Dailey talks recruiting, PCS moves, Army Greens

The soon-to-retire sergeant major of the Army talked about recruiting, permanent change of station moves, Army Greens and his successor during an Institute of Land Warfare breakfast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army on Wednesday.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey, the 15th senior enlisted adviser, will leave his post in mid-August after a history-making four-year assignment because he was just 46—the youngest SMA—when he started the job in January 2015.

Dailey’s successor is Command Sgt. Maj. Michael “Tony” Grinston of the U.S. Army Forces Command, who is expected to be sworn in on Aug. 16.

“The Army is going to be in good hands,” Dailey said. Grinston comes to the job “with a wealth of knowledge and experience,” and he was afforded the opportunities to be developed and groomed for the position that Dailey said were not available before he took the post.

A decorated artilleryman who enlisted in 1987, Grinston has been a command sergeant major at the battalion, brigade, division and corps levels.

He was selected from a field of 12 candidates, Dailey said.

On recruiting, Dailey said the Army is on track to meet Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve goals for 2019 after falling short last year. “We are on target,” he said.

The Army expects to bring in 68,000 recruits for the Regular Army, 15,000 for the Army Reserve and 39,000 for the Army National Guard, he said.

“We are on track to meet all those goals for recruiting as well as our end strength goals,” he said.

This is not easy, he said. Army recruiting is more difficult in times of low unemployment. “It is a challenging market,” he said. “Everyone is looking for the same type of individual we are, an 18- to 24-year-old, good moral character and high school graduate.”

The nation’s low 3.8 percent unemployment rate came up again when Dailey talked about difficulties faced by soldiers and their families moving to new locations.

Complaints about broken and lost household items and poor customer service have garnered attention at the highest levels of the Army, Dailey said.

Part of the problem is a shortage of good movers.

“Companies that help assist our soldiers move are finding it tougher and tougher to get quality employees who want to come pack household goods,” he said. “It is a very, very, very tough job.”

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ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY
McCarthy promises continued modernization, growth

The Army will continue its path to modernization and growth despite several upcoming changes in the service’s most senior leadership ranks, the Army’s new civilian leader said.

“We have circled the wagons and really buckled down ... and put out the word that no policies or priorities are changing,” Army Undersecretary Ryan D. McCarthy, who on Monday assumed his new role as senior official performing the duties of the secretary of the Army, said during a meeting with reporters.

“We are going to continue, our head down, and continue to march on the same azimuth that we have been on while we work through this transition,” McCarthy said, as reported by Military.com.

McCarthy, who has been nominated for the permanent Army secretary job, took on his new role on Monday after Army Secretary Mark T. Esper became acting secretary of defense.

President Donald Trump has announced that he intends to nominate both Army veterans to permanently hold the two posts.

The shuffle is the result of Patrick M. Shanahan announcing he was withdrawing from consideration as defense secretary. Shanahan had served as acting secretary of defense.

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Changes are also coming for the Army’s uniformed leaders.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, who has been nominated to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs, will be succeeded by Gen. James C. McConville, who is currently the Army vice chief of staff.

Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, director of the Army staff, has been confirmed to be the next vice, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston is slated to succeed Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey in August.

McCarthy, a key architect behind the creation of the new Army Futures Command, has fulfilled the duties of Army secretary before.

He became the 33rd undersecretary of the Army in August 2017 and served as acting Army secretary from his appointment until Esper was appointed in November 2017.

During his tenure, McCarthy has been integral to the Army’s efforts to modernize the force after almost two decades of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Considering the speed at which technology is moving in the world today, we have an industrial age model of how we do business,” McCarthy said last fall in an interview with Army Sustainment magazine. “We’re slow, and we have a lot of people weighing in on decisions. ... We have to get faster.”

If confirmed, McCarthy will continue to work closely with McConville.

The men have worked side-by-side for months to get the Army on the right path as it undertakes its most sweeping modernization effort in decades.

During that process, it was “kind of like the heavens parted that I get him as my wingman given the unique characteristics of the operational roles he’s had,” McCarthy told Army Sustainment magazine, adding that he and McConville “are linked shoulder to shoulder in bringing the strength of the secretariat and Army staff together.”

McCarthy is an Army veteran who served in the 75th Ranger Regiment and in Afghanistan.

