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Retired Gen. Carter Ham, center left, AUSA president and CEO, participates in the opening ceremony of the 2019 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

Annual Meeting, Ten-Miler go virtual

The Association of the U.S. Army's 2020 Annual Meeting and Exposition will be held virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After careful and detailed consideration, we've made the difficult decision to convert the 2020 AUSA Annual Meeting from an in-person meeting to a virtual experience," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. "Based on health and safety considerations and ongoing restrictions on large gatherings, it is not possible for us to conduct an in-person meeting as we had originally envisioned."

Planning is underway for a four-day virtual meeting beginning Tuesday, Oct. 13, and concluding on Friday, Oct. 16.

Like live events in the past, the

virtual meeting will feature addresses by top Army and national security leaders, professional military forums and presentations by industry.

Registration for the new virtual meeting is expected to open by September.

Switching to a virtual event was a "tough call," Ham said.

"The Annual Meeting is an incredibly important event and one of our favorite ways to celebrate everything that unites us, but health and safety must come first," he said. "We are very disappointed that we are unable to hold this event as we had envisioned, but we know it's the right decision."

The AUSA Annual Meeting has been held every year since the first event on June 18, 1951, in room 3E869 of the Pentagon.

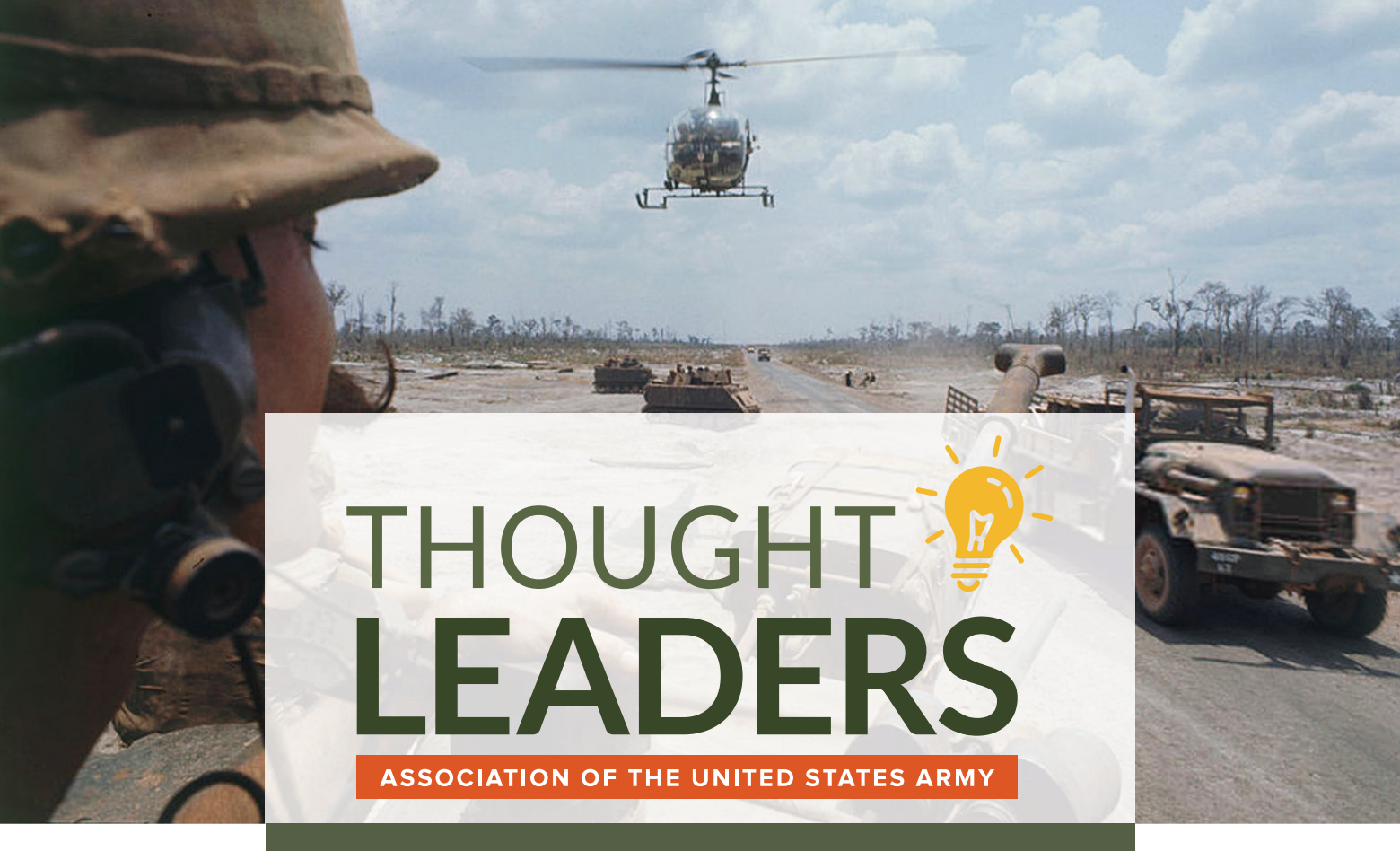
Lt. Gen. Raymond McLain, then AUSA's vice president, presided over the first meeting in the absence of AUSA President Gen. Wade Haislip, who was out of town.

