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Spc. Nicholas Miller conducts flight operations during an Army Futures Command-directed Future Tactical Unmanned Aerial System capabilities assessment at Fort Riley, Kansas. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Modernization on track despite delays

The Army continues to build momentum for its modernization efforts despite grappling with delays and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, two senior leaders said during separate Association of the U.S. Army events.

"We are learning a lot of lessons from this experience," Gen. Mike Murray, commander of Army Futures Command, said Wednesday during AUSA's Thought Leaders livestream event.

This was the first event in the new Thought Leaders series, which highlights talks by key Army leaders.

Keeping the Army's modernization programs on track "hasn't come without some workarounds and some trying times," but everyone—from industry partners to academia, start-ups and prime defense companies—has put in "a tremendous effort," he said.

Maintaining a safe and healthy workforce has been the highest priority during this time, said Bruce Jette, assistant Army secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology and a retired Army officer.

Jette, who spoke Monday during The AUSA Noon Report, an AUSA webcast, said working closely with industry has been key to keeping Army modernization on track during the pandemic.

"Everybody really did line up to try to take care of things," Jette said of dealing with COVID-19.

Small companies had some of the biggest challenges, where losing even a few key employees could stall work.

"To me, what's the most important date is the date we promised to get [new equipment] into soldiers' hands," Murray said, and "across the board, none of those dates have shifted."

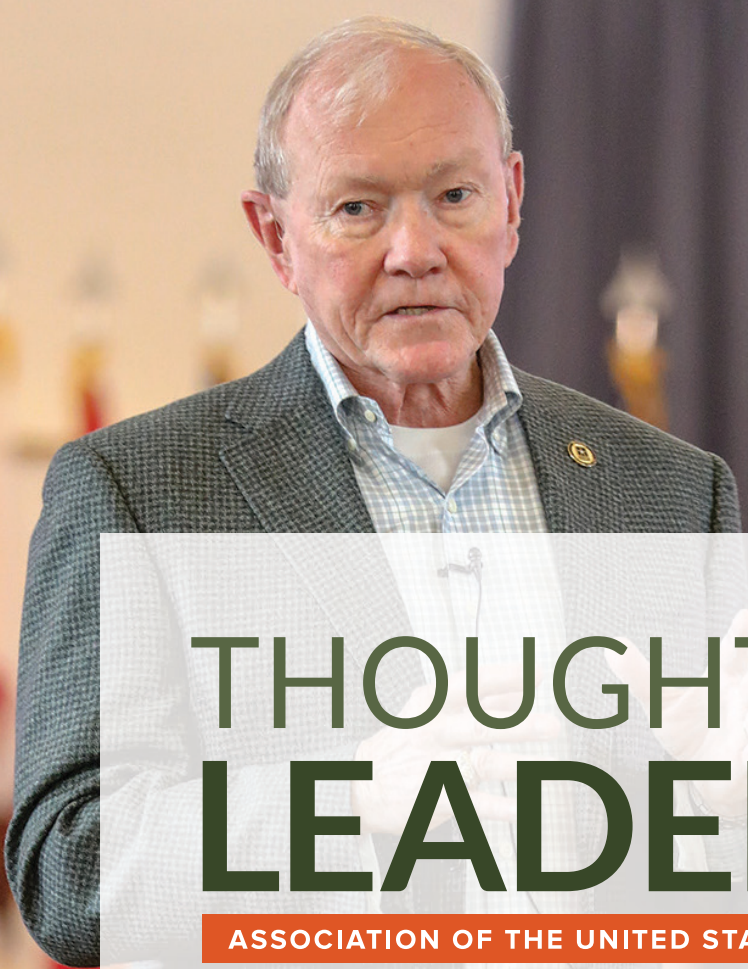
Work continues on the 685 programs overseen by Jette's office, including the more than 30 programs that cover the Army's top modernization priorities, crucial to expanding capabilities.

Jette describes them as "31+3" by counting 31 specific modernization programs and three critical efforts that include long-range hypersonic weapons, directed energy air defense and indirect fire capability.

Fiscal year 2021 is a critical year for funding these priority programs, with the Army making a \$3 billion commitment by shifting money from other programs.

However, that funding is not assured because of expanding governmentwide financial needs that could result in a flat or declining defense budget that trims Army requests.

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**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

Army resumes large-scale training with safety measures

The Army has resumed brigade-level collective training after a three-month pause to emplace safety measures aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

All major training was halted in mid-March after DoD issued orders restricting travel for troops, employees and family members.

The Army began putting measures in place so that units could resume home station training in smaller numbers, but major training exercises hadn't resumed until now.