He previously worked on the F-35 program at Lockheed Martin.

He also was special assistant to Defense Secretary Robert Gates and a staff member on the House Committee on International Relations.

Esper, a retired Army lieutenant colonel who served in the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve, has attended Trump cabinet meetings since Shanahan’s announcement and traveled to Brussels, Belgium, for a meeting with NATO defense ministers.

Dailey

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“It is physically demanding, and when Amazon and other companies out there pay $15, $16, $17 an hour, it is tough competition,” Dailey said.

The Army is attempting to stretch out moving season from beyond May to September to ease the burden on moving companies and also trying to reduce the number of permanent change-of-station moves, he said.

There are limits, though, to how long soldiers and their families can remain in one place because of “enduring requirements” for training and operational deployments.
Grief study hopes to provide better resources for bereaved families

Research suggests that grief-related challenges can occur among military survivors, even many years following a loss. [U.S. ARMY PHOTO]

By Ami Neiberger-Miller

The Stepping Forward in Grief Study is testing two evidence-based online/app programs created by scientists and clinicians at the Uniformed Services University and Columbia University to address grief-related challenges.

These programs were developed in response to earlier research suggesting that grief-related challenges can occur among bereaved military survivors, even many years following a loss, and that many surviving loved ones desire additional support.

Study partners include the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, The Travis Manion Foundation, Army Survivor Outreach Services, American Gold Star Mothers, and Gold Star Wives of America.

The study is now open to close friends and family members of those who died before or after Sept. 11, 2001, while serving in the military or as a result of their military service.

This would include:

• Any immediate family member—such as a parent, spouse, sibling or adult child.
• Any non-immediate family member—such as a cousin, grandparent, uncle or aunt.
• Any close friend or battle buddy of an active-duty service member who died while serving.

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two programs, GriefSteps or WellnessSteps, to test their ability to support grief adaptation in bereaved military survivors.

The study team is particularly hoping to reach and enroll family members who continue to struggle with their grief, with the goal of providing better resources for the bereaved in years to come.

Interested participants can sign up by going to the study’s site, https://steppingforwardstudy.org/, and clicking “Enroll Now,” where they will be asked to answer some screening questions, fill out an online consent form, and complete a 20-minute survey. Following enrollment, participants will be contacted by study personnel to complete a telephonic screening and enrollment.

Once enrolled, study participants will have access to their assigned program for six months and will be asked to provide feedback about their experience.

For more information, please contact info@steppingforwardstudy.org.

Ami Neiberger-Miller conducts outreach for the Stepping Forward in Grief Study.
The soldier who became the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq said he is grateful for the attention the award has brought to his fellow soldiers, especially those who were killed in combat.

“It’s really not enough that we honor the fact that we lost people at war for this country, but to acknowledge how they died and why they died,” said former Staff Sgt. David Bellavia. “They died for us.”

Bellavia received the Medal of Honor from President Donald Trump during a ceremony on Tuesday at the White House. He is credited with clearing a house filled with insurgent fighters and saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers during the brutal second Battle of Fallujah.

Bellavia, 43, is the fourth soldier to receive the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq.

“America’s blessed with the heroes and great people like Staff Sgt. Bellavia, whose intrepid spirit and unwavering resolve defeats our enemies, protects our freedoms and defends our great American flag,” Trump said during the ceremony.

Bellavia, who was in 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, said it was “awkward” to be singled out for the award. Instead, he credited his fellow soldiers for their actions on the battlefield.

“I never thought I’d see love on a battlefield,” he said. “It’s horrible, it’s ghastly, it’s ghoulish, but you see people doing things for each other that they would never, ever do in any other circumstance. It’s a sight to see, and it’ll change your life forever.”

Bellavia, who originally received the Silver Star, was recognized for his actions on Nov. 10, 2004, while serving as a squad leader in support of Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah.

Bellavia and his fellow soldiers were clearing a block of houses when his platoon became pinned down. He quickly exchanged an M16 rifle for an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, entered the house where his squad was trapped, and engaged the insurgents, providing cover fire so that he and his fellow soldiers could exit safely, according to the White House.

Armed with an M16, Bellavia went back into the house and attacked a pair of insurgents who were firing rocket-propelled grenades at his fellow soldiers, killing one insurgent and wounding another.

