



Soldiers with the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division conduct live-fire exercises at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/MAJ. PATRICK CONNELLY)

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New AUSA event features senior leaders

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and leaders from Army Forces Command, the XVIII Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne Division are among the scheduled speakers at the Association of the U.S. Army's Warfighter Summit and Exposition.

A new AUSA event, the Warfighter Summit will take place July 27–28 at the Crown Complex near Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The two-day, in-person summit is a leader and professional development event focused on the warfighter. Its theme is "America's Response Force: Ready Today, Ready Tomorrow."

McConville will be the keynote speaker to open the summit. Sgt.

Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston and leaders from across Fort Bragg will also appear. Additionally, Alejandro Villanueva, former Army Ranger and former offensive tackle for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Baltimore Ravens, is slated to speak.

During the two-day summit, presentation topics will span the seven warfighting functions and highlight the way Army operational forces can sharpen their capability edge for winning throughout the expanded competitive space.

Attendees will hear about building family readiness, equipping the future force and the Army's support to NATO allies in Eastern Europe.

There also will be opportunities to

network with key decision-makers and learn from industry about the latest equipment, products and technologies aimed at addressing warfighters' needs.

Online registration is open until July 20. There is no cost for military and government civilian personnel and members of the media.

All attendees, exhibitors and speakers are to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Masks are optional.

AUSA continues to monitor recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health authorities, and health requirements are subject to change.

For more information or to register, click here.

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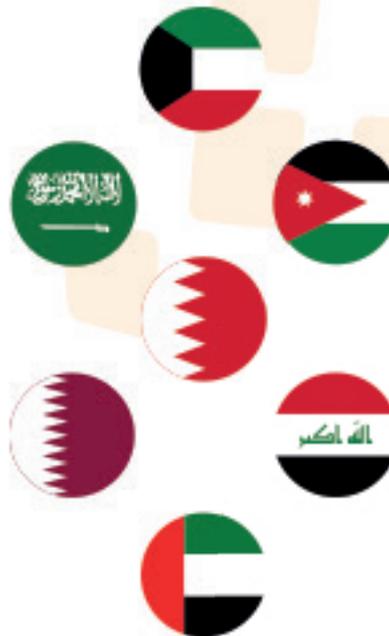
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SCAN FOR MORE



Army looks ahead as service celebrates 247th birthday

Despite pressing challenges at home and abroad, the Army is standing strong, the service's top general officer said.

"We put American soldiers on the ground [in Eastern Europe] to reassure [our allies] ... and I think that really made a difference. It just showed me how great our soldiers are," Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said. "But we're great at home, too. Our National Guard and Reserve are doing incredible things."

McConville and Sgt. Maj. Charles Albertson, executive officer to the sergeant major of the Army, joined the Your Next Mission video podcast on Tuesday in celebration of the Army's 247th birthday.

The Army remains ready to face any challenge, Albertson said.

"It's very easy to forget that we still have soldiers deployed in harm's way in Iraq, Syria and Africa. We have advisers in 40 different countries across the globe right now," he said. "We are ready, and we stand ready to support whatever our nation's needs are."

In addition to the Army's missions



Four of the oldest and youngest soldiers at Fort Knox, Kentucky, join the installation's senior leaders, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Beard, center left, and Maj. Gen. Johnny Davis, center right, to cut the Army birthday cake on Tuesday. (U.S. ARMY/ERIC PILGRIM)

at home and abroad, it continues to work on preparing for all contingencies. McConville reflected on what the Army's reactivation of the 11th Airborne Division in Alaska will mean for soldiers.

The storied division was reactivat-

ed on June 6 during ceremonies at Alaska's Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. It is the Army's only Arctic airborne division, taking the place of U.S. Army Alaska as the service works to build a force that is more appropriately manned, trained and equipped for the Arctic environment.

"What we started to do is recognize the importance of the Arctic, so we need soldiers who are masters of their craft in Arctic warfighting, those that can go into the most extreme weather, those who go into high altitudes, those that go into mountains, and that's what those soldiers are going to do," McConville said.

