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Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, speaks during an event at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, celebrating the association's 1 million members. (AUSA PHOTO)

AUSA marks million-member milestone

The Association of the U.S. Army proudly announces it has reached its goal of having 1 million members after a dramatic surge in the past year.

The growth results from an initiative to provide basic, no-cost memberships to attract younger participants and a concentrated effort to identify like-minded organizations that share AUSA's support for a strong national defense and Army.

"I am so excited to announce that AUSA now has 1 million members who can further amplify the association's voice and efforts to support America's Army," said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA's president and CEO.

Founded in 1950, AUSA exists to strengthen the bond between soldiers

and the American people, promote the military profession and enhance ties with industry, Brown said. "This has always been a worthy mission," he said. "It is even more important today as America faces new and expanding threats and an increasing disconnect between service members and the citizens they serve, all while the Army works to transform for the future."

Under Brown's leadership, the Army's premier nonprofit educational and professional association focuses on efforts to educate, inform and connect the Army, its soldiers and families, the defense industry, military communities and the public.

"We recognize that there is power in numbers," said retired Brig. Gen. Jack Haley, vice president of Mem-

bership and Meetings at AUSA. "With a larger membership, we are able to speak with a stronger voice on behalf of our members and America's Army."

AUSA has been working to increase its membership for the past year, adding more than 750,000 members in the past 12 months. To mark the milestone, AUSA celebrated the new members during an event Monday at its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, that was held in conjunction with the summer meeting of its Board of Directors, the association's governing body.

Haley also applauded the efforts of AUSA's chapter volunteers around the world, "without whom this push to rapidly grow membership would not have been possible."



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McConville: US, European allies are ‘stronger together’

As the war in Ukraine grinds on and emerging global threats persist, strong relationships with European allies and partners are more important now than ever, two senior U.S. Army leaders said at a summit of U.S. and European land force leaders.

“One of the biggest takeaways that I had was that they all understand that a regional conflict has global implications,” Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said June 23 at the conclusion of the 30th annual Conference of European Armies held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

“That’s why it’s important that we stand together,” McConville said in a call with U.S. media. “We’re stronger together, and we all share the interests of having peace, security and freedom in Europe and, quite frankly, across the globe. All these friends, partners and allies share the same values and share the same interests.”

McConville, who was joined on the call by Gen. Darryl Williams, commander of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, said 12 new countries participated in this year’s conference. The event provided a forum for a robust conversation with the chiefs of Europe’s land forces about the war in Ukraine, training and sustaining a future combat force, integration and modernization.

Noting the U.S. Army’s largest transformation effort in more than 40 years, McConville said, “they certainly want to participate in that and this concept of convergence, about how we tie together our sensors and shooters and work together to get the effects we need on the battlefield.”

Most of the European land force leaders, he said, are “very interested in ensuring that we can do command and control operations together, and that we can pass data” effectively in theater, McConville said.

Gen. James Rainey, commander of Army Futures Command, who was



Soldiers assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division participate in Exercise Griffin Shock 23 at Bemowo Piskie, Poland. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/STAFF SGT. AGUSTÍN MONTAÑEZ)

part of the U.S. delegation, provided allies and partners with updates on the Army’s modernization efforts and held discussions on what could come into play in a multidomain conflict.

Williams, who took command of Army Europe and Africa in June 2022, said that training Ukrainian soldiers on U.S. weapons systems, such as the Patriot missile system

and Abrams tanks, continues, and that the soldiers are learning fast. “The Ukrainians remain strong, they remain vigilant, they remain resilient in their way ahead,” Williams said.

The June 21–23 conference provided a chance for candid conversations in search of “common challenges, and, more importantly, common opportunities, which is very important now more than ever” against the backdrop of activities within NATO and Europe, Williams said.

In addition to the U.S., attendees included the actual or acting 33 chiefs of staff or land force commanders from Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

There also were representatives from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ireland, Moldova and NATO.