The wounded insurgent and another fighter, who had come rushing down the stairs, began engaging Bellavia. The soldier returned fire, killing both attackers.

He then took fire from an insurgent who appeared from a closet across the room. Bellavia chased him up the stairs and killed him, before moving to the roof where he engaged and wounded a fifth insurgent, who fell from the roof of the building, according to the White House.

Bellavia’s actions during the “bloodiest battle of the Iraq War” saved his soldiers, Trump said. Thirty-two of Bellavia’s fellow soldiers, including 12 who fought alongside him that night, attended the White House ceremony.

“Today we honor your extraordinary courage, we salute your selfless service, and we thank you for carrying on the legacy of American valor that has always made our blessed nation the strongest and mightiest anywhere in the world,” Trump said.
Volunteers, community partners recognized at chapter event

The Space Coast Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army held its Army birthday event and general membership meeting on June 14 in Merritt Island, Florida.

Allie Braswell Jr., a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, was the guest speaker, and he talked about his role in spreading the secretary of the Army’s message. Lately, his focus has been on the recent shortfalls in Army recruiting. Braswell said, adding that AUSA should be another voice encouraging young people to join the Army and showcasing the various career fields the Army has to offer.

The Space Coast Chapter and a local business were recognized with awards during the event, with the chapter being named the best chapter for 2019 in AUSA’s Third Region, which covers Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Panama, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

“This is substantial recognition for our chapter,” retired Col. Phil LoSchiavo, the chapter president, said in a statement. “In short order, this chapter has gone from one that was struggling to maintain viability to being not only the best in the Third Region, but one highly recognized by national headquarters for its activity with ROTC, employer support of the Guard and Reserve, and its community partners. We could not have done this without our volunteers and support from our community partners.”

ESGR honors AUSA volunteer

By Col. Richard “Phil” Stage, U.S. Army Retired

I am honored to have been named an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve National Volunteer of the Year for a second time. My first selection a couple of years ago was in the Military Outreach category, and this year I was in the Volunteer Trainer category.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency that supports our National Guard and Reserve service members. I must thank the Association of the U.S. Army for introducing me to ESGR when I was an AUSA chapter president and working with several ESGR volunteers who were also in AUSA.

ESGR trains soldiers and employers in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, which protects service members’ civilian jobs when they are on military duty. ESGR also mediates between soldiers and employers when an issue comes up under USERRA, and it rewards employers for supporting their Guard and Reserve employees and their spouses.

As the AUSA Sixth Region president, I work with the adjutant generals and ESGR leadership in six states—Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and the northern part of California. I also serve as an Army Reserve ambassador for California.

In reserve-centric California, the Army Guard numbers around 15,000, and the Army Reserve is nearly 18,000. AUSA’s Sixth Region is primarily made up of Guard and Reserve personnel.

Retired Col. Richard “Phil” Stage is AUSA’s Sixth Region President.

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, 2018, is shown in parentheses.

- Columbia River (11)
- Fairfax-Lee (10)
- George Washington (10)
- Texas Capital Area (10)
- Charleston (9)
- Arsenal of Democracy (8)
- Francis Scott Key (8)
- Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (8)
- Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (8)
- Central Texas-Fort Hood (7)
- Dix (7)
- GA Omar N. Bradley (7)
- Henry Leavenworth (7)
- MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (7)
- New Orleans (7)
- Rock Island Arsenal (7)
- Chattanooga Valley-Fort Benning (6)
- Denny Centennial (6)
- Gem State (6)
- GEN William C. Westmoreland (6)
- Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (6)
- Robert E. Lee (6)

Bansbach EasyLift of North America Inc. in Melbourne, Florida, received the chapter’s Corporate Sponsor Award.

“While we appreciate the recognition, it is more important to get out the word about Association of United States Army’s mission,” Bansbach EasyLift President Robert Rose said. “We, individually, and as businesses and industry, have an obligation to demonstrate our support to the men and women who serve our armed forces. We are proud of the AUSA Space Coast Chapter’s accomplishments.”

Additionally, Florida State Sen. Debbie Mayfield attended and issued a proclamation recognizing the Army’s birthday and the Space Coast Chapter.

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