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Soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, watch helicopter activity over Mogadishu, Somalia, on Oct. 3, 1993. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## 60 'Black Hawk Down' awards upgraded

In an announcement signed “Sine Pari,” the adopted motto of Army Special Operations Command that translates to “Without Equal,” officials announced the unusual decision to upgrade valor awards for 60 soldiers for their extraordinary actions during the 1993 combat operation in Somalia that became known as the Battle of Mogadishu.

Fifty-eight soldiers will receive Silver Stars, the nation’s third-highest award for valor, and two aviators will receive the Distinguished Flying Cross later this year in ceremonies hosted by the units where the soldiers were serving during Operation Gothic Serpent.

The announcement credits former Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy for

ordering a review of valor awards that led to the decision.

Twenty-eight years ago, U.S. soldiers deployed to Somalia to lead a coalition to capture the leaders of a movement that had attacked United Nations troops the previous year and to stop a civil war.

After several attacks in 1993, including a June ambush that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers and two August bombings that killed four U.S. military police soldiers and injured seven others, Army Rangers and special operations soldiers were deployed as Task Force Ranger to find and capture Mohamed Farrah Aidid, the rebel faction leader.

The result was many arrests and confiscation of weapons, but there

were also U.S. casualties when a Black Hawk helicopter was shot down in late September by Aidid’s supporters, killing three crew members.

A major operation was launched on Oct. 3, with about 160 soldiers, including from the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta and 75th Ranger Regiment, sent to capture two Somali rebel leaders.

The rebel leaders were quickly arrested, leading to gun battles on the streets and rocket-propelled grenades being fired at Army aircraft.

Armed militants shot down two MH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, causing U.S. ground forces to converge on the downed aircraft.

See Awards, Page 3



# AUSA 2021

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Jamie Woodside, CEM  
[jwoodside@ausa.org](mailto:jwoodside@ausa.org)

### SPONSORSHIPS

Gaye Hudson  
[ghudson@ausa.org](mailto:ghudson@ausa.org)

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## Perna retires after leading COVID-19 vaccine effort

**G**en. Gus Perna, the former commander of Army Materiel Command who was chosen to help lead the government's effort to develop, produce and distribute a new COVID-19 vaccine, has retired.

Perna, who in July 2020 was confirmed by the Senate to be chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed, delayed his originally planned retirement from the Army to serve on the vaccine effort.

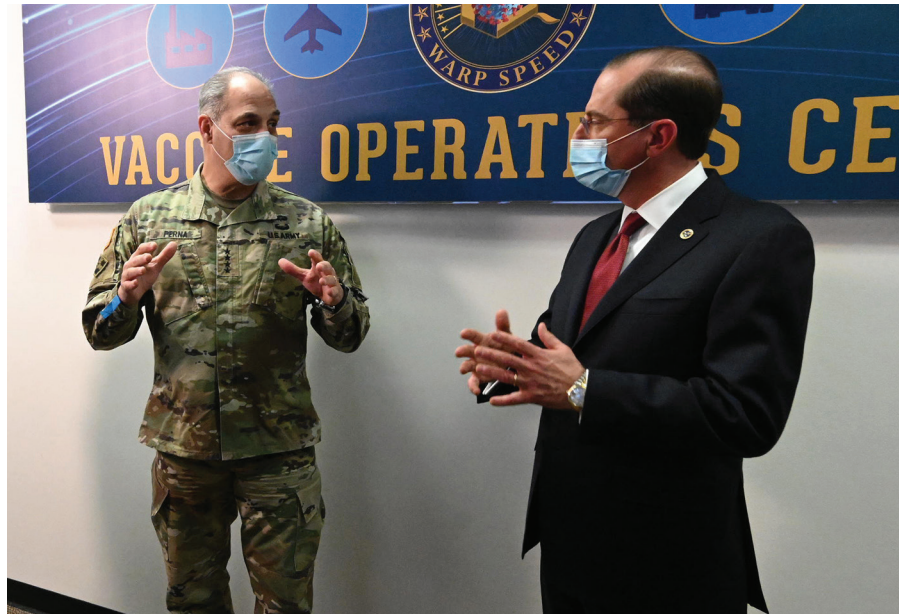
Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby praised Perna and retired Lt. Gen. Paul Ostrowski, who is returning to his civilian job after serving as director of supply, production and distribution for Operation Warp Speed.

"Both leaders were selected due to their vast experience as experts in logistics and acquisitions, to lead an incredible team including the best of government, industry and academic professionals to develop, manufacture and deliver safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics for the American people," Kirby said June 29.

