



Bird's-eye view



Green Berets assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) conduct High Altitude-Low Opening airborne operations at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. BRIANNA HENZON)

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 14
AUGUST 5, 2021

DoD Planning for Mandatory Vaccines 3

AUSA Writing Program Seeks Younger Voices 4

Government Affairs Defense Legislation Highlights 10

Member Benefits Insurance, Shipping, Retail Discounts 11



AUSA Recognizes Best Chapters 12

AUSA announces 2021 national awards

The Association of the U.S. Army has announced the recipients of its 2021 National Awards, which honor individuals for their selfless service and dedication to the Army and its soldiers.

"This year's National Award recipients represent the very best of our association," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. "I'm truly amazed by what each of them accomplished during an incredibly challenging year."

Ham added, "Simply put, they each made a huge difference in the lives of others and in support of the Army and our nation. I could not be more proud of this extraordinary group."

The awards will be presented at

the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition Oct. 11–13 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

AUSA previously announced that retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, who was AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs, will receive the Marshall Medal, the association's highest award for distinguished and selfless service.

Abrams Medal

The General Creighton W. Abrams Medal for exceptional service to the U.S. Army will be awarded to retired Gen. Gustavo Perna.

Perna, a former commander of

Army Materiel Command, retired July 2 after serving as chief operating officer of the federal government's effort to develop, produce and distribute a new COVID-19 vaccine.

Confirmed by the Senate in July 2020 for the job, Perna delayed his planned retirement from the Army to serve.

"In addition to his 40 years of extraordinary service to the nation in peace and war, he distinguished himself by taking on an incredibly significant role as the chief operating officer of the federal COVID-19 response," said retired Brig. Gen. Leo Brooks, who nominated Perna for the award.

See **Awards**, Page 5



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Pentagon begins preparations for mandatory vaccines

Planning for mandatory COVID-19 shots for service members is now underway at the Pentagon after a new directive from President Joe Biden.

Details and timing have not been determined, but the commander in chief issued a clear call to action.

“Since many vaccinations are required for active-duty military today, I’m asking the Defense Department to look into how and when they will add COVID-19 to the list of vaccinations our armed forces must get,” Biden said July 29 as he outlined steps the government was taking to slow the rise in COVID-19 cases. “Our men and women in uniform who protect this country from grave threats should be protected as much as possible from getting COVID-19.”

After a sharp decline, the U.S. is trying to fend off an increase in COVID-19 cases across the country. The number of cases began to increase in mid-June—rising by about 300% between June 19 and July 23—because of the highly transmissible delta variant of the virus and a decline in vaccinations, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Biden’s announcement came one day after Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks issued a memo reinstating stricter mask rules indoors for service members, civilian employees and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, on DoD installations and facilities in areas with “substantial or high community transmission” of COVID-19.

In a separate memo, also issued July 28, Michael Donley, the Pentagon’s director of administration and management, also is requiring masks indoors for service members, employees and visitors on the Pentagon reservation.

According to the CDC, areas with “substantial” community transmission have at least 50 new cases per 100,000 people in the last week.

Areas with more than 100 new



Staff Sgt. Brenda Collins administers the COVID-19 vaccine to a patient at Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. DESMOND CASSELL)

cases per 100,000 people in the last week are in the “high” transmission category.

In response to Biden’s remarks, DoD said it is “moving quickly to meet President Biden’s commitment to defeat COVID-19, and that includes being able to ensure every member of our civilian and military workforce is protected,” Jamal Brown, deputy Pentagon press secretary, said in a statement.

This includes requiring all military and civilian DoD personnel to

attest to their vaccination status, he said.

“Personnel unable or unwilling to do that will be required to wear a mask, physically distance, comply with a regular testing requirement and be subject to official travel restrictions,” he said.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin also will begin consulting with military medical professionals and the Joint Chiefs of Staff “to determine how and when to make recommendations to the President with respect to adding the COVID-19 vaccines to the full list of requirements for military personnel,” Brown said. “In the meantime, we continue to offer vaccines to our personnel and their families around the world. And we will continue to adjust our protocols to the local conditions of the communities we serve in.”

