



Army Secretary Christine Wormuth marks the Army's 246th birthday by hosting a mass reenlistment ceremony and cake-cutting at the Pentagon. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. KEVIN ROY)

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## Secretary says Army is 'under stress'

Just three weeks on the job, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said she's "impressed but not surprised" by today's Army and fully supportive of its transformation and modernization efforts.

"From what I have seen, our Army is in great shape, but we have important work ahead," said Wormuth, the first woman to serve as Army secretary in the service's 246-year history. "I want to use this window of opportunity to make certain that the Army will continue to provide modernized and ready forces capable of responding globally."

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said protecting modernization of the Army is his top priority, but that requires additional funding requested in a \$4.4 billion list of unfunded priorities and a separate

request for \$1 billion for unfunded contingencies.

"Would we like to have a bigger Army? Absolutely," he said of a budget that cuts Army funding in fiscal 2022 after accounting for inflation.

"We are the strongest land force in the world, and a great source of that strength comes from our allies and partners," McConville said, describing Army readiness as "fragile" while money is being allocated to comprehensive transformation and modernization efforts.

Those big, generational adjustments are "the only way we'll maintain our overmatch against near-peer competitors and would-be adversaries."

"We are still under stress in some areas, like air defense," Wormuth acknowledged. She also said that technology isn't the only priority.

"We are steadily working to enhance our force structure, build inclusive leadership and invest in quality-of-life initiatives," she said. "Our responsibility is to ensure every soldier and civilian has the right leadership policies and resources to be safe and successful among their teams so they can continue to be successful in our nation's defense."

The Army is a technology leader, Wormuth said.

"The Army is prototyping and experimenting with new capabilities and concepts. The Army is at the forefront of developing and fielding new technology in counter-UAS, directed energy, hypersonic weapons, next-generation assured positioning, navigation and timing devices and pushing software coding to the edge," she said.

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## New graphic novel highlights 1st Medal of Honor recipient

The story of Pvt. Jacob Parrott, the first soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor, is highlighted in the newest graphic novel in the Association of the U.S. Army's series on recipients of the nation's highest valor award.

*Medal of Honor: Jacob Parrott* tells of how Parrott and 23 other men volunteered during the Civil War to go nearly 200 miles into Confederate territory to steal a train and destroy tracks behind them as they sped north, all part of a plan to prevent reinforcements from interfering with an attempted capture of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The raiders were captured, but the April 1862 mission became famous as the Great Locomotive Chase, and on March 25, 1863, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton presented the first Medals of Honor to six members of the raid, handing the very first medal to Parrott.

"Jacob Parrott will always be remembered as the first recipient of the Medal of Honor," said Joseph Craig, director of the AUSA Book Program. "The daring raid that he and his fellow volunteers made deep into Confederate territory reads like an adventure novel. The scriptwriter and artists who created this book captured that sense of drama."

*Medal of Honor: Jacob Parrott* is available here.

AUSA launched its Medal of Honor



The April 1862 mission to steal a train and destroy tracks became famous as the Great Locomotive Chase. (AUSA GRAPHIC)

graphic novel series in October 2018. The digital graphic novels are available here.

During the Civil War, Parrott, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, enlisted in the Army as part of Company K, 33rd Ohio Voluntary Infantry, according to the Army.

In April 1862, the 18-year-old Parrott and two dozen other volunteers were given orders to enter enemy territory and destroy railroad tracks between Chattanooga and Atlanta.

The Union team boarded a train heading north from Atlanta. At Big Shanty, Georgia, the passengers and crew disembarked, but the raiders stayed on and uncoupled the engine, fuel car and three boxcars before escaping with the train, according to the Army.

They gained a little bit of distance and were able to damage some tracks, but it wasn't long before Confederate soldiers gave chase.

The raiders' train ran out of fuel near the Georgia-Tennessee border, and the Union soldiers, including Parrott, were captured, according to the Army.

Parrott was returned to the Union in March 1863 in a prisoner exchange, according to the Army.

He rejoined the 33rd Ohio and rose through the ranks and was commissioned as a lieutenant, fighting at Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.

Each AUSA graphic novel is created by a team of professional comic book veterans. The script for the graphic novel on Parrott was written by Chuck Dixon, whose previous work includes *Batman*, *The Punisher* and *The 'Nam*. Pencils, inks and the cover are by Karl Moline, who has worked on *Supergirl*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Rogue*.

Colors were by Peter Pantazis, who has worked on *Black Panther*, *Superman* and *Justice League*, and the lettering was by Troy Peteri, who previously worked on *Spider-Man*, *Iron Man* and *X-Men*.

