

## Honoring the Fallen



Staff members with AUSA's national headquarters lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a visit Wednesday to Arlington National Cemetery. (AUSA PHOTO) [SEE STORY ON PAGE 3](#)

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## Army aims to create space MOS, branch

To boost expertise in space operations, the Army is working to establish a new space MOS and branch, said Lt. Gen. Sean Gainey, commander of Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Work also is underway to push critical space capabilities down to the tactical level.

In remarks Tuesday at a Coffee Series breakfast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army, Gainey acknowledged that the demand for troops who are experts in the space domain exceeds the capacity, and the tasks are being filled by soldiers in air and missile defense MOSs, increasing their operational tempo.

“The way we operate right now is we pull soldiers from air defense, signal corps and [military intelligence], and we build crews based off of sev-

eral different MOSs,” Gainey said. He explained that, in what becomes almost a three-year cycle, soldiers get certified in space operations but may only get to perform one mission before they go back to their own basic branch. As a result, no one is an expert in the craft.

“Everybody knows that’s probably not a good business model if you won’t train the experts, so the concept we’ve developed is to take those authorizations that are already being provided to those different branches and change those soldiers to a 40D MOS, to where now there’s space soldiers, and they’re experts,” he said.

With soldiers training in space operations starting in basic training, “you get a professional noncommissioned officer corps, which we’re re-

ally excited about,” Gainey said.

Gainey, who has led Space and Missile Defense Command since Jan. 9, said his command has worked with the Army’s other branches to develop the new MOS, a proposal that is being reviewed by Army senior leaders.

A dedicated space MOS will help the Army push that expertise into formations across the Army, Gainey said, adding that his command is developing a space training strategy to focus on getting space capability and awareness into the Army’s formations.

Faced with growing competition, the rapid advancement of technology and an increasingly transparent battlefield, the Army and its sister services depend on space enablers

See **Gainey**, Page 3

# AUSA 2024

## ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

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## AUSA staff honor fallen at Arlington National Cemetery

Staff members of the Association of the U.S. Army paid tribute to America's fallen service members Wednesday during a visit to Arlington National Cemetery.

The team laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which is guarded around the clock by sentinels from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

During AUSA's visit, staff members met with soldiers who guard the tomb and heard from Karen Halverson and Angel Mangum, two AUSA family fellows, about the mission of the Arlington Ladies, volunteers who attend funeral services at the cemetery to ensure no service member is buried alone.

The AUSA team also visited the graves of Maj. Audie Murphy, the World War II hero who was one of the nation's most-decorated soldiers, and General of the Army George Marshall, a former Army chief of staff who also served as secretary of state, secretary of defense and U.S. special envoy to China. AUSA's highest award is named for Marshall.

Upon returning to AUSA headquarters, staff members heard from Jill Stephenson about her son, Cpl. Benjamin Kopp. The 21-year-old died



Scott Halstead, director of AUSA's Center for Leadership, describes the life and legacy of General of the Army George Marshall at Marshall's grave during a visit on Wednesday by the association's staff to Arlington National Cemetery. (AUSA PHOTO)

July 18, 2009, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, eight days after he was wounded while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan.

"I have a great sense of pride in the man he became," Stephenson said, as she described how her son knew from a young age that he was going to become a soldier. "I do my best to share his story and be a servant, like he was," she said.

Hearing from Stephenson, spending time with soldiers and visiting

Arlington cemetery are important reminders of those who sacrifice and serve, said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. "Just letting you see the incredible soldiers and [to] pause and think of what sacrifice folks have gone through [is] important," Brown said.

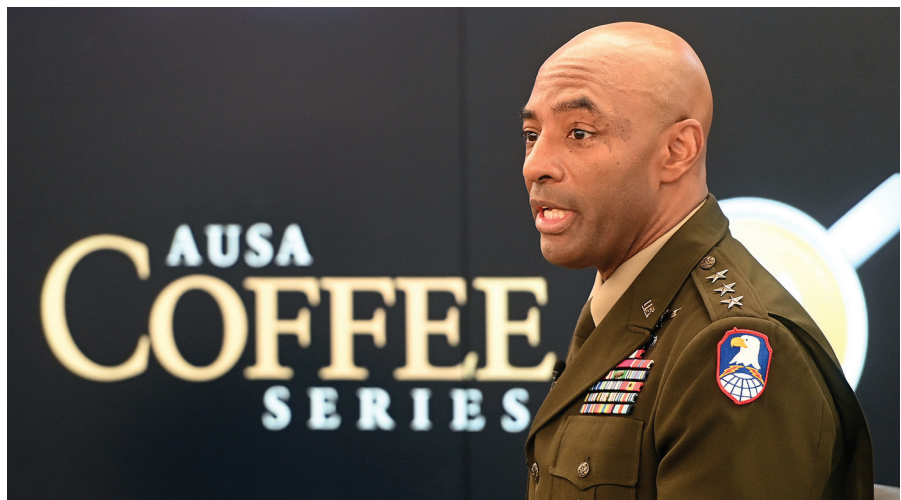
The day's events also reinforced AUSA's work to support the Army, he said. "What we do is incredibly important, ... the better we do our job supporting the Army, the less likely we are to go to war," he said.