Calling COVID-19 a “significant and evolving threat” to the nation’s security, Brown said, “The rise of the Delta variant and the speed with which it transmits make these additional protective efforts all the more vital to protecting our force and the nation we defend. Vaccines remain the best and most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID, including the Delta variant.”



Col. Charles Bell, Fort Hunter Liggett garrison commander, receives the COVID-19 vaccine in Jolon, California. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

AUSA writing program seeks submissions from junior leaders



Soldiers write an essay during an Army Materiel Command Best Warrior Competition at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS TEDDY WADE)

The Association of the U.S. Army is hitting the refresh button on its professional education writing program to encourage submissions from junior leaders that are reflective and conversational.

“We decided to rework it to touch a younger generation, to give junior leaders an opportunity for their voices to be heard, so they could get published,” said Nzinga Curry, AUSA’s director of education and programs.

Two types of papers can be submitted to the AUSA Writing Program.

Research-heavy, scholarly manuscripts of up to 10,000 words could, if accepted, be published as a Land Warfare Paper. AUSA will also publish shorter, opinion-style papers of up to 5,000 words that could be published as Landpower Essays.

Junior leaders, cadets and soldiers are encouraged to write a Landpower Essay that’s reflective of their experiences and presents an opinion based on those reflections, Curry said.

An example of the sort of writer AUSA would like to hear from is a cadet or junior leader who wants to write about an experience on an overseas deployment, lessons learned on leadership, or what it’s like to work with different armies, Curry said.

The published essay would ideally reach a broader audience and open a stimulating discussion.

“You still need to support your writing with some type of research, but it’s not as heavily weighted for research and scholarly writing,” Curry said.

While the program is in search of younger voices, there are no age restrictions for Landpower Essays, Curry said.

“We don’t want to limit or block anyone else from having the opportunity to write, because someone who is considered a senior leader might want to write a reflective piece,” she said.

Accepted papers will be published online. They must be original and previously unpublished and be no more than 5,000 words and no less than 1,500 words.

A one-page synopsis of the paper and a brief author biography are also required.

Submissions are welcome from soldiers and service members, past and present, Army civilians, friends of the Army and others with an interest in and knowledge of national defense.

For more information on the AUSA Writing Program, click [here](#).

AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier*

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PERK OF THE WEEK

AUSA has teamed up with Collette to bring you great savings while Collette handles all the details so you can enjoy your trip. More than 160 tours to all seven continents are available, with a tour manager right by your side. Visit www.ausa.org/travel and use code AUSA Save for savings of \$50–\$100 per person. Savings can be combined with other seasonal discounts for total savings of up to \$500 per person.



Awards*From Page 1*

Perna delayed his “well-earned retirement” to “coordinate from scratch an unprecedented effort to store, protect, distribute and track COVID-19 vaccines for the nation at a time when our country faced perhaps its greatest epidemic crisis in history,” Brooks said.

He demonstrated “skilled leadership, vision, technical competence and a career of experience” at a critical time for the nation, he said.

As a result, the U.S. was one of the first countries to “put the COVID-19 pandemic in check,” Brooks said.

A graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy, Pennsylvania, with an associate degree, Perna was commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant before earning a bachelor's from the University of Maryland. He also has a master's degree in logistics management from the Florida Insti-



AUSA's General Creighton W. Abrams Medal for exceptional service to the U.S. Army will be awarded to retired Gen. Gustave Perna. (U.S. ARMY/EBEN BOOTHBY)

tute of Technology.

He was the 19th commanding general of Army Materiel Command, leading more than 190,000 military and civilian personnel working in 11 subordinate commands around the world from September 2016 to July 2020.

He previously was the deputy Army

chief of staff for logistics, overseeing policies and procedures used by all Army logisticians around the world.

He also commanded the Joint Munitions Command and Joint Munitions and Lethality Lifecycle Management Command, where he was responsible for the management of \$40 billion of

See **Awards**, Page 6

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Awards

From Page 6

conventional ammunition; and the 4th Sustainment Brigade, which he led in combat operations in Iraq.

Perna also deployed to Iraq as commander of the 64th Forward Support Battalion, part of the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, at Fort Carson, Colorado, and later served as director of logistics for U.S. Forces-Iraq. He also has served in Bosnia and Somalia.

