



Army Secretary Mark T. Esper has been named acting secretary of defense. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

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Esper named acting defense secretary

Armey Secretary Mark T. Esper, who made the case for the Army's renaissance, on Monday will become the acting secretary of defense.

Esper will fill the job as Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan is taking himself out of contention to become the permanent secretary, President Donald Trump announced June 18.

Trump said Shanahan has done a "wonderful job" since stepping in on Jan. 1 to replace retired Marine Gen. James N. Mattis in the top Pentagon post but now wants to spend more time with his family.

The president called Esper "a highly respected gentleman with a great career," adding, "Mark Esper is going to be outstanding, and we look forward to working with him for a long period of time to come."

Esper and Shanahan have already met to begin transition planning, the Pentagon said in a statement.

Shanahan will resign at midnight on Sunday, and Esper will take over at 12:01 a.m. Monday and "exercise all of the authorities and powers of the Secretary of Defense," the Pentagon said.

Army Undersecretary Ryan D. McCarthy is expected to become the acting Army secretary, a role he has filled in the past.

Esper, who has been Army secretary since Nov. 20, 2017, is a former infantry officer who also served in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. He retired as a lieutenant colonel. He is a former Raytheon executive who also worked for the Aerospace Industries Association and as a congressional staff member.

A strong advocate for leap-ahead modernization, Esper has expressed a

sense of urgency in getting the Army to move. "We must act now to ensure we are ready today and even more lethal tomorrow," he said at the October 2018 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition. "We are in a renaissance. This renaissance means we look at everything differently. We turn it upside down and inside out."

The move by Trump means yet another change to the Army's top leadership ranks. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley has been announced as Trump's pick to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville has been confirmed to be the next chief, while Lt. Gen. Joseph Martin will become the next vice. In addition, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston has been selected to succeed Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey.



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Eighth Army 'Pacific Victors' celebrate 75th anniversary

By Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch,
U.S. Army Retired

Seventy-five years ago, on June 10, 1944, in Memphis, the Tennessee Eighth Army was first activated to take part in what would be more than 60 amphibious landings during World War II.

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger was the unit's first commander, and he led Eighth Army, nicknamed the "Amphibious Eighth," to numerous victories throughout the Southwest Pacific.

Eighth Army would go on to participate in the occupation of Japan, taking on the formidable tasks of disarmament, demilitarization and democratization.

When hostilities grew on the Korean Peninsula, Eighth Army would face new challenges.

Arriving on the peninsula on June 25, 1950, now under the command of Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker, the troops conducted operations on the ground before withdrawing and establishing what's known as the Pusan Perimeter.

The successful defense of the Pusan Perimeter set the stage for the United Nations offensive and was the defining moment in the Korean War.

Afterward, "Pacific Victors" became the Eighth Army motto.

On June 10, 2019, Eighth Army celebrated its 75th anniversary.

As a former command sergeant major for Eighth Army, I was fortunate enough to be invited to participate in the four-day celebration.

The command kicked off the celebration with an anniversary/Army birthday ball on June 7.

Gen. Robert B. Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces Korea and United Nations Command, provided remarks. The Eighth Army band provided the entertainment and did not disappoint.

The next day, Special Operations Command-Korea parachutists jumped into Camp Humphreys car-



Seventy-five soldiers reenlist during Eighth Army's anniversary celebration. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

rying both U.S. and South Korean flags, and the U.N. Honor Guard perform a flawless weapons routine.

Static displays, events for children, vendor tents from Morale, Welfare and Recreation along with local shop owners, Family Support Groups and local restaurants from Pyeongtaek lined the airfield.

An estimated 25,000 people from on and off the installation visited the displays.

The festival carried on through the weekend, bringing the military and local communities together.

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Bills, commanding general of Eighth Army, said during the festival, "The [Republic of Korea]/U.S. alliance that was forged in 1950-53 is as strong as ever."

Bills and Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Schmidt closed out the four-day celebration with the grand opening of the new Eighth Army and Sec-

ond Infantry Division Museum, the planting of a time capsule and the reenlistment of 75 soldiers.

Items in the capsule included pictures and a letter from Bills to the future commanding general.

It was exciting to return to Korea since my departure in 2005. The changes are incredible.

At nearly 3,500 acres, Camp Humphreys is the largest overseas installation in the Army. With its modern design focused on soldiers and their families, it is an assignment of choice for many.

My thanks to Lt. Gen. Bills and Command Sgt. Maj. Schmidt for the invitation to return and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Eighth United States Army "Pacific Victors."

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch is AUSA's NCO & Soldier Programs Director.

NCO & Soldier Programs

Families 'critical' to soldier morale and readiness, experts say



Col. Steve Lewis, chief of family programs for the Installations Services Directorate, said having access to resources is an essential part of maintaining family readiness. (AUSA PHOTO)

The Army has a moral and ethical obligation to take care of its soldiers and their family members, installation and family programs experts said.

"If you think about the morale and readiness of soldiers and what maintains their will to fight our nation's wars, the families are really critical to that for our active component as well as our reserve component," said Col. Steve Lewis, chief of family programs for the Installations Services Directorate.

About 60% of service members have families, and having access to resources is an essential part of maintaining their readiness, Lewis said while speaking on a panel about soldier and family readiness at a one-day Hot Topic event hosted June 12 by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

Paul Burk, director of family and morale, welfare and recreation programs at the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, said the Army recognizes the stressors soldiers and families face, ranging from finances to physical, emotional and mental well-being.

