



Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, left, Army North commander, visits Boston Hope Medical Center in Massachusetts to meet with troops supporting COVID-19 response efforts. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. KEVIN NUNES)

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Army North ups COVID-19 response

U.S. Army North, already overseeing DoD COVID-19 operations in Texas, will deploy military medical personnel to California as the global fight against the novel coronavirus continues.

"We're working with FEMA across the entire country to determine what other military capabilities may be needed to assist in this fight," Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, Army North commander, said Tuesday during the Association of the U.S. Army's Thought Leaders webinar series.

About 580 military medical and support personnel have been assigned to help with COVID-19 operations in Texas, and another 160 personnel will soon head to California.

An Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force—an 85-soldier Army Reserve unit made up of clinic staff,

nurses, preventive medicine experts and other medical specialists—is currently deployed to help five San Antonio hospitals while a second task force is in Houston.

Additional teams were sent to help with statewide efforts, according to a press release.

Richardson said the command will take another look at mobilized forces in August or September to reassess "if we need to extend those forces a little longer."

"We obviously don't want to keep forces mobilized if we don't need them, but we want to be ready to respond for exactly this kind of a situation," she said.

Richardson said Army North is "postured very well" to respond to current and future COVID-19 peaks, adding that "everything did

not de-mobilize" after earlier efforts wrapped.

"We've kept some forces mobilized," she said. "NORTHCOM also kept some medical capability on ... prepared-to-deploy orders for exactly this kind of response that we're cranking up again."

As COVID-19 response efforts ramped up in March, Army North, as the Joint Force Land Component Command for U.S. Northern Command, sent troops to augment staff at 11 New York City public hospitals and staff a field hospital at the Javits Center.

When initial response efforts concluded, the Joint Force Land Component Command had supported 134 FEMA-approved missions with the help of almost 9,000 service members.

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McCarthy: Army makes progress amid ‘extraordinary time’

The U.S. Army faces an “extraordinary time” as it rebuilds readiness, modernizes capabilities, deals with a global pandemic and drives for long overdue changes in cultural and racial issues, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said Monday in remarks at Britain’s Royal United Services Institute.

Sitting alongside James Heapey, Britain’s minister for the armed forces who like McCarthy is an Afghanistan combat veteran, McCarthy said Britain is a long and important ally.

“There is nothing more important than an ally who will stand shoulder to shoulder with you in a firefight,” McCarthy said. “I’ll fight to protect this relationship to my dying breath.”

Heapey joked he wasn’t sure that former soldiers like him and McCarthy make the “best” Army leaders because both probably think they should have become generals—although in a way they now are.

McCarthy said he enjoys serving as Army secretary, saying he’ll keep the job “as long as they will let me.”

The U.S. Army has made enormous strides, McCarthy said.

“We have restored readiness,” he said, while also finding \$50 billion for modernization programs “in the midst of flat budgets.”

Peter Roberts, RUSI’s director of military science, said the U.S.’ pace of military change poses challenges



Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, right, meets in London with James Heapey, Britain’s minister for the armed forces. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JAMES HARVEY)

for other countries who can’t keep up.

“The U.S. does not fight alone,” McCarthy said, but “the pace is necessary. Technology changes so quickly in this environment.”

Heapey said “having the largest defense budget on Earth” gives the U.S. an ability to change far more quickly than Britain and other countries.

For Britain and other allies, the question is what nations with less to spend and less ability to rush can offer, Heapey said.

“We have a slightly smaller wallet,” he said.

A lesson of COVID-19’s impact on military training is that the U.S. needs to train to fight during a pandemic, McCarthy said.

Part of this will be training in protective gear like the Mission Oriented Protective Posture, or MOPP, gear designed for operating in chemical, biological and radiological environments.

“We are going to dial up the stress,” McCarthy said.

Asked how the U.S. can do better when it comes to diversity in the ranks, McCarthy said there are several steps underway to discourage unconscious bias in promotions and command selections, including removing photos and names from files.

The Army is also looking at changing recruiting to attract more minorities and women, and trying to better manage leadership growth, McCarthy said.

Army North

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It also employed more than 3,100 medical personnel to staff civilian hospitals and “alternative care facilities” in nine states, according to information from Army North.

“It’s going into the hospitals that was a game changer for us,” Richardson said, referring to the existing infrastructure compared with field hospitals. “That is really a lesson learned and best practice.”