"We must continually work to increase the prestige of the whole Army," McLain said in his remarks.

For many years, AUSA's Annual Meeting was held at the Sheraton-Park Hotel, which is now the Washington Marriott Wardman Park, in Washington, D.C. In 2003, the conference moved to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, where it has been ever since.

AUSA is now coordinating details for this year's virtual event, and team members will be reaching out directly to exhibitors and sponsors about new opportunities.

See **Annual Meeting**, Page 5



THOUGHT LEADERS



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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DONALD SNEDEKER

Author of *The Blackhorse in Vietnam:*

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, 1966-1972



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**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

Army preparing for array of operations at home, abroad

From a global pandemic to no-notice deployments to the Middle East, the Army continues to prepare for any crisis or mission, the service's top operations officer said.

"We must be ready for any planned and unplanned crisis," Lt. Gen. Charles Flynn, deputy Army chief of staff for operations, said Wednesday during The AUSA Noon Report, a webinar series hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

"We have to be able to do this anytime, anyplace against any threat, whether it's a hurricane, whether it's a wildfire, whether it's a terror attack, a nation-state armed aggression or a global pandemic, which is amongst our midst right now," Flynn added.

In just the past few months, the Army has deployed troops to the Middle East in response to rising tensions with Iran, supported COVID-19 response efforts at home and overseas and, through the Army National Guard, assisted local authorities dealing with widespread demonstrations.

The Army also is pushing ahead with its modernization efforts, putting health and safety measures in place to keep the force trained and ready amid the pandemic.

"Your Army is always in motion," Flynn said.

The U.S. Army builds and improves in a crisis, Flynn said.

"Why do we do this? We want to



Sgt. Anthony Lukens, with 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, guides an M1 Abrams tank to a fueling station at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, on Monday during the Defender-Europe 2020 exercise. (U.S. ARMY/JASON JOHNSTON)

make sure the force is in the posture or stance to be able to respond to any escalation."

The Army's mission is to "deploy, fight and win in any conflict, in large-scale combat operations. We have to be able to do that simultaneously to defending the homeland, disrupting any aggressors and deterring those who might want to do harm to us," he said.

Part of that preparation is done through combat training center rotations, warfighter exercises, joint task

force certifications, investing in installations and pre-positioned stocks, and practicing the Army's ability to move personnel and equipment anywhere in the world.

One recent example is the Defender-Europe 2020 exercise.

While much of the exercise, slated to be the largest Army event in Europe in more than two decades, was canceled because of the pandemic, planning for such a large-scale event was "invaluable," Flynn said.

The Army is now planning a Global Defender exercise for 2022, which will likely include operations in the U.S. as well as in Europe, the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere, he said.

For now, as the Army ramps up operations and activities that were slowed by the pandemic, leaders are looking to exercises, training and education but with an eye on soldier health and safety.

"We remain in a fight with a pathogen that is changing," Flynn said. "We have to put in those conditions to make sure we protect our forces so we can protect the nation."

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

Lynette Nichols

National Partner Program Manager

Lynette Nichols has been with AUSA for three years and worked with other associations for the past 13 years. In addition to managing AUSA's National Partners, Lynette is a proud autism mother of two great kids, as well as an avid comic book collector who enjoys reading a new work of fiction every week.



Election security is top priority, focus for Cyber Command and NSA



Cyber Command and NSA experts spend most of their time dealing with escalation by adversaries such as Russia and China, Gen. Paul Nakasone said. (U.S. CYBER COMMAND PHOTO)

The security and legitimacy of the November general elections are the highest priorities for U.S. Cyber Command, according to the nation's top cyber officer, who said that the key to success is knowing "our adversaries better than they know themselves."

Gen. Paul Nakasone, commander of U.S. Cyber Command and director of the National Security Agency, said success in keeping foreign actors from interfering in the Nov. 3 presidential election requires staying ahead of adversaries, expanding partnerships with institutions that are doing important work in analyzing the role of social media and influence operations, and taking action "when we see adversaries attempting to interfere in our elections."

"Our No. 1 objective at the National Security Agency and at U.S. Cyber Command is safe, secure and legitimate 2020 elections," Nakasone said Monday at the Association of the U.S. Army's Thought Leaders webinar.

