



## Air Assault



Soldiers with the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade provide air support to the 10th Mountain Light Fighters School during air assault training at Fort Drum, New York, Aug. 11. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. MICHAEL WILSON)

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## AUSA announces 2022 national awards

**T**he Association of the U.S. Army has announced the recipients of its 2022 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 AUSA," said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. "Through their dedicated service and commitment, each of them has made a huge difference in the lives of others and in support of our Army and our nation. I look forward to honoring them at our annual meeting in October."

The awards will be presented at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition, which will be held Oct. 10–12 in Washington, D.C.

During the annual meeting, AUSA also will honor Elizabeth Dole, a former U.S. senator, two-time cabinet

secretary, former leader of the American Red Cross and founder of a national organization focused on support for military families and caregivers.

AUSA earlier this year announced that Dole is the 2022 recipient of the George Catlett Marshall Medal.

AUSA's highest award, the Marshall Medal is presented for distinguished and selfless service.

Dole was chosen because of her decades of selfless service to the United States and particularly because of her many efforts to aid service members and their families.

Here's a closer look at this year's National Award recipients.

### Abrams Medal

The General Creighton W. Abrams Medal for exceptional service to the U.S. Army will be awarded to the Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the

Army program.

Established in November 1922, the program is celebrating its 100th year of service. Civilian aides to the secretary of the Army are business and community leaders appointed by the Army secretary to advise and support Army leaders across the country. They come from many professions, including business, education, finance, medicine and public service, and each is actively involved in his or her community.

"As the Army's ambassadors, the CASAs have bridged the gap between the American public and our great Army for 100 years," Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said in a statement. "I'd like to thank the CASAs for their continued support to our soldiers, veterans, families and surrounding communities and applaud

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## Essay highlights Army operations around the world

Over the past two years, the Army has quickly and effectively responded to a litany of threats and challenges, and the service's work is being highlighted in a new essay from the Association of the U.S. Army.

"The Army on Point: A Detailed Summary of Current Operations and Responsibilities" is part of an upcoming edition of AUSA's *Profile of the United States Army*.

A reference book that's published every two years, *Profile of the United States Army* provides a top-to-bottom guide to the organization, mission, structure and operations of the Army.

*Profile of the United States Army* is slated to be released in September.

The essay available now focuses on current exercises, activities and concerns the Army is undertaking around the world.

"Never before 2022 has the Army moved so many forces so quickly," retired Col. George Coan Jr. writes in "The Army on Point." "For example, it took less than one week after receiving deployment orders for an armored brigade to deploy from Savannah, Georgia, and land on the ground in Germany to start live-fire exercises with tanks drawn from Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS) in Europe."



Soldiers with the 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team maneuver around the wall of a building during Exercise Tiger Balm 2022 in Singapore. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER HERNANDEZ)

Coan credits "Army logisticians, force generation installations and power projection platforms required to equip, transport and project combat-ready ground forces" for this feat.

The Army also has continued to strengthen its relationships with allies and partners around the world, writes Coan, a former field artillery officer with more than 30 years of active service who also served for more than 16 years as AUSA's director of National Security Studies.

"In June 2022 alone, U.S. Soldiers trained in Singapore, Malaysia,

Guam, Mongolia and Hawaii, with exercises in Australia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Japan, Fiji and India planned for the remainder of 2022," Coan writes. "These multinational, Army-led exercises throughout the region are central to the development of partner military capabilities and the demonstration of U.S. expeditionary capability."

The Arctic region is also of "strategic importance" to the U.S., the essay says. As part of the Army's 2021 Arctic Strategy, the service's senior leadership "reactivated the 11th Airborne Division in Alaska in June—this is the Army's only Arctic airborne division," Coan writes.

The Army remains busy at home as well, as demonstrated by the service's missions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest and natural disasters.

"Protecting citizens, mitigating the impacts of crises and preserving the American way of life are enduring Army concepts. These concepts require constant attention and the ability to anticipate and quickly respond to any type of mission, regardless of location," Coan writes.

[Read the full essay here.](#)

## Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

### Kevin Kaley

Deputy Managing Editor, ARMY magazine

Kevin Kaley has been with AUSA for almost 5 years and views his role at the association as a way to impact the Army family in a small but positive manner. A native of Tampa, Florida, Kevin remains a faithful Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan despite living in the National Capital Region for over two decades.



## Army Ten-Miler reopens in-person registration with additional slots



Spc. Lawi Lalang from the Army's World Class Athlete program crosses the finish line in first place at the 2019 Army Ten-Miler. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

**R**unners have another chance to sign up for the 2022 Army Ten-Miler.

General registration has reopened for the Oct. 9 race in Arlington, Virginia, with a limited number of slots available, race organizers announced recently.

"The additional in-person slots are open and available to individuals and teams on a first-come, first-service basis," they said.

Individual registration is \$89 and includes an official long-sleeve race shirt.