On June 7, some 700 soldiers with the Fort Carson, Colorado-based 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade kicked off the first rotation of collective training at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The soldiers are scheduled to replace the 3rd SFAB in Afghanistan later this year.

The 4th SFAB will be followed at JRTC in August by the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team and in September by the division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, according to Army Forces Command.

In mid-July, soldiers with the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division will begin a two-week rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

The unit will be followed in August by the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Most of the units scheduled to train



Soldiers with the 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade conduct vehicle off-loading operations at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. (U.S. ARMY/CHUCK CANNON)

at the combat training centers between May and September were able to be shifted slightly on the calendar.

Two units scheduled to train in April—1st ABCT, 1st Cavalry Division and 2nd BCT, 10th Mountain Division—did not make it to the CTCs, training at home station instead, according to Forces Command.

As the first unit to resume collective training, the 4th SFAB will test the new safety measures, which will be reviewed daily and adjusted as needed to inform all follow-on training.

Adhering to Army guidance, the soldiers self-isolated at home station for two weeks before arriving at Fort Polk, said Maj. Jennifer Dyrce, JRTC Operations Group spokeswoman.

Each soldier was issued eye protection, gloves, an N95 mask and a face shield, equipment they will wear each

day in addition to their duty uniform and equipment. Soldiers will also be issued two bottles of hand sanitizer per day, and a no-touch thermometer was issued for every 10 soldiers.

Each soldier, and everyone working with them, including role players, contractors and observer-controllers, will undergo a round of checks at least twice a day for temperature or any COVID-19 symptoms.

The training area will be accessible through one controlled access point, and each participant will have self-isolated for 14 days before and after the training event and screened each day at arrival, Dyrce said.

"It's almost preparation for what we're doing with a larger unit in August," she said of the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd BCT, which has about 4,500 soldiers.

Modernization

From Page 1

The Army also must figure out how to modernize the force while soldiers remain in demand around the world, Murray said.

"You can't modernize the entire Army overnight or in a year or, really, over a decade," he said.

The high operations tempo complicates the effort, he said.

"It has to at least be an assumption, if not a fact, that op tempo will not slow down. The worldwide demand for Army forces continues to increase," Murray said.

"One of the challenges is how do you modernize the Army under this op tempo umbrella? How do you turn the current force into that future force you envision? That's the hard work you have to do."



Gen. Mike Murray, right, and Bruce Jette update reporters at the Pentagon on Army modernization efforts. (U.S. ARMY/JOHN MARTINEZ)

Army spouse, AUSA staff member pens lyrics for Operation Song



Victoria McAdoo and her husband, Sgt. Maj. Anthony McAdoo. (COURTESY PHOTO)

When you marry a soldier, you become part of the Army family and all aspects of military culture that can be difficult for civilians to understand.

One Army spouse—who happens to be a member of the Association of the U.S. Army's national staff—recently shared her story through song.

Victoria McAdoo, senior coordinator for AUSA's NCO and Soldier Programs, co-wrote "Lima Oscar Victor Echo" with musician Cindy Morgan as part of Operation Song, a nonprofit dedicated to helping service members, veterans and their families tell their stories.

The song's title refers to the code words in the NATO phonetic alphabet for the letters "l-o-v-e."

"My initial reason for wanting to participate in Operation Song was because I felt my soldier story was unique," McAdoo said.

When she met her husband, Sgt. Maj. Anthony McAdoo, he was already a senior enlisted soldier, so she experienced a "baptism by fire" to Army culture.

"I didn't even know what an E-9 was. I didn't know what his rank meant in relation to his job," she said.

"I arrived at a post as a 'senior spouse' not knowing what that was."

She began immersing herself in her new role at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, by volunteering with the USO, at Fort Campbell newcomers' briefings, as a morale, welfare and recreation volleyball coach, and as a volunteer with AUSA's Fort Campbell chapter.

McAdoo and her husband are now stationed in the Washington, D.C., area, where he is a senior enlisted adviser at the Defense Health Agency.

The idea behind McAdoo's lyrics was to use Army language to connect spouses and soldiers.

During the writing process, she focused on words soldiers often use that may be foreign to civilian ears, such as tracking, roger, mission, company, battalion and the military alphabet.

Then, she brought it all together with her own journey to becoming an Army spouse.

"I am now coming up on my three-year wedding anniversary, and it has been a crazy military ride. But it is definitely the best 'mission' I ever signed up for," McAdoo said. "I love my soldier, and I love my new Army life."

Listen to "Lima Oscar Victor Echo" by clicking here.

