

Happy Independence Day



Fireworks light up the sky June 29 over Fort Liberty, North Carolina, and the installation's 'The Airborne Trooper' statue, also known as 'Iron Mike.' (U.S. ARMY/BRIAN BIRD)

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US faces information warfare challenge

The United States is struggling to outpace its global adversaries in the information domain, and a whole-of-society response is needed, the special envoy and coordinator of the State Department's Global Engagement Center said Tuesday at a Hot Topic event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

"In the information domain, our adversaries are devoting more attention [to gaining the information advantage], and we are not winning," James Rubin said during a keynote address. "The information threat is not something that can be solved by even a whole-of-government response, it needs a whole-of-society response."

Information warfare is not a new threat, Rubin said. America's adversaries have been weaponizing information "for a long, long time," he said.

"Russia has been doing disinformation ... for hundreds of years," he said. "The Chinese Communist Party is based on propaganda, ... and they fund their operations with a level of seriousness far beyond the way we fund our information operations."

Foreign information manipulation is a challenge at the strategic and tactical levels, Rubin said.

"Every day, I see you report about the ways in which our adversaries are trying to exploit modern technology, whether it's artificial intelligence ... or whether it's through old-fashioned

media, the Russians and the Chinese do this," he said.

To get ahead, the U.S. military must proactively expose and disrupt disinformation by inoculating people against disinformation before it happens, Rubin said. "The long-term objective ... is to attach a source to information, because that's the way we will be able to prevent Russia and China from ... using the freedom of anonymity that the internet provides against us," he said. "That's the purpose of exposure, so that they know who's about to tell them something and ... understand that they're about to be manipulated."

Moving forward, the Army and the
See **Information warfare**, Page 6

COMMANDING PROFESSIONALISM

SIMPSON, MOORE, AND THE NINTH US ARMY



WILLIAM STUART NANCE



JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

This webinar will include a Q&A session in which questions submitted by the audience will be selected and asked by the moderator.

A recording of the webinar will be available on our YouTube page the following day.



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with author

William Stuart Nance

Moderated by **CW5 (Ret.) Phyllis J. Wilson**
AUSA Senior Fellow



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1200–1300 EDT

Join us to hear a presentation by William Stuart Nance, author of *Commanding Professionalism: Simpson, Moore, and the Ninth US Army*. Simpson and Moore's unflinching devotion to the greater good and their steady handle on the dynamics of command and staff relationships proved essential to the 1940s war effort and its ultimate success. Their example remains aspirational and worthy of emulation in the military command structure of today.



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Panel: Increase in information complicates future fight

The Army will need to take a proactive, integrated approach to signature management to maintain the information advantage, senior cyber officials said during a panel discussion Tuesday at a Hot Topic event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

“The Army needs to ... understand the information that we are disclosing, ... the content and context of that information, [understand] how ... we need ... to inform our commanders of what their risk is today and do forward-based denial planning integrated across echelon,” said Joseph Macri, program analyst in the threat systems management office within Program Executive Office-Simulation, Training and Instrumentation.

Signature management involves “managing emissions and observables that can reveal (or mislead about) force positions or intentions,” according to a Rand Corp. handbook for tactical operations in the information environment.



Senior cyber officials discuss signature management in Army systems during an AUSA Hot Topic forum focused on cyber warfare and information advantage. (AUSA PHOTO)

Recent attacks on vessels in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea by Yemen’s Houthi rebels underscore the importance of signature management, said Col. Sean Heidgerken, public affairs director for U.S. Central Command.

“The system that was designed to make shipping more efficient [and] more safe ... has got an inherent bug in it,” he said. “All of [shipping] relies on ... data [that gives vessel location information]. It tells everyone exactly where you are with GPS. The Houthis are using that [to guide their drones and missiles].”

As operations and deception techniques become increasingly complex, signature management will become offensive instead of defensive.

“It’s [a question of] what do we show the adversary and when do we show the adversary that,” Heidgerken said. The Army will ask itself questions like, “How do we place things [along the battlefield] that draw the adversary to place our commanders at a position of advantage?” and “How are we maintaining the advantage?”

Drawing on lessons from the Cold

War, the best information operations need to go beyond signature management, said Christopher Lowe, senior director of Department of Defense development at Oracle.

