



Soldiers, defense industry representatives, AUSA members and more enter the association's 2023 Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. (AUSA PHOTO)

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AUSA 2024 focuses on transformation

With a theme of “Transforming for a Complex World,” the Association of the U.S. Army’s 2024 Annual Meeting and Exposition will highlight the Army’s efforts to modernize and restructure as it contends with an increasingly volatile and complex world.

Registration is open for the conference, which is scheduled for Oct. 14–16 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. The three-day event will feature addresses and professional development forums by top Army and DoD leaders, as well as more than 700 exhibits spread over five halls featuring the latest technology and equipment.

There also will be several award

presentations, including the winners of the Best Squad Competition, the NCO and Soldier of the Year and the George Catlett Marshall Medal, AUSA’s highest award for selfless service to the country. This year, the Marshall Medal honoree is the U. S. Army Noncommissioned Officer.

Attendance at the annual meeting is free, but registration is required. Some seated events require separate reservations and may have a fee. For more information or to register, click here.

All Annual Meeting registrants will receive AUSA’s new Digital Access Pass, which can be downloaded on your smartphone and used to access events in the convention center,

including contemporary military forums and receptions. Preregistered Annual Meeting attendees will receive their Digital Access Pass in early October.

A printed badge is still required to visit the exhibit halls.

The theme for this year’s meeting acknowledges the volatile, complex and dynamic security environment the Army is rapidly changing to meet.

“We are transforming today because we face new threats, new technologies and new developments in warfare,” Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said earlier this year. “We are transforming so that we will be

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AUSA 2024

ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

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Korean War hero highlighted in AUSA graphic novel

Former Staff Sgt. Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura, who fought waves of enemy soldiers before being captured and held for over two years during the Korean War, is the subject of the latest graphic novel in the Association of the U.S. Army’s series on recipients of the nation’s highest award for valor.

Medal of Honor: Hiroshi Miyamura tells of how Miyamura, deployed to Korea as a machine-gun squad leader, faced wave after wave of Chinese soldiers during a night assault. He ordered his men to fall back while he covered their withdrawal, and he was captured by the enemy and held for more than two years. News that Miyamura was to be awarded the Medal of Honor was kept quiet until his release from a prisoner-of-war camp on Aug. 23, 1953, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

“Hiroshi Miyamura’s medal may have initially been a secret, but we are glad to share his remarkable story with the world,” said Joseph Craig, AUSA’s Book Program director. “The creative team for the graphic novel has made sure that this Korean War hero will be remembered.”

Medal of Honor: Hiroshi Miyamura is available here.

AUSA launched its Medal of Honor graphic novel series in October 2018. This is the 23rd novel in the series. The digital graphic novels are available here.

Miyamura was born in Gallup, New Mexico. During World War II, he was drafted and assigned to the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, but he would not see combat, as the Germans surrendered within days of his arrival in Italy in 1945.

He returned to Gallup, where he worked as a mechanic until he was recalled for service in Korea as part of the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.

Then a corporal, Miyamura was put in charge of a machine-gun squad and assigned to join the defenses guarding



AUSA’s latest graphic novel tells the story of former Staff Sgt. Hiroshi ‘Hershey’ Miyamura, who fought waves of enemy soldiers before being captured and held for over two years during the Korean War. (AUSA GRAPHIC)

the southern banks of the Imjin and Hant’an rivers, the last line of defense between the capital of Seoul and the invading Chinese army.

On the night of April 24, 1951, Miyamura and his soldiers were occupying a defensive position when the enemy “fanatically attacked, threatening to overrun the position,” according to his Medal of Honor citation. Miyamura jumped from his shelter wielding his bayonet in close hand-to-hand combat, killing about 10 enemy fighters, the citation says. He then administered aid to his wounded comrades and directed their evacuation.

When the enemy assaulted again, he delivered “withering fire” with his machine gun until he ran out of ammunition, according to the citation. He ordered the squad to withdraw while he stayed behind. “He then bayoneted his way through infiltrated enemy soldiers to a second gun emplacement and assisted in its operation,” the citation says.

When the enemy attack continued, Miyamura ordered his men to

fall back while he covered them. He killed more than 50 enemy before he ran out of ammunition and was severely wounded, the citation says.

Captured by the Chinese, Miyamura spent more than two years as a prisoner of war. He was released in a prisoner exchange three weeks after the Korean Armistice Agreement.

He received the Medal of Honor on Oct. 27, 1953, from President Dwight Eisenhower.

Miyamura returned to Gallup, where he received a hero’s welcome. He died in November 2022. He was 97.