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PERK OF THE WEEK

Avis, Budget: Safety, Cleaning, Discounts

AUSA's car rental affinity partners, Avis and Budget, want you to know about the steps they're taking to keep you safe and meet the unique challenges the travel industry is experiencing. Look for "Return to Travel" deals throughout the summer and remember that AUSA members receive discounts plus additional coupons in most cases. Learn more about the new safety and cleaning systems—and your discounts—at www.avis.com/ause and www.budget.com/ause.

AUSA supports spouse licensing, parental leave bills

The Association of the U.S. Army is supporting two bills pending before Congress aimed at helping military families.

The association supports the Military Spouse Career Education Act, a bill drafted by Northern Mariana Islands Delegate to the House of Representatives Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan that would provide military spouses more flexibility with DoD funding dedicated to help them receive the career and technical education needed to enter portable licensed professions.

Specifically, Sablan proposes expanding a \$1,000 professional licensing reimbursement benefit already provided to military spouses to cover the cost of continuing education units necessary to maintain a professional license or certification each time spouses relocate with their service



The new bills would provide more flexibility for spouses' continuing education, and additional parental leave in the event of a miscarriage or stillbirth. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL)

member. The benefit currently covers the costs of relicensing exams and related registration fees.

AUSA also supports the bipartisan Elaine M. Checketts Military Families Act of 2020, a measure introduced by Sen. John Cornyn of Texas and Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois that would allow parental leave for the birth of a child to continue in the event of a miscarriage or stillbirth.

Under current policy, military parental leave terminates upon the death of a child, but civil service rules allow a federal civilian worker to continue using previously approved parental leave as time to grieve. The bill, S 3776, would bring parity for military members. Similar legislation is expected to be introduced in the House.

The bill is named for the deceased daughter of an Air Force major.

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Former AUSA meetings director Michael Scanlan dies

Michael Scanlan, a longtime meetings director for the Association of the U.S. Army, died June 5 of injuries suffered in a fall. It was his 66th birthday.

"This is really a sad day for the Scanlan family and for the AUSA team. So many of us, and our members, benefitted from his leadership at AUSA," said retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, AUSA's vice president for membership and meetings.

"Michael was unfailingly courteous and polite, very well-read and well-spoken, insightful and thoughtful, wry and humorous. So many benefitted from his experience and wisdom, and I count myself among those privileged to have worked with him," she said.

Born June 5, 1954, Scanlan attended C.W. Post College, Long Island University in Brookville, New York.

After graduating, he worked in a variety of event planning and association management positions.

For 10 years, he was the meeting planner for the American Physical Society—the national association of physicists—where he managed six annual national events, including some of the largest physics meetings ever held.

He also worked for Smith Bucklin, a national association management firm, and Projection Presentation Technologies, an audiovisual production company, before joining AUSA in 1999.

During his 20 years with AUSA,



Michael Scanlan

Scanlan led many improvement efforts to keep the association fiscally strong and intellectually relevant.

He was at the forefront of many of AUSA's most successful annual meetings and many other events hosted by the association.

"As outstanding as his career was, Michael won't be remembered just for what he did at AUSA; he'll be remembered mostly for who he was, and for his professional ethic and personal style," McQuiston said.

"He made a positive and lasting difference everywhere he worked. He contributed enormously to the Association of the United States Army—and made working here more rewarding and satisfying for all of us," she added.

Scanlan is survived by Margery, his wife of 36 years, son Conor and daughter Kaitlin.



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2020 Best Warrior Competition remains on schedule

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey,
U.S. Army Retired, and
Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch,
U.S. Army Retired

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many of the special events we look forward to each year, from professional sports to concerts, festivals, parades and even the 2020 Summer Olympics.

The Army is no different—the service has postponed or canceled almost all its annual events, including the Best Ranger Competition and the Sullivan Cup.

Rest assured, the cancellation of these events will not stop the Army from accomplishing its mission.

However, these events allow the Army to showcase soldiers' talent, strength, determination and competitiveness. And they're an opportunity to highlight the best of what we are as an Army to our fellow soldiers and the nation.

Despite the difficult times we face, there is one event the Army is working very hard to keep on the schedule—the Best Warrior Competition.

"The Best Warrior Competition is one way of many ways we recognize expertise in our Army," said Sgt.

NCO & Soldier Programs

Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston. "We're going to do everything we can

to ensure we move forward safely with the Army's premier competition for soldiers and noncommissioned officers."

Every year across the Army, soldiers compete to represent their commands and for a chance to earn the title of NCO or Soldier of the Year.

