



The theme for this year's Annual Meeting, 'The Time is Now,' emphasizes the Army's priorities of modernization, people, readiness and partnerships in a changing world. (U.S. ARMY/JASON JOHNSTON)

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 15
AUGUST 13, 2020

Services Seek Changes in Military Medicine

3

AUSA Sponsors Military Kids' Backpacks

5

NCO & Soldier Programs

Honoring The Old Guard

7



Chapter Highlights

Fort Jackson-Palmetto State
Central Texas-Fort Hood

8

AUSA Now virtual meeting takes shape

AUSA Now, the Association of the U.S. Army's 2020 Annual Meeting, is being planned to include three days of virtual speeches, forums and professional development events followed by a fourth day dedicated to association events.

"The Time is Now" is the theme of the 2020 meeting, an emphasis that applies to people, modernization, readiness and partnerships.

On people, the Army is working on a wide range of initiatives to attract, develop, employ and retain talented soldiers and civilian employees while launching new initiatives to foster cultural understanding and empathy.

On modernization, the Army seeks to maintain irreversible momentum on its highest priorities for new or

expanded capabilities.

On readiness, the Army is adjusting its force structure to be prepared for current and future missions and implementing the Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model, known as ReARMM.

Registration, which will be required to view the 2020 Annual Meeting, is expected to open in early September.

Designed with content simultaneously streamed over multiple internet channels, AUSA Now will have five to six hours of programming every day, some live and some recorded.

This will include the traditional addresses from national security leaders, including the Army secretary, chief of staff and sergeant major

of the Army.

Also planned are contemporary military forums about current and future programs and family forums, including a popular town hall meeting where Army leaders will answer questions from soldiers and families.

Additionally, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Soldier for Life and cadet forums are planned, as well as seminars for Department of the Army civilians and small businesses.

Warriors Corner and xTechSearch programs will also be streamed as part of AUSA Now.

Industry and media engagement will be key elements of the four-day event, with details in planning now.

For more information, click [here](#).



AUSA NOW

2020 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

< **NEW DATES** **13-16 OCTOBER** >

AUSA GOES VIRTUAL

Join the nation's largest land power event online.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITS

Jamie Woodside, CEM
jwoodside@ausa.org

VIRTUAL SPONSORSHIPS

Gaye Hudson
ghudson@ausa.org

LEARN MORE

WWW.AUSA.ORG/AM

Services seek reversal of health care cuts, transfers

The Army, Navy and Air Force are fighting to roll back an ongoing military health care transformation and restore service control over hospitals and clinics.

The service secretaries and service chiefs have asked Defense Secretary Mark Esper to suspend any new efforts to transfer medical facilities, personnel and resources to the Defense Health Agency and undo some of the transfers already made, including giving control of DoD's flagship hospital, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, back to the Army.

The transformation effort, long opposed by the Association of the U.S. Army as a hasty and not fully thought out reform, is already far along.

The Defense Health Agency assumed management and administration responsibilities over all service hospitals and clinics in the U.S. on Oct. 1, 2019, but the changeover is in a transition period.

About 17,000 uniformed health care billets are supposed to be shifted from



Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, right, visits Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to observe the health care guidance implemented for COVID-19. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JAMES HARVEY)

the services to the Defense Health Agency under the reform.

In an Aug. 5 memo to Esper, the service secretaries say that after careful evaluation and the "real-world test" of responding to COVID-19, they have determined the medical consolidation plan "is not viable."

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville are among those who signed

the letter.

The letter asks DoD to rethink the medical transition plan with a "blanket suspension of all transition activities." This would include stopping the transfer of all resources and personnel.

They also ask for military treatment facilities to be returned to the services, including Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and Walter Reed.

Working-age retirees to pay new fees for Tricare Select

Most working-age military retirees will start paying monthly enrollment fees for Tricare Select health care coverage beginning Jan. 1, the first time this group of beneficiaries will be charged such fees.

The change, mandated in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, affects Group A retirees, whose initial enlistment or appointment occurred before Jan. 1, 2018, and their beneficiaries.

Those affected by this change must set up a monthly allotment through their DoD pay center or via electronic funds transfer, credit card or debit card.

Individual enrollment fees are \$12.50 a month or \$150 a year. Retirees on a family plan pay \$25 a month



The change affects Group A retirees and their beneficiaries. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

or \$300 a year.

Enrollment fees are waived for active-duty family members, survivors or medically retired retirees or family members, according to Tricare.