The team at Operation Warp Speed, which was subsumed by the White House COVID-19 Response Team in February, accomplished its mission in 13 months.

"To date they have helped deliver over 390 million doses of COVID vaccines, and almost 1 million therapeutics for the American people," Kirby said.

DoD will transition leadership of vaccine operational logistics to the



Gen. Gus Perna, left, speaks with then-Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar at the vaccine operations center in Washington, D.C. (DOD PHOTO)

Department of Health and Human Services, according to the Pentagon.

"We thank them and their team for their incredible success in what can be called a Herculean mission and service to their country," Kirby said.

Jeffrey Zients, President Joe Biden's COVID-19 coordinator, praised Perna in an interview with Bloomberg.

Perna has "been helping lead our nation through a war he probably did not envision when he joined the Army in 1981," Zients said. "He's been a key driver of the success that we've had."

Also retiring after decades of service to the Army is Gen. Robert

Abrams, who on July 2 relinquished command of U.S. Forces Korea, United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command.

"I count myself blessed for having had the opportunity to serve with so many amazing people and wonderful professionals," Abrams said in a farewell video on Twitter.

Calling his time in Korea the "assignment of a lifetime," Abrams said, "It has been an immense privilege and honor for me to serve as your commander."

Gen. Paul LaCamera, who most recently was commander of U.S. Army Pacific, succeeds Abrams in Korea.

### Awards

From Page 1

An intense firefight ensued, resulting in the loss of 18 American soldiers.

Posthumous Medals of Honor were awarded to two Delta Force snipers—Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randy Shughart—who provided cover for the down aircraft crews while awaiting rescue, a mission that ultimately was achieved with a convoy of 10th Mountain Division soldiers sup-

ported by Malaysian and Pakistani troops.

Casualties were high in the 15 hours of battle.

In addition to the U.S. soldiers killed, two foreign soldiers were killed and 82 troops were wounded.

Accounts of the Battle of Mogadishu became a book and a movie, both titled *Black Hawk Down*.

Details on the medal upgrades were not released.



Soldiers from the 9th Psychological Operations Battalion conduct U.S. humanitarian aid relief efforts in Kismayo, Somalia, in the 1990s. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Nationwide events to mark 100th anniversary of Tomb of the Unknowns



Vermont Army National Guard soldiers pay their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS JASON ALVAREZ)

Several national and local events are being planned to mark the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

The monthslong commemoration will culminate in a ceremony at the tomb on Nov. 11, and the public will be able to participate in person and virtually.

Additionally, an official commemorative publication from the Army Center of Military History about the tomb will be released in October.

A resource guide for the cemetery's centennial commemoration is available here.

"The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stands, physically and symbolically, at the heart of the cemetery—and the heart of the nation," Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of Army National Military Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery, said in a statement. "Every day at Arlington National Cemetery, we are aware of the special place that we hold in the national conscience."

A group of nonprofit organizations, led by the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Foundation, is working to organize local

commemorations of the centennial.

For a list of events, click here.

On March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American soldier from World War I in the plaza of Arlington National Cemetery, according to the cemetery's website. Sgt. Edward Younger, a World War I veteran who was wounded in combat, chose the Unknown Soldier from among four identical caskets.

The tomb has since come to symbolize the sacrifices of all U.S. service members.

Congressman Hamilton Fish, who in 1920 proposed the legislation to create the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, said, "It is hoped that the grave of this unidentified warrior will become a shrine of patriotism for all the ages to come, which will be a source of inspiration, reverence and love of country for future generations."

The Army has maintained a 24-hour guard over the tomb since July 2, 1937. Sentinels from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) assumed those duties on April 6, 1948, and they have maintained a constant vigil ever since.

For more information about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, visit [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil).

# AUSA Extra

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Support For the Soldier

**Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret.**  
President and CEO, AUSA

**Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, USA, Ret.**  
Vice President, Education, AUSA

**Luc Dunn**  
Editor

**Desiree Hurlocker**  
Advertising Manager

**Advertising Information Contact:**

Fox Associates Inc.  
116 W. Kinzie St. • Chicago, IL 60654  
Phone: 800-440-0231  
Email: [adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com](mailto:adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com)

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### PERK OF THE WEEK

Paying for college can be stressful. AUSA has partnered



with College Ave Student Loans to provide financing options without the stress. Members get a .25% interest rate discount on all in-school loans and .50% on the loan amount paid back to the borrower on all Refinance loans. Nerd Wallet and Forbes Magazine awarded College Ave a variety of "Best Private Loans" honors. Visit [www.ausa.org/studentloans](http://www.ausa.org/studentloans).



