



Lt. Gen. Paul A. Ostrowski said at an AUSA breakfast event that the Army's first laser weapon could be fielded by 2022 and a hypersonic missile battery could be in place in 2023. (AUSA PHOTO)

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Army acquisition culture must change

For Lt. Gen. Paul A. Ostrowski, the need to get combat capabilities into soldiers' hands more quickly is an urgent mission with a personal twist.

Speaking at a breakfast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare on July 16, Ostrowski recalled a moment "years ago" when he was with the U.S. Special Operations Command "and the IED showed its ugly face."

Ostrowski at the time was the command's program manager for the counter-IED effort.

On a trip to Iraq, he said, he entered the special operations cantonment area on a base in Mosul and was saddened to see it was named for Master Sgt. Kelly Hornbeck, an NCO Ostrowski had known in the late 1980s when he was a platoon leader with the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

Hornbeck, who later became a Green Beret, was killed by an IED in Samar-

ra, Iraq, on Jan. 18, 2004.

"I was late to the game. I had failed him because I failed to get the capability that he needed in the time that he needed that could have spared his life," said Ostrowski, the principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology and director of the Army Acquisition Corps.

A career acquisition officer with 34 years' experience, Ostrowski said he is committed to the Army's modernization initiatives and to changing the lumbering, business-as-usual acquisition culture that has dominated equipment fielding in the Army for decades.

Changing that culture, he said, is the toughest part of his job.

"We've been an organization that has been fueled for tens of decades on a process-based acquisition scenario. We simply know that we can't do that," Ostrowski said. "I am concerned that we're not moving as fast as we need

to, to stop other Sgt. Hornbecks from making the ultimate sacrifice."

Implementing change will take time, the involvement of leadership and a grassroots effort within the Army to begin to "push those that don't want to make change out of the system," he said. "It's been a struggle getting after that piece, but we're getting after it."

Ostrowski pointed to the effectiveness of the U.S. Army Futures Command's cross-functional teams, which are driving development of the Army's top modernization priorities more quickly by being empowered with the right authorities to sidestep the traditional acquisition process.

The CFT concept, he said "is what we're after" for the Army, with such equipment as a next-generation vehicle or any of the other items being acquired by the combat support or combat service support areas of the Army.

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Esper's nomination for defense secretary moves forward

Army Secretary Mark T. Esper is one step closer to being the next secretary of defense.

The Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday voted to confirm Esper for the top Pentagon job as well as Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley to be the next Joint Chiefs chairman.

The full Senate is expected to vote on both nominations soon.

Earlier in the week, Esper told the SASC that his "broad and diverse experience" has prepared him for the job.

On Tuesday, Esper cited for the committee his 21 years as a soldier, experience working in staff jobs for Congress and the Defense Department, time in the private sector working on defense and foreign policy issues, and almost two years as Army secretary as reasons why he's prepared.

"If confirmed, I intend to bring the same focus, professionalism, thoughtfulness and commitment to the Department of Defense that I brought every single day to my position as Army secretary," he said.

Esper has been called upon to fill a defense secretary post that hasn't had a permanent occupant since Jan. 1, when retired Gen. Jim Mattis departed.

Esper was briefly appointed as acting defense secretary but stepped back into the Army post when the White House formally announced his nomination.

Esper said his priorities as defense



'Our adversaries must see diplomacy as their best option because war with the United States will force them to bear enormous costs,' Esper said. (U.S. ARMY/DANIEL TOROK)

secretary won't be that different from his priorities leading the Army.

"We will continue to build a more lethal force by increasing readiness and modernizing for the future," Esper said. "The goal is to deter war, and this can only be done with a strong, modern and ready military that has overmatch in all domains. Our adversaries must see diplomacy as their best option because war with the United States will force them to

bear enormous costs."

Strengthening alliances and reforming DoD are also priorities, he said.

"No reform is too small. In the Army, we found billions of dollars in savings by overturning hundreds of small stones that many said wouldn't make a difference," Esper said. "I will also continue to take the approach that bureaucratic processes should not come at the expense of our men and women serving around the world."

Ostrowski

From Page 1

"That concept should be everywhere in the Army, it's about changing that culture. We've got to take those lessons learned and spread that to the rest of the organization," he said.

Over almost 18 years of war, he said, the Army is still strong and has done well using upgraded legacy weapons.