As the Army looks ahead, McConville urged veterans to share their stories and inspire young men and women to serve.

"You can be anything you want to be in the Army," he said. "From being an elite infantryman ... you can be a doctor, you can be a lawyer, you can be a pilot, you can do artificial intelligence, you can be a cyber coder, you name it. Anything you want to do in the Army, we will train you [and] we will take care of you."

Brown discusses MDO at Eurosatory



Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, second from left, speaks during a panel on multidomain operations and its role as the U.S. Army prepares for the future fight. Moderated by retired Col. Dan Roper, director of National Security Studies at AUSA, the event was Wednesday at the Eurosatory international defense and security exposition outside of Paris. AUSA also organized the USA Security and Defense Pavilion at the weeklong exposition featuring 110 exhibitors. (AUSA PHOTO)

WWII Rangers to be recognized with Congressional Gold Medal



Army Rangers rest atop the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc in France, which they stormed in support of the Omaha Beach landings on June 6, 1944. (NATIONAL ARCHIVES PHOTO)

Seventy-eight years after they stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, Army Rangers are being honored for their service and valor during World War II.

Members of the all-volunteer World War II Ranger battalions will soon receive the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' "highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions," according to a House of Representatives website on the medal.

The U.S. Army Rangers Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act was signed June 7 by President Joe Biden.

"U.S. Army Ranger veterans of World War II ... played a crucial role in the D-Day invasion in Normandy, which began 78 years ago yesterday," Biden said June 7. "This elite group once numbered 7,000, but now it's down to 12. A dozen left. On behalf of our nation, we want to thank them for their heroism and their service."

The Association of the U.S. Army supported and helped advocate for the legislation, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, an AUSA senior fellow who served as an Army Ranger, is on the committee designing the Rangers' Gold Medal.

During World War II, the Army activated six Ranger battalions, according to an Army website.

The Rangers fought in North Africa, including in the critical Battle of El Guettar; Europe, including during the D-Day invasion; and the Pacific, from the Philippines to the China-Burma-India Theater, according to the Army.

The Rangers earned their motto as the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions took part in the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach.

"It was during the bitter fighting along the beaches that the Rangers gained their motto, 'Rangers, lead the way!'" according to the Army.

Former President Ronald Reagan hailed the soldiers of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, who scaled a German artillery battery at Pointe du Hoc during the Normandy invasion as "the heroes who helped end a war."

"The Rangers looked up and saw the enemy soldiers at the edge of the cliffs, shooting down at them with machine guns and throwing grenades. And the American Rangers began to climb," Reagan said in a 1984 speech marking the 40th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. "They shot rope ladders over the face of these cliffs and began to pull themselves up. When one Ranger fell, another would take his place. When one rope was cut, a Ranger would grab another and begin his climb again. They climbed, shot back, and held their footing."

AUSA Extra

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PERK OF THE WEEK

AUSA now provides members with free access to LawAssure, a service that uses smart technology to prepare essential legal documents like wills, health care directives or powers of attorney as well as many other estate planning services. For more information and to register a new account, please visit www.ausa.org/legal.





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GETTING COMPETITION WRONG

The U.S. Military's Looming Failure

with authors

COL Arnel P. David, 1SG Sean A. Acosta & Dr. Nicholas Krohley

moderated by **BG (Ret.) Christopher W. Stockel**



22 JUNE 2022
1200-1300 EDT

Join us to hear a presentation by the three authors of **"Getting Competition Wrong: The U.S. Military's Looming Failure."** Authors Colonel Arnel David, First Sergeant Sean Acosta and Dr. Nicholas Krohley, in a discussion moderated by Civil Affairs expert Brigadier General (Ret.) Christopher Stockel, will detail how buzzwords such as "lethality" and "large-scale combat operations" are driving the Army's budget. Such terminology, they argue, risks not understanding or resourcing necessary realignments of the intelligence architecture that, properly understood, could integrate contextual understanding of the playing field into our opponent-centric lens.