# Leaders promise ‘consistent’ suicide prevention efforts

**A**rmy Secretary Christine Wormuth says efforts are underway to tackle issues that might cause a service member to consider suicide, citing behavioral health and financial issues and relationship problems as possible causes.

“We have a historically high rate of suicide in the Army right now, which is very concerning,” she told the House Armed Services Committee.

Part of the response comes in team-building efforts that make soldiers feel more connected to their families, squad mates and leaders.

“If they have those connections, we have a better opportunity to get ahead of any potential problems,” Wormuth said.

The Army reported 377 suicides by active-duty members in 2020, a slight increase over the 348 deaths in 2019.

Wormuth promised no quick solutions.

“It is going to take consistent year-after-year focus and effort,” she said. “I think we are just going to have to continue working on it.”

This is a deeply concerning issue for the new secretary.

“I’ve been in the job four weeks. I get emails every week, more than once, telling me that one of our soldiers had committed suicide. It is extremely disheartening and tragic. We need to focus on it more.”

“It breaks my heart to lose people to suicide,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville. “It breaks my heart to lose any soldiers. There is always something there about why did this soldier not have the will to live? What would make them be in that position where they no longer want to live?”



The Army is stepping up suicide prevention efforts after the service reported 377 suicides by active-duty members in 2020. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS BRENT POWELL)



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## Paper urges US, allies to adapt to quickly changing world

**A** new Association of the U.S. Army Land Warfare Paper by Maj. Amos Fox suggests long-held assumptions and principles of war are dangerously outdated.

Many warfighting and battle-fighting concepts currently floating around Western military thought are flawed and fail to recognize how much the world has changed, Fox writes in his new paper, "On the Principles of War: Reorganizing Thought and Practice for Large-Scale Combat Operations."

The paper is available here.

Fox writes that combat leaders and strategists must be prepared for great-power wars that, once started, would be difficult to end because near-peer or fully equal competitors won't easily quit.

In future conflicts, Fox says, wars will be won by depleting an opponent through operations exhaustion that



Soldiers with the 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade conduct training at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

leaves them unable to act or react, and that opponents should never be expected to do anything that jeopardizes their own long-term well-being.

If you think they are, your own information is probably incomplete, he writes.

Fox, who previously served with the 3rd Squadron, 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade, has seven new assumptions and nine new principles of war in his paper, his latest in a series of publications written exclusively for AUSA.



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# Time running out to pass defense funding legislation

By Mark Haaland

Lawmakers return this week to Washington, D.C., with much work ahead of them after celebrating Independence Day and working in their states and districts.

They will be very busy, as only 35 legislative days remain before fiscal 2022 begins Oct. 1. That is not a lot of time—especially for the Senate, where legislative debate can take days to weeks to pass legislation.

On a positive note, all four congressional defense committees have met with Army Secretary Christine Wormuth (or, previously, acting Secretary John Whitley) and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville.

The next step for Congress is committee markups of the Army's budget request for fiscal 2022.

The House Appropriations subcommittee on defense completed its markup of the defense bill on June 30. In a statement, **Chairwoman Betty McCollum** said total defense funding is essentially the same as the amount requested by the Biden administration, \$705.9 billion.

This amount is \$11 billion, or 1.6%, higher than the enacted amount for the current year.

McCollum also noted the amount recommended by her subcommittee for the new fiscal year is \$144 billion more than it was six years ago.

Nonetheless, the Association of the



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment conduct air assault training at Aibano Training Area, Japan, July 1. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. ANTHONY

U.S. Army and others remain concerned with funding for DoD and the Army. This is because of the considerable national security challenges our country faces, and the requirement for the Army to be trained, ready and modernized for the future.

AUSA also is concerned when Congress moves funding requested for training and maintaining equipment to modernization accounts.

While an increase in the modernization accounts is needed, taking those funds from accounts that pay for individual, unit and institutional training, and from accounts that support maintenance, sustainment and logistics, makes readiness more challenging to maintain and grow.

Despite good intentions, this places greater pressure on the military to

maintain readiness with fewer funds than requested.

AUSA continues to advocate for providing the military with the funding it needs to maintain and grow readiness in the next fiscal year and beyond.

While the House Appropriations defense subcommittee has completed its markup of the Pentagon's fiscal 2022 budget request, the other three defense committees must still complete the task. The bills must then pass in the House and Senate, and then lawmakers "conference" their bills to agree upon a common bill for the president's signature.