Bainbridge Medal

The Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge Medal for contributions to the Army Noncommissioned Officer Corps will be awarded to retired Command Sgt. Maj. Don Thomas of AUSA's General of the Army Omar N. Bradley chapter in El Paso, Texas.

Thomas, who served in the Army for more than 28 years, was the assistant director of NCO and Soldier Programs at AUSA for 20 years, and he continues to serve and support soldiers, their families and veterans in the El Paso area.

"His commitment, dedication, loyalty and overall distinguished service is noteworthy and deserving of recognition at the highest level," said retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, who was one of the people who nominated Thomas for the award.

Drafted into the Army in 1971, Thomas was a military police soldier who led at every level from squad leader to command sergeant major of U.S. Forces-Korea and Eighth Army.

"Don led by example and helped train a generation of soldiers and noncommissioned officers," said Richard Dayoub, president of the AUSA chapter in El Paso. "He served as a role model and was the very definition of what right looks like, both on and off duty."

Thomas had a positive impact on the Army during turbulent times, and he played a key role in helping transform the Army into an all-volunteer force, Dayoub said.



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Don Thomas, a longtime AUSA national assistant director, is the 2021 recipient of the Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge Medal for contributions to the Army Noncommissioned Officer Corps. (AUSA PHOTO)

"During military service he developed a well-deserved reputation as a caring leader who emphasized self and professional development, leader competence and encouraging lifelong learning," Dayoub said. "His legacy in developing Army, joint and coalition partner leaders will last for generations."

After retiring from the Army, Thomas worked at AUSA for 20 years, where he continued to serve and mentor soldiers and traveled extensively throughout the Army conducting professional development sessions for leaders at every level.

He was instrumental in establishing the AUSA-sponsored SGM Larry Strickland Memorial Fund and Scholarship, which is presented to NCOs who are working to continue their education, and has been inducted into the Military Police Corps Regimental Hall of Fame and the Sergeants Major Academy's Hall of Honor.

Drexel Biddle Medal

The Major General Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Medal for outstanding contributions to the Association of the U.S. Army will be awarded to retired Col. William Glenn Yarborough Jr., AUSA's Second Region president.

A former president of AUSA's George Washington chapter, Yarborough has worked tirelessly on behalf

of soldiers, veterans and their families and dedicated countless hours to AUSA's efforts to support the Army and those who serve in it.

A decorated veteran and Purple Heart recipient with "decades of selfless service," Yarborough has served AUSA in a variety of roles, from the chapter level to the national level.

"All who know Glenn know that he has unbounded energy, is always the first to volunteer to ensure that a need is met, and know that he has poured his heart and soul into doing all that he can do for all who serve, have served, for civilians, for humanity," said Dick Winter, president of the George Washington chapter, who nominated Yarborough for the award.

The list of Yarborough's contributions to AUSA and the Army "goes on and on," Winter said.

"Glenn spends almost every waking moment thinking about what can be done for the betterment of our soldiers and families," he said.

During his tenure as chapter president, the George Washington chapter won the Best Chapter Award for chapters with more than 1,000 members for four consecutive years, Winter said.

He also has played a key role in the 2nd Region breakfast during the Annual Meeting and Exposition for decades; has been a staple at the Army

Ten-Miler “HOOAH” tent for many years; and made sure the chapter’s annual “Wanna Be a Santa” event was a success, with plenty of toys for the children in attendance.

“Suffice it to say, Glenn is indispensable,” Winter said.

Cribbins Medal

The Joseph P. Cribbins Medal for exemplary service by a Department of the Army civilian will be awarded to James Martin, dean of academics at the Army Command and General Staff College and chief academic officer for Army University.

A member of AUSA’s Greater Kansas City chapter with 16 years of civilian service, Martin plays a key role in establishing academic policies, plans, programs and procedures for the Command and General Staff College, one of the Army’s two graduate colleges.

He is a subject-matter expert on adult education and educational ad-

ministration for Army University, Army Training and Doctrine Command and the Army, and in his role at Army University, Martin provides broad expertise on issues concerning professional military education and academic programs.

