



Maintaining 'great-power peace' is Milley's goal

The Trump administration's pick to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff says his 39 years of military service and four years as Army chief of staff have prepared him to be the nation's highest-ranking military officer and the principal military adviser to the president, defense secretary and National Security Council.

But he is also humble about it.

"I have a deep sense of personal humility and fully recognize the complexity of the U.S. military and the world security situation and that I do not know all the answers," said Gen. Mark A. Milley as he appeared July 11 before the Senate Armed Services Committee as it considered his nomination.

"I will be open to a wide variety of expert opinions in order to form my best military advice," he said.

The Winchester, Massachusetts, native said he sees a "complicated global security environment."

While expressing confidence in U.S. military capabilities, he said potential adversaries, especially Russia and Chi-



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley could soon be the next Joint Chiefs chairman. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. ANDREW MCNEIL)

na, "have made great strides in narrowing the gap, and we must remain ever vigilant."

"Our goal should be to maintain great-power peace," Milley said.

While concerned about threats, Milley also said he was "confident" the U.S. has materiel, equipment, personnel and training readiness across the services to protect the homeland and maintain a competitive advantage over potential adversaries.

Milley has served at every level of command, from operational detachment to four-star major command, with combat tours at every rank from captain to general.

The 61-year-old Milley has served as the 39th Army chief of staff since August 2015.

He's President Donald Trump's choice to become the 20th chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, succeeding Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., whose term as JCS chairman began Oct. 1, 2015.

Milley's nomination is just one part of a complex series of changes in Pentagon leadership.

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper has been serving as acting defense

secretary since June 24. His nomination for a permanent appointment to the Pentagon's top job is imminent, defense officials said July 9.

Once Esper is nominated, he'll return to full-time duties as Army secretary while the Senate considers the nomination, said Eric Chewning, chief of staff to the acting defense secretary.

Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer will become acting defense secretary during that time, Chewning said.

Undersecretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy, who has been performing the duties of Army secretary, will return to his previous duties while waiting for his nomination to become secretary.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville was confirmed May 23 by the Senate to succeed Milley.

On the same day, Lt. Gen. Joseph Martin, currently director of the Army staff, was confirmed by the Senate to succeed McConville as vice chief.

Chewning said it is unclear how long it will take for the changes to be completed because Senate approval is required.

"It is the Senate's prerogative to take as long as they need," he said.

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Accreditation lets USASMA grads earn college degrees

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, U.S. Army Retired

Greetings from the Association of the U.S. Army, our Army's association for education and professional development, and a major supporter of the Army's Soldier for Life efforts.

Congratulations to Class 69 of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The 10-month journey of Class 69 ended June 21 after the 620 senior enlisted leaders completed more than 1,400 academic hours to prepare for senior leadership and management positions across the Army.

Graduating in Class 69 were 510 Regular Army, 15 Army National Guard, 31 Army Reserve, two Air Force, two Coast Guard, three Marine Corps and 57 international students, with the international students representing 41 partner nations.

During the graduation ceremony, I had the honor of presenting AUSA awards to two outstanding NCOs.

The Military Excellence in Writing Award recipient was Master Sgt. Darin Colwell, and the Military Excellence in Leadership Award recipient was Master Sgt. Tobey Whitney.

Making Class 69 historically unique was the accreditation of the NCO

NCO & Soldier Programs

Leadership Center of Excellence under the academic governance of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

"Achieving accreditation is another way we are adding value to our soldiers' service," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey.

The accreditation allows qualified students to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Workforce Development.

Leadership, decision sciences, training program management and communication serve as foundational requirements for the degree.

Strengthening NCOs' communica-



Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Beauchamp receives his Bachelor of Arts degree in Leadership and Workforce Development during the Class 69 graduation ceremony. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

tion, leadership, critical thinking and training management skills provides commanders and field grade officers with a senior master sergeant or sergeant major capable of assisting in the accomplishment of the unit's mission.

"This historic milestone will have a profound effect on the Army, the NCO corps, and the legacy of our NCOs throughout history," Dailey said.

Many firsts

Class 69 served as the pilot program, with 214 students enrolled and 105 qualified graduates attaining a bachelor's degree.

Students received 47 undergraduate credit hours for completing the Sergeants Major Course.

Those who did not meet the full qualifications for the degree will take the manuscript for college credit, enabling them to continue their education after leaving the institution.

"So now, instead of soldiers coming to the Sergeants Major Academy and graduating with a few credits for a non-specific degree program, they can work toward a degree in LWD," said Bill Backsheider, Sergeants Major Course executive team member.

Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Beauchamp, who received his degree during the graduation ceremony, offered some advice to his fellow senior NCOs.

"The biggest thing to understand is that while you're here, there is time and resources at the academy to complete your general education requirements for a BA LWD," he said.

Start early

Beauchamp also recommended that all soldiers start working on their educational goals early in their careers by taking advantage of programs like the College Level Examination Program.

Marine 1st Sgt. Victor Mancini also received his bachelor's as a Class 69 graduate.

"Only three Marines were selected to come here, so it was an honor just to attend this academy," he said. "Then I show up and they offer me this opportunity to possibly graduate with a degree. It was like a weight lifted off my chest. I've been going to college since 2008."

Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Sellers, commandant of the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence said, "This degree is very important because it's accredited under the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accreditation which most colleges and universities accept."

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston is AUSA's Vice President for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 13th sergeant major of the Army.

Army researcher wins presidential award for outstanding scientists

Nathan Lazarus, an electronics engineer with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Army Research Laboratory (ARL), has received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

Lazarus, who researches stretchable power electronics, called the award "a great honor," according to a press release from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"This will be particularly valuable for me in my interactions with academic collaborators who aren't always very familiar with the good research that we do at places like ARL," he said.