“Just confounding an adversary for a moment in time might give you a certain kind of advantage, but the reality is, you’ve got to do something about degrading [the adversary’s] ability to process information,” he said. “The boundary between what we used to think of as offense and defense begins to merge. The best defense is offense. The best offense ... is protecting your own information flows.”

As it prepares for future conflict, the Army will need to design its equipment with signature management in mind, Heidgerken said.

“As we look at these future acquisitions, and as we go into the design of what we think the Army needs to fight the next wars, we have to be thinking about it in those terms ahead of time,” he said.

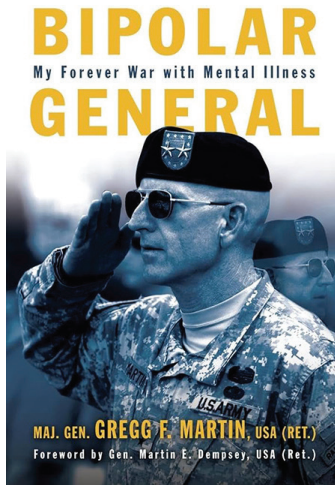
Adding, “I think right now, we’re doing that as an ... afterthought instead of putting that into the design process as we go forward.”

ARMY magazine July issue



AUSA Basic Members can now view a selection of articles from the July issue of *ARMY* magazine. To read the articles, click here.

Army Historical Foundation honors AUSA director, Book Program title



Retired Col. Daniel Roper, left, AUSA's director of National Security Studies, and AUSA Book Program title *Bipolar General: My Forever War with Mental Illness* received 2023 Distinguished Writing Awards from the Army Historical Foundation. (AUSA PHOTOS)

Retired Col. Daniel Roper, the Association of the U.S. Army's director of National Security Studies, and an AUSA Book Program title by retired Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin have been recognized with 2023 Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Awards.

Roper is being honored for "Message From Mogadishu: Memo Highlights Deadly Downfall of Mission Creep," published in the September 2023 issue of *ARMY* magazine, AUSA's flagship publication.

The article describes how the legacy of the battle made famous by the book and subsequent movie, *Black Hawk Down*, remains three decades later, and how its lessons are relevant today as the U.S. Army prepares for large-scale combat operations. "The U.S. will encounter ambiguous conflicts during great-power competition," Roper wrote. "It will be imperative to keep ends, ways, means and risks in proper proportion. Otherwise, the U.S. may find itself in a similar strategic situation as it did in Somalia."

"Message from Mogadishu" won the Distinguished Writing Award in the article category under Journals and Magazines.

Roper is a career artilleryman who commanded at the battery, battalion and brigade levels, with his final assignment as director of the then-U.S. Army Counterinsurgency Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

To read the article, click [here](#).

Martin's book, *Bipolar General: My Forever War with Mental Illness*, was recognized in the book category under Journals, Memoirs and Letters.

In *Bipolar General*, Martin writes about his journey with undiagnosed mental illness and how it affected his Army career. He provides a first-hand look at available treatments for bipolar disorder, discusses why his condition was undiagnosed for so long and explores what can be done in the military to diagnose and treat service members who may be grappling with mental illness.

The Army Historical Foundation preserves and promotes the history and heritage of the American soldier through historical educational, artistic and research programs. Its Distinguished Writing Awards program was established in 1997 to recognize authors who make a significant contribution to the scholarship on U.S. Army history.

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PERK OF THE WEEK

As you make summer plans, be sure to check out all your AUSA member travel discounts at www.ausa.org/savings. You can save on hotel stays, vacation resorts, guided travel, car rentals and more, as well as entertainment at your destination.



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AUSA leaders champion Army priorities on Capitol Hill

The Association of the U.S. Army's region presidents and Government Affairs team visited Capitol Hill in June to advocate on behalf of the Total Army.

We visited with staff from the offices of House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, who represents Alabama's 3rd congressional district, and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole from Oklahoma's 4th congressional district.

Government Affairs

We also met with staff for Rep. Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey's 11th district; Rep. Mark Alford, from Missouri's 4th district; and Rep. Rick Allen of Georgia's 12th district.