She cited the standardization of

personal protective equipment procedures, including the way it is put on and taken off, across DoD as another lesson learned, calling it “the key to our success” in protecting service members.

Richardson also advocated for the “immediate mobilization of Army North subordinate units,” including National Guard and Army Reserve units.

“At times we need these units to deploy capabilities in a couple days, not in a couple weeks,” Richardson

said. “I think, quite honestly, an overhaul of our dated mobilization process would be very helpful.”

As the summer continues, Army North is preparing for what may come next, whether it’s a second wave of the coronavirus, hurricanes or forest fires, she said.

“We’re also working very hard to plan for what may be coming next,” Richardson said. “Our motto is ‘Strength of the Nation,’ and we’re working nonstop day and night to support our fellow Americans.”

Army National Hiring Days generate thousands of potential leads



Future soldiers learn what the Army has to offer during an event at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in support of the Army National Hiring Days campaign. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. ALAN BRUTUS)

The Army may be on its way to achieving its goal of hiring 10,000 soldiers after a three-day recruiting blitz brought in thousands of new leads, officials said.

During Army National Hiring Days, a three-day event June 30–July 2, some 316,000 people visited the goarmy.com/hiringdays website, and about 35,000 people expressed interest in joining, according to the Army.

The campaign digitally reached about 280 million people worldwide, according to Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Interest in joining the Army National Guard reached nearly 8,400, and those interested in the Army ROTC program reached more than 2,300, the release said.

“It’s not just about a number. It’s showing them our Army values and that diversity is truly our strength,” said Gen. Paul Funk, TRADOC commanding general.

“It’s really an exciting time to be in the Army. Don’t sit on the couch and watch history, come make it with us.”

The Army National Hiring Days event was the first of its kind for the Army and designed to encourage young people to take a look at the service’s 150 different career fields.

Qualified applicants were able to choose their job and start dates as well as earn additional signing bonuses.

Bonuses of up to \$40,000 to \$65,000 were available for some MOSs and student loan repayments, but during the three-day event an extra \$2,000 was available to anyone who started the enlistment process.

The big recruiting push comes after the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March forced Army recruiters to rely heavily on virtual recruiting and communications.

As a result, Army Recruiting Command fell behind by about 4,000 contracts.

For the three-day recruiting event, soldiers, veterans and other supporters were called to act as recruiters to spread the word about the Army, available career opportunities and the benefits of service.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville shared recruiting messages via social media during the event, and retired soldiers, former general officers, and even a few celebrities, such as Chef Robert Irvine, participated via their respective social media accounts, the Army said.

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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

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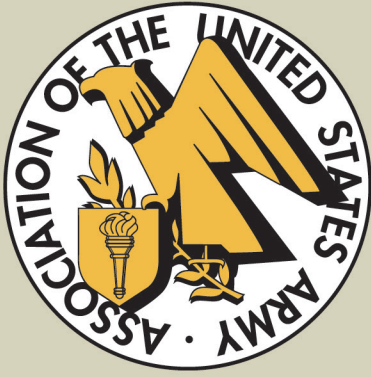
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New memorial will honor Desert Storm, Shield veterans

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey,
U.S. Army retired

In August 1988, following a long war between Iran and Iraq, the United Nations was able to negotiate a ceasefire between the two countries.

But almost two years would go by without a peace treaty between the former adversaries.

Peace between Iran and Iraq seemed possible in July 1990, when their foreign ministers met in Geneva, Switzerland. However, just two weeks later, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein accused neighboring Kuwait of stealing Iraq's oil.

Hussein began positioning his troops along the border of Kuwait, and on Aug. 2, 1990, ordered an invasion. Within 24 hours, Iraq's military occupied its southern neighbor and controlled nearly 30% of the world's oil supply.

Iraq's brutal leader then set his eyes on Saudi Arabia. Hussein's actions

NCO & Soldier Programs

were condemned by the majority of the Arab League, and King Fahd of Saudi

Arabia, along with the government of Kuwait, now in exile, turned to the United States and other members of NATO for help.

On Jan. 17, 1991, the U.S. led coalition forces in the liberation of Kuwait, forming the largest military alliance since World War II. The Gulf War campaign became known as Operation Desert Storm.

Roughly 600,000 American troops were deployed, and nearly 400 gave their lives throughout the campaign.

