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## D-Day 80th anniversary



A French child greets World War II veteran Richard Stewart, who served as a communications line-man with the 459th Signal Construction Battalion, at the Deauville-Normandie airport in France on Monday as Stewart arrives to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. ISIAH MOUNT)

## Army must adapt for future conflicts

**W**ith the future of conflict uncertain and technology evolving at a rapid pace, the Army must make adaptability a top priority, said Gen. James Rainey, commander of Army Futures Command.

“In the event that we find ourselves in another conflict, I would put adaptability at the near top of the characteristics that we’re going to need, because nobody’s going to get the future totally right,” Rainey said Monday as part of the Strategic Landpower Dialogue series co-hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“It’s about not getting it really wrong, seeing what you missed and being able to adapt faster, which is a skill that we need to get better at as

a military,” Rainey said. “We should get better at it now before we have to do it in combat.”

He described the current threat environment as “the most disruptive point in terms of technology” since before World War II, when people were “inventing things like airplanes, radios, combustible engines.”

“As disruptive as those were, the pace of disruption ... is what is alarming,” he said. “Anything you think you know now is going to be different, certainly in a year, maybe 90 days.”

In a discussion about how the disruptiveness of technology is changing combat, Rainey pointed to the enduring aspects of war, things that will never change.

Rainey shared his view that “war remains a human endeavor, it’s a con-

test of will between people.” One has only to look to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as an example of how the human element is present in decision making, in withstanding the horror, in why and for whom people fight, he said.

“We’re not going to fight anywhere where there’s not going to be serious civilian implications of that fight,” Rainey said. “People are still the thing.” Because land “remains decisive” in warfare, people will always be affected, he said.

Another aspect of war that will not change for the “values-based” U.S. military is an adherence to the ethics of combat. The joint force, Rainey said, is “special” because it abides by the law of armed conflict and will continue to do so.



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## New policy boosts financial aid for spouse business costs

**F**inancial aid for Army spouses is expanding with a new directive allowing reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for business-related expenses, the service announced Wednesday.

The new policy is in addition to the \$1,000 currently authorized for relicensing fees resulting from a relocation.

“Army spouses face unique challenges, especially during a relocation. We owe it to them to provide any opportunity to not just have a job but build a fulfilling career,” said Lt. Gen. Kevin Vereen, deputy Army chief of staff for installations, G-9, in an Army news release.

Transferring licenses or businesses during a military move can often result in logistical and financial challenges for spouses. The new directive aims to alleviate these concerns, allow spouses to maintain continuity in their careers and enhance the well-being of Army families.

“As a working Army spouse for 30 years, I understand and appreciate the importance of this expanded



A Savannah police officer speaks with a soldier and his wife during a hiring fair in May at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY/MONICA GUTHRIE)

Army policy for spouses,” said Holly Dailey, director of Family Readiness at the Association of the U.S. Army. “Thank you to our senior leaders for continuing to invest in our families’ quality of life.”

For business owners, reimbursement is available for equipment relo-

cation, new technology purchases, IT services and inspection fees. The new policy also includes those authorized a final move or placed on the temporary disability retired list.

For more information on qualifying expenses and how to apply for reimbursement, click [here](#).

### ARMY magazine June issue



AUSA Basic Members can now view a selection of articles from the June issue of *ARMY* magazine. To read the articles, click [here](#).

## AUSA leaders address senior fellows



Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, and the association’s leaders speak Wednesday during a gathering of AUSA’s senior fellows at association headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. (AUSA PHOTO)

## Region presidents foster support for the Total Army on Capitol Hill



On-time appropriations and passage of the National Defense Authorization Act remains AUSA's top advocacy recommendation on Capitol Hill. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

**O**n Wednesday, the Association of the U.S. Army's region presidents and Government Affairs team visited Capitol Hill to advocate on behalf of the Total Army.

In our meetings, we highlighted AUSA's 2024 Focus Areas, including warfighting, delivering ready combat formations, strengthening the Army profession and supporting the service's transformation efforts.

We also stressed the need for additional funding for the Army.

On-time and sufficient appropriations, as well as passage of the National Defense Authorization Act, remains AUSA's top advocacy recommendation on Capitol Hill.

The fiscal year 2025 authorization and appropriations process continues as the House Armed Services Committee recently marked up its version of the National Defense Authorization Act. The legislation provides important authorizations and policy direction for the Army and Department of Defense.

Among its provisions, the legislation authorizes significant resources for the Army and important defense industrial base improvements.

You can help build momentum for enactment of additional funding for the Total Army by contacting your representatives and senators or by meeting with them.

We encourage you to contact and meet with members of your federal delegation in your state and congressional district.

If you choose to meet with a member of your federal delegation or their staff, meet as a constituent, veteran and/or AUSA member; use the AUSA Focus Areas as reference points; be sure to coordinate with your region and chapter leaders; and tell us at AUSA national headquarters about it—we want to help.

As a reminder, AUSA only lobbies at the federal level on federal issues, and we are nonpartisan and apolitical. AUSA is prohibited from supporting or participating in any political campaign for or against a candidate for local, state or federal office.

