



Retired Lt. Col. Dustin Elder, an Army junior ROTC instructor and coach at Webb City High School in Missouri, walks the line to check on his team as they compete in the 2023 Junior ROTC National Air Rifle Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio. (U.S. ARMY/TIM RAYMOND)

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JROTC instructor eligibility expands

With more than 1,700 programs and 20 others approved to open in the next two years, the Army's junior ROTC now has access to a larger pool of instructors because of a provision in the 2023 and 2024 National Defense Authorization Act.

Army junior ROTC instructor positions that previously were limited to retirees are now open to recently separated officers and NCOs who served honorably for at least 10 years; reached the ranks of staff sergeant through command sergeant major, any warrant officer grade or captain through colonel; and possess an associate degree or higher. Service members from the National Guard and

Army Reserve who meet the requirements also are eligible to apply.

"The additional eligibility for junior ROTC instructors will allow men and women who have served honorably in our Army to pass their knowledge and experience on to younger generations," said retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, the Association of the U.S. Army's vice president for Leadership and Education.

"As a former junior ROTC cadet, I know the value these programs have in building better citizens and future leaders for our nation," Smith said. "My life was changed for the better due to the positive impact of my junior ROTC instructors."

A new pay model also has been im-

plemented to account for non-retiree junior ROTC instructors, with pay based on rank, education level, type of position and school location.

Junior ROTC is the third-largest youth program in the U.S., with 1,734 active programs and another 20 schools approved to open a junior ROTC program in the next two years, according to an Army news release. Cadets in the program exceed schools' averages in attendance, graduation and GPA, and have lower drop-out rates and instances of indiscipline, according to the Army.

"The power of Army JROTC is its ability to create better students, better citizens and better leaders for

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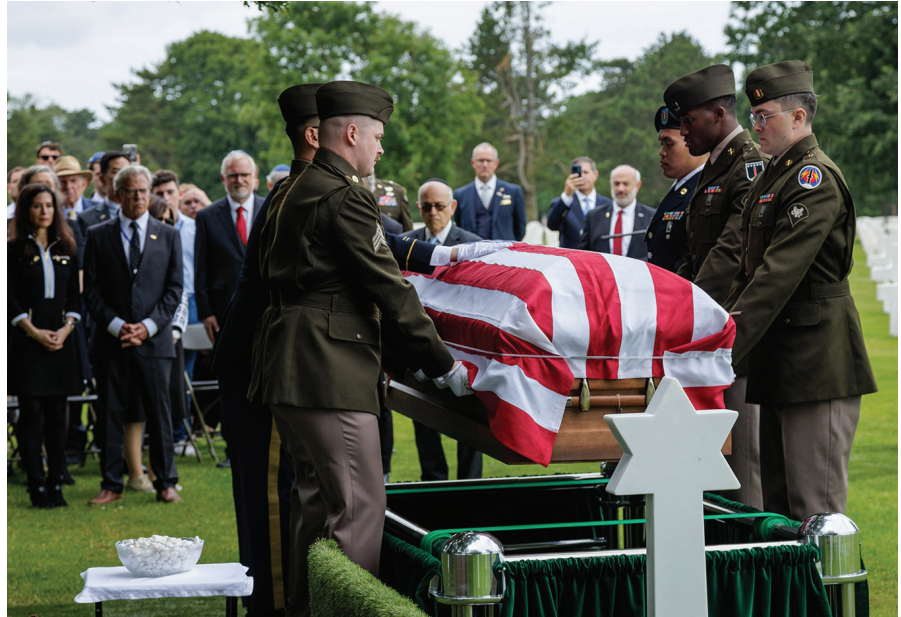
WWII soldier laid to rest in Normandy 80 years later

Eighty years after he was killed in the Battle of Cherbourg, France, 1st Lt. Nathan Baskind has been laid to rest in an American military cemetery.

On June 23, Baskind was laid to rest with full military honors at the Normandy American Cemetery in France. The Pittsburgh native's family and friends, as well as U.S. and local officials, were in attendance.