### Gainey

From Page 1

such as satellite communications, GPS, missile warning, electronic warfare and more. The Army also is the military's largest user of space, increasing its need to maintain its advantage in the final frontier.

More space expertise, such as that resident in the multidomain task forces and within divisions and brigades, is needed, Gainey said. He pointed out that his command is working with Army Training and Doctrine Command to integrate space capability and awareness into initial entry training and "all the way through the training pipeline."



Lt. Gen. Sean Gainey, commander of Army Space and Missile Defense Command, addresses an AUSA Coffee Series event at the association's headquarters. (AUSA PHOTO)

## Report: Transition programs require employment focus, better oversight



Soldiers, civilians and family members gather June 26 at a hiring fair organized by the Transition Assistance Program at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. (U.S. ARMY/DAVID HERNANDEZ)

**M**ilitary-to-civilian transition programs should shift their focus to employment and improve oversight, according to a recent report from the Rand Corp.

“Transition aids, such as training, education, career advice, and job support, can boost veterans’ job prospects and help them find or develop fulfilling careers in civilian life,” the report found. “However, as prior RAND research has shown, many veterans still feel that they are unable to leverage their military skills in their civilian jobs.”

The report analyzed 45 federally funded transition programs to reach its findings. The four largest programs are the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Veteran Readiness and Employment, DoD’s Tuition Assistance Program and the Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance program.

About 200,000 service members transition to civilian life every year, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs webpage.

The government invests over \$13 billion annually in military transition programs, but “very few programs focus on military-to-civilian employment transitions,” the report found.

“More than 95 percent of total transition program dollars went to education programs, but just under 50 percent of participants enrolled in education or training programs,” according to a 2020 Government Accountability Office analysis cited in the Rand report. “Education and training programs consume a disproportionate share of funding relative to the number of participants.”

Across the 45 programs, “oversight is weak” and “program redundancies are common,” the report found. There are 25 programs that provide educational counseling services and 21 that provide educational needs assessments, for example.

The report recommends that transition programs be streamlined and refocus on employment support. “The U.S. government should mandate increased oversight of the programs included in our study,” the report found. “Federal budgets should dedicate more funding to programs that help transitioning service members, veterans, and their families immediately enter the civilian labor market and hold such programs accountable for employment outcomes.”

Read the report here.

# AUSAExtra

Voice for the Army –  
Support For the Soldier

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## AUSA books, graphic novels highlight Korean War vets

**S**aturday is National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day—an opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to those who served in the conflict and the service members who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The day commemorates the signing of the armistice that suspended the war at 10 a.m. on July 27, 1953. Since the 1995 dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the anniversary of the armistice has been marked by the proclamation of National Korean War Veterans Day every July 27.

### Book Program

Memorial on the National Mall in

Washington, D.C., the anniversary of the armistice has been marked by the proclamation of National Korean War Veterans Day every July 27.

The proclamation calls for flags to be flown at half-staff and asks Americans to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The Korean War is often called “The Forgotten War,” but it should be remembered for the 1.8 million U.S. military personnel who served in the conflict—and especially for the more than 35,000 who died in the fighting.

The Association of the U.S. Army’s Book Program has tried to do its part in recognizing Korean War veterans with several publications.

*Combat in Korea* is a three-volume series that centers on a crucial period of the war. Edited by William Bowers and John Greenwood, *The Line: January-February 1951*, *Striking Back: March-April 1951* and *Passing the Test: April-June 1951* detail the shifting momentum between communist and United Nations forces in the late winter and spring of 1951. The dramatically shifting positions of the first year of war settled into a protracted stalemate around the 38th parallel that yielded the longest armistice negotiations in history.

Each book in the *Combat in Korea* series focuses on the combat experiences of front-line soldiers and their leaders. This on-the-ground perspective of the war also is found in *Ranger: A Soldier’s Life* by retired Col. Ralph Puckett and D.K.R. Crosswell.



Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division observe an enemy position near the Chongchon River in Korea on Nov. 20, 1950. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

The book is an inspiring autobiography of the legendary Ranger who remained active well into his 90s.