We will continue to monitor these and other developments closely as we advocate for the Total Army with Congress.

**Mark Haaland** is AUSA's Government Affairs director.

# AUSA Extra

Voice for the Army –  
Support For the Soldier

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## PERK OF THE WEEK

FightCamp is a connected at-home boxing gym giving you access to



world-class boxing and kickboxing trainers, premium equipment and performance-tracking technology—all from the comfort of your home. Members can save 20% and get two free months by clicking here.

## AUSA hosts leadership discussion for West Point cadets

The Association of the U.S. Army's Center for Leadership recently hosted cadets and faculty from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and captains from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) to discuss how internalization of the cadet honor code shapes ethical decision making and builds trust in the force.

Other topics of conversation included stewardship of the Army profession, mentorship and the importance of peer leadership. This forum aligned with AUSA's mission to educate, inform and connect like-minded leaders.

Held May 30 at AUSA national headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, the leadership discussion was part of West Point's "Character in the Profession" Academic Individual Advanced Development program. In addition to AUSA, the 10-day program included visits to Philadelphia; the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland; Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; the National Museum of the United States Army and Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia; Georgetown University, the National Holocaust Museum, the World War II and Vietnam memorials and the National Archives in Washington, D.C.; and Ground Zero in New York.



Cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, participate in a discussion on honor and leadership with captains from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) hosted at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. (AUSA PHOTO)

The West Point faculty members are assigned to the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic. They teach MX400, the superintendent's capstone course on Officership, which is a mandatory course for all West Point seniors that integrates key concepts from the institution's academic, military and character programs.

The captains from the Old Guard who attended the discussion graduated from West Point in 2020 and enthusiastically shared their leader-

ship journeys, mistakes and lessons learned. They reflected on the value of West Point's Leader Challenge exercises as foundational to their success and provided key insight into why trust is the bedrock of the Army profession.

The Old Guard officers also shared their passion for rendering final honors to America's heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

One of the captains described their struggles with West Point's physical requirements, sharing how demonstrating grit and overcoming adversity became a strength. Another officer said that West Point's emphasis on living and leading honorably was superb preparation to build and lead effective and cohesive teams in the operating force.

The West Point cadets will serve on the Honor Committee during the coming academic year. These demanding leadership positions require strong character, moral courage and peer leadership, and we hope that the discussion at AUSA helps them in their journeys as young officers.



Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, center, AUSA's vice president for Leadership and Education, speaks to West Point cadets during a meeting at AUSA national headquarters. (AUSA PHOTO)

Retired Col. Scott Halstead is AUSA's Center for Leadership director.

# AUSA 2024

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## Save on summer travel with your AUSA membership

As summer begins, I want to highlight some of the travel-related savings available with your membership in the Association of the U.S. Army. You can visit the members-only travel webpage at [www.ausa.org/savings#travel](http://www.ausa.org/savings#travel) and click on the logos of the services that interest you.

### Travel with Collette

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### Armed Forces Vacation Club

Even if you didn't serve in the military, all AUSA members can join the Armed Forces Vacation Club for weeklong resort stays for just \$419. Just be sure to use the link on the AUSA website.

Armed Forces Vacation Club is operated by Wyndham Worldwide, one of the world's largest hospitality companies, and it features thousands of resorts around the world for just \$419 a week, whether it's a hotel room or a two-bedroom condo. These accommodations are similar to the

military's space-available services, in that availability is based on vacancies.

Please choose "AUSA member" for your eligibility, even if you're otherwise eligible, because the organization will then make a donation to AUSA's scholarship program.

On the Armed Forces Vacation Club site, filter your search with "R\*R" for the \$419 weekly rate—but even without the filter, you'll find a lot of great deals.

From June 7–19, Armed Forces Vacation Club is having a sale on three-, five- and seven-night stays at top destinations including New York, Miami and Las Vegas.

### Car rentals, hotels and more

You'll also find car rental discounts on AUSA's travel page. Just click on the logo of the company you prefer, and your discount will be applied automatically.

The Avis and Budget sites let you combine a coupon on the landing page with your member discount for a free upgrade or extra savings.

If you're traveling in the U.S., click on the MemberDeals logo and create an account on that site. You have spe-

cial access as an AUSA member, and you'll find discounts on theme parks, attractions, water parks, movies, shows and events.