While the failure to modernize "has been detrimental across the board," big improvements are coming over the next few years, brought on by quicker acquisition mechanisms authorized

by Congress and the ability to work with a broader number of non-traditional companies.

One of the fastest-moving developments is the Integrated Visual Augmentation System, a heads-up display through which soldiers can see several pieces of information at eye-level while moving across the battlefield.

It's expected to be fielded in 2021.

By 2022, the Army's first laser weapon could be fielded, and by 2023, the Army could have a hypersonic missile battery, a capability that's been in the works since 2011, he said.

Ostrowski also called for better management of acquisition officers, who were entering the acquisition corps after company command from different educational and training angles. There was no standard.

"I put a stop to that. I said everybody needs to go do the same thing in terms of getting that education piece because I need them to be on the ground running from day one, just like we do with any other specialty within the Army. We train you first and then we send you the unit," Ostrowski said.

Family Readiness wraps up year of focus on financial wellness

By Patty Barron

For the past fiscal year, the Association of the U.S. Army's Family Readiness directorate has focused on emphasizing the importance of sound financial readiness among military families.

Starting with a June 2018 Facebook Live series, AUSA has hosted subject-matter experts on issues ranging from having tough conversations about money to decorating on a dime.

As a result, four popular "Ultimate Guides" were created, all focusing on financial readiness. They are:

Handling "Murphy." It's no secret that military life can throw off your plans. The uncertainty caused by Murphy's Law can also make it difficult to manage your finances. This guide provides ideas for meeting your financial responsibilities without derailing your financial plans.

Life Hacking Your Finances. Sometimes it might feel like you need a secret decoder to understand the language of finances. In this guide you'll find tips to help you tackle the science behind credit scores, retirement, insurance and saving and investing.

Decorating on a Dime. Frequent moves can make it difficult and expensive to design your dream home. This guide helps you save money and create spaces that feel like home no matter where the military sends you next.

Tough Conversations About Money. Money matters can be difficult to discuss. But money conversations have a way of popping up, and sometimes it's when you least expect it. This guide provides tips for navigating these conversations with ease and kicking your financial goals into high gear.

All of the guides are available online at <https://bit.ly/2NVRiVP>.

However, they were just one part of AUSA's financial readiness focus.

We conducted financial readiness forums at AUSA's annual meeting,



AUSA's financial readiness message has reached over 25,000 people in the past year. (U.S. ARMY/IAN IVES)

the Global Force Symposium and Exhibition and at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where 1,500 soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division learned the basics of financial readiness and the Blended Retirement System.

The July Family Voices podcast, part of AUSA's Army Matters podcast series, features Angela Cabán, 2014 National Guard Spouse of the Year, founder of Homefront United Network, and program director for Military Saves, Consumer Federation of America.

Caban shares her family's story of bankruptcy and overcoming debt, maps out the vital steps to seeking help and emphasizes the importance of the military spouse support network in helping families reach their goals.

You can listen to the podcast here: <https://podcast.ausa.org/>

Overall, we reached more than 25,000 people with our financial readiness message. That's a number we can all be proud of.

In the new fiscal year, we will turn our focus to military family behavioral health and wellness.

Stay tuned for more important information, tips and resources.

Patty Barron is AUSA's Family Readiness Director.

Family Readiness

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PERK OF THE WEEK

Battle Digest

The newest issue of *Battle Digest*—focusing on Little Bighorn—is ready for download! AUSA members receive a free digital copy of *Battle Digest*, an executive summary of history's important battles, including lessons on strategy, tactics, and leadership. Members have already enjoyed Gettysburg, Waterloo, Yorktown and D-Day, and now you may download Little Bighorn at www.ausa.org/battle. Members also receive 15% off a print subscription or back issues.

Online transfers now open for sold-out Army Ten-Miler

General registration for the 2019 Army Ten-Miler has sold out, but there is still an opportunity to participate in the race.

Through the online transfer program, a registered runner may transfer (sell) his or her registration to a new participant.

The seller can either request a refund of the \$79 registration fee (in which case the buyer pays the fee) or request that the registration be transferred with no refund and no registration fee for the person accepting the transfer.

The person accepting the transfer must pay a \$25 transfer fee.

So, depending on whether the seller requests a refund, the recipient will pay a total of \$104 in processing fees (transfer fee plus registration fee) or \$25 (transfer fee only).