Additionally, the catastrophic cap will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,500; the enrollment fees will apply toward the catastrophic cap.

The Association of the U.S. Army has worked alongside The Military Coalition, a consortium of 34 military, veterans' and uniformed services organizations representing more than 5.5 million members, on this and other benefits issues for several years on Capitol Hill.

The groups' collective effort resulted in Congress delaying implementation of the new Tricare Select fees for three years, to 2021; a lower catastrophic cap increase; no enrollment fee for Tricare For Life beneficiaries; and lower future increases to expenses and fees.

For more information, click [here](#).

New technologies, global competition eroding American military power



Artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and other emerging technologies can ‘fundamentally change the character of warfare,’ author Christian Brose said. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

The U.S. military has been a dominant force around the world, but that’s now changing as emerging technologies and global competition erode the American power advantage at “a startling pace,” author and national defense expert Christian Brose said.

“If we keep doubling down on sort of the ways and means we have traditionally relied upon as a joint force, we’re just going to make that problem worse for ourselves,” Brose said Monday during the Association of the U.S. Army’s Thought Leaders webinar.

“We have to play a different game,” said Brose, author of *The Kill Chain: Defending America in the Future of High-Tech Warfare*.

Over the last three decades, adversaries like China have studied the U.S. military and built their forces to counter American forces by undermining U.S. defense capabilities and exploiting its shortcomings.

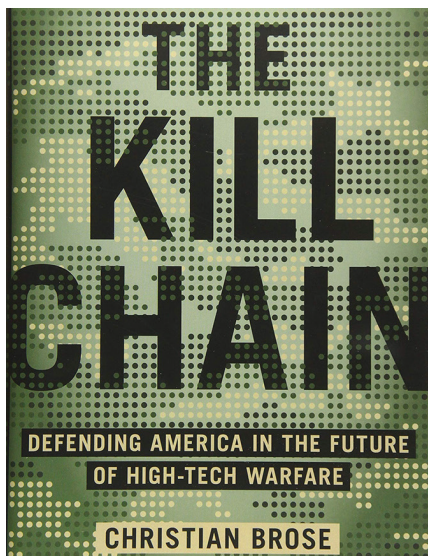
“They’re calling into question traditional advantages we’ve had, the way we’ve thought about projecting military power and the forces that we’ve used,” said Brose, who is chief strategy officer of Anduril Industries and a former staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

By doing so, they’re putting American forces “in a position of playing a losing game,” he said.

In *The Kill Chain*, Brose tells readers how artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and other emerging technologies can “fundamentally change the character of warfare.”

What the U.S. military does with these technologies now—and how it uses them to operate differently—can help the U.S. maintain a competitive advantage around the world, Brose said.

Find a copy of *The Kill Chain* here.



AUSAExtra

Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier

Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret.
President and CEO, AUSA

Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, USA, Ret.
Vice President, Education, AUSA

Luc Dunn
Editor

Desiree Hurlocker
Advertising Manager

Advertising Information Contact:

Fox Associates Inc.
116 W. Kinzie St. • Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 800-440-0231
Email: adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com

ARTICLES. Articles appearing in AUSA Extra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the officers or members of the Council of Trustees of AUSA, or its editors. Articles are expressions of personal opinion and should not be interpreted as reflecting the official opinion of the Department of Defense nor of any branch, command, installation or agency of the Department of Defense. The publication assumes no responsibility for any unsolicited material. Email: extra@ausa.org

ADVERTISING. Neither AUSA Extra, nor its publisher, the Association of the United States Army, makes any representations, warranties or endorsements as to the truth and accuracy of the advertisements appearing herein, and no such representations, warranties or endorsements should be implied or inferred from the appearance of the advertisements in the publication. The advertisers are solely responsible for the contents of such advertisements.

RATES. Individual membership fees payable in advance are \$40 for two years, \$75 for five years, and \$400 for Life Membership. A discounted rate of \$10 for two years is available to members in the ranks of E-1 through E-4, and for service academy and ROTC cadets and OCS candidates. More information is available at our website www.ausa.org; or by emailing membersupport@ausa.org, phoning 855-246-6269, or mailing Fulfillment Manager, P.O. Box 101560, Arlington, VA 22210-0860.

PERK OF THE WEEK

Discount on new Army A-2 jacket

For the first time since World War II, the A-2 jacket is returning to the Army. Although the A-2 was primarily associated with the Army Air Forces, it was also worn by non-aviation personnel. Now you can own the same version of this venerable and iconic jacket. US Wings is an official supplier of this jacket to both the Army and the general public. Visit www.uswings.com and use code AUSA to save 10% on the new A-2 jacket or any other merchandise on the site.