Drawing on lessons learned from

the effort to prevent interference in the 2018 midterm elections has helped advance preparation for the upcoming 2020 elections, as has the maturation of the organizations and policies involved in keeping the process safe and secure.

Still, Nakasone said, over the past 10 years, there has been a marked advance by adversaries who have moved from exploiting classified systems to disrupting communications, launching destructive attacks and conducting influence operations.

This escalation by adversaries such as Russia and China, he said, "really is competition" and is where Cyber Command and NSA experts spend most of their time.

"We are in a period of great-power competition. We see that every single day in cyberspace, our adversaries are able to do a number of different things and they are not just episodically involved, they're involved every single day," Nakasone said. "We're going to act when we see adversaries attempting to interfere in our elections."

AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier*

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PERK OF THE WEEK

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Annual Meeting

From Page 1

“While it may not replace the full experience of the in-person AUSA Annual Meeting, it will serve to keep us connected with Army senior leaders and messages, with industry partners and with AUSA members around the globe,” Ham said. “We are planning for a forum that allows reach beyond the 33,000-plus people we expected to see in Washington, D.C., this year.”

The AUSA team also is already looking forward to the 2021 Annual Meeting and “a grand reunion” scheduled for Oct. 11-13, 2021, in Washington, D.C., Ham said.

For updated information, click here.

A virtual Army Ten-Miler

The 36th annual Army Ten-Miler, traditionally held the day before AUSA's Annual Meeting begins, will also be converted into a virtual event, officials said.

It will take place Sunday, Oct. 11, through Sunday, Oct. 18.



Runners cross the start line of the 2019 Army Ten-Miler. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

“The Army Ten-Miler is a demonstration of the Army’s commitment to readiness, fitness and our communities,” said Maj. Gen. Omar Jones, commander of the Army’s Military District of Washington, which oversees the race.

“Our soldiers are trained and ready to win in any environment,” Jones said. “This year’s Army Ten-Miler embodies that ethos while safely bringing the opportunity to participate to your hometown.”

Conducting the race virtually will support DoD and local government health measures to minimize CO-

VID-19 risk, said Matt Zimmerman, race director.

Registration for the virtual race is open now with a cap of 25,000 participants. The entry fee is \$59.

Registered runners receive a long sleeve shirt, a race bib, a calendar and a commemorative coin.

An early bird registration period with a reduced rate of \$54 began Tuesday and ends Friday.

For more information, visit www.armytenmiler.com or contact Maida Johnson, the Army Ten-Miler deputy race director, at 202-685-3361 or maida.johnson2.naf@mail.mil.



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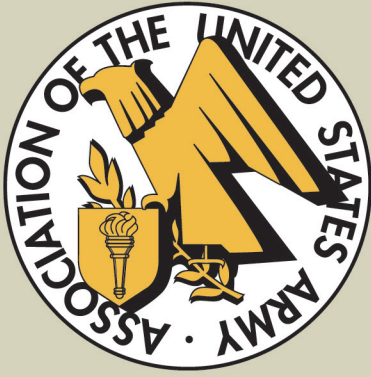
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LTG R. SCOTT DINGLE

*Surgeon General of the U.S. Army and
Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command*



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DoD seeks plasma donations to aid COVID-19 response

By Patty Barron

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted American lives for months.

For military families, permanent change-of-station moves, children's schooling, child care shortages and loss of employment are among the challenges this pandemic has created.

A vaccine or medical intervention that will allow the nation to get back to a new normal is vital, but the wait can seem to last forever.

The Association of the U.S. Army is dedicated to supporting the military's efforts to find solutions that will beat COVID-19.

As leaders in research and development, the Military Health System is front and center in the fight.

"Since the onset of the pandemic, military medicine has dramatically expanded its laboratory and testing capacity, increased virtual health capabilities, established drive-up testing sites and pharmacy curbside delivery, and implemented system-wide policies to minimize exposure risk to patients and providers," said Dr. Brian Lein, a retired major general and assistant director for health-care administration at the Defense Health Agency.

Now, DoD has launched a major initiative to obtain 10,000 units of convalescent plasma.

"This plasma will support COVID-19 response for potential treatment purposes now as well as for use in research efforts to develop a future therapeutic," Lein said.

To make this goal, DoD needs your help. MHS is recruiting volunteers who have fully recovered from COVID-19 to donate their plasma.

Donors can visit any Armed Services Blood Program donor center across the continental U.S., Hawaii, and Germany.

Eligible donors must have been diagnosed with COVID-19, recovered and remained symptom-free for at



Second Lt. Sam Zivot, of 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, donates COVID-19 convalescent plasma at Fort Benning, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

least 14 days, among other requirements.

"Your donation can help us combat the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure our troops remain safe and healthy," Lein said.

More information on donating blood or plasma can be found [here](#).