This year, soldiers from the 11 major commands across our Army will still be able to put their skills to the test and compete in the Army-level competition.

There is one difference this year. The 22 competitors selected to compete at the Army-level event will do so at Fort Knox, Kentucky, instead of at Fort AP Hill, Virginia, where the competition



Sgt. Albert Rodriquez low crawls across a field during the 2020 Eighth Army Best Warrior Competition at Camp Casey, South Korea. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. CODY HARDING)

has been held for the past five years.

The Best Warrior Competition dates to 2002, when Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley decided to culminate all the NCO and Soldier of the Year competitions across the Army at the Department of the Army level.

In 2009, as part of the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer celebrations, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston decided to name the trophy presented to the NCO and Soldier of the Year in honor of Tilley.

The SMA Jack L. Tilley Best Warrior Competition was conceived to showcase the talent of our Army, enhance self-development and self-study, set training standards for our force and increase readiness.

The road to Washington, D.C., for the award presentation, traditionally held as part of the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition each October, has already begun.

Commands across our Army are conducting their own competitions to find the 22 soldiers who will compete at the Army level.

This year's competitions are differ-

ent from years past due to COVID-19. Some commands are using 50-page exams that cover what would otherwise be hands-on tasks, while others are adjusting certain tasks to maintain social distancing.

Regardless of how the competitions are conducted, the importance of having the Best Warrior Competition remains steadfast, and the Army is taking all the necessary steps to keep competitors safe and healthy.

"The Best Warrior Competition is the essence of what we want to accomplish," Grinston said. "We want to enhance Army readiness by building cohesive teams who are highly trained, disciplined and physically fit. Cohesive teams are the key to winning on any battlefield."

Who will receive this year's coveted SMA Jack L. Tilley award? You will have to attend the 2020 AUSA Annual Meeting in October to find out.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's Vice President for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch is AUSA's director for NCO and Soldier Programs.

AUSA chapter VP receives presidential award for service

A member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri chapter was recently honored for her volunteer efforts to positively impact her community and inspire others to do the same.

Sgt. 1st Class Desiree Hunt, the chapter's vice president for young professionals, was presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award by senior leaders from the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

"Honestly, I was thrown for a loop," said Hunt, whose nomination was kept secret by installation leadership for several months. "Not only was I speechless but overwhelmed that I had been recommended."

**Fort Leonard
Wood-Mid
Missouri**

The President's Volunteer Service Award was created in 2003 by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity.



Sgt. 1st Class Desiree Hunt. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Throughout her Army career, Hunt has volunteered at various shelters, schools and organizations, orchestrating numerous drives for food, clothing and school supplies.

In the past two years, she has worked to raise more than \$10,000 to help 350 families with meals at Thanksgiving, provided more than

500 children with Christmas gifts, and helped raise funds for school trips, scholarships and more.

"I have been blessed to be a part of several associations that emphasize the importance of giving back and helping those around you," Hunt said, according to the *Fort Leonard Wood Guidon*. In addition to her role with AUSA, she is the president of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Association's Ozark Region chapter.

"Being an effective volunteer directly depends on being able to prioritize and understand time management," she said, adding that different Army leaders have mentored her in those areas throughout her career.

Hunt also noted that she hasn't been alone in her accomplishments.

"To those who allowed me the time to volunteer, understand the importance of why I volunteer—and for those who have volunteered with me—I say, 'thank you,'" she said. "I couldn't have done this without them."

Chapter will bid farewell June 24 to longtime president

The Association of the U.S. Army's George Washington chapter, based in McLean, Virginia, will welcome a new president on June 24.

Dick Winter will succeed Glenn Yarborough as chapter president. Yarborough has served in the role for the last five years.

"It has been a great run over the last several years, and I do love this chapter," Yarborough said. "We are not going anywhere, but it is time for new ideas, new energy, and a new executive team to help."

**George
Washington**

Winter has a long history with AUSA. After retiring to Hampton, Virginia, following military service, he served as the Virginia Peninsula-General Douglas MacArthur chapter



Glenn Yarborough, center, receives an award on behalf of the George Washington chapter during the 2019 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

president for six years, then as chapter treasurer for eight years.

After moving to northern Virginia, Winter took on a new role as the executive vice president and vice president for community partners at the George Washington chapter. He is also chairman of the advisory board of directors, chapter operations committee for AUSA national headquarters.

In his new role, Winter's mantra is "support to our chapter constituency."

"The northern Virginia/southern Maryland chapter footprint is very diverse, with members from active duty, the reserve components, ROTC, Army civilians and the defense industry," Winter said. "The chapter must be supportive and flexible for all of our members."



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