



AUSA's 2025 George Catlett Marshall Medal—the association's highest award for distinguished and selfless service—honors Army recipients of the Medal of Honor. (U.S. ARMY GRAPHIC)

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 7
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Donahue: Allies, Industry Key to Deterrence

3

Army Seeks Ways to Better Manage Talent

4

Book Program

Biographies, Histories, Collections

7

Chapter Highlights

Eagle Chapters

8

AUSA names Marshall Medal recipients

In honor of the Army's 250th birthday, the Association of the U.S. Army's highest award for distinguished and selfless service is being presented this year to Army recipients of the Medal of Honor.

This isn't the first time the George Catlett Marshall Medal has gone to a group instead of a person. Last year, the Marshall Medal was awarded to The Army Noncommissioned Officer. It was awarded to The Army Family in 2020 and to The American Soldier in 2004.

"From the American Revolution to today, U.S. Army soldiers have fought for and defended this nation with courage and skill," said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. "Among those legions of heroes is this special group of soldiers

who displayed bravery, sacrifice and integrity above and beyond the call of duty in the brutal and unforgiving crucible of combat."

The award will be presented at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition Oct. 13–15 in Washington, D.C.

"Any of these recipients would humbly tell you they were merely doing their job, but we recognize their valor and gallantry, their willingness to sacrifice themselves for others, and their dedication to their fellow soldiers," Brown said. "Their stories move and inspire us and generations to come, and I am honored to recognize them with AUSA's highest award."

Of the 3,528 people who have received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor in com-

bat, 2,460 were soldiers. Forty-four Army recipients are living today, including 12 who were honored for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Each recipient has a story to tell—from the very first Medal of Honor ever presented to the most recent—and AUSA is dedicated to helping tell those stories.

The very first Medal of Honor was presented to a soldier, Pvt. Jacob Parrott, who was one of 24 men who 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.

See **Marshall Medal**, Page 5



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Army in Europe pushes transformation, interoperability

The Army is transforming in Europe, training with allies and working with industry to advance and scale next-generation capabilities, said Gen. Christopher Donahue, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa.

In remarks on Wednesday at a Coffee Series event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army, Donahue said the U.S. military “will always lead in Europe, in particular the Army,” but as a global Army, formations must be ready to deploy anywhere in the world.

Donahue, who has led U.S. Army Europe and Africa since December, noted that warfare is marked by rapidly advancing technology such as drones, robotics and electronic warfare, but the strongest deterrent will always be the soldiers on the ground.

“Nobody can replace Roman legions. If you want to win, you have to put people on the ground—that will not change,” Donahue said. “You have to have brigade combat teams, and they have to be incredibly well trained.”

Describing Ukraine as “the best laboratory,” Donahue pointed out that a lot is being learned from the conflict there. More importantly, he said, are the investments being made by European countries in building ranges where U.S. troops can train with their allies to build interoperability and strengthen their deterrence posture.

“They’ve all lined up, and they’re putting millions of dollars into this,” Donahue said, describing ranges to train with unmanned aerial systems and electronic warfare. In Latvia and Romania, he said, planned brigade-sized live-fire ranges will be like the Baltics equivalent of the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

“Our NATO allies are building infrastructure for us to train because they know if we can’t train, there is going to be an issue with our rota-



Gen. Christopher Donahue, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, speaks Wednesday during a Coffee Series event hosted by AUSA. (AUSA PHOTO)

tional forces,” Donahue said, adding that U.S. Army Europe and Africa “is the test bed for the Army Transformation Initiative for a number of things.”

He pointed to testing with counter-unmanned aerial systems, known as Project Flytrap, as an example of how soldiers are learning to adapt on the move with a capability that is usually employed from a static location.



A soldier assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment aims at a drone with a Smartshooter SMASH 2000L rifle attachment June 22 during Project Flytrap in Hohenfels, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. BRENT LEE)

“We know what to do from a static perspective. Well, in the United States Army, we’re an offensive force, so how do you take your UAS capability with you while you’re moving, while you’re on the attack?” he said.

He pointed also to Next Generation Command and Control, known as NGC2, as an evolving capability that is tested “every day.”

Donahue also called for a “collective defense industrial base that can match this ... unholy alliance that’s out there between China, Russia, North Korea and Iran.” The U.S. military must have interoperability with all NATO nations as well as South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand to achieve a versatile defense industrial base.

“We’re pushing this very hard, at LANDEURO you’ll hear this as well,” Donahue said referring to AUSA’s two-day forum next month in Wiesbaden, Germany, on land power in Europe. “We need to co-produce, because any munition that you can shoot in Finland, Poland, you know, pick your spot, you also have to be able to use in Asia, you have to be able to use it in [the Middle East].”

Eifler: Personnel reforms fuel Army readiness, transformation efforts



Army recruits prepare to take the oath of enlistment June 14 during the 250th Army Birthday parade in Washington, D.C. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. PS BAILEY WHILDEN)

With tensions rising around the world, soldiers must grow, adapt and battle complacency to prepare for the future fight, the service's top personnel officer said.