He led the creation, planning and execution of the Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Workforce Development at the Sergeants Major Academy, the first undergraduate degree granted in the Army outside of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and the first bachelor’s degree in any enlisted service school in DoD.

His other accomplishments include creating two new degree programs at the School of Advanced Military Studies, leading the initial transition of the tuition assistance and credentialing assistance programs to Army University, and leading a faculty improvement program at the Command and General Staff College.

Martin also is active in the local community, teaching classes on international relations and regional geography at churches in the Kansas City area, sponsoring international military students at CGSC, and participating in a virtual story time series for the Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, community during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Dixon Award

The John W. Dixon Award for outstanding contributions to national defense from industry will be awarded to James Schenck, president and CEO of PenFed Credit Union, America’s second-largest federal credit union serving 2.3 million members worldwide.

Since becoming CEO in April 2014, Schenck has led PenFed’s asset growth from \$18 billion to \$28 billion, and membership has grown from 1.3 million to 2.3 million.

See **Awards**, Page 8

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Awards*From Page 7*

In the first quarter of 2021, PenFed donated nearly \$1 million to charitable organizations, primarily supporting national defense.

A graduate of West Point and Harvard Business School, Schenck flew UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters in Korea and is an active advocate for military and veterans' issues.

He has been honored by the National Military Family Association for his support for military family programs, and he was recognized by Canine Companions for Independence for his work to expand programs for veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder.

Schenck also regularly volunteers with other charities and business groups, including the USO and the Armed Services Arts Partnership and Quality of Life Plus.

Established in 1935, PenFed offers certificates, checking, credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, auto loans, student loans and other financial services to members of the national defense community and all who support them.

The PenFed Foundation, in Alexandria, Virginia, is the nonprofit organization that works to help military community members secure their financial future.

Since 2001, the foundation has

provided more than \$38.5 million in financial support to veterans, service members, families and caregivers. In March 2020, the foundation launched a COVID-19 relief program for service member and veterans, providing more than \$540,000 to 932 qualifying military families.

McLain Medal

The Lieutenant General Raymond S. McLain Medal, given to a current or former member of the National Guard for advancing a seamless and component-integrated Army, will be awarded to Maj. Gen. Joseph Jarrard, U.S. Army Europe and Africa's acting deputy commanding general and deputy commanding general for the Army National Guard.

A graduate of North Georgia College who commissioned in 1988, Jarrard has been assigned to Army Europe and Africa since April 2019.

Throughout his career, Jarrard has "consistently demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills and management prowess in key roles culminating in his recent assignment," retired Sgt. Maj. Scarlett Williams, president of AUSA's Greater Atlanta chapter, said in nominating Jarrard for the award.

He is a "no-nonsense, results-oriented leader and manager who excels at leading people and building teams," Williams added.

Previously, Jarrard served as the 42nd adjutant general of Georgia and, before that, commanding general of the Georgia Army National Guard. Under his leadership, the Georgia Army National Guard was selected by Army Forces Command to lead the way in implementing the Army's Associated Unit Program—the only state organization to have both division and battalion-level associations with the active Army.

While on active-duty, Jarrard served in Germany and at Fort Stewart, Georgia, Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2005 and worked as a defense contractor in Afghanistan from April 2010 to September 2011.

A Life Member of AUSA since 2011, Jarrard also has volunteered with the Rainbow Children's Home in Dahlonega, Georgia, the local Rotary Club, and the Georgia Youth Challenge Academy.

"He has dedicated his life to serving others and, in particular, our soldiers and their families," Williams said. "He routinely works with contagious enthusiasm, leads by example, and is one of the most dedicated, mission-oriented people we know."

Rudder Medal

The Major General James Earl Rudder Medal, given to a current or former member of the U.S. Army Reserve for advancing a seamless and component-integrated Army, is awarded to retired Lt. Col. John Dyess, an Army Reserve Ambassador for Tennessee.

Since his appointment in 2002, Dyess has been a national leader in communicating the value of the Army Reserve to leaders and the public in Tennessee, said Stephen Austin, assistant chief of the Army Reserve, who nominated Dyess for the award.

"He is a powerful force in recruiting, an influencer in the community, and an invaluable asset to senior leadership," Austin said.

