO's hearing aids are designed to be practically invisible to overcome the stigma surrounding bulky hearing aids.

The design is modeled after the standard fishing fly, with a small speaker surrounded by medical-grade silicone fibers that allow bass sounds to flow more freely into the ear canal so that only treble ranges require amplification.

These hearing aids are designed for mild to moderately severe hearing loss, which covers 90% of the affected population.

There are no buttons, switches or battery doors that could damage the devices.

They come in two sizes, preprogrammed with four standard profiles. To change the setting, users double tap the ear and an acoustic switch changes the sound profile.

EARGO can also calibrate the devices with custom settings for a person's needs.

The aids are charged using an included portable device, and they're designed to hold a charge for 16 hours. A phone application allows for adjustments and contact with a licensed hearing professional.

Cost savings, telecare

The average cost of a pair of hearing aids in the U.S. is \$4,600. EARGO pairs sell for \$2,500 on average—almost half the standard price.

EARGO offers 100% telecare. To start, you'll meet with a licensed hearing professional online or by phone and undergo a hearing check.

In two days, they'll ship your hearing aids to try for 45 days.

If needed, you'll connect with an EARGO audiologist or hearing aid specialist to adjust the devices after delivery, and you'll have unlimited professional support and personalization for the life of the device.

AUSA members and their families get 20% off, regardless of military service. If you're covered by a Federal Employee Health Benefits insurance plan, you may be able to get them for free.

Visit www.ausa.org/eargo to get started.

Susan Rubel is AUSA's Insurance and Affinity Programs Director.

Chapter honors Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame inductees

Four new members, including the first three women, were inducted into the Hall of Fame at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, during a May 20 ceremony at the Lewis and Clark Center on post.

The inductees were Gen. Leonard Gerow, retired Brig. Gen. Elizabeth Hoisington, retired Brig. Gen. Sherian Cadoria and Elizabeth Schenck Smith.

"All of these great Americans have led change during some difficult times in our nation's history. Today's hallmark ceremony will continue to preserve their untiring efforts and

contributions to make the Army and Fort Leavenworth a better

place to work and live," said Maj. Gen. Donn Hill, deputy commanding general for education at the Combined Arms Center, according to the *Fort Leavenworth Lamp*.

The Hall of Fame is co-sponsored by the Henry Leavenworth chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, the Memorial Hall Association, and the leadership of Fort Leavenworth, according to the Army.

Its purpose "is to honor outstanding members of the Army, who after being stationed at Fort Leavenworth significantly contributed to the history, heritage and traditions of the Army."

Gerow, who died in 1972, was a decorated officer who served with Gens. Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton in World War II. On D-Day, he was the first corps commander to come ashore, and he received the Silver Star for actions during the campaign to liberate Paris, according to the Army.

In his penultimate assignment, Gerow served as commandant of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

Hoisington was one of the first two women promoted to general officer on June 11, 1970. She joined the Wom-



Mary Beth Brown, left, niece of retired Brig. Gen. Elizabeth Hoisington, and retired Brig. Gen. Sherian Cadoria speak at the Hall of Fame ceremony. (FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP/PRUDENCE SIEBERT)

en's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1940 and graduated from CGSC in 1957.

She died in 2007. Her award was accepted by her niece, Mary Beth Brown, who said, "Aunt Elizabeth entered the Army when women were auxiliaries rather than soldiers and left it when women were present at every rank and almost every specialty. ... She was at the forefront of these changes throughout her career," the *Fort Leavenworth Lamp* reported.

Cadoria was the first Black woman to graduate from CGSC in 1971 and the first woman in the Army to command a male battalion. Despite facing difficulties due to her gender and race, she found colleagues and

friends in the service, she said.

"This is what the Army is all about. People sticking together, and when we fight, we fight the enemy who has really done something to us," Cadoria said at the ceremony.

"Today, my heart is full, but I want all of you in here to know that no matter what you do, do it well. No matter what anybody says to you, you stand up to them even if you end up being the only person standing up in the end," she said.

Smith founded the Fort Leavenworth Women's Club, known today as the Fort Leavenworth Spouses' Club.

It was created in October 1920 "in response to the passage of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote in the United States," Emily Hetherington, the club's historian, said in a 2020 Army news story.

Accepting the award on Smith's behalf was Heather Alvarado, the current club president.

"Mrs. Schenck Smith improved the lives of many. ... Today, the members of the ... FLSC are dedicated to improving the quality of life to our members, Fort Leavenworth, the surrounding communities and the greater military," Alvarado said, according to the *Fort Leavenworth Lamp*.



Retired Brig. Gen. Sherian Cadoria, one of the inductees, was the first Black woman to graduate from the Command and General Staff College in 1971. (FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP/PRUDENCE SIEBERT)



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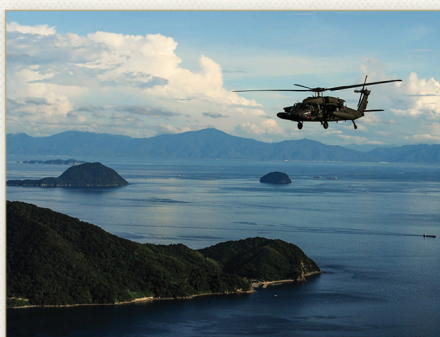
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