Through structural changes, strategically placing people in formations and talent management reforms, the Army is working "to make sure we're on the cutting-edge of technology and on the battlefield," Lt. Gen. Brian Eifler, the deputy Army chief of staff for personnel, G-1, said June 18 during a Noon Report webinar hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

"We have to continue to learn, to grow, to adapt and think about how to get better," he said. "No matter where we are, no matter what level we are, we have to look at things differently to make sure we're prepared."

Reflecting on the Army's 250th birthday on June 14, Eifler highlighted the late retired Col. Ralph Puckett Jr.'s adage to be proud but never satisfied.

"When we talk about 2030, 2040 or 2026, we can't wait another year. We have to be more adaptive. We have to be faster," Eifler said. "We have to have systems that are streamlined, that free up time for the soldier to not ... spend doing administration

and more time doing training and preparing for the fight."

Though soldiers will always make the decisions, artificial intelligence could unburden soldiers, Eifler said, adding that promotion board processes that typically take weeks could be done in one day using AI.

The Army is "doing really well in retention and recruiting" as it continues to make effective changes, Eifler said. Army Recruiting Command has "done a phenomenal job" revolutionizing how and where the Army recruits and how it develops recruiters, he said. The command also is leveraging AI to "narrow down the field instead of knocking on doors" for prospective recruits.

"I still think the American Dream is available inside the Army," Eifler said. "I still think that the Army is one of the greatest places where you could start with nothing and end up ... in a profession, in a career, ... get a college education and get a start on life. ... It'll take care and make you a better person."

Correction

A photo caption on the cover of last week's issue of *AUSA Extra* misidentified a unit. It was the 3rd Infantry Division.

AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier*

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MEMBERSHIP RATES. To celebrate the U.S. Army's 250th birthday, from April 1, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2025, membership rates are reduced to a five-year Premium rate of \$50 and a two-year Premium rate of \$30. Lifetime membership is \$250. A special Premium rate of \$10 for two years is open to E1-E4 and cadets only. Two-year Basic membership with select benefits is free. Learn more at www.ausa.org/join.

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Marshall Medal*From Page 1*

Former Staff Sgt. Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura, who fought waves of enemy soldiers before being captured and held for over two years during the Korean War, received the only Medal of Honor classified as top secret—kept quiet until his release from a prisoner-of-war camp.

Capt. Tom Custer was the first soldier in U.S. history to earn two Medals of Honor for his actions during the Civil War, while Dr. Mary Walker, one of the first women to earn a medical degree in America and who served as a contract surgeon for the U.S. Army during the Civil War, is the only woman to receive the medal.

Cpl. Tibor Rubin was the only Holocaust survivor to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Emigrating to the U.S. after World War II and joining the Army, Rubin deployed to Korea. In July 1950, Rubin single-handedly

fought off a North Korean assault, inflicting a staggering number of enemy casualties. When captured by the enemy, he risked his life to gather food for his fellow prisoners.

Retired Col. Roger Donlon, who disregarded his own wounds and led his 12-man Green Beret team as they held off an attack by a reinforced battalion of Viet Cong fighters in July 1964, was the first person in the Vietnam War and the first Green Beret to receive the Medal of Honor.

Former Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, who refused to let enemy fighters carry off a fellow wounded soldier in Afghanistan, was the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor in nearly 40 years.

These are just a few of the thousands of stories of valor and sacrifice that AUSA is proud to help share through the presentation of this year’s Marshall Medal.

The Marshall Medal, awarded an-

nually by AUSA since 1960, is named for General of the Army George Catlett Marshall Jr., a former Army chief of staff who also served as secretary of state, secretary of defense and U.S. special envoy to China during his public service career.

Past recipients of the Marshall Medal include Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush; General of the Army Omar Bradley; and retired Army Gens. Gordon Sullivan, Lyman Lemnitzer, Colin Powell, Bernard Rogers, Maxwell Taylor, John Vessey Jr., Martin Dempsey and Eric Shinseki.

Other recipients include two former defense secretaries who also served as directors of the Central Intelligence Agency, Leon Panetta and Robert Gates; Duke University head basketball coach and U.S. Military Academy graduate Michael Krzyzewski; comedian Bob Hope; and actor Gary Sinise.



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Paper: Leaders must master counter-UAS capabilities

Army leaders must understand how to employ counter-unmanned aerial systems capabilities to give their soldiers freedom of maneuver and protection on the future battlefield, according to a new paper published by the Association of the U.S. Army.

“The modern battlefield echoes the need to clearly understand system capabilities and deployment tactics to match each unit’s mission set,” Capt. Gavin Berke and Iain Herring write. “Currently, counter-unmanned aerial systems ... present similar challenges where leaders are obligated to distinguish between fixed, mobile and on-the-move ... systems to maximize protection and survivability.”

In “Fixed, Mobile and On-The-Move: The Practical Difference,” Berke and Herring argue that on-the-move systems are “underdeveloped across the force,” which creates “a protection and survivability gap for maneuvering units.”