In September, Dyess will mark 56



AUSA's National Awards provide recognition for support and dedication to the Total Army and its soldiers. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/CPL. RYDELL TOMAS)

years of service in the Army Reserve, including his civilian service, Austin said.

His contributions include “exhaustive” recruiting efforts, in conjunction with Army recruiters, across Tennessee; building and maintaining relationships with employers of Army Reserve soldiers; and maximizing community leader and civilian law enforcement attendance at Operation Guardian Shield, an annual training exercise led by the 200th Military Police Command.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dyess actively engaged the media to bring attention to the newly formed Army Reserve Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces. The teams mobilized to support local hospitals and medical staff in the hardest hit parts of the country.

Dyess also is an active member of AUSA and is a “driving force” in his local chapter for fundraising and supporting soldiers and families from Tennessee, Austin said.

His dedication has “produced enduring, significant and progressive changes to the Army Reserve and postured the component to be ready now while continually shaping tomorrow,” Austin said.

Volunteer Family of the Year Award

The AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award for promoting the well-being of soldiers and their family members is presented to the family of Sgt. 1st Class Justin Dixon of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Dixon and his wife, Tawni, who have a 10-month-old son named Cameron, spend hundreds of hours volunteering and giving back to the military community, said Ariel Aponte, president of AUSA’s Braxton Bragg chapter, in nominating the Dixons for the award.

“Both members currently volunteer for their local community, the Fort Bragg community and unit programs above and beyond what would be expected,” she said.

In the last two years, Justin Dixon, who’s serving as a first sergeant in his unit, has volunteered more than 350 hours of his time.

He founded a Facebook outreach group for veterans to connect and go fishing together; works to provide fishing trips and equipment to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and physical disabilities; and plans fishing trips for wounded warriors from the Fort Bragg area.

Tawni Dixon has volunteered more than 600 hours, including working with the Armed Services YMCA to organize canned food drives and raise money for hygiene items for families in need, and initiating the Junior Paratrooper of the Year Dependent Award, which recognizes high school dependents of 82nd Airborne soldiers for their volunteer work.

She also was a Soldier and Family Readiness Group leader, organizing events for families when their soldiers were deployed and raising money throughout the deployment, collecting more than \$7,000 in donations for single soldiers and 151 care packages for the soldiers’ return home.

Tawni Dixon also volunteers with the 82nd Airborne Division’s integration course, helping families new to the division and Fort Bragg, and has worked with a local Girl Scout troop to raise money for cookies for paratroopers.

The Dixons were the Military Family of the Year for North Carolina in 2021 and the Fort Bragg Family of the Year in 2020, Aponte said.

They have both “demonstrated outstanding leadership in planning and organizing major events that have resulted in tangible benefits to both their community and Army families stationed at Fort Bragg as well as across the nation,” Aponte said.

AUSA National Service Award

AUSA is honored to present its National Service Award to USAA, which provides insurance, banking, investments, retirement products and advice to nearly 13 million ser-

vice members, veterans and their families.

Based in San Antonio, USAA is a “pillar” in the community for “its tireless efforts to support both U.S. Army soldiers, spouses and family members as well as all members of military service,” said retired Lt. Col. Rich Stinson, president of AUSA’s Alamo chapter, in nominating USAA for the award.

“Their efforts locally and in support of the Alamo chapter severely pale in comparison to their national endeavors, community service and impact upon our soldiers, Army and U.S. military,” Stinson added.

Founded in 1922 when 25 Army officers got together in San Antonio and pooled their money to form an association to protect and insure one another when no one else would, USAA is known for its commitment to its members.

Since 1998, USAA Bank and The USAA Foundation have contributed \$2.9 million to support Army Emergency Relief. In 2017, USAA Bank awarded a \$230,000 grant every year for three years for a total of \$690,000 in support of AER’s general fund, which provides emergency financial assistance, scholarships and grants and other support to troops in need.

USAA also is actively involved in efforts to end veteran homelessness, particularly in its hometown of San Antonio; support military caregivers; and boost programs for military kids and Gold Star families, as well as efforts to increase veteran and military spouse employment.

Most recently, USAA donated \$30 million to 24 organizations to help troops, veterans and their families struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic.