Gen. Darryl Williams, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, speaks June 20 during a change-of-command ceremony at Tower Barracks, Grafenwoehr, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/MARKUS RAUCHENBERGER)

Longtime AUSA vice president retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Rhame dies

Retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Rhame, a longtime vice president of Finance and Administration at the Association of the U.S. Army, died Tuesday. He was 82.

Rhame, who retired from the Army in 1997, served as AUSA's vice president from 1998 until 2014.

Born in Winnfield, Louisiana, Rhame grew up in an Air Force family, but his father, like many veterans of the time, rarely spoke about his exploits in World War II. When Rhame attended Louisiana State University, he enrolled in ROTC, selecting the Army rather than the Air Force as his branch of service.

Rhame graduated in 1963 and was commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant. An accounting major, he planned to serve a few years in the Army before entering the world of finance, partly because he married his high school sweetheart, Linda, while in college.

"Neither of us saw the Army as a long-term commitment," Rhame said in a Library of Congress recording done as part of the Veterans History Project.

He deployed twice to Vietnam, as a company commander with the 1st Cavalry Division in 1967 and as a district senior adviser with the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in 1971.

During Operation Desert Storm, Rhame commanded the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. Under his leadership, the "Big Red One" successfully conducted the initial attack to penetrate Iraqi defensive positions, facilitated the rapid passage of lines for the 1st British Armored Division and launched a night attack against elements of the Iraqi Republican Guard.

Rhame recalled that he had expected a tough battle, but "it lasted about an hour. ... The breach was very successful."



Retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Rhame. (AUSA PHOTO)

"Quite frankly, I knew we were going to do well. I didn't know we were going to do well that fast," he said in the Library of Congress recording.

Additionally, units under Rhame's command conducted a rapid exploitation and attack into Kuwait to cut off Iraqi units attempting to escape from there.

During a visit to Fort Riley in 2021, Rhame emphasized the significance of the 1st Infantry Division in the Gulf War.

"Everyone in this division, everyone on this post, everyone in this community knew the vital importance of what we were doing," he said, according to the Army.

Rhame's final assignment in uniform was director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency in Washington, D.C. His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star with "V" device and two oak leaf clusters.

AUSAExtra

**Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier**

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**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

Book series explores German army perspective in WWII

“The soldier, above all others, should be familiar with history.”

When Secretary of War Elihu Root, father of the Army War College, wrote that in 1901, he reflected a universal truth: We must study past warfare to prepare for future conflict.

Today, the U.S. and its NATO allies are concerned about large-scale combat operations in Europe, due in no small part to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The world has not seen warfare on that scale since World War II.

The aftermath of that massive conflagration saw the publication of the *Wehrmacht im Kampf* series, a collection of books that provides the German army’s perspective of World War II operations throughout Europe and North Africa.

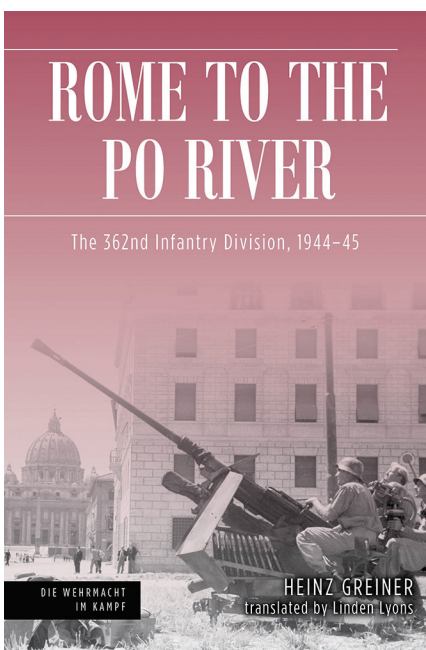
The Association of the U.S. Army’s Book Program is now partnering with Casemate Publishers to release the first English-language versions of these titles.

The series editor is Matthias Strohn, a senior associate fellow and head of the Historical Analysis Programme at the Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research, an independent think tank for the British Army, and a member of the War Studies department at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He is also a lieutenant colonel in the German army and serves as a member of the military attaché reserve.