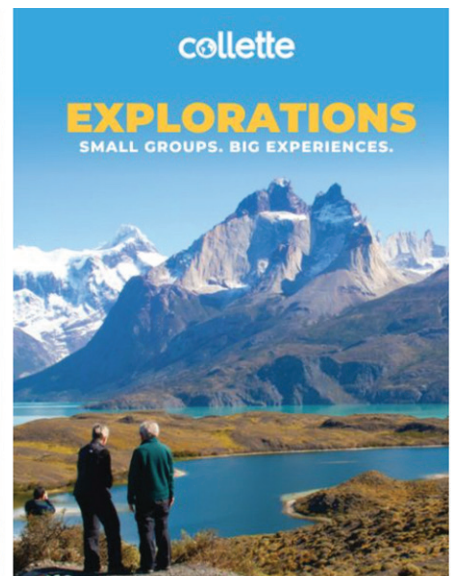
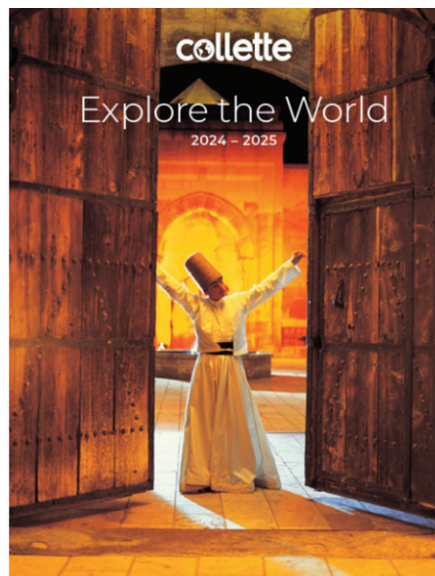
One of my favorite options on this site is the "Choose A City" feature on the green bar at the top. Enter the city you're traveling to for area discounts, including airport parking, bus tours and much more.

If you're traveling with pets, use your 20% discount at Red Roof Inn—where pets stay for free—with code 622590 or by using the link on the AUSA site. Members also save up to 20% at Choice Hotel brands, which include economy through luxury options across 22 brands at more than 7,400 locations worldwide.

You also may want to consider EA+, a service that provides members with medical travel protection at a discounted rate. EA+ includes emergency medical evacuation, transportation, a nurse escort and much more.

If you have questions about these or any other AUSA benefits, contact me at [srubel@ausa.org](mailto:srubel@ausa.org).

**Susan Rubel** is AUSA's Association and Affinity Partnerships director.



With Collette guided travel, AUSA members receive inclusive tours that provide more value for your money and more of what makes travel special. (COURTESY PHOTO)

## Chapter award honors outstanding exchange employees

**A**s part of its commitment to recognizing and promoting excellence within the military community, the Association of the U.S. Army's First In Battle chapter, based in Ansbach, Germany, recently presented its Customer Service Award of the Quarter to the staff of the Ansbach Urlas Post Exchange.

During the ceremony at the exchange, Eddie Guevara, the chapter president, spoke about the accomplishments of the Ansbach Urlas Post Exchange and the staff's unwavering

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commitment to service members, DoD civilians and their families. "His words served as a powerful reminder of the importance of the work being done by the exchange," the chapter said in a Facebook post.

Cary Zottolo, combined activities manager at the Ansbach Urlas Post Exchange, accepted the award from Guevara on behalf of the organiza-



Cary Zottolo, left, combined activities manager at the Ansbach Urlas Post Exchange in Germany, accepts the AUSA First In Battle chapter Customer Service Award of the Quarter from chapter president Eddie Guevara. (AUSA PHOTO)

tion. The chapter also recognized two individual exchange employees—Paul Townsend, who received the safety and environmental safety

award, and Renate Petsche, who was honored as the chapter's employee of the quarter.

Guevara also presented each of the 33 professional staff members with an AUSA coin. "This token not only recognizes their individual contributions but also serves as a reminder of the history and prestige of this coveted award," according to the chapter.

The award presentation was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony, a chapter tradition. The event was well attended by members of the community, reflecting the strong bonds and mutual respect within this unique group.

"This recognition serves as a testament to the Ansbach Urlas Exchange's commitment to providing exceptional service to those who serve our nation. It is a proud moment for the organization and sets a high standard for others to follow," the chapter's Facebook post said.

## AUSA members briefed by Army Emergency Relief boss

**R**etired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, director and CEO of Army Emergency Relief, highlighted the organization's mission to promote readiness and help relieve financial distress of soldiers and their families at a breakfast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Texas Capital Area chapter.

The event took place during a weeklong visit by Grinston to Fort Cavazos, Texas, formerly known as Fort Hood. He was joined at the breakfast by Gen. James Rainey, commander of Army Futures Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Hester, the command's senior enlisted leader.

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chapter treasurer, and vice president for special programs retired Col. Brian Cook welcomed Grinston on behalf of the chapter.

Army Emergency Relief provides grants, interest-free loans and scholarships to service members in need, said Grinston, who has led the organization since Jan. 1 and served on its board of managers for seven years during his time in uniform. In 2023, Army Emergency Relief provided support to more than 31,000 soldiers and families and awarded more than 3,085 scholarships, he said.

AUSA is a supporter of Army Emergency Relief and its mission, pledging \$1 million in 2022 and again in 2023 to support a financial literacy program run by the organization.

"It is the hope that by sharing information about this exceptional support organization that resources will



Retired Col. Garry Patterson, left, president of AUSA's Texas Capital Area chapter, greets retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, center, director and CEO of Army Emergency Relief, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Hester, senior enlisted leader of Army Futures Command. (AUSA PHOTO)

be provided to assist more soldiers and Army families requiring financial assistance and scholarships in the future," Patterson said.



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