Three more graphic novels are planned for this year, along with a paperback collection in the fall.

## Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

### Gina Cavallaro

Senior Staff Writer, ARMY magazine

Gina Cavallaro is an author and journalist who has been with AUSA for four years. Since 2001, she has written about the Army at home and abroad, including over several deployments to cover operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In her spare time, Gina loves to cook, hike, bike and spoil her dog, Nacho.



## Registration opens July 15 for in-person AUSA Annual Meeting



Soldiers, defense contractors, AUSA members and more roam the exhibit hall during AUSA's 2019 Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

**W**ith the District of Columbia now reopened to in-person events, the Association of the U.S. Army is quickly moving ahead toward holding the 2021 Annual Meeting and Exposition in October.

Registration opens July 15, and housing registration opens eight days earlier, on July 7, for the event that will be held Oct. 11–13 at D.C.'s Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Professional development forums and addresses by top military leaders will be based around the 2021 theme, "America's Army and its People, Transforming for the Future."

That is a theme that communicates there is no effort more important than building a winning team, with people at the center of everything the Army stands for and must do to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, Army officials said.

The three-day event is being planned to feature keynote speakers from the Army, DoD and industry leaders, as well as professional development forums, awards presenta-

tions, networking opportunities and more than 700 exhibits spread over five halls.

Updated information will be available here.

AUSA meeting planners are working to make this a safe, healthy and comfortable event based on public health guidelines for large events.

"We're thrilled to host our industry-leading event that will, at long last, reunite the community that allows us to achieve our mission of providing a voice for the Army, support for the soldier, and honoring those who have served," AUSA officials said in a recent statement. "We've missed you, and we look forward to welcoming you back to D.C. this October."

The D.C. convention center is doing its part with technology investments to keep the facility clean and safe. This includes increased air filtration and purification and contactless food and beverage purchases.

"It's time to get back to business, and we can't wait to see you there," AUSA said.

# AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier

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President and CEO, AUSA

**Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, USA, Ret.**  
Vice President, 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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## US, NATO military strength key to deterring threats

**P**redicting that before long, the U.S. will be in an all-out, kinetic conflict in the Indo-Pacific, retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said it's critical that Europe strengthen its deterrence posture now against threats from Russia.

The prediction, Hodges said, is not based on secret intelligence but on what he has gathered from watching and listening and “how the Chinese have observed our lack of resolve in so many ways ever since Russia invaded Georgia in 2008 ... and we didn't do anything.”

“I believe we're going to be in a kinetic conflict—that's kinetic missiles, planes, submarines, ships, rockets—in the Indo-Pacific region in about five years,” Hodges said. “The clock is ticking if we don't act, and so because of that, we are going to need a very strong European pillar, not a pillow, to deter the Kremlin if the United States gets fixed in the Pacific region.”

Hodges made his remarks June 9 at a Thought Leaders webinar hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army, where he discussed *Future War and the Defence of Europe*, a new book he co-authored with retired Marine Gen.



Sgt. Kerri Fruster conducts security operations during Operation Courageous Fury, a joint training exercise at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/MARCY SANCHEZ)

John Allen, president of the Brookings Institution, and British strategic analyst Julian Lindley-French, president of the Alphen Group.

The book, he said, lays out a new vision “for a tech-driven Europe defense built around an evolving, adapting NATO alliance” in an era of great-power competition, and is “a warning to our civilian political masters, particularly in Europe, about

what will happen if we don't act.”

He cautioned that China and Russia are prepared and more than willing to exploit vulnerabilities, lack of resolve or gaps in capabilities that involve the U.S. and NATO.

If his prediction about conflict with China is correct, Hodges said, Russia is, likewise, preparing to take advantage of that.