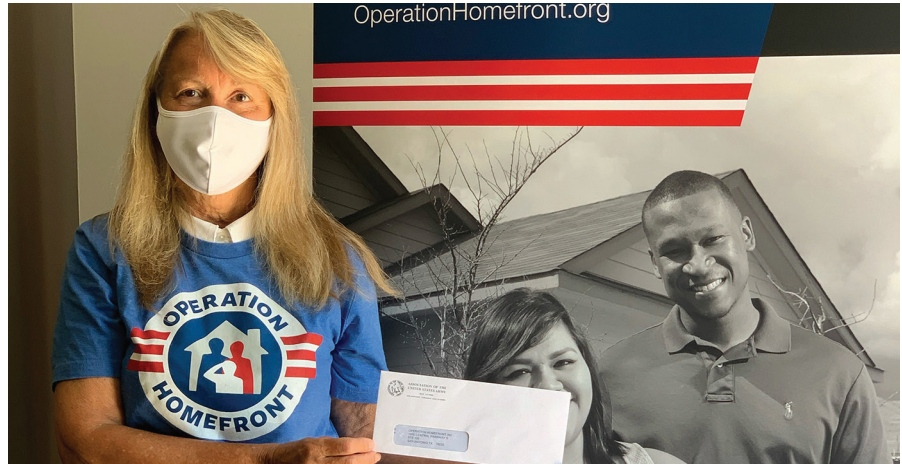
AUSA sponsors over 100 backpacks for military children

To mark its 70th birthday, the Association of the U.S. Army on Monday presented a check to Operation Homefront sponsoring more than 100 backpacks for local military children.

The donation was the result of a 15-day fundraiser in support of Operation Homefront's Back-to-School Brigade and was the centerpiece of AUSA national headquarters' efforts for "AUSA Day."

Back-to-School Brigade is Operation Homefront's annual nationwide school supply collection and distribution campaign.

"In seven decades, our now more than 216,000-member association has proven it is the loyal proponent and defender of America's Army, a tremendous asset for professional development, and a way of unifying efforts within the Army, industry, communities and people in a noble cause of making certain our nation has the



AUSA's donation sponsored more than 100 backpacks for local military children. (AUSA PHOTO)

world's premier land force," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO.

"Our 70th birthday is something to celebrate, and an opportunity for us to pledge to work even harder," he added.

The inaugural AUSA Day initiative encouraged the association's 122 chapters to hold their own day of celebra-

tion by conducting community service events or projects.

Chapter projects included awarding scholarships to deserving military children, throwing pizza parties at local veterans' homes, writing thank you notes to first responders, restoring flag poles and cleaning up local cemeteries.

nci

Leader in AI technology to the U.S. Government

Based on our philosophy, Scaling Humans with Artificial Intelligence or Shai®, we help agencies empower their teams to:

- Increase efficiencies
- Speed decision-making
- Improve system security

Find out more about NCI AI Solutions at nciinc.com/shai

Navigate. Collaborate. Innovate. This is NCI.





WE SUPPORT OUR ARMY PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Scholarships | Community Outreach | Local Events
Army News | Chapter Support | Discounts



**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

JOIN AUSA TODAY!
www.ausea.org/join

Photo by PFC Devron Bost. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

AUSA to honor The Old Guard soldiers through August

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

The Association of the U.S. Army celebrated its 70th birthday this year.

Since July 5, 1950, AUSA has been the professional association for soldiers in the Total Army as well as retired soldiers, Army civilians, wounded warriors, veterans, concerned citizens and family members.

To commemorate 70 years of service, AUSA created “AUSA Day” and challenged its 122 chapters around the world to do service projects in and around their communities.

In order to join the festivities, members of AUSA’s Noncommis-

NCO & Soldier Programs

sioned Officer and Soldier Programs team decided to show our support for soldiers in honor of both AUSA Day and the sergeant major of the Army’s “This Is My Squad” initiative.

The NCO and Soldier Programs team chose to honor soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Regiment, traditionally known as The Old Guard.

Why The Old Guard? Along with being the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the Army, serving our nation since 1784, the soldiers of The Old Guard serve as the escort to the president, provide security for Washington, D.C., conduct countless military ceremonies, guard the Tomb of the Unknowns, and lay our fallen to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Most impressive, they have not missed a beat despite the effects of COVID-19.