Puckett died in April and was recognized with the rare distinction of lying in honor at the U.S. Capitol.

*Ranger* includes a detailed description of then-Lt. Puckett’s actions on Hill 205 during the Battle of the Chongchon River. Those actions initially were recognized with the Distinguished Service Cross, but 50 years later, in 2021, the award was upgraded to the nation’s highest award for valor. AUSA’s graphic novel series tells the tale in *Medal of Honor: Ralph Puckett*.



*Medal of Honor: Ralph Puckett* tells the story of then-Lt. Puckett’s actions during the Battle of the Chongchon River. (AUSA GRAPHIC)

To date, the Medal of Honor series has published profiles of two other recipients from the Korean War. *Medal of Honor: Mitchell Red Cloud Jr.* features a former Marine Raider who became an Army infantryman and sacrificed his life to save the men of his company. *Medal of Honor: Tibor Rubin* is the story of a Holocaust survivor who moved to America and joined the Army in gratitude for being liberated from the camps. He served in Korea and was recognized for his actions, both as a combatant and as a prisoner of war.

These books, along with the full Medal of Honor series, can be read and downloaded for free at [www.ausa.org/moh](http://www.ausa.org/moh).

Keep an eye out in the weeks ahead for another Korean War story with the forthcoming publication of *Medal of Honor: Hiroshi Miyamura*.

And please visit [www.ausa.org/books](http://www.ausa.org/books) to order *Combat in Korea*, *Ranger* or any other title in the AUSA Book Program. Use promo code AUSA for select member discounts when purchasing directly through the publisher links.

**Joseph Craig** is AUSA’s Book Program director.

## Eagle Chapters

**The following chapters attained Eagle status for June by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1, 2023, is shown in parentheses.**

Massachusetts Bay (12)	Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (11)	COL Edward Cross (9)
Greater Philadelphia (Penn & Franklin) (12)	St. Louis Gateway (11)	West Point Area (9)
Newton D. Baker (12)	Milwaukee (11)	Fort Pitt (9)
Florida Gulf Stream (12)	MG William F. Dean (11)	Catoctin (9)
Suncoast (12)	Silicon Valley (11)	Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (9)
Thunderbird (12)	Greater Los Angeles (11)	Des Moines Freedom (9)
North Texas-Audie Murphy (12)	Tobyhanna Army Depot (10)	Henry Leavenworth (9)
Texas Capital Area (12)	Rhode Island (10)	Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (9)
Fort Sheridan-Chicago (12)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (10)	Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista (9)
National Training Center-High Desert (12)	Central Ohio (10)	MG John S. Lekson (9)
San Diego (12)	Potomac-Liberty (10)	First In Battle (9)
GEN Creighton W. Abrams (12)	Redstone Huntsville (10)	GEN Joseph W. Stilwell (8)
Delaware (11)	Sunshine (10)	Hellenic (8)
Francis Scott Key (11)	New Orleans (10)	Last Frontier (8)
Tri-State (11)	Fort Riley-Central Kansas (10)	Northern New York-Fort Drum (7)
Greater Atlanta (11)	San Francisco (10)	Tucson-Goyette (7)
Arkansas (11)	Denver Centennial (10)	United Arab Emirates (7)
Houston Metroplex (11)	Utah (10)	Guam (6)
	Korea (10)	White Sands Missile Range (5)
		Lafayette (2)

## Chapter hosts summit for transitioning soldiers, spouses

**O**n July 20, the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri chapter hosted its inaugural summit for soldiers and spouses who are leaving the service in the next two to three years or who have recently transitioned.

The free workshop featured subject-matter experts who provided valuable information about resources including the Survivor Benefit Program, Benefits Delivery at Discharge, VA home loans and more. Attendees also received a professional headshot to use on LinkedIn and in job searches.



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Freddie Brock, president of AUSA's Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri chapter, addresses participants during the chapter's 'Talk about Transition' summit for service members and spouses. (AUSA PHOTO)

# AUSA 2024

## ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

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	EVENT	MEMBER PRICING*	NON-MEMBER PRICING**
<b>14 OCT</b> MONDAY	MG Robert G. Moorhead National Guard and Army Reserve Breakfast	\$65	\$85
	Best Squad, NCO, and Soldier of the Year Recognition Luncheon	\$90	\$100
	AUSA President's Reception	\$85	\$100
<b>15 OCT</b> TUESDAY	Dwight David Eisenhower Luncheon	\$100	\$120
	Army National Guard and Reserve Reception	\$65	\$85
<b>16 OCT</b> WEDNESDAY	George Catlett Marshall Memorial Award Reception and Dinner	\$150	\$175

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