National memorial

To this day, the U.S. lacks a national memorial dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of the service members who served during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

The idea to change this came about some 20 years later from a group of Desert Storm veterans led by Scott



The memorial will be built at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street Northwest, near the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Stump, president and CEO of the National Desert Storm Memorial Association.

They made it their mission to forever honor those who fought in the Gulf War with a national memorial.

For several years, the National Desert Storm Memorial Association has relentlessly pursued its goal of breaking ground on the memorial in 2021 to coincide with the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm.

In 2014, the House of Representatives voted unanimously to authorize construction of the memorial, and then-President Barack Obama signed the law authorizing it to be built in Washington, D.C.

Three years later, President Donald Trump signed a bill authorizing a memorial to be built near the National Mall, and in 2018, a site for the memorial was approved.

The site was dedicated on Feb. 26, 2019. The memorial will be built at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street Northwest, near the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial is estimated to cost \$40 million.

The law stipulates that before

groundbreaking, 110% of the projected budget must be raised.

All efforts are to raise the funds exclusively by private sources, as the use of federal funds is prohibited.

As of June 30, the association has raised \$9.2 million of the \$40 million goal. In addition, the Kuwaiti government has pledged \$10 million to help build the memorial.

Stump is committed to seeing this through.

"Our team is honored and committed to ensuring that the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial will educate and inform millions of future visitors about this historic event while sharing its lasting legacies and honoring all who served, including those who made the ultimate supreme sacrifice," he said.

For more information about the National Desert Storm Memorial Association and the memorial, please visit www.ndswm.org.

A recent podcast from the Association of the U.S. Army discussed the memorial—click here to listen.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.

Chapter, AUSA pay tribute to legendary Korean general

The president of the Association of the U.S. Army's Greater Los Angeles chapter on Monday represented AUSA at a memorial service honoring retired Korean Gen. Paik Sun-yup.

Paik, the first four-star general in the history of the South Korean military, died July 10. He was 99.

Pete Seitz, president of the Greater Los Angeles chapter, paid his respects during a service hosted in Los Angeles

Greater Los Angeles

by the local chapter of the Association of the Republic of Korea Army.

"It was a wonderful yet solemn event. The reverence and respect for Gen. Paik Sun-yup was very evident," Seitz said.

Paik is known for his service during the Korean War, where he commanded the South Korean Army's 1st Infantry Division. That unit, under the U.S. I Corps, became the first to enter Pyongyang on Oct. 19, 1950, making



Pete Seitz, left, president of AUSA's Greater Los Angeles chapter, and Martin Choi, president of the Association of the Republic of Korea Army West chapter. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Paik one of the first officers to realize the Chinese entry into the war.

In January 1953, he was promoted to the rank of general, making him the first four-star in the South Korean military.

"Gen. Paik Sun-yup is a legendary leader who fostered ever-stronger ties

with the United States, especially with the United States Army. For that, we will be forever grateful," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. "We will do our best to honor his legacy and to continually seek to maintain the unbreakable bonds between our two countries."

AUSA leader takes helm of new Alabama Guard command

Col. Mike Izzo, a board member with the Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter, has taken command of the Alabama National Guard's newest—and 11th—major command.

The 142nd Military Police Brigade, announced during a June ceremony

Redstone-Huntsville

at Fort McClellan, Alabama, will serve to consolidate existing and

future military police elements into "a single command structure with a unified vision and mission," according to a press release.

Maj. Gen. Sylvester Cannon, the Alabama National Guard's deputy adjutant general, officiated the ceremony and saw leaders place the shoulder patch of the new unit on the brigade's inaugural soldiers.

"It is a proud day for me," said Can-



A soldier with the newly formed 142nd Military Police Brigade attaches one of the first unit patches to another soldier at Fort McClellan, Alabama. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. SAMUEL HARTLEY)

non, who is the state's most senior military police officer. "I've waited a long time to see Alabama stand up an MP brigade."

The patch design for the new unit is representative of the Army military police regimental motto of "Assist, Protect, Defend," Izzo said.

"This is our biggest honor," he said.

"We, as MPs, are always there to assist, protect and defend our country, our state and our fellow soldiers."

Izzo is the former commander of the 203rd MP Battalion, which will now fall under the 142nd.

The brigade is scheduled to be fully activated on Aug. 8, and it's expected to include about 1,000 soldiers.

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