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Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville speaks at the Eisenhower Luncheon during the 2019 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. (AUSA PHOTO)

## AUSA 2021 to prioritize health, safety

**H**ealth and safety are the paramount considerations as the Association of the U.S. Army continues planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting and Exposition, an in-person event Oct. 11–13 at the D.C. convention center.

The meeting will be conducted according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, along with restrictions that might be required by the District of Columbia and the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Rules are expected to be revised as health risks change over time.

Those attending the meeting should be prepared to wear masks, as required by the District of Columbia

for anyone over the age of 2 regardless of vaccination status.

Framed around the theme “America’s Army and its People, Transforming for the Future,” the three-day event will have the traditional exhibitions, forums and presentations from Army and industry leaders.

The opening ceremony is at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 11.

Nine forums are planned, with one focusing on the Department of Homeland Security and eight on Army topics. Additionally, the traditional military family forums with Army leaders are scheduled.

There also will be other professional development events for uniformed and civilian personnel.

Some events require separate registration and a fee, and there are a few invitation-only events.

The agenda is still being finalized, and the latest details are available here.

“AUSA is committed to the health and safety of our exhibitors, attendees, partners and staff amid the COVID-19 pandemic as we prepare for this year’s event,” AUSA said in statement. “We are continuously monitoring recommendations from local health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for essential large group meetings and events. We encourage you to do the same.”

See **Annual Meeting**, Page 3



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## COVID vaccines to be mandatory for military personnel

**T**he Pentagon will make the COVID-19 vaccines mandatory for service members by mid-September, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Monday in a memo to the force.

Shots could be required sooner if the vaccines receive full approval from the Food and Drug Administration, according to the memo.

Austin's decision comes after President Joe Biden asked the military to consider how and when it could add the COVID-19 vaccines to the list of vaccinations required for all troops.

He also "consulted closely" with senior military leaders, the service secretaries and chiefs and medical personnel, Austin said.

"Based on these consultations and on additional discussions with leaders of the White House COVID Task Force, I want you to know that I will seek the President's approval to make the vaccines mandatory no later than mid-September, or immediately upon the U.S. Food and Drug Agency (FDA) licensure, whichever comes first," the memo states.

Biden expressed his strong support for Austin's decision.

"Secretary Austin and I share an unshakable commitment to making sure our troops have every tool they need to do their jobs as safely as possible," Biden said in a statement. "These vaccines will save lives. Period. They are safe. They are effective."

More than 350 million shots have been administered in the U.S. alone, Biden said, as he emphasized the im-



Lt. Col. John Gwinn, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, receives the COVID-19 vaccine at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (U.S. ARMY/1ST LT. ANGELO MEJIA)

portance of continuing to battle COVID-19 and the delta variant.

"We are still on a wartime footing, and every American who is eligible should take immediate steps to get vaccinated right away," he said. "I am proud that our military women and men will continue to help lead the charge in the fight against this pandemic, as they so often do, by setting the example of keeping their fellow Americans safe."

The military will now begin preparing for this transition, Austin said. "I have every confidence that Service leadership and your commanders will implement this new vaccination program with professionalism, skill, and compassion," he said. "We will have more to say about this as implementation plans are fully developed."

Unvaccinated federal personnel—uniformed or civilian—will continue to abide by restrictions and requirements for distancing and testing, the memo states.

"We will also be keeping a close eye on infection rates—which are on the rise now due to the Delta variant—and the impact these rates might have on our readiness," Austin said. "I will not hesitate to act sooner or recommend a different course to the President if I feel the need to do so."

The nation needs a "healthy and ready force," Austin said.

"I strongly encourage all DoD military and civilian personnel—as well as contractor personnel—to get vaccinated now and for military Service members to not wait for the mandate," he said.

Austin's memo is available [here](#).

### Annual Meeting

From Page 1

For those living outside the U.S., the association recommends following "relevant guidance provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), Embassy or your local health authority and adhere to government issued travel restrictions issued by the region you will be travelling to

and the region you are travelling from."

AUSA intends to provide more detailed guidance closer to the event, according to organizers.

Health and safety measures are being stepped up for the 2021 meeting, including more cleaning, air filtration and disinfection of the facility, widely available hand sanitizing sta-

tions and no-contact health screenings based on body temperature that can produce readings from 16 feet.