Race packet pick up will be available during the race expo Oct. 7–8 at the D.C. Armory in Washington, D.C.

Race packets will not be mailed, and there is no packet pick up on race day, organizers said.

The Army's 38th annual race will return to in-person running after going virtual in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, race officials said earlier this year. The race will take place one day before the start of the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C.

AUSA is a founding and co-lead

sponsor of the race. Its annual meeting is Oct. 10–12.

Those who registered for the in-person race in 2021, which was later changed to a virtual event because of rising COVID-19 cases and the emergence of the delta variant, "will be able to apply their \$30 credit coupon codes to the 2022 registration fee," officials said.

Runners must be at least 13 years old on race day to enter.

Registration also remains open for a virtual youth run, for runners ages 12 and under.

"Children have a choice of two distances—1 mile or 5K—and all participants receive an ATM Finisher Medal and a runner shirt," officials said.

Conducted by the Army Military District of Washington, the Army Ten-Miler is the third largest 10-mile road race in the world. The race starts and ends at the Pentagon, with a course that travels through Washington, D.C. All race proceeds benefit Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

For more information and to register, click here.

# AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier*

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## PERK OF THE WEEK

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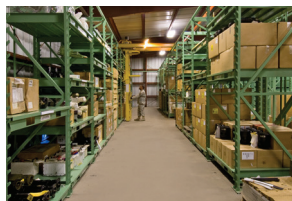


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## Awards

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them for being the 2022 General Creighton W. Abrams Medal recipient. Thank you to AUSA for this outstanding recognition of the CASAs' legacy of service."

The CASA program originally called upon select citizens to enhance cooperation and coordination with the War Department. In 1950, the program was redesigned to meet the Army's need for civilian liaisons across the country.

While the program has evolved throughout the years, its core mission remains the same—to bridge the gap between the American public and its Army. Representing every state and territory, the CASAs help tell the Army story, support the Total Army workforce and support transitioning soldiers and their families.

CASAs are "force multipliers" for the Army's recruiting mission, "tirelessly" supporting their local recruiters while promoting the Army as "the employer of choice," Gen. Paul Funk, commanding general of the Army Training and Doctrine Command, wrote when nominating the program for the award.

The CASAs also help provide career and education opportunities to transitioning soldiers, among other initiatives, "to set our soldiers up for success even after their time in uniform ends," Funk wrote.

"On this, the program's 100th anniversary, it is only fitting that we recognize the tremendous contributions the CASA program has had—and will continue to have—making the U.S. Army the finest in the world," Funk wrote.

## 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. W. Douglas Gibbens, an AUSA senior fellow and longtime volunteer leader with the association.



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. W. Douglas Gibbens is the 2022 recipient of the Bainbridge Medal for contributions to the NCO corps. (LODI NEWS-SENTINEL/WES BOWERS)

Gibbens, who joined the Army in 1966 and served in the Army Reserve until his retirement in 2001, is an active supporter of the Army and its soldiers.

He has served for 13 years in support of the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, 19 years as an Army Reserve ambassador for Indiana, 10 years on the Army Recruiting Command Grass Roots Council supporting recruiters in Indiana, and is involved in many other organizations, Cynthia Gatto, president of AUSA's Indiana chapter, wrote in nominating Gibbens.

Within AUSA, his support has been "nothing short of miraculous," serving in every leadership position within the Indiana chapter, as AUSA's 2nd Region vice president for eight years and then as the region president from 2016 to 2020, Gatto said.

He also has been a mentor to Gatto and to the entire chapter board, "the driving force behind each chapter event and any award the chapter has achieved over the years," according to his nomination.

Recently inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame, Gibbens continues to support his local

AUSA chapter, including helping collect more than 700 pounds of canned goods and clothing to help homeless veterans and their families, Gatto said.

He also is co-founder of the Indiana chapter's annual golf outing, which is the chapter's only fundraising event and supports the chapter's other activities throughout the year, and co-founder of the chapter's college scholarship program, which has awarded more than \$100,000 in 10 years to Indiana soldiers or their dependents.

Gibbens also plays a key role in the chapter's community outreach efforts, its annual soldier and NCO breakfast and numerous other activities.

Gibbens is an "exemplary individual, an honorable man and a credit of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army and the Association of the United States Army, as well of the Indiana chapter," Gatto said.

## 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 Lt. Col. Ronald Johnson, a



longtime volunteer leader who has served at the national, region and chapter levels of AUSA.

For 36 years and counting, Johnson has been a “committed member, a sleeves-rolled-up volunteer, and an exceptional leader” for AUSA, retired Col. Hugh McLeod, past president of AUSA’s 2nd Region, wrote when nominating Johnson for the award. “Ron’s dedicated and tireless efforts have helped propel AUSA towards its vision of being recognized as the Army’s premier association and the foremost supporter of the Total Army,” McLeod wrote.