Berke is an air and missile defense operations officer in the 101st Airborne Division. Herring is an air defense airspace management cell officer with the 101st Airborne Division’s



A soldier with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment guides a Stryker mounted with an EchoShield cognitive radar into concealment June 20 during Project Flytrap, a series of counter-unmanned aerial system exercises, in Hohenfels, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. ELIJAH MAGANA)

2nd Mobile Brigade Combat Team.

Fixed systems, like radar installations, can form “the first line of detection” and are particularly effective against larger threats like fixed-wing aircraft, Berke and Herring write. Mobile systems, like the unmanned aerial vehicle integrated defeat system, fill the gap between fixed and on-

the-move systems. On-the-move systems, like a vehicle-mounted system, can rapidly engage enemy UASs and free up soldiers to focus on shooting adversaries and maneuvering.

Filling the shoot and detect on-the-move counter-UAS system gap and integrating artificial intelligence remain essential to the future fight, Berke and Herring write.

“Light maneuver units would be vulnerable to Group 1–3 unmanned aerial system attacks without detection, early warning and neutralizing UAS threats on-the-move,” they write.

Groups 1–3 UASs are small systems that weigh up to 1,320 pounds.

Mastering the intricacies of system capabilities enables Army leaders to succeed in future conflicts, Berke and Herring write.

“Leaders who discern the subtle variation in terminology appreciate the consequential difference in the capabilities and limitations of fixed, mobile and [on-the-move] systems,” they write. “Understanding and applying the distinctions of these categories will impact the efficacy of CUAS systems in future conflicts.”

[Read the full paper here.](#)

Brown addresses chapter leaders



Retired Gen. Bob Brown, center right, AUSA president and CEO, speaks to new AUSA chapter leaders Wednesday during training at the association's headquarters. (AUSA PHOTO)

Fortunately, the Association of

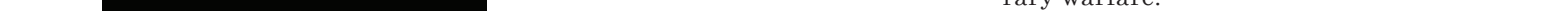


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Eagle Chapters

The following chapters attained Eagle status for May by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1 is shown in parentheses.

Central Texas (11)	Thunderbird (9)	Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (7)
First In Battle (11)	Allegheny-Blue Ridge (8)	Francis Scott Key (7)
Puerto Rico (11)	Arizona Territorial (8)	GEN John W. Vessey, Jr. (7)
Alamo (10)	Arsenal of Democracy (8)	George Washington (7)
Captain Meriwether Lewis (10)	Big Bend (8)	Greater Kansas City (7)
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Moore (10)	Central California (8)	Greater Los Angeles (7)
Crossroads of America (10)	Coastal South Carolina (8)	Lafayette (7)
Denver Centennial (10)	Florida Gulf Stream (8)	Mediterranean (7)
Fires (10)	Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (8)	Minutemen (7)
Fort Campbell (10)	Fort Pitt (8)	Rock Island Arsenal (7)
Fort Riley-Central Kansas (10)	GEN Creighton W. Abrams (8)	San Francisco (7)
Fort Sheridan-Chicago (10)	Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (8)	Silicon Valley (7)
Houston Metroplex (10)	Japan (8)	Space Coast (7)
Pikes Peak (10)	Joshua Chamberlain (8)	Virginia Colonial (7)
Suncoast (10)	Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (8)	Western New York (7)
Arkansas (9)	Major Samuel Woodfill (8)	Des Moines Freedom (6)
Central Virginia (9)	Monmouth (8)	Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista (6)
Columbia River (9)	New Orleans (8)	Last Frontier (6)
Connecticut (9)	Newton D. Baker (8)	MG John S. Lekson (6)
Delaware (9)	Northern New Jersey (8)	MSG Leroy Arthur Petry (6)
Fort Knox (9)	PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (8)	Northern New York-Fort Drum (6)
Gem State (9)	Texas Capital Area (8)	Rhode Island (6)
Greater Atlanta (9)	Tri-State (8)	United Arab Emirates (6)
Hawaii (9)	Tucson-Goyette (8)	West Point Area (6)
Magnolia (9)	Utah (8)	Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley (5)
Marne (9)	White Sands Missile Range (8)	Fort Novosel-Wiregrass (5)
Massachusetts Bay (9)	Capital District of New York (7)	GA Omar N. Bradley (5)
MG William F. Dean (9)	Central Ohio (7)	Guam (5)
Milwaukee (9)	COL Edward Cross (7)	Isthmian (5)
National Training Center-High Desert (9)	Cowboy (7)	Kuwait (5)
North Texas-Audie Murphy (9)	CPL Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (7)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (5)
San Diego (9)	CSM James M. McDonald-Keystone (7)	GEN Joseph W. Stilwell (4)
SGM Jon Cavaiani (9)	Dix (7)	MG Robert B. McCoy (4)
St. Louis Gateway (9)	Ethan Allen (7)	Tobyhanna Army Depot (4)
Sunshine (9)	First Militia (7)	Hellenic (3)

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