The AUSA Book Program sat down with Strohn to discuss the *Wehrmacht im Kampf* series and its most recent publication, *Rome to the Po River: The 362nd Infantry Division, 1944–45*.

AUSA: When was the original *Wehrmacht im Kampf* series published? Who were the authors?

Strohn: The original series was published in the 1950s and ’60s. The books were written by a number of authors, predominately former German military officers who had fought in



the Second World War.

AUSA: What was the purpose of the series?

Strohn: The purpose of the series was to present the German view of the Second World War and to provide in-depth analysis of the engagements and battles, often with the unspoken aim of providing intellectual input for NATO and its operational and tactical planning during the Cold War.

AUSA: How did you become the

series editor for the new English-language version?

Strohn: I had published books with Casemate before, so the publishing house approached me and asked if I wanted to be involved—being a German speaker might have helped.

AUSA: What inspired your interest in military history?

Strohn: I have always been fascinated by military history. As a child I read all the military history books in my father’s library, and I listened to the war stories of my grandparents. I was hooked.

AUSA: What is one thing you would like readers to know about the latest title in the series, *From Rome to the Po River*?

Strohn: This is a divisional history, following the 362nd Infantry Division through the Italian campaign. The book contains a number of highly interesting tactical case studies that are worth studying even today.

To order a copy of *Rome to the Po River* or any of the other titles in the *Wehrmacht im Kampf* series, visit www.ausa.org/books.

Joseph Craig is AUSA’s Book Program director.



Soldiers with the 3rd Infantry Division enter the war-damaged city of Cori during the allied invasion of Italy in June 1944. (COMMONS 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, 2022, is shown in parentheses.

Magnolia (11)	Henry Leavenworth (8)	Ethan Allen (6)
North Texas (11)	Mediterranean (8)	Fairfax-Lee (6)
Allegheny-Blue Ridge (10)	National Training Center-High Desert (8)	Fort Campbell (6)
Arkansas (10)	Newton D. Baker (8)	Francis Scott Key (6)
Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (10)	Northern New York-Fort Drum (8)	Greater Atlanta (6)
Houston Metroplex (10)	Puerto Rico (8)	Hawaii (6)
Korea (10)	SGM Jon R. Cavaiani (8)	Hellenic (6)
Major Samuel Woodfill (10)	Sunshine (8)	Japan (6)
Suncoast (10)	Utah (8)	MG John S. Lekson (6)
Texas Capital Area (10)	Virginia Colonial (8)	Minutemen (6)
Western New York (10)	Arsenal of Democracy (7)	PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (6)
Col Edward Cross (9)	Capital District of New York (7)	Redstone-Huntsville (6)
Denver Centennial (9)	Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (7)	Tobyhanna Army Depot (6)
Emerald Coast-Big Bend-So. Georgia (9)	First In Battle (7)	Tri-State (6)
Florida Gulf Stream (9)	Fort Pitt (7)	Catoctin (5)
Gem State (9)	Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (7)	Fort Knox (5)
GEN Creighton W. Abrams (9)	Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (7)	Fort Sheridan-Chicago (5)
George Washington (9)	Last Frontier (7)	Ft Lee & Southern Virginia (5)
Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (9)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (7)	Greater Kansas City (5)
Milwaukee (9)	New Orleans (7)	Isthmian (5)
Arizona Territorial (8)	Northern New Jersey (7)	Marne (5)
Braxton Bragg (8)	Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (7)	Massachusetts Bay (5)
Central Ohio (8)	San Francisco (7)	Benelux (4)
Columbia River (8)	Space Coast (7)	Captain Meriwether Lewis (4)
CSM James M. MacDonald-Keystone (8)	Thunderbird (7)	Joshua Chamberlain (4)
Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (8)	Alamo (6)	Pikes Peak (4)
Fort Rucker-Wiregrass (8)	Central California (6)	San Diego (4)
Greater Los Angeles (8)	Dix (6)	St. Louis Gateway (4)
Greater Philadelphia (Penn and Franklin) (8)		Cowboy (3)
		GEN John W. Vessey, Jr (3)
		Silicon Valley (3)
		UAE (3)
		West Point Area (2)



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