There also will be contactless food and beverage outlets, QR code ordering and other options for attendees.

Registration for the annual meeting is now open [here](#).

AUSA's 2020 annual meeting was held virtually due to the pandemic.

## WWII ‘Ritchie Boys’ recognized by lawmakers for service, bravery



The ‘Ritchie Boys’ train at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, during World War II. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

**T**he “Ritchie Boys,” a group of more than 19,000 refugees trained in Maryland to be U.S. intelligence specialists during World War II, are being honored in a congressional resolution that passed the Senate Monday.

They got their name from Camp Ritchie, where the foreign-born soldiers from more than 70 countries were taught to be counterintelligence, interpreters, interrogators, photo analysts and psychological warfare experts, among many other skills. About 200 of them, ranging in age from 95 to 107, are still living.

“Ritchie Boys were heroes who used their innate skills to gather information from all sources and save the lives of American and Allied troops,” Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, one of the cosponsors of S. Res. 349, said in a statement. “Our praise for their bravery and valor may have been delayed because so much of their effort had been previously classified, but our thanks cannot be overstated.”

He added, “As fewer and fewer Ritchie Boy veterans remain, it is more important than ever that we honor their memory and courageous service to their country. All of them

deserve to have their nation recognize how they used their talents to fight for freedom when it faced its greatest threat.”

The father of Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon was one of the Ritchie Boys.

Peter Wyden fled Germany and felt “a deeply personal obligation to serve his new home and fight to save his old one,” the senator said in a statement.

“Until recently, I didn’t even know the extent of my father’s service,” he said. “Newly declassified reports revealed they were integral in gathering intelligence that helped secure victory for the allies in World War II.”

Once trained, the new soldiers were assigned in small teams to U.S. Army and Marine Corps combat units. About 140 died during the war, according to the sponsors of the resolution.

The resolution recognizes the contribution and honors the bravery and dedication of the volunteers.

A copy of the resolution will be displayed in the Ritchie History Museum at the Fort Ritchie Community Center in Cascade, Maryland.

Fort Ritchie was closed in 1998 as part of the base closing and realignment process.

# AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –  
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## Small Army unit could impact large future operations

In a new Landpower Essay published by the Association of the U.S. Army, an author writes that a little-known Army detachment could hold the fate of future warfare in its hands.

Created in the 1980s, the Battlefield Coordination Detachment was established to work on AirLand Battle, the post-Vietnam operating concept that sought to take advantage of rapid developments in technology to develop a combination of deep-strike capabilities with modern ways of maneuver to surprise the enemy with highly mobile forces.

Interdicting and disrupting opponents and striking deep into enemy territory would be carried out with simple directions that gave flexibility to commanders to seize initiative, when they could, to weaken the enemy without waiting to hear from

higher commands.

In the new paper for AUSA, Lt. Col. Matthew Arrol, a Command and General Staff College graduate and contributing member to NATO's Integrated Capabilities Group on indirect fire, writes the 39-member Battlefield Coordination Detachment that successfully assisted with AirLand Battle doctrine isn't structured to work on the multidomain operations now viewed as the future of Army and joint force warfighting.

But the group could evolve into the right organization.

"Unfortunately, because of the complexity in the contemporary operating environment, the BCD's 40-year-old structure is insufficient for the Army's combined joint integration requirements," Arrol writes.

Multidomain operations require a deeper look than the land and air

focus of the past, and the unit historically hasn't had a large focus on coalition and allied forces, he writes.

"Even without a major shift in operating concept, the subject matter expertise necessary to execute a modern AirLand Battle as it has evolved since the 1980s would prove difficult for the BCD structure," he says.

Arrol lays out a way to revise the Battlefield Coordination Detachment to widen its purpose so that it includes more cyber, electronic warfare and space expertise, and also expand to include the other services and maybe foreign officers.

Multidomain operations and an updated concept for joint warfighting "will require many more points of joint and combined integration than ever before," he says.