"Today is unique not just because we are burying and honoring an American soldier," said Charles Djou, secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, in a news release from the commission. "Eighty years after 1st Lt. Baskind gave his last measure of devotion here in Normandy, ... this ceremony is the statement of the very best American values and human values."

The American Battle Monuments Commission operates and maintains 26 cemeteries and 31 federal memorials, monuments and commemorative plaques in 17 countries throughout the world, including the one in Normandy and three in the United States. Since March 4, 1923, the commission has worked to honor the service, achievements and sacrifice of more than 200,000 U.S. service



First Lt. Nathan Baskind is laid to rest June 23 at Normandy American Cemetery, France, 80 years after his death. (AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION/JULIEN NGUYEN-KIM)

members buried and memorialized at its sites.

In June 1944, Baskind was a platoon commander with Company C, 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion. He landed on Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and was killed 17 days later during the Battle of Cherbourg.

Several attempts were made to retrieve Baskind's body from where

he was ambushed, but his fellow soldiers couldn't find him. After the war, investigators from the American Graves Registration Command learned that Baskind had been captured and later died at a hospital for German air force personnel near Cherbourg on June 23, 1944, according to the commission.

For 80 years, Baskind, a Jewish American, was buried in a German army mass grave with German soldiers. At the Normandy American Cemetery, he will be buried under a Star of David.

His burial was conducted in collaboration with Operation Benjamin, an organization dedicated to identifying and correcting burial errors of Jewish American soldiers buried under Latin crosses.

"Nate's ambition was to be a successful businessman, and his favorite remark was, 'As I live and breathe,'" said Samantha Baskind, a great-niece of the late lieutenant, in the news release. "Today, he will really be at rest in France. Today, a giant scar in my family will be at least partially healed."

Correction



In the June 20 issue of *AUSA Extra*, the caption accompanying this photo misidentified Master Resilience Trainer Evie King. (AUSA PHOTO)

Author: Army must take ‘bold steps’ to seize information advantage

The Army should integrate cyber warfare, artificial intelligence and autonomous systems to maintain the information advantage, according to the author of a new paper published by the Association of the U.S. Army.

“Information is the *raison d’être* for command and control, situational understanding, decision-making and nearly all action across the warfighting functions,” retired Lt. Col. Amos Fox writes. “Bold steps are required for the Army to maximize its potential in the information dimension. It must carefully examine how to reorganize its forces, rewrite its concepts and doctrines, and reimagine the battlefield.”

In “Information Advantage: Using Cyber Warfare and HMI to Seize the Initiative,” Fox argues that data and information should be “reimagined” for future battlefields. Fox is a fellow with Arizona State University’s Future Security Initiative.

Fox cites the Army’s definition of information advantage as “when a force holds the initiative in terms of situational understanding, decision-making and relevant actor behavior.”

Cyber and information advantage will be the focus of an upcoming AUSA Hot Topic. The daylong event on July 2 will take place at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, and feature leaders and experts from the Army, the State Department and industry.

There will be a series of presentations and discussions on the Army’s approach to gain and maintain information advantage and man, train and equip its information forces.

For more information or to register, click here.

In his paper, Fox writes that the Army should develop “data and tempo forces,” which would operate in the same space as the XVIII Airborne Corps’ data warfare company



Cpl. Elmer Allgyer, right, with the 10th Mountain Division, points to a location on a map while replicating and deploying enemy radar systems during an AI and data fusion demonstration June 11 at Oneida, New York. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JAIDON NOVINSKA)

and the service’s multidomain task forces. Incorporating information into warfighting also will transform “the close fight,” he writes.

“At a distance, military commanders have time and space to sift through information and move accordingly,” Fox writes. “The goal ... is to create separation on the battlefield, providing room for better informed reaction rather than having to operate in close combat.”

Harnessing the power of information will allow the Army to outpace its adversaries in future conflicts, Fox writes.