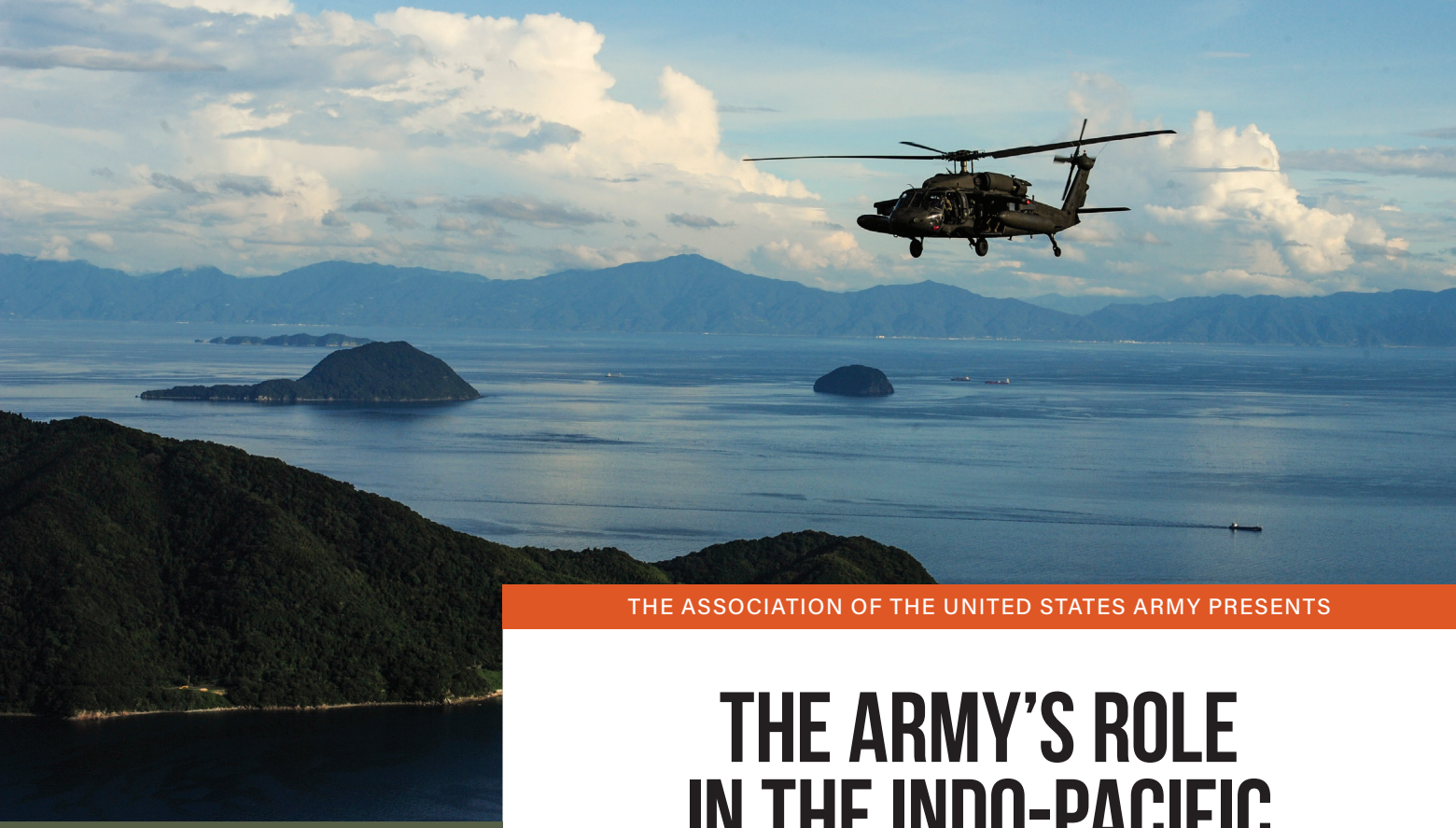
“We won't be able to keep a large American presence focused just on Europe,” he said.

“We're going to have to deal with this pacing threat, as [Defense] Secretary [Lloyd] Austin calls it, so this is a call to arms for our European allies to take on more responsibility and to step up, not just spend more, but be ready.”

Hodges, the Pershing Chair in Strategic Studies at the Center for European Analysis and former commander of U.S. Army Europe, said President Joe Biden's first overseas trip as president, which began June 9 with a first stop in the U.K., is a “really great opportunity for our president early in his administration to reaffirm America's commitment to Europe and the entire NATO alliance.”



A British Army jumpmaster checks the parachute of Maj. Gen. Andrew Rohling, Southern European Task Force, Africa's commander, before an airborne operation into Juliet Drop Zone, Italy. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. GIOVANNY LOPEZ)



THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY PRESENTS

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## National Army museum reopens on service's birthday

**J**ust in time for the Army's 246th birthday, the National Museum of the United States Army reopened to the public on Monday.

The 185,000-square-foot museum at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, originally opened on Veterans Day 2020 but was forced to close just 32 days later because of COVID-19 concerns.

Museum staff held regular virtual events and field trips during the closure.

With 11 galleries filled with nearly 1,400 artifacts, a multisensory theater with a 300-degree screen, flight and tank simulators and more, the museum is the first and only one to tell the complete history of the U.S. Army and its soldiers, with narratives that begin with the earliest militias before the country was founded and continue to present day.