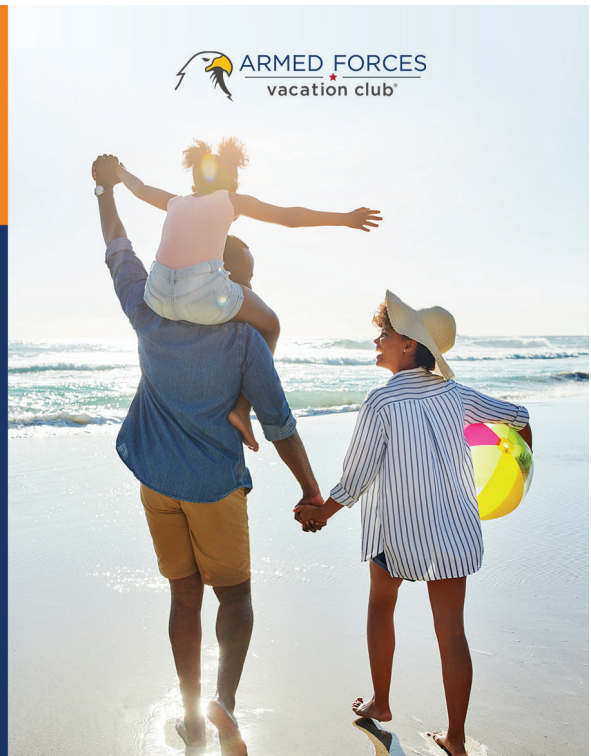
Arrol's paper is available here.

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## AUSA supports annual enlisted National Guard conference

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey,  
U.S. Army retired

Excitement filled the Albuquerque Convention Center in New Mexico Aug. 6 when Karen Craig, president of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, cut the ribbon to start the group's 50th annual conference.

Despite newly reinstated mask restrictions because of the COVID-19 delta variant, it was clear participants were excited for the gathering.

When asked why it was so important to have an in-person event, Craig said, "Each year, EANGUS looks forward to bringing our enlisted members together from across all 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia. They receive updates

### NCO & Soldier Programs

from senior leaders, participate in committee meetings, and adopt resolutions seeking to change law or policy impacting National Guard—and, in some cases, other reserve component—service members, retirees and their families."

Resolutions approved by conference delegates are the basis for the association's legislative priorities for the following congressional session, she said.

EANGUS, an association partner of the Association of the U.S. Army, was created in 1970 by a group of senior NCOs. It was formally organized and incorporated in 1972 in Jackson, Mississippi.

Similar to the reasons AUSA was established, EANGUS was created with the goal of increasing the voice of National Guard enlisted personnel on Capitol Hill. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare and professionalism of the Guard by supporting legislation that provides adequate staffing, pay, benefits, entitlements, equipment and installations.

Today, EANGUS has its headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. At its



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, second from left, was among those representing AUSA at the 50th annual EANGUS conference. (AUSA PHOTO)

inception, it represented 23 states, but through the hard work and persistence of past leadership, the organization now represents all 54 states and territories, with a constituency base of over 414,000, including many retired members.

"Belonging to a professional association is important to anyone currently serving in uniform as well as retirees," Craig said, because these organizations "provide an invaluable means to advocate for change, as well as professional development and networking opportunities, and a support system made up of members who share similar views, goals and priorities."



Sgt. Cole Lukens, Tennessee Army National Guard, participates in the Guard's Best Warrior Competition in Arizona. Lukens is the 2021 Army National Guard Soldier of the Year. (U.S. ARMY/1ST LT. SARAH KOHRTNEY)

EANGUS "is the only professional association that is dedicated to and works solely for enlisted members of the National Guard—the enlisted force is our focus," Craig said.

This year's conference was a huge success despite the obstacles we have all faced these past 18 months.

More than 100 vendors participated in this year's conference, including a booth hosted by AUSA.

The conference also featured a full slate of speakers, including Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell Brush, command senior enlisted leader for the New Mexico National Guard; Maj. Gen. Kenneth Nava, adjutant general of New Mexico; Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau; and Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, who advises the Guard Bureau chief.

After closing another chapter in the long-standing history of EANGUS, Craig hopes that all attendees left the conference informed, enthusiastic and reinvigorated in their efforts and the impact they can make as an EANGUS member.

For more information on how to support EANGUS or what it is doing to support enlisted members of the National Guard, please click [here](#).

**Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey** is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.



## Outstanding VA nurse team recognized by AUSA chapter

**T**he Association of the U.S. Army's Coastal South Carolina chapter recently awarded its quarterly service awards to Davina Dietrich and the 4B South Nurse Team she supervises at the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Charleston.

The awards were presented July 16 by Larry Dandridge, the chapter's vice president for veteran and retiree affairs who also serves on the medical center's Patient and Family Advisory Committee and the Patient and Family Experience Council.

### Coastal South Carolina

Dietrich received the chapter's Outstanding Individual Service Award, and her team the Outstanding Team Service Award.

"Nurse Dietrich and her 4B South Team of nurses have been instrumental in the Ralph H. Johnson VA Health System achieving a Press Ganey inpatient experience rating



Davina Dietrich, far right, and the 4B South Nurse Team of the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center receive awards from Larry Dandridge, third from right. (AUSA PHOTO)

in the top 3% compared to over 340 other Press Ganey clients that are rated and measured in the southeast region," Dandridge said.

Press Ganey works with more than 41,000 health care facilities to improve the overall safety, quality and experience of medical care, according to its website.

"It has not gone unnoticed that you

have been a change agent, championing patient needs by supporting and developing staff and setting the standard for VA patient experience," Dietrich's letter of commendation says. "You have proven that VA care can truly be the best in the industry with engaged, competent, and passionate leadership."

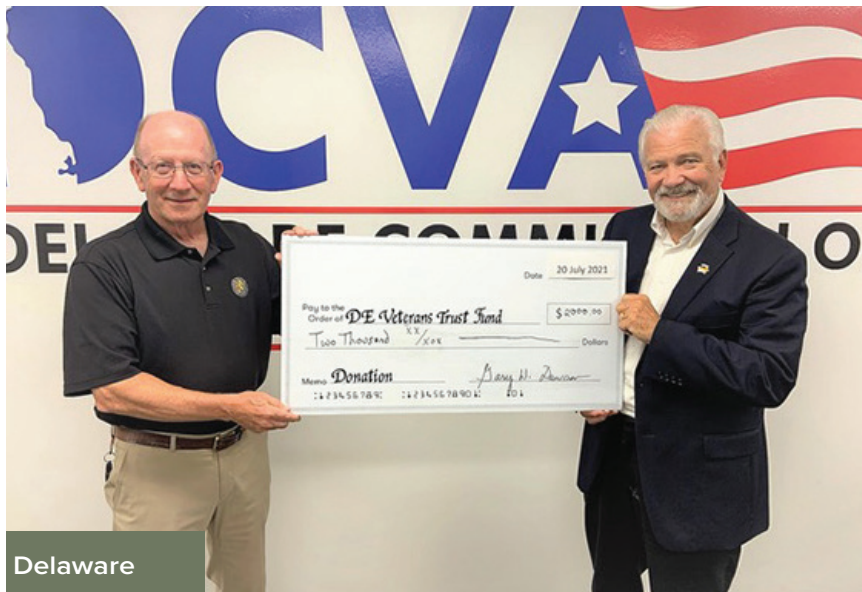
"Your contagious enthusiasm, kindness, compassion, and empathy for veteran patients and their families has been an inspiration to everyone," the letter says, describing Dietrich as "a champion of quality, customer service, infection prevention, safety, and employee development."

The chapter recognized the rest of the team for outstanding service and patient experience. "The 4B South Nurse and Physician leadership, staff and student nurses, staff and resident physicians, housekeeping, nutrition, lab, radiology, and therapy staff are not only among the best rated in VA, but the entire health care industry," the letter of commendation says.

The center and its seven community-based outpatient clinics serve over 80,000 veterans in the region. It was adopted by AUSA's Coastal South Carolina chapter in 2004.

It is rated in the top 10% of all public and private hospitals in the country for quality of care and customer satisfaction, according to the chapter.

## Chapter contributes to veterans fund



### Delaware

Retired Col. Gary Dawson, left, president of AUSA's Delaware chapter, presents a \$2,000 check to Dave Skocik, president of the Friends of Delaware Veterans organization, on July 20. Friends of Delaware Veterans is the official fundraising organization of the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund, which provides emergency financial assistance to veterans in need. (AUSA PHOTO)





# AUSA 2021

## ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

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11-13 OCTOBER | WASHINGTON, DC



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