“The information and the information dimension is no longer the status quo realm of information and information operations,” he writes. “By viewing information through the lens of data and tempo pathways, Army forces can proactively account for how to obtain information advantage and situational information dominance.”

Read the paper here.

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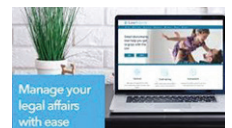
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PERK OF THE WEEK

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Junior ROTC

From Page 1

our nation,” said Maj. Gen. Antonio Munera, commanding general of U.S. Army Cadet Command, which oversees the Army’s junior ROTC program.

“Our instructors are the ones in the classrooms and their communities putting their passion to work to make the power of Army JROTC come to life. Becoming a JROTC instructor is a great way for our service members to continue to serve our nation at the community level while making a positive impact on America’s youth,” Munera said.

Instructors also benefit from teaching cadets, said retired 1st Sgt. Cinnamon Chambers, who has been an instructor at Scarborough High School in Houston for four years.

“They’ve taught me more patience, and they keep me on my toes. They make me laugh every day,” Chambers



Cadets from the Wiregrass Junior ROTC Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Leadership Academy hear from Lt. Col. Brian Haas, commander of the 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment, during a June 4 visit to Fort Novosel, Alabama. (U.S. ARMY/KELLY MORRIS)

said, according to the release. “They make me a better person, a better mom to my own kids, and a better wife for my husband because they

keep me well-rounded.”

For more information on Army junior ROTC instructor opportunities, visit www.usarmyjrotc.com.

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AUSA books highlight Army's WWII efforts in Italy, Africa

With the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion earlier this month, all eyes were naturally focused on the beaches of Normandy, France. The spectacle of that day, however, overshadowed another World War II milestone: The 80th anniversary of the liberation of Rome.

On June 4, 1944, soldiers from the American Fifth Army entered Rome after months of fighting their way up the Italian peninsula, becoming the first Allied troops to free a capital city from fascist control.

This serves as a reminder that World War II indeed was a global conflict, with widespread fighting even within the Western theater. The efforts of the Army in northern Africa, Italy and southern France were integral to the eventual defeat of the Nazi regime.

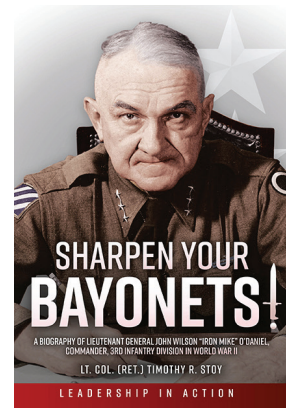
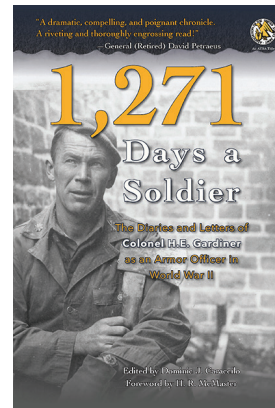
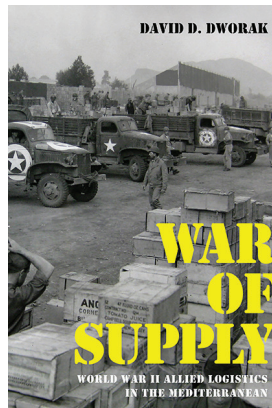
Book Program

The Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program features several titles that focus on this wider war beyond Normandy.

Starting with the Army's landings in Morocco and Tunisia in November 1942 during Operation Torch, *War of Supply: World War II Allied Logistics in the Mediterranean* highlights the challenges of supplying and maintaining armies thousands of miles away on other continents. Author David Dworak, a retired colonel who currently serves as provost of the U.S. Army War College, details the strategic operations for every great Mediterranean campaign through the conclusion of the war.

A nice complement to Dworak's overarching history is *1,271 Days a Soldier: The Diaries and Letters of Colonel H. E. Gardiner as an Armor Officer in World War II*. This book provides a firsthand view of the fight in northern Africa and Italy from the point of view of a field-grade officer.