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Retired Gen. Carl Stiner, special operations legend, dies

Retired Gen. Carl Stiner, a legend in the Army's special operations community, has died. He was 85.

A lifelong member of the Association of the U.S. Army, Stiner retired in 1993 after a 35-year career, serving his last assignment as commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm, and he commanded at every level, including the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division and the Joint Special Operations Command.

Born on Sept. 7, 1936, in LaFollette, Tennessee, Stiner grew up as a farmer. He was commissioned in the infantry upon graduating from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in 1958 and became active in Army special operations during his early years as an officer, according to an obituary



Gen. Carl Stiner. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

published by his family.

From 1964–1966, Stiner completed a tour of duty with the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Following graduation from the Army Command and General Staff College in 1967, he served in Vietnam as an infantry battalion and

brigade operations officer with the 4th Infantry Division.

As XVIII Airborne Corps commander during Operation Just Cause in Panama in December 1989, Stiner was operational commander for all deployed forces. During Operation Desert Storm, as commander of Special Operations Command, Stiner had operational control of the joint special operations force.

In May 1990, Stiner was promoted to the rank of general and became the second commander in chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

After his retirement in 1993, Stiner co-wrote *Shadow Warriors: Inside the Special Forces*, a 2002 book, with author Tom Clancy. He was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2004, and he remained involved with the Special Forces community until his death on June 2.

Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: RFCU

Redstone Federal Credit Union is a federally chartered credit union based in Huntsville, Alabama, that operates 24 branches across northern Alabama and central Tennessee.

Alabama's largest credit union, it is regulated and insured through the National Credit Union Administration.

In 1951, the credit union's original 11 members each placed \$5 into a shoebox as part of their vision for a different type of financial institution—one that transforms lives and strengthens communities.

More than 65 years later, that vision serves as the foundation for Redstone Federal Credit Union, and today, a \$5 deposit is still all that's required to join the organization.

The organization is now one of the 25 largest federal credit unions in the country.



Redstone Federal Credit Union also is one of the largest sponsors of civic, educational and charitable nonprofit organizations in the Tennessee Valley. Leaders from the credit union participate in several events each week, many of which are free and

open to the community.

Members are "extremely proud" of the credit union's history with the military community and support service members by sponsoring events with the Army's Morale, Welfare and Recreation office on Redstone Arsenal, according to the credit union's website.

In 2018, the credit union donated \$50,000 to the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

For more information, please visit <https://www.redfcu.org/>.

If your association is interested in partnering with AUSA, please contact Susan Rubel at srubel@ausa.org.

Association Partnership with AUSA is an opportunity for like-minded military service organizations to join AUSA in support of the total Army—soldiers, DoD civilians and their families.

Podcast series features successful veteran entrepreneurs

The transition to civilian life after military service can be difficult.

Each year, tens of thousands of soldiers leave the Army. Some of them are retirees who have served more than 20 years, but the majority are great soldiers who joined the Army and are leaving after serving one or two terms.

Some go to school or find employment, while others have entrepreneurial dreams.

The exceptional skills of soldiers do not stop on the battlefield. Many have transitioned into becoming “vetrepreneurs” because of the principles they learned in the Army.

NCO & Soldier Programs

not stop on the battlefield. Many have transitioned into becoming “vetrepreneurs” because of the principles they learned in the Army.

It can take many years to develop a profitable business. Still, soldiers are well-versed in innovation, discipline and leadership, and adapt from being a leader in the Army to a leader in the office.

The Association of the U.S. Army’s NCO and Soldier Programs directorate is conducting a series of podcasts that focuses on soldiers who took off the uniform and replaced it with business attire.

Just outside Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is a vibrant military community that many former soldiers



Retired Sgts. Maj. Thomas and Marissa Capel are the owners of Nothing Bundt Cakes, a bakery franchise. (COURTESY PHOTO)

call home. On the first episode of the series, two veterans, retired Sgts. Maj. Thomas and Marissa Capel—a husband-and-wife team—joined AUSA’s “Army Matters” podcast to share how they have perfected the recipe to owning Nothing Bundt Cakes, a bakery franchise.