Each AUSA graphic novel is created by a team of professional comic-book veterans. The script for *Medal of Honor: Hiroshi Miyamura* was written by Chuck Dixon, whose previous work includes *Batman*, *The Punisher* and *The Nam*.

Artwork and the cover are by Andrew Paquette, who has worked on *Avengers*, *Daredevil* and *Hellraiser*; and the lettering is by Troy Peteri, who has worked on *Spider-Man*, *Iron Man* and *X-Men*.

National defense commission issues dire warning about threats facing US



Soldiers from multiple Army commands conduct a 36-hour situational training exercise in late July as part of the Regional Training Institute's Infantry Advanced Leaders Course at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. SETH COHEN)

“Significant and urgent action” is needed to prepare the United States for the national security threats it’s facing today, the leaders of a commission tasked by Congress said.

“Our commission believes unanimously that the threats to U.S. national security and our interests are greater than at any time since World War II and are more complex than during the Cold War,” Jane Harman and Eric Edelman, the chair and vice chair, respectively, of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy of the United States, said in written testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The commission also said the Army is too small for its mission of dominating adversaries and enabling the joint force. “Lessons from the Ukraine war demonstrate that the U.S. Army needs to expand its force structure in key areas—particularly air defense, counter-unmanned aerial systems, electronic warfare, and long-range fires—that are applicable across theaters, including in a Western Pacific contingency,” the commission says in its report.

Additionally, “the public has no idea how great the threats are and is not

mobilized to meet them,” Harman told the committee July 30. “Leaders on both sides of the aisle and across government need to make the case to the public and get their support.”

Harman is a former member of Congress who led the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for 10 years. She served on advisory boards for the CIA, director of national intelligence and the departments of Defense, Homeland Security and State.

A former U.S. ambassador to Finland and Turkey, Edelman is counselor at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

Harman and Edelman warned that there is potential for “near-term war, and potential that we might lose,” citing the partnership between China, Russia, Iran and North Korea as a “major strategic shift that we haven’t yet accounted for.”

“The joint force is at the breaking point of maintaining readiness today. Adding more burden without adding resources to rebuild readiness will cause it to break,” they said. “The United States must spend more effectively and more efficiently to build the future force, not perpetuate the existing one.”

Read the commission’s report here.

AUSA Extra

Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier

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Senate confirms next Army Guard, Reserve leaders

The Senate has confirmed the nominations of two general officers who are set to lead the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve.

Maj. Gen. Jonathan Stubbs, who has been the adjutant general of Arkansas since January 2023, is slated to become the next director of the Army National Guard. He will receive his third star and succeed Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, who has led the Army National Guard since August 2020 and retired Monday.

Maj. Gen. Robert Harter, who has commanded the 81st Readiness Division at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, since September 2020, will receive his third star and succeed Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, who led the Army Reserve from July 2020 until her relinquishment of command on July 30.

Both nominations were confirmed

by voice vote on July 31. No dates have been announced for when they will begin their new positions.

A career Army National Guard officer, Stubbs has spent more than 27 of his 29 years in uniform in the Arkansas Army National Guard.

Stubbs has held every leadership position within the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, from rifle platoon leader to brigade commander. He led Company C, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment in Baghdad from 2004 to 2005 and served as the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team operations officer in Baghdad in 2008.

He also served as an Active Guard Reserve officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard from 1997 to 2021, where he completed a variety of training and administrative assignments.

Harter's most recent assignment before the 81st Readiness Division

was deputy chief of the Army Reserve.

A native of Alaska and Virginia, Harter was commissioned in 1988 as a field artillery officer after graduating from Virginia Tech with a degree in business and communications.

Before transferring from active duty to the Active Guard Reserve program in 1999, Harter held assignments in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany and the 101st Corps Support Group.

His Active Guard Reserve assignments included training chief for readiness in the 99th Regional Readiness Command; support operations officer in the 55th Sustainment Brigade; distribution management chief in the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command in Iraq; and various staff positions on the Joint Staff and in the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, according to his biography.

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Defense legislation advances as Congress enters recess

Capitol Hill is quiet this week as the House of Representatives and the Senate are in recess during August, but the fiscal year 2025 authorization and appropriations process continues.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has marked up its versions of the defense appropriations bill and the military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies bill, which both passed unanimously. Additionally, the Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act by a wide bipartisan margin.

Both Senate bills would provide additional funding for the armed forces, which continues to be one of the Association of the U.S. Army's top legislative recommendations to Congress. The path forward for the legislation in the Senate remains uncertain.