Gardiner's journal entries are expertly edited by retired Col. Dominic Caracillo and supplemented with



notes, photos and maps. Retired Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster provides the foreword in what retired Gen. David Petraeus calls "a riveting and thoroughly engrossing read."

A third AUSA book that covers the wider European theater is *Sharpen Your Bayonets: A Biography of Lieutenant General John Wilson "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, Commander, 3rd Infantry Division in World War II*. This is the first full-length biography of one of the great fighting generals of the 20th century; O'Daniel commanded the 3rd Infantry Division from Anzio, Italy, to the end of the war in Europe.

Along the way, the division in-

vaded southern France in Operation Dragoon, fought through the Colmar Pocket, and liberated Hitler's Eagle's Nest—contrary to what was portrayed in the well-known HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*. *Military Review* notes that author Timothy Stoy "has done a great service to the public" with his "superb biography."

Please visit www.ausa.org/books to order a copy of these and other titles in the AUSA Book Program. Use the promo code AUSA for select member discounts when purchasing directly through the publisher links.

Joseph Craig is AUSA's Book Program director.



Infantry and armor soldiers assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division move into the wrecked city of Cori, Italy, on May 26, 1944. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

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.

Arizona Territorial (11)	Greater Los Angeles (10)	Captain Meriwether Lewis (8)
Florida Gulf Stream (11)	Houston Metroplex (10)	Catoctin (8)
Fort Sheridan-Chicago (11)	Indiana (10)	COL Edward Cross (8)
GEN Creighton W. Abrams (11)	Magnolia (10)	Des Moines Freedom (8)
George Washington (11)	Marne (10)	First In Battle (8)
Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (11)	MG William F. Dean (10)	Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista (8)
Greater Philadelphia (Penn & Franklin) (11)	Milwaukee (10)	Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (8)
Massachusetts Bay (11)	Minutemen (10)	Fort Pitt (8)
National Training Center-High Desert (11)	Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (10)	Henry Leavenworth (8)
Newton D. Baker (11)	Silicon Valley (10)	Joshua Chamberlain (8)
North Texas-Audie Murphy (11)	Space Coast (10)	Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (8)
PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (11)	St. Louis Gateway (10)	MG John S. Lekson (8)
San Diego (11)	Tri-State (10)	Southern Virginia (8)
Suncoast (11)	Alamo (9)	Stuttgart (8)
Texas Capital Area (11)	Capital District of New York (9)	West Point Area (8)
Thunderbird (11)	Central Ohio (9)	Western New York (8)
Virginia Colonial (11)	Central Virginia (9)	Connecticut (7)
Allegheny-Blue Ridge (10)	Columbia River (9)	Fort Knox (7)
Arkansas (10)	CSM James M. McDonald-Keystone (9)	GA Omar N. Bradley (7)
Arsenal of Democracy (10)	Denver Centennial (9)	GEN Joseph W. Stilwell (7)
Benelux (10)	First Militia (9)	GEN William C. Westmoreland (7)
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Moore (10)	Fort Riley-Central Kansas (9)	Greater Augusta-Fort Eisenhower (7)
CPL Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (10)	Korea (9)	Greater Kansas City (7)
Delaware (10)	Major Samuel Woodfill (9)	Hellenic (7)
Dix (10)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (9)	Big Bend (6)
Fort Campbell (10)	New Orleans (9)	Coastal South Carolina (6)
Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (10)	Potomac-Liberty (9)	MSG Leroy Arthur Petry (6)
Fort Liberty (10)	Puerto Rico (9)	Northern New York-Fort Drum (6)
Francis Scott Key (10)	Redstone Huntsville (9)	Pikes Peak (6)
Gem State (10)	Rhode Island (9)	Tucson-Goyette (6)
Greater Atlanta (10)	San Francisco (9)	Guam (5)
	SGM Jon Cavaiani (9)	MG Robert B. McCoy (5)
	Sunshine (9)	Monmouth (5)
	Utah (9)	Central California (4)



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