Along with these and many more responsibilities, The Old Guard has always been there to support AUSA, from helping with ceremonies to participating in the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition.

“The soldiers of The Old Guard provide us support every time we ask, and they’re always consummate professionals,” said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, director of NCO



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, far left, and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, far right, stand with soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Regiment. (AUSA PHOTO)

and Soldier Programs at AUSA.

To show our gratitude for their relentless service, we devised a plan to honor one squad of the regiment every week in August.

On Aug. 4, NCO and Soldier Programs held a ceremony at Fort Myer, Virginia, to honor the first “top squad” selected by Old Guard leadership. Several sponsors chipped in to provide a free lunch, a few tokens of

appreciation and free AUSA memberships for the soldiers.

The first squad honored is led by Staff Sgt. Julius Shorter, squad leader for the presidential salute battery.

“It means a lot to have the former [sergeant major of the Army] and AUSA come out and recognize my squad for our hard work and dedication,” Shorter said. “Given the current COVID climate and not being able to train with our soldiers on a day-to-day basis, I am proud that my soldiers continue to maintain our skill set.”

NCO and Soldier Programs would like to thank Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Brooks, the senior enlisted leader of the 3rd Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. Maj. Chad Stackpole, the regiment’s operations sergeant major, for their help in making this wonderful event happen.

The best part of the day was the smiles on the soldiers’ faces as they received their honors, opened their gifts and ate some well-deserved chow.

We look forward to honoring the next three squads throughout the rest of the month.



The soldiers were provided with a free lunch, a few tokens of appreciation and free AUSA memberships. (AUSA PHOTO)

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.

AUSA chapter president, member receive state honors

By W. Thomas Smith Jr.

Two members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter were recognized July 15 during the South Carolina Seven expedition.

The first award was presented to Col. Bill Connor, an Army officer who serves as South Carolina's emergency preparedness liaison for U.S. Army North.

Fort Jackson-Palmetto State

Connor received a commendation from the state senate for his service as chairman of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission's National Security Task Force.

The second award was presented to Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, president of the Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter.

Lott received the Global Eco Adventures Environmental Champion award for his leadership as sheriff and as commander of the South Carolina State Guard during the many hurricanes and tropical storms that



From left to right are Richland County Sheriff's Capt. Maria Yturria, South Carolina Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, Tom Mullikin, Col. Bill Connor and Sheriff Leon Lott. (AUSA/W. THOMAS SMITH JR.)

have plagued the state since Hurricane Joaquin in September 2015.

The South Carolina Seven expedition was a monthlong, 500-mile trek through the midlands of South Carolina from the mountains to the sea.

Led by Tom Mullikin, chairman of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission and an AUSA member, the expedition was the first of its kind

showcasing the seven natural wonders of the Palmetto State.

The awards were presented after expedition participants hiked through Fort Jackson, the largest Army basic training installation in the nation.

W. Thomas Smith Jr. is a member of AUSA's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter.

Chapter recognizes Fort Hood NCO, Soldier of the Year

The Association of the U.S. Army's Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter honored the installation's NCO and Soldier of the Year during a July 20 ceremony at III Corps headquarters on Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. 1st Class Ashlee Ibarra of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment was the top NCO in the Fort Hood Best Warrior Competition, and Spc. Jaylin Allen of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, was named the Soldier of the Year.

Central Texas-Fort Hood

Retired Maj. Gen. Ken Cox, the chapter vice president, presented the winners with an AUSA membership, the new Army Greens Service Uniform, and the use of a new vehicle for one year.

This year's Fort Hood Best Warrior



Sgt. 1st Class Ashlee Ibarra, left, and Spc. Jaylin Allen. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Competition was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and senior enlisted leaders from across III Corps judged packets spanning the soldiers' basic training to present day.

Every year, soldiers compete to represent their command in the Army Best Warrior Competition.

Competitions start at the unit level, with soldiers working to earn a spot in the next, higher-level competition.

In the end, 22 of the Army's best—11 soldiers and 11 NCOs representing 11 commands from across the Army—compete for the title of NCO or Soldier of the Year.



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

MEMBERSHIP SAVINGS

PURCHASES SUPPORT AUSA PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND MORE



AND MANY MORE...

MM200708

MEMBER SUPPORT
855-246-6269
membersupport@ausa.org

ACCESS YOUR SAVINGS AT
www.ausa.org/savings