While needs can vary from one installation to the next, the Army's family and MWR programs—the "foundation of the Army"—provide a sense of community, support and services to help soldiers and families with the readiness they need, he said.

"When we think about what the future requires, it's important for us to sometimes look through the lens of the past," Lewis said.

Commanders are a critical part of readiness, since they understand what soldiers and families need, what resources are available, and how to connect them, he said.

Lewis said communities extend beyond an installation's borders, and both internal and external communities are integral to support for soldiers and families.

About 70% of service members live off-post, he said.

"We know that it is our people—our soldiers, civilians and family members—that will always be the Army's most precious asset," said Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, assistant chief of staff for installation management and one of the Hot Topic's keynote speakers.

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Milley: D-Day lessons still apply on 244th Army birthday

The lessons of D-Day and World War II ring true 75 years later as the Army marks its 244th birthday and prepares for a deadlier, more complex future battlefield, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley said.

Speaking during an Army birthday celebration at the Pentagon—the service's birthday is June 14—Milley talked about the deadly price paid by the Army during the Normandy campaign.

Nineteen U.S. Army divisions participated in the campaign, six of them on D-Day, Milley said.

During that six- to seven-week campaign, 37,000 American soldiers were killed in action.

At the same time in the Pacific, the Army suffered 16,000 killed in the Central Pacific and another 9,000 killed in the South Pacific, he said.

The term “great-power competition” often gets thrown around, but “we

should always pause for what that really means,” Milley said. “What that really means is significant challenges, significant casualties, significant battles.”

In a recent conversation with a veteran of the Battle of Carentan, which was part of the Normandy campaign, Milley said he asked the 96-year-old, two-time Silver Star recipient what lessons he drew from his combat experiences.

“He looked at me and he said, ‘General, never let it happen again,’ and he’s so right,” Milley said.

To do that, the Army must focus on readiness, modernization, managing talent and “by having a large, capable military force,” he said.

“Peace through strength is not a bumper sticker,” Milley said. “It’s a very, very true thing that keeps the peace in the world.”



‘Peace through strength is not a bumper sticker,’ Milley said. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO)

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Students receive scholarships at chapter awards banquet

Severe storms did not deter 17 deserving student recipients from their scholarship awards at the Association of the U.S. Army Fairfax-Lee Chapter's 2019 scholarship awards banquet and Army birthday celebration.

Approximately 50 chapter members, family members and friends celebrated the students' excellence on June 6 with the distribution of \$10,000 in scholarships.

The guest speaker for the event was William Forrest Crain, the director of the Center for Army Analysis.

Fairfax-Lee

He spoke about the importance of education, adding

that everyone creates their own "luck" by being prepared when future opportunities arise.

Fairfax-Lee chapter leaders also took the opportunity to use the banquet as a membership meeting, with the election of Nancy Jean-Louise as the new chapter president. She suc-



Leaders distributed \$10,000 in scholarships to deserving students. (AUSA PHOTO)

ceeds retired Lt. Col. Ken Britt, the outgoing president. In addition, Kathy Callahan was reelected to a second term as first vice president. They will both serve two-year terms.

The chapter also celebrated the Army's 244th birthday, which was June

14. Retired Brig. Gen. Guy Sands-Pingot spoke about the founding of the Army in 1775 and how George Washington came to be the first commander of the Continental Army.

A cake-cutting ceremony closed out the evening's events.

AUSA supports Hawaii World War I centennial symposium

The Hawaii World War I Centennial Task Force will host an academic symposium at the Aloha Tower in downtown Honolulu from June 26-28 to mark the end of the WWI Centennial Commemoration Period.

The symposium is co-hosted by Hawaii Pacific University, the Arizona Memorial Visitors' Center, the Ke'ehi Memorial Organization, Pacific Historic Parks, and the task force, which is chaired by retired Col. Arthur Tulak, the vice president of ROTC Affairs for the Hawaii chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

Hawaii

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, so it is appropriate to remember those pivotal events with an academic symposium, Tulak said.

The Hawaii Chapter and Pacific Region of AUSA have assisted in the promotion of this event to Army personnel in Hawaii.

Several chapter members have also contributed to the 41 events carried out by the task force since 2016, among them Allen Hoe, the civilian assistant to the secretary of the Army for Hawaii, and Bob Takao, Dave Carlson and Curtis Manchester, who are all retired lieutenant colonels.

The symposium will feature presentations focused on the final military actions of 1918, such as the final Meuse-Argonne Offensive carried out by the American Expeditionary Forces led by Gen. John Pershing, and the American Expeditionary Force in Siberia under Maj. Gen. William Graves from 1918-1920, as well as the major activities associated with the Paris Peace Conference.

Other topics include political or social changes caused by the war, military demobilization, civilian rebuilding and humanitarian efforts immediately post-conflict, and the influence of the war on the creation of many veterans' professional organizations.

In addition to the symposium, there will be a special boat tour of Pearl Harbor narrated by National Park Service Ranger Daniel Martinez, the chief historian at Pearl Harbor, to recall the events and activities in Pearl Harbor during WWI.

Registration for military personnel and government civilians is free. For more information, please click here: <https://bit.ly/2WPoGBv>.





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