Free timed-entry tickets are required for admission. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern every day except Dec. 25.

Details and reservations are available here and here.



The museum features 11 galleries filled with nearly 1,400 artifacts, a multisensory theater with a 300-degree screen, flight and tank simulators and more. (AUSA PHOTO)

Years in planning, the museum is a joint effort between the Army and the Army Historical Foundation.

The Association of the U.S. Army is the single-largest contributor to the facility, which is owned by the Army but managed by the Army Historical Foundation.

At the 2020 grand opening, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McCon-

ville said a highlight of the museum is telling the stories of individual soldiers.

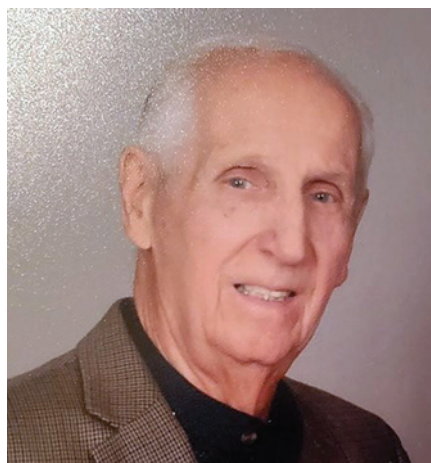
"The Army museum has done an incredible job of bringing to life the inspirational stories of service and sacrifice of American soldiers," he said. "Every soldier has a story, and the Army museum is the home of those stories."

## Longtime AUSA volunteer leader Ralph Gauer dies

**R**etired Col. Ralph Gauer, a Life Member and longtime volunteer leader with the Association of the U.S. Army, died June 3. He was 84.

Gauer, a native of Chicago who settled in Harker Heights, Texas, served as president of AUSA's Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter, Texas state president and president of the association's Fourth Region, which covers Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. He was also a member of AUSA's national leadership team.

After joining the Army in 1958, Gauer served 31 years in conventional and special operations units in Panama, Central and South America, Vietnam and Korea, and in multiple faculty assignments at the Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and



Retired Col. Ralph Gauer. (COURTESY PHOTO)

School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, according to his obituary.

He also served multiple assignments at Fort Hood, Texas, including as commander of the 504th Military

Intelligence Brigade and chief of staff for the 1st Cavalry Division and later for III Corps.

He retired from the Army in 1990 and created RCG Media Services, which provided military and international affairs news products to commercial television broadcasters.

In 1997, Gauer left television and joined the staff of Texas state Sen. Troy Fraser, where he focused on business, veterans and national defense issues.

He retired again in 2017 but remained engaged in issues important to the Army, soldiers and their families, veterans, and the communities that support them, his obituary said.

Gauer is survived by his wife, Mary, three children, Ralph Jr., Todd and Laura, and other family members.

## Bridal gowns, formal wear for service members, spouses

By Holly Dailey

**D**espite the challenges of COVID-19, love remains in the air, and couples are tying the knot.

Whether you are having a micro wedding, virtual wedding, hybrid wedding or eloping, Operation Deploy Your Dress: Bridal Edition has you covered—with a dress, that is.

Founded in 2015 by five Army spouses at Fort Bliss, Texas, Operation Deploy Your Dress is a nonprofit organization that offers new and gently used formal wear to service members and military spouses.

In December 2020, opportunity came knocking.

“We were presented to receive about 250 brand-new bridal gowns.

### Family Readiness

This was definitely out of the box for ODYD,” said Yvonne Coombes,

one of the organization’s founders. “It took several months to come up with a game plan for distribution, and just this month, we launched ODYD: Bridal Edition.”

The new program is completely virtual, she said, “meaning you don’t have to be near one of our shops to receive a bridal gown. A gown will be deployed to you in the comfort of your home.”

Another new aspect “is that you can be sponsored by a military ID card holder to receive a bridal dress if you are a fiancée or an aged-out military dependent,” Coombes said. “Team ODYD is thrilled to welcome some new brides into our military community—just go to our website.”

### Pandemic operations

Even though the pandemic slowed the “deployment” of formal wear, and even shut down some of its shops, Operation Deploy Your Dress is back up and running.

What is even more impressive is what the group’s all-volunteer force has been doing behind the scenes.



Operation Deploy Your Dress is a nonprofit organization that offers new and gently used formal wear to service members and military spouses. (COURTESY PHOTO)

“We didn’t sit by and wait for the world to become more stable,” Coombes said. “Starting in the spring of 2020, we were able to update our processes in the shops by going all-digital with our inventory.”