Key Senate panel supports Army priorities, funding for 2022

By Mark Haaland

As we enter August, Congress goes into recess, and lawmakers spend much of the month working in their respective states and districts.

For many in the Washington, D.C., area, August is a month to get away from work and take time for rest and recreation.

June and July were busy months for congressional defense committees, with many senior Pentagon leaders being confirmed, including Army Secretary Christine Wormuth.

The Senate Armed Services Committee recently completed markup of its version of the National Defense Authorization Act, and it includes almost \$25 billion more in military funding. It also supports Army readiness and modernization and the service's "people first" programs.

The committee's 61st annual National Defense Authorization Bill, unveiled July 22, authorizes \$740.3 billion for DoD—up from the Biden administration's request of \$715 billion.

Government Affairs

It also includes these highlights:

- A 5% increase from the previous year in fiscal year 2022 defense funding authorization.
- Increases in research development, test and evaluation funding for Army modernization priorities and enduring capabilities.
- Supports funding requests for rapid development and fielding of land-based long-range fires, including the Precision Strike Missile, medium-range capability and long-range hypersonic weapon, with the latter requiring a report on munitions costs and alternatives.
- Supports requested funding for the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft and Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft and increases funding for future tactical unmanned aircraft systems.



National Guard troops support federal and district authorities in Washington, D.C., leading up to the presidential inauguration. (NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD/MASTER SGT. MATT HECHT)

- Supports a 2.7% pay raise for both military service members and DoD civilians.

- Creates a new category of bereavement leave for military personnel that would allow service members to take up to two weeks of leave in connection with the death of a spouse or child.

- Requires parity in special and incentive pays for members of the reserve and active components.

The House Armed Services Committee is scheduled to markup its version of the NDAA on Sept. 1.

Regarding defense appropriations, the House Appropriations Committee approved a \$705.9 billion defense funding bill for fiscal 2022, a 1.4% increase over the 2021 budget. This is less than the \$715 billion requested by the Biden administration because military construction and nuclear weapons programs are covered by different appropriations.

For direct comparison, the House committee shaved \$258 million from the Pentagon request, with the bulk of that reduction coming from the committee's recalculating of personnel and operations costs while also boosting the administration's funding requests for procurement, research, development, evaluation and testing.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has not begun to markup its bills for the new fiscal year, so it remains to be seen if its defense subcommittee will support a larger budget for DoD, just as the Senate Armed Services Committee did.

Given the many security challenges in the world and near-peer competition with China and other entities, AUSA continues to support the recommendation of the bipartisan commission that reviewed the current National Defense Strategy and called for 3% to 5% annual funding increases for the military.

We are very pleased with the congressional appropriations measure passed this past week to reimburse the National Guard for protecting the U.S. Capitol. This important funding will enable the National Guard to follow through with its training requirements.

The legislation also provides funding for DoD and the State Department to help the Afghan interpreters and their families who have risked their lives helping our military service members and diplomats over the years.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs Director.

AUSA members save on insurance, shipping and retail

By Susan Rubel

People rely on their insurance coverage during the most difficult times in their lives—illness, accidents and deaths in the family.

It's important to us that insured members of the Association of the U.S. Army and their families have access to knowledgeable, caring and friendly representatives who are there to help.

So, I'm very pleased to announce that we have chosen a new administrator for the AUSA Group Insurance Program—Pearl Insurance.

We chose Pearl because of its outstanding customer service and custom-built technology that provides representatives everything they need to eliminate red tape for our members.

Pearl Insurance is recognized as one of the top broker/administrators and managing general underwriters in the U.S., and I'm happy to be working with the team to provide you the best possible products and service.

If you already have coverage under any of the insurance plans, you should have been contacted by Pearl. The new website is www.ausacoverage.com, and customer service can be reached at 1-800-882-5707 or CustomerService@ausacoverage.com.

The website includes a self-service portal where you can view your coverage, make premium payments and update your information.

If you're not familiar with AUSA insurance coverage, please visit the website to learn more about Life and Accident insurance, Medicare Supplements and Long Term Care insurance.

In October, you'll see a new Tricare Supplement with a lower deductible, and we'll be adding new types of coverage soon, like pet insurance, dental and vision.