In our meetings, we highlighted the need for additional funding for the Army—a point that the Government Affairs team raises in every meeting and engagement on Capitol Hill. Our group also emphasized AUSA's 2024 Focus Areas, including the association's top recommendation: on-time and sufficient appropriations, as well as passage of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The fiscal year 2025 authorization and appropriations process continues, as the House of Representatives recently passed its version of the Na-



Mark Haaland, center, AUSA's Government Affairs director, and the association's region presidents visit Capitol Hill to advocate for the Total Army. (AUSA PHOTO)

tional Defense Authorization Act and the military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies bill. It also passed its version of the defense appropriations bill last week, largely along partisan lines.

Additionally, the Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act by a large bipartisan majority. It is unclear when the committee's version of the legislation will be brought to the Senate floor.

AUSA's assessment is that the ver-

sions of the National Defense Authorization Act and appropriations bills from both chambers of Congress are unlikely to be enacted before the November elections. A continuing resolution—stopgap funding that keeps spending at the previous year's levels and prohibits new starts to programs—likely will be passed when government funding runs out at the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

You can help build momentum for enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act and additional funding for the Total Army by contacting your representatives and senators or by meeting with them or their staff. We encourage you to contact and meet with members of your federal delegation in your state and congressional district.

As a reminder, AUSA only lobbies at the federal level on federal issues, and we are nonpartisan and apolitical. AUSA is prohibited from supporting or participating in any political campaign for or against a candidate for local, state or federal office.

We will continue to monitor these and other developments closely as we advocate for the Total Army with Congress.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs director.

Information warfare

From Page 1

other services, along with State Department, will need to work together to build relationships, leverage placement and access and join forces with international partners and allies.

Though information threats to the U.S. remain "daunting," achieving information advantage is not beyond the nation's grasp, Rubin said.

"We're going to have to use our technology, our smarts, ... our commitment and our recognition at the highest levels of government [to address this] problem," he said.



James Rubin, special envoy and coordinator of the State Department's Global Engagement Center, addresses an AUSA Hot Topic event Tuesday. (AUSA PHOTO)

Save on pet insurance, home-buying with membership

Association of the U.S. Army members have access to many great benefits, and I wanted to share the great experiences I've had recently with two of them.

The first is AUSA's pet insurance program through MetLife.

My two goldendoodles, Margot and Sophie, have a lot of issues related to allergies that I treat with the standard prescription medications for dogs. My AUSA pet insurance covers the vet visits, prescription meds and non-prescription probiotics Margot and Sophie need, as well as the prescription dog food they needed temporarily for an unrelated issue.

I recently shared my frustration with my veterinarian that instead of figuring out what my dogs are allergic to, we were only treating their symptoms. My vet explained that they test for specific allergens when a pet owner reports a certain level of discomfort, and apparently I was underreporting.

We did the allergy test—which costs more than \$500 for each dog—and now I can try to avoid the environmental things my dogs are allergic to. Additionally, Sophie is severely allergic to something that's impossible to avoid, so we are going to try allergy shots that should rid her of her allergies in 12–18 months.

Of course, all the treatment, testing and allergy shots are expensive. MetLife has covered everything at the level that I selected when I enrolled my dogs in AUSA's pet insurance—80% after a \$250 deductible. I just upload the receipts and sometimes the related medical records, MetLife quickly processes the claim and the funds are in my bank account within 10 days.

It's important to note that I enrolled Margot and Sophie when they were eight weeks old and selected the wellness benefit. Pet insurance generally will not cover pre-existing conditions,



Sophie, left, and Margot both suffer from allergies and are covered by the benefits of AUSA's pet insurance program through MetLife. (AUSA PHOTOS)

so getting them covered immediately was extremely helpful.

For more information, visit www.ausa.org/pet and your member discount will automatically be applied. If you've served in the military, check the military discount box and an additional discount will be added for even greater savings.

Homes For Heroes

I used the Homes for Heroes program recently when I sold my house. I'm no hero, but because I'm an AUSA member, I was able to use the program because of the association's special arrangement with Homes for Heroes.



Susan Rubel, center, AUSA's Association and Affinity Partnerships director, displays a check from Homes for Heroes after using the organization to sell her home through AUSA member benefits. (AUSA PHOTO)

Homes for Heroes offers AUSA members exclusive access to a nationwide network of real estate specialists committed to providing real savings. They help members save an average of \$3,000 when you buy, sell or refinance a home or mortgage.