While Congress can pass legislation quickly, speedy action is unlikely. With limited time remaining, AUSA foresees Congress will likely need to pass a continuing resolution—or a series of them—to fund DoD going into the new fiscal year.

On-time passage of the National Defense Authorization Act and the defense appropriation bills are the top recommendations from AUSA, and we will continue to advocate with Congress and magnify public dialogue on the importance of passing this legislation as soon as possible.



On-time passage of the National Defense Authorization Act and the defense appropriation bills are the top recommendations from AUSA. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

**Mark Haaland** is AUSA's Government Affairs Director.

## Chapter supports New Hampshire Army monument repair

The Association of the U.S. Army's Col. Edward Cross chapter in New Hampshire is supporting efforts to repair the Army monument at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen.

Due to extreme temperatures, the glass face has cracked, and water has damaged the monument. The New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery Association identified the problem, and architects are working "on a more weather resistant structure that should bring the monument back to its original grandeur and splendor," according to a chapter newsletter.

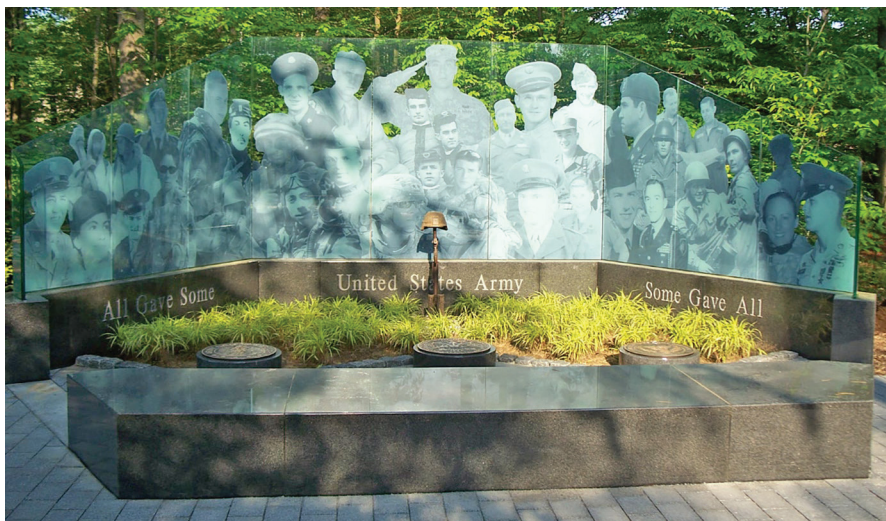
**Col. Edward Cross**

Hampshire Veterans Cemetery Association identified the problem, and architects are working

"on a more weather resistant structure that should bring the monument back to its original grandeur and splendor," according to a chapter newsletter.

Chapter donations totaled \$500, half for the initial building of the monument and another \$250 for the rebuild.

Two executive committee members of the AUSA chapter, retired Navy Cmdr. Dave Kenney and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Rice, are founding and current members of the



Architects are working on an improved structure for the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery Army monument. (NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS CEMETERY PHOTO)

cemetery association.

"Since our AUSA chapter covers the entire state of New Hampshire, we feel it is our obligation to donate and solicit donations to repair the monument. This is our Army monument; we should ensure it is a monument we can be proud of," said retired

Col. Greg d'Arbonne, the chapter president.

Donations can be made by check, payable to the NH Veterans Cemetery Association Inc., (Army Monument repair) and mailed to P.O. Box 626, Concord, NH 03302, or online by clicking here.

## Outstanding students receive scholarships from AUSA

Eight exceptional students, including three ROTC cadets, received scholarship awards from the Association of the U.S. Army's Indiana chapter during a luncheon June 24.

Maj. Gen. Timothy Thombleson, commanding general of the Indiana National Guard's 38th Infantry Division, was the guest speaker for the event, which was held in the Garrison Restaurant at Fort Harrison State Park.

**Indiana**

National Guard's 38th Infantry Division, was the

guest speaker for the event, which was held in the Garrison Restaurant at Fort Harrison State Park.

"This event is by far the most important annual event for the chapter, our chance to make a difference in the lives of some truly outstanding young people," said Cynthia Gatto, the chapter president.

Among the more than 50 attendees were representatives from eight



Students, families, AUSA members and chapter donors, sponsors and Community Partners attend the scholarship awards luncheon. (AUSA PHOTO)

companies or organizations that were donors, sponsors or Community Partners of the chapter.

Organized by Audrey Smith, the

chapter's scholarship and luncheon chair, it was the largest annual scholarship luncheon ever held, according to a chapter newsletter.





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