This is all accomplished via real-time online discussion boards where



Though the race is sold out, you can still register for the Army Ten-Miler using the online transfer program. (U.S. ARMY/JOE LACDAN)

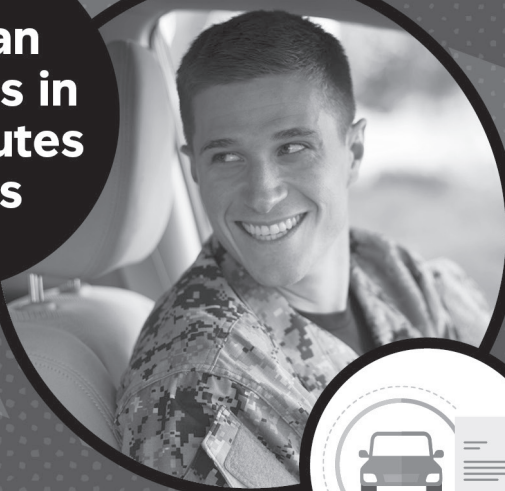
buyers and sellers can connect.

The seller will initiate the transfer by filling out a form with last name, birth date, zip code and last four digits of the credit card used for the original purchase or the invoice/customer number found on the receipt.

To learn more about the transfer program, visit <https://bit.ly/32qXWXb>.

The 2019 Army Ten-Miler will take place Oct. 13, a day before the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C.

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Freedom Medallion boosts AUSA membership, awareness

The Rock Island Arsenal chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army has partnered with a local business to increase membership and spread awareness about the association's mission.

Julie Johnson, the chapter president, contacted Donna Young, owner of Isabel Bloom, a store featuring handmade sculptures, after hearing that Young had developed a custom piece with an organization to promote awareness about domestic abuse.

"She agreed to meet with me to develop a piece for the chapter," Johnson said.

The Freedom Medallion features the U.S. flag and a bald eagle, many of which are in the Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, area.

Two versions are available: a singular medallion, and a framed medallion that affords the buyer the opportunity to include a 5x7 photograph and text.

Rock Island Arsenal

It costs \$20 for the medallion and \$40 for the framed version.

A signing event with Young took place in May, and there were people lined up an hour before the store



The Freedom Medallion is available on its own or in a frame. (AUSA PHOTO)

opened—and there were lines out the door for most of the three-hour event, Johnson said.

The 200 medallions available sold out, and orders were taken for the last 100.

Isabel Bloom became a new community partner for the chapter, while Trimble Funeral Home & Crematory, another new partner, bought 50 medallions to give to clients.

"We sell them at 50% off to AUSA members and have obtained 48 new members within two weeks," Johnson said.

Due to the high volume of sales,

Isabel Bloom will have medallions available in all four of its local retail locations, with signage next to the medallions about becoming an AUSA member and contacting the local chapter to obtain the 50% discount.

"Other AUSA chapters can order these from us to replicate what we did to obtain new members and revenue," Johnson said.

"This has been the single most effective membership drive we have ever had, and it is an excellent perk for all community partners that want a patriotic gift to give to people."

AUSA chapter hosts Military Appreciation Day event

The Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Leonard Wood chapter is again hosting a Military Appreciation Day at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, extending a tradition it has carried out for 25 years.

This year, the tailgate party and ballgame for service members, their families and members of the surrounding communities will be Aug. 10.

The St. Louis Cardinals will take on the visiting Pittsburgh Pirates at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale for \$15 per person at the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Leisure Travel Office, located in the Exchange Mini Mall in Building 490.

Each ticket includes much more

than the game itself, said Roger Layman, chapter vice president for reserve components.

"We have one game a year, and we get tickets that we are able to sell to our military [community] at a discounted price," Layman said, according to the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office.

Tickets include a tailgate party that starts at 1 p.m., Layman said.

"It is free, and they have all kinds of drinks, food, vendors on site and games set up. Our local chapter of AUSA does this in coordination with the St. Louis chapter, who handles most of the details of the tailgate party," he said.

Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood also will be featured during pre-game activities.

"During the opening ceremony, we'll have our Joint Service Color Guard and the 399th Army Band on the field, and a command group representative will throw out a first pitch," Layman said.

He added that the AUSA Military Appreciation Night is the same night as a cap giveaway at Busch Stadium.

"So, you get all that for a \$15 ticket price and parking, which is a minimal cost," he said.

For more information about the event, call the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Leisure Travel Office at (573) 329-8587 or Layman at (573) 528-0079.



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	President's Reception	\$55	\$75
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	Family Readiness Munch & Mingle	\$20	\$30
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