Every time you use the program, you help others as well—Homes for Heroes donates a portion of its earnings to its foundation and to AUSA, supporting our mission.

You can complete the contact form at www.homesforheroes.com/partners/ausa/ or call 866-443-7637.

I called, explained I was a member of AUSA but hadn't served, and was immediately connected with a nearby agent in Virginia. The agent was an Air Force veteran who had outstanding online reviews and happy clients.

When we met, he explained that Homes for Heroes is not a referral service, it's a way for him to give back. He was knowledgeable, responsive and fun to work with.

He sold my home quickly, and Homes for Heroes issued a check to me for more than \$5,000—0.7% of the sale price of my home—for using the program.

Susan Rubel is AUSA's Association and Affinity Partnerships director.

Chapter president parachutes with Army's Golden Knights

In June, I had the incredible opportunity to represent the Association of the U.S. Army's Suncoast chapter in a tandem jump with the Army Parachute Team, known as the Golden Knights, at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

I was notified about my selection by Lt. Col. Matthew Turcotte, commander of the Army Recruiting Battalion in Tampa, Florida, who nominated me for the honor. Our AUSA chapter understands the importance of supporting the Army's recruiting efforts—the Tampa Recruiting Battalion is frequently represented at our general membership meetings, and we encourage our members to share their military experiences with the community.

Suncoast

Our chapter has supported recruiting events at MacDill Air Force Base, including a special day for recruiters and their families where our volunteers assisted in finding donations for food, cooked hot dogs and hamburgers and shared information about AUSA membership.

We also coordinated with several young people to speak with recruiters at the installation's 2024 Tampa Bay AirFest.

In his nomination, Turcotte described me as "one of Tampa Recruiting Battalion's strongest Community Partners ... she is highly engaged in the community and a valuable partner." He further noted that our chapter's support "will greatly aid recruiting efforts."

I got a bit emotional, as I know that the opportunities in the Army are endless, and sharing the service's message is so important. I want to be the best I can be for the Army as a civilian, but I never expected such an honor.

After making the 45-minute drive to Fort Stewart, I met with the other participants and received an hour-long safety briefing. I was introduced to Sgt. 1st Class Matt Garner,



Marilyn Westropp, president of AUSA's Suncoast chapter, leaps from a plane during a tandem jump with Sgt. 1st Class Matt Garner of the Army Parachute Team, known as the Golden Knights, at Fort Stewart, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

my Golden Knight partner, and our group geared up for the jump.

The energy and excitement was electric as we prepared for our adventure. I had no fear—this was a



Marilyn Westropp, left, president of AUSA's Suncoast chapter, and Lt. Col. Matthew Turcotte, commander of the Army Recruiting Battalion in Tampa, Florida, prepare for a tandem jump with the Army's Golden Knights Parachute Team at Fort Stewart, Georgia. (AUSA PHOTO)

dream for me and something I had wanted to do all my life. I was a flight attendant once, and being up in the sky was always invigorating for me.

As one of only three elite aerial demonstration teams authorized by the Department of Defense, the Golden Knights embody excellence and professionalism in every jump. Their expertise made this one of the most amazing experiences of my life.

Special thanks to Turcotte, Garner and Sgt. 1st Class Chris Doscher, the Golden Knights tandem and Army Bodyflight coordinator, for making this opportunity possible. I also want to thank Capt. Jeffrey Gibson, 1st Lt. Joseph Bigott and Jerry Orr of Army Recruiting Command and Sibylle Spears of Army Training and Doctrine Command for their support.

This recognition from the Army reaffirmed the importance of AUSA's community engagement and partnership. Jumping with the Golden Knights showcased the Army's commitment to excellence and provided me with an unforgettable experience.

Marilyn Westropp is president of AUSA's Suncoast chapter.



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AUSA's Army Matters podcast amplifies the voices of the Total Army – one story at a time.

Join hosts LTG (Ret.) Les Smith and SMA (Ret.) Dan Dailey as they interview the modern chroniclers of the Army experience to discuss inspiring leadership stories, current issues faced by soldiers, and our military families' journeys.



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