UPS Discounts

If you have a business, I hope you're taking advantage of your member ben-



The new administrator for the AUSA Group Insurance Program is Pearl Insurance, one of the top broker/administrators in the U.S. (OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT GRAPHIC)

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- Blue Apron
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Susan Rubel is AUSA's Insurance and Affinity Programs Director.

AUSA recognizes this year's most successful chapters

The Association of the U.S. Army has named its “Best Chapter” winners for 2021 based on their achievement and success in growing membership, hosting events, raising money for scholarships and other programs, and supporting units and recruiters.

The awards will be presented during AUSA's Annual Meeting and Exposition Oct. 11–13 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

The Best Chapter awards are calculated in six groups, with five based on chapter size and one for the best overseas chapter.

- The Braxton Bragg chapter of Fayetteville, North Carolina, is Best Chapter among chapters with more than 1,000 members.

- The Arsenal of Democracy chapter in Detroit, Michigan; the Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri chapter in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and the Indiana chapter in Indianapolis are Best Chapters for those with 600 to 999 members.

- The Texas Capital Area chapter in Austin is Best Chapter for groups with 350 to 599 members.

- The Marne chapter near Fort Stewart, Georgia, is Best Chapter for groups with 200 to 349 members.

- The White Sands Missile Range chapter in Las Cruces, New Mexico, is Best Chapter for groups with fewer than 200 members.

- The Best Overseas Chapter is the Gen. Creighton W. Abrams chapter in Wiesbaden, Germany.

The rankings result from a review of activities reports from AUSA's 122 chapters, looking at achievements including membership growth across all categories, meetings and events, scholarship programs, support for local military units and recruiters, and engaging local politicians about AUSA priorities.

Despite the limitations placed on chapters during this unprecedented year, they continued to support sol-



Chapter presidents attend a workshop during the 2019 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. (AUSA PHOTO)

diers, families and their local communities.

“AUSA national headquarters is very proud of the efforts its chapters have made during this difficult time,” said Angelina Flores, AUSA's director of region/chapter support.

The overall level of achievement was high, as 38 chapters increased membership in the operating year, 56 had events for ROTC, 53 held events for Army families, 45 supported recruiters, 42 sponsored professional development programs, 32 had events to honor Vietnam veterans and 30 hosted young professional events.

Other honors

AUSA also announced that 28 chapters achieved Chapter of Excellence status, 45 chapters qualified as Superior Chapters, and 61 achieved Merit Chapter distinction.

The following chapters were designated Star Chapters for increasing their membership over the operating year.

- Alamo
- Arizona Territorial
- Arsenal of Democracy
- Braxton Bragg
- Catocin
- Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning

- Emerald Coast-Big Bend-South Georgia
- Ethan Allen
- Fires
- First in Battle
- First Militia
- Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri
- Fort Rucker-Wiregrass
- GEN John J. “Black Jack” Pershing
- GEN John W. Vessey, Jr.
- Hellenic
- Isthmian
- Joshua Chamberlain
- Leonidas Polk
- Magnolia
- MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen
- Major Samuel Woodfill
- Mid-Palatinate
- MSG Leroy Arthur Petry
- North Texas-Audie Murphy
- Northern New Jersey
- PFC William Kenzo Nakamura
- Pikes Peak
- Polar Bear
- Rock Island Arsenal
- San Francisco
- Space Coast
- Stuttgart
- Sunshine
- Texas Capital Area
- Tucson-Goyette
- Western New York
- White Sands Missile Range

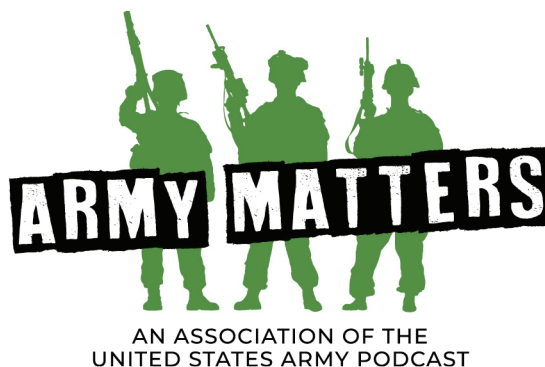
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