Army COVID-19 efforts

A conversation about COVID-19 and the military would not be complete without highlighting the efforts of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, commanded by Col. Deydre Teyhen.

On a recent episode of AUSA's "Army Matters" podcast, Teyhen said the institute's main priorities fall under three focus areas.

The primary focus is the race to develop a vaccine, Teyhen said.

Next, researchers are working to "create a whole suite of diagnostics tools to help not only detect people who have the disease, but to know when they are free of the disease," she said.

They also want to determine if recovered patients have antibodies in their system that will protect them from getting the disease in the future, Teyhen said.

The third focus area is treatment.

"We are using artificial intelligence and machine learning to quickly down select drugs that might be able to fight COVID-19 for people that have it," she said.

"We're using interesting technology to try to find drugs that already exist that might be able to be repurposed or new drugs that can be developed to fight the disease," she added.

Another aspect of the work being done at the institute is the behavioral health impact of COVID-19.

"People respond to this in very different ways, and we have to meet people where they need to be met," Teyhen said. "It takes time to adjust to this new normal. Give your family members permission, let them acknowledge that they can share that they are having stress with this, and give them a place to share that stress."

[Click here for the full episode.](#)

It has never been truer that we are all in this together. AUSA will continue to bring you the latest information on the military's fight against COVID-19.

Visit AUSA's COVID-19 resource page for more information.

Patty Barron is AUSA's Family Readiness Director.

Chapter sponsors Fallen Soldier Battle Cross memorial

The Association of the U.S. Army's West/Central Alabama chapter recently partnered with other donors and organizations to sponsor a new monument at the Tuscaloosa Memorial Veterans Park.

"We started working on the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross several months ago, and after extensive research, we were able to make the monument a reality," said retired Lt. Col. Nicolas Britto, the chapter president.

This Fallen Soldier Battle Cross honors service members who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the Global War on Terror.

West/Central Alabama

"The purpose of the monument is to make sure that future generations don't forget the sacrifices made by our service members," Britto said.

The traditional arrangement of a fallen soldier's rifle, topped by a hel-

met, identification tag and a pair of boots—known as a Battle Cross—began during World War I.

Since then, when a service member is lost on the battlefield, it is traditional for comrades to erect a Battle Cross indicating the site and memorializing their supreme sacrifice.

The helmet and identification tags signify the dead soldier; the inverted rifle with bayonet signals a time for prayer, a break in the action to pay tribute to the comrade; and the combat boots represent the final march of their last battle.

Other contributors for the monument include Leroy McAbee Sr., the Hillcrest High School Army Junior ROTC program and the Tuscaloosa Parks and Recreation Authority.

This is the second monument sponsored by the chapter, Britto said. The first, created in 2017 to honor World War II prisoner of war and Army veteran Pete Lemonis, is displayed at the Tuscaloosa Federal Courthouse.



The traditional arrangement of a fallen soldier's rifle, topped by a helmet, identification tag and a pair of boots, began during World War I. (AUSA PHOTO)

Scholarships awarded to students in virtual ceremony

Continuing the trend of hosting virtual events during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Association of the U.S. Army's Fairfax-Lee chapter hosted its annual scholarship awards ceremony and Army birthday celebration via video teleconference.

Chapter President Nancy Jean-Louis served as master of ceremonies for the June 15 event, welcoming the scholarship recipients, chapter members, parents, sponsors and guest speaker Lt. Gen. Darrell Williams, director of the Defense Logistics Agency.

Fairfax-Lee

Over the past eight years, the chapter's scholarship program has awarded \$150,000 to chapter members pursuing their academic goals.

Awardees are high school seniors and undergraduate and graduate-level college students. Recipients have in-

cluded soldiers, family members, Army civilians and ROTC/JROTC cadets.

This year, the chapter selected 17 deserving recipients to share in the \$8,000 raised for the 2020 scholarship program.

Kathy Callahan, acting chairwoman for the program, introduced the awardees, who each discussed their area of study and career ambitions.

They also briefly described who their application essay was about—a soldier or veteran who inspires them.

The academic and career ambitions of this year's awardees include military service, science and technology, business, human resources, nursing, information technology and liberal arts.

The letters of recommendation that accompanied the applications validated both the students' academic excellence and their engagement in sports,

church activities and community service.

Except for one awardee, who provided a video clip, all recipients were able to log in and participate in the event.

In his keynote address, Williams paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of the students in their quest to improve their lives through education.

He also acknowledged and thanked the parents and families whose love and support are fundamental to their students' success.

Williams also talked about the importance of having "anchors" in life—values and good habits that sustain a person in turbulent times. He ended by encouraging the audience to be aggressive in the pursuit of their dreams.

To close the event, the attendees marked the Army's 245th birthday, which was June 14, with a virtual birthday cake.



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