Lazarus' research addresses two crucial Army warfighter challenges: improving soldier performance and enhancing training by limiting injury.

His work in liquid metals and stretchable magnetic materials has provided an important foundation for improving soldiers' capabilities, according to the release.



Nathan Lazarus. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

The award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to outstanding scientists and engineers who are beginning independent research careers that show promise for leadership in science and technology.

The award shows that the work done by Army researchers matters to the U.S. government, Lazarus said.

This year's recipients will be honored July 25 in Washington, D.C.

AUSA senior meetings director retires



Michael Scanlan is retiring from AUSA after 20 years with the association's meetings directorate. "You have truly made a difference," said retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, AUSA's vice president of membership and meetings, during a ceremony on Tuesday. (AUSA PHOTO)

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Army National Guard readies for 2019 hurricane season

More than 300,000 Army National Guard soldiers are prepared to respond to hurricanes and other natural disasters that may hit the U.S. this year.

"The National Guard is the nation's first military responder," said Army Master Sgt. Michael Houk, a spokesman for the National Guard Bureau. "We are the first to respond and the last to leave."

Hurricane season in the Atlantic basin—which includes the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico—runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

The Army National Guard has domestic response exercises every year that cover a range of natural and man-made contingencies at local, regional and national levels, Houk said.

A whole-of-government disaster response is stressed during these exercises.

Army National Guard soldiers are

trained to assist with evacuation and rescue, shelter management, supply delivery, maintaining and establishing communications, and restoring or preserving civil order.

"We continuously and rigorously train, coordinate and exercise with local and state emergency responders nationwide," he said.

Last year, Guard soldiers responded to 71 natural disasters, including the aftermath of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, the National Guard said.

In 2017, troops responded to Hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma, and lessons learned from those responses were incorporated for faster response operations.

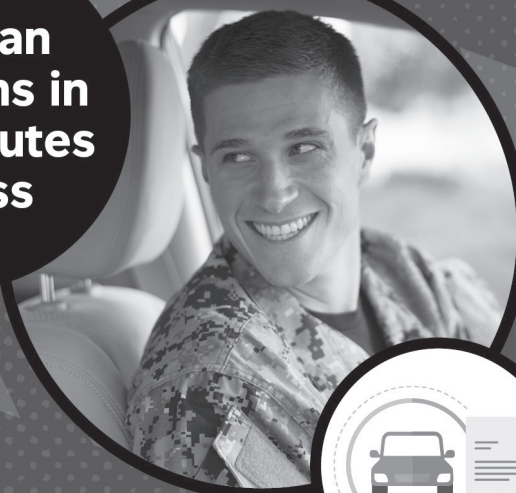
Houk said a key lesson learned from the 2018 hurricane season is the need to refine internal procedures.

The National Guard has prepared for this year's season by updating staff procedures and systems, he said.



Last year, National Guard soldiers responded to 71 natural disasters, including the aftermath of Hurricanes Florence and Michael. (U.S. ARMY/1ST LT. ZACHARY WEST)

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VA hospital employee honored for service to veterans

The Association of the U.S. Army's Charleston chapter recently presented its Outstanding Service Award and Trophy for the second quarter of 2019 to June Robins, an Army veteran who is a program analyst at the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The award, presented at the medical center's volunteer office by Larry Dandridge, the chapter's vice president for veteran affairs, honors Robins for her exceptional and selfless service to service members, veterans and their families.

A letter of commendation, presented with the trophy, praised Robins' "superior work record and glowing reputation" and her "kind, helpful, compassionate, friendly and enthusiastic work."

AUSA's Charleston chapter has ad-



June Robins, right, receives the Outstanding Service Award from Larry Dandridge. (AUSA PHOTO)

opted the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, and it presents an outstanding service award every quarter to a VA employee.

The chapter also has donated tens of thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours to the local VA hospital

in Charleston and its Fisher House.

To join AUSA in helping troops and their families, go to www.ausa.org and click on membership.

Contact Dandridge at (843) 276-7164 or LDandridge@earthlink.net to learn more about the Charleston chapter.

AUSA members lead floodwater cleanup commission

By W. Thomas Smith Jr.

South Carolina's top leaders and several Association of the U.S. Army members recently joined hands with military veterans, ROTC cadets, Boy Scouts and other volunteers to clean up highway culverts, ditches and low-lying areas in the state's Marion County.

The group included South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C., and the

South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Also on hand were members of the South Carolina State Guard, whose commander, Brig. Gen. Leon Lott, is the sheriff of Richland County and president of AUSA's Palmetto State chapter.

The day's work was part of an ongoing effort initiated by McMaster last October when he established the state's first-ever South Carolina Floodwater Commission.

It's "a unique organization," he said, tasked with assessing flooding risks and vulnerabilities and coming up with engineering solutions in the wake of four disastrous flood events in the state since 2015.

McMaster tapped AUSA member Tom Mullikin to chair the new commission. Mullikin is a former officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and retired two-star commander of the South Carolina State Guard.

Other AUSA members leading the effort include retired Maj. Gen. George Goldsmith and Army Reserve Col. Bill Connor, who serves as chairman of the National Security Task Force, one of 10 variously named and separately focused task forces that compose the commission.

Fort Jackson-Palmetto State



From left, retired Maj. Gen. George Goldsmith retired Marine Col. Steve Vitali, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, Tom Mullikin and Col. Bill Connor. (AUSA/W. THOMAS SMITH JR.)

W. Thomas Smith Jr. is a member of AUSA's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State Chapter.



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