The NCO and Soldier Programs team then interviewed former Capt. Kevin Ryan, owner of Service Brewing Co. in Savannah, Georgia. Ryan, a West Point graduate and former infantry officer who served in Iraq, discussed how he turned his home

brewing hobby into a business.

In the next episode, we heard about the extraordinary entrepreneurship journey of Aaron Hale, an explosive ordnance technician who was blinded when an improved explosive device exploded in his face in Afghanistan in December 2011.

In the years that followed, he rehabilitated himself to an extent many sighted people would envy—running marathons, climbing mountains and even solo whitewater kayaking.

Today, he is the co-owner of E.O.D Fudge in Miramar Beach, Florida.

An upcoming podcast will feature retired Sgt. Maj. Burnie Haney, who based his business on his passion for fishing.

While all entrepreneurs face daunting challenges, these veterans used their military experience to persevere and become successful businesses owners. And they continue to give back by providing mentorship to other veterans who desire to have their own business.

Stay tuned and follow AUSA’s “Army Matters” podcast for more veteran-owned business stories.



Aaron Hale and his wife, McKayla, run E.O.D Fudge. (COURTESY PHOTO)



Service Brewing Co. is owned by former Capt. Kevin Ryan. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Michelle Cabotaje is an intern with AUSA NCO and Soldier Programs.

AUSA member receives NATO Soldier of the Year award

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Welch, a life member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Northern New York-Fort Drum chapter, has been named the 2021 NATO Force Structure Top Soldier of the Year.

Welch, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, is assigned to the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Spain in Valencia, according to the Army. Previously, he was

Northern New York-Fort Drum

a sniper with the 10th Mountain Division, an infantry platoon sergeant with the 101st Airborne Division, a senior drill instructor at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and a team leader and first sergeant with the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade.

He has deployed five times to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I think I've been lucky in my assignments and what type of people and organizations I have worked with," Welch said, according to an Army press release. "So when I came here it was just easy to kind of reach out and help our partners in those



Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Welch of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Spain in Valencia was named the 2021 NATO Force Structure Top Soldier of the Year. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

areas where I have some experience."

In his current role as an operations NCO, Welch was recognized for providing counseling and mentorship while supporting the establishment of Spain's first officially recognized

sniper school, mentoring sniper teams from the Spanish Parachute Brigade and Special Operations School and sharing information on his combat experiences in Afghanistan during the Allied Land Command's Command Senior Enlisted Leader Conference, according to the Army.

"This is the first time I have ever worked on a corps- or even division-level staff, but I have worked with many multinational partners in the past developing solutions through the [Security Force Assistance Brigade] or my sniper times, teaching and mentoring our partners in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said, according to the Army.

Welch "is one of the reasons our NCO Corps is a shining example to our NATO partners of how important our role as NCOs is to the U.S. Army, our soldiers, officers and families," said Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Valenzuela, senior enlisted leader of the U.S. Army NATO Brigade.

Selection as the 2021 NATO Force Structure Top Soldier of the Year is "quite an achievement, which underscores the high quality of our Army's NCOs and recognizes the professionalism, skills, experience and high human quality of Sgt. 1st Class Welch," said Col. Jerzy Zubr, the senior U.S. representative in the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Spain, according to the Army.

Young NCOs looking to make a difference should speak up, Welch said.

"If you see something that needs to be done or could possibly be a good idea, just go for it. And don't be afraid to be told no," he said, according to the Army.

In addition to his life membership, Welch has another AUSA connection. He is the nephew of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, AUSA's director of NCO and Soldier Programs. The retired senior NCO recently interviewed his nephew for AUSA's "Army Matters" podcast.

Chapter honors outgoing depot leader



Tobyhanna Army Depot

Kelvin Spencer, left, president of AUSA's Tobyhanna Army Depot chapter in Pennsylvania, presents a framed painting of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) to Frank Zardecki, who has served as deputy commander of Tobyhanna Army Depot since 1990 and is retiring July 1. (AUSA PHOTO)



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