AUSA does not anticipate any of these important defense bills to be enacted before the November elections. A continuing resolution—stop-gap funding that keeps spending at the previous year's levels and prohibits new starts to programs—will likely be required when government funding runs out at the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

You can help build momentum for enactment of the NDAA and appropriation bills, along with additional funding for the Total Army, by contacting your representatives and



Congressional staff delegates observe the various medical capabilities of Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital personnel during a visit in late July to the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, Louisiana. (U.S. ARMY/ANTOINE AARON)

senators, or by meeting with them or their staff in your state and congressional district. For additional talking points, you can refer to AUSA's 2024 Focus Areas, which include warfighting, delivering ready combat formations, strengthening the Army profession and supporting the service's transformation efforts.

Be sure to coordinate with your region and chapter leaders and tell us at AUSA national headquarters about it—we want to help. You can contact me at mhaaland@ausa.org and Government Affairs assistant director John Nobrega at jnobrega@ausa.org.

As a reminder, AUSA only lobbies at the federal level on federal issues, and we are nonpartisan and apolitical. The association is prohibited from supporting or participating in any political campaign for or against a candidate for local, state or federal office.

AUSA's Government Affairs team continues to meet with lawmakers and their staffers in support of the Total Army. We will continue to monitor these national security measures and other related developments closely.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs director.

AUSA 2024

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ready for the future and ready to fight and win against any adversary."

The Army is operating with "a sense of urgency," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George said at an AUSA event earlier this year. "There's a lot of implications with that and how we do business and how we change," he said. "The character of war is chang-

ing rapidly. What we want to do is focus on our warfighting mission and building cohesive teams."

As the service undertakes its largest transformation in four decades, it must also maintain readiness, George said.

"The world is more volatile today than I have seen it in my 36-year career," he said. "A spark in any region can have global impacts. Our Army

is as important as ever to the joint force. We must deter war everywhere and be ready to respond anywhere."

George said he tells leaders that the service must do everything it can to make sure soldiers have the right leaders, equipment and training they need when they go into harm's way. "We can't forget that, regardless of how far you get from the front line, that's our mission," he said.

AUSA region vice president honored for volunteer service

Retired Maj. Gen. Phillip Churn, vice president of the Association of the U.S. Army's Second Region, was honored July 20 with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for completing more than 4,000 hours of lifetime community service.

Churn received the award from Maj. Gen. Deborah Kotulich, deputy chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, during the 4th Annual Teachers Festival Awards Night at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to receive such a prestigious recognition," said Churn,

Second Region

according to an Army news release.

"This recognition is in honor of my mother and father, who through their example of giving back to the community, church, friends and family is the example that I emulate."

In his remarks, Churn emphasized the importance of mentorship in ensuring force readiness and resilience. "I have seen the need to counsel, coach and mentor officers, noncom-



Retired Maj. Gen. Phillip Churn, right, vice president of the Association of the U.S. Army's Second Region, receives the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from Maj. Gen. Deborah Kotulich, deputy chief of the U.S. Army Reserve. (U.S. ARMY/MASTER SGT. JUSTIN MORELLI)

missioned officers, enlisted soldiers and civilians from all branches of the military. I have had individuals who have stated that they never had a senior leader who would sit down and take time to mentor them on their careers and critical life decisions," he said, according to the Army.

In addition to his role with AUSA, Churn is the Army Reserve Ambassador for the nation's capital.

"As an Army Reserve Ambassador, there are two key opportunities to continue to give back and serve our communities," Churn said, according to the Army news release. "First, it is an absolute joy to talk to young men and women—mostly high school students—about the opportunities in the Army and Army Reserve. Being able to help these young men and women make very significant choices in their lives at an early age will have a significant impact in their lives in the future and for our nation."

Second, Churn volunteers with the 99th Readiness Division's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, a DoD effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve service members and their families by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle.

"I can help soldiers and family members understand some of the realities and consequences of decisions made or not made before, during and after mobilization," said Churn, who deployed to Afghanistan twice between 2010 and 2013.

Chapter supports back-to-school drive



Fort Liberty

Volunteers from AUSA's Fort Liberty chapter in North Carolina and the installation's Sergeant Audie Murphy Club collect donations for local children in early August. (AUSA PHOTO)

AUSA 2024

ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

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	EVENT	MEMBER PRICING*	NON-MEMBER PRICING**
14 OCT 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
15 OCT TUESDAY	Dwight David Eisenhower Luncheon	\$100	\$120
	Army National Guard and Reserve Reception	\$65	\$85
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