All Operation Deploy Your Dress shops now receive and deploy dresses using a barcode and digital inventory system, she said.

“This helps the volunteers to be more efficient and helps us at the national level track each shop’s inventory from afar” and fill needs such as sizes and styles in a more timely manner.

Additionally, three new locations opened during the pandemic—at Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Drum, New York, and in Germany, the group’s first overseas location.

“Most recently, we announced our 11th shop opening, which will be in Fort Rucker, Alabama, later this summer. We are thrilled to team up in these military communities with all the spouses clubs of these installations,” Coombes said.

### AUSA team-up

Speaking of teaming up, did you know that Operation Deploy Your Dress teamed up with the Association of the U.S. Army in 2017?

Through our blooming partnership and the commitment and passion of our AUSA chapters and Operation Deploy Your Dress, we have been able to extend our connection and ongoing support to soldiers and families.

We are also excited to be moving forward with planning our successful “pop-up” event at AUSA’s national headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, later this year.

COVID-19 guidelines permitting, Operation Deploy Your Dress and AUSA’s Family Readiness directorate will co-host this magical event with gowns, tuxedos, suits and accessories that will be collected from across the country.

Look for more details to come, and we hope to see you soon!

**Holly Dailey** is AUSA’s Family Readiness Director.



## Chapter member receives award for decades of service

A member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Riley-Central Kansas chapter was recently honored for her decades of support to soldiers, families and the surrounding community.

Mary Sue Moore, the chapter secretary, received the 2021 Distinguished Trooper Award from Maj. Gen. Douglas Sims, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Kansas, during a June 10 ceremony.

The Distinguished Trooper Award is the most prestigious award bestowed on a private citizen by the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, according to the installation.

During the event, Sims and Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Harris, the division's senior enlisted leader, presented Moore with an engraved coin, lapel pin and certificate. She also received a jacket with the division logo.

Moore played a key role as a three-



At the award ceremony are, left to right, Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Harris, Mary Sue Moore and Maj. Gen. Douglas Sims. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. ERIC JOHNSON)

term president of the Lady Troopers, an organization that works to connect the military with its local communities, and worked canteen events during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In addition to her service with AUSA, she is currently the secretary for the Armed Forces Community Foundation and was a founding member of the Central Kansas Military Community Foundation in 2004.

## AUSA chapter supports statewide conservation project

By W. Thomas Smith Jr.

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter, including chapter president Leon Lott, joined South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster for the launch of a statewide tree-planting initiative called Power Plant SC.

The event was held in late April on the grounds of the governor's mansion in Columbia.

Tom Mullikin, the state's Floodwater Commission chairman and an AUSA member; McMaster and his wife, Peggy; and Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette planted the first of the approximately 3.4 million loblolly pine tree seeds and saplings placed across the state by schoolchildren, Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs and other organizations.



Sheriff Leon Lott, third from right, president of the local AUSA chapter, attends the launch of a statewide tree-planting initiative called Power Plant SC. (AUSA PHOTO)

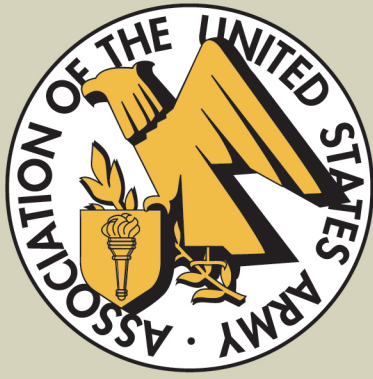
"We are involved in every aspect of the communities we serve," said Lott, who also is sheriff of Richland County.

These projects "provide young people with purpose, opportunity, and a fun way to get outside, enjoy, and even contribute to our state's natural beauty," he said.

Mullikin, who conceived and directed Power Plants SC, agreed.

"The presence of Sheriff Leon Lott ... and several AUSA members speaks to the level of support and the energy we've created from all quarters with this initiative since we began planning it over a year ago," Mullikin said.

W. Thomas Smith Jr. is a member of AUSA's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter.



THE AUSA



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## FY22 ARMY BUDGET UPDATE

**24 JUNE 2021, 1200 EDT**

A discussion on the Army's post-budget rollout strategy, how the Army is transforming and why it is critical for us to do so in this era of great power competition. The goal is to modernize the Army in coordination with the Joint Force to deter aggression by adversaries and, if necessary, ensure we are ready to fight and win our Nation's wars in multi-domain environments. The FY22 budget is a centerpiece of the Army's transformation.

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