Johnson has served as president, executive vice president and treasurer for the association’s 2nd Region, which includes Washington, D.C., Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

He also led the Fairfax-Lee chapter, now known as the Potomac-Liberty chapter, for two years, helping it attain Chapter of Excellence recognition each of those years, along with several other awards.

Johnson also was a member of the AUSA finance and audit committee from 2003 to 2020, and he still serves on the AUSA national scholarship evaluation team, helping the association select the best-qualified applicants for more than \$300,000 in financial aid.

“AUSA would not be the leading association that it is today without the herculean support of Ron Johnson,” wrote retired Col. Glenn Yarborough, the current 2nd Region president, in endorsing Johnson for the award. “He is the epitome of all that AUSA can do, and he does all this effort with a smile and asks for more.”

#### Cribbins Medal

The Joseph P. Cribbins Medal for exemplary service by a Department of the Army civilian will be awarded to David Engbrecht, director of the Homeland Defense/Civil Support Office at the Army’s Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard



Retired Lt. Col. Ronald Johnson is the 2022 recipient of the Drexel Biddle Medal for outstanding contributions to AUSA. (AUSA PHOTO)

Wood, Missouri.

A retired sergeant major, Engbrecht has served for 19 years as an Army civilian for a combined 43 years of service. He is actively engaged in the communities around Fort Leonard Wood, and he has been a member of AUSA for more than 22 years.

Engbrecht has worked in the Homeland Defense/Civil Support Office for more than a decade and became its director in July 2021.

“Dave’s superb leadership and technical skill resulted in the establishment and growth of [the office] as an organization that is now recognized as an indispensable part of the policy, training and capability development activities related to Army support to operations in the homeland,” Gregg Thompson, deputy to the commanding general of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, wrote as he endorsed Engbrecht’s nomination.

Engbrecht has “consistently risen to the challenge,” whether it’s integrating with partners or finding solutions to the Army’s needs, Thompson wrote.

Engbrecht also is active in his community, serving as a volunteer, mentor and guide to organizations such as Army Emergency Relief, Salva-

tion Army, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Boy Scouts of America.

“Without question, Dave Engbrecht is recognized across the Army for his leadership and technical expertise in a critical mission area,” Thompson wrote.

“Mr. Engbrecht upholds the highest ideals of service as a Department of the Army civilian and as a member of the community.”

#### Dixon Award

The John W. Dixon Award for outstanding contributions to national defense from industry will be awarded to Joseph Newberry, president and CEO of the Redstone Federal Credit Union in Huntsville, Alabama.

When he became CEO in 2008, the credit union had \$2 billion in assets, about 300,000 members, 19 branches and 729 employees. Today, it has assets of \$8 billion, nearly 700,000 members, 28 branches and 1,200 employees.

The credit union, formed on Redstone Arsenal in 1951, is Alabama’s largest member-owned financial institution.

Since 2004, it has been a strong community partner of AUSA’s Redstone-Huntsville chapter, and more recently has become the association’s largest contributing Association Partner, said retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuistion, a former vice president of Membership and Meetings for AUSA.

In a letter recommending Newberry for the award, McQuistion wrote that Newberry approached AUSA with a proposal to offer AUSA membership to new Redstone Federal Credit Union members.

“AUSA has benefitted enormously from the relationship, both financially and by expanding membership by more than 110,000 individuals in the three years the agreement has been in effect,” McQuistion wrote. “Importantly, many of these people would likely never have heard of

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## Awards

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AUSA without RFCU's assistance."

Locally, Newberry maintains his close ties with AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter. The credit union regularly sponsors chapter events, including its local Veteran Day celebrations, athletic events for wounded warriors and an ROTC luncheon.

The credit union also donated \$50,000 to the National Museum of the United States Army and supports veterans and military groups such as the Veterans Museum and Archives in Alabama, the local American Legion post and the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation.

"Redstone's partnership with AUSA has been extremely beneficial and has prompted the addition of new members to both organizations," Rhonda Sutton, the chapter president, wrote when nominating Newberry for the award.

## 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. Jill Faris, director of the Office of the Joint Surgeon for the National Guard Bureau.

A graduate of South Dakota Uni-



AUSA's National Awards provide recognition for support and dedication to the Total Army and its soldiers. (U.S. ARMY/2ND LT. TIMOTHY YAO)

versity who commissioned in 1987, Faris distinguished herself during the COVID-19 pandemic when, as the interim G-3/5/7 for Army Medical Command, she was asked to lead the daily operations, plans and training for the command and the Army surgeon general's office.

Between April 2020 and June 2021, Faris integrated the Army's medical enterprise as it responded to the pandemic, navigated reforms to the Medical Health System and weathered the turbulence of Medical Command restructuring, Lt. Gen. R.

Scott Dingle, the Army surgeon general, wrote when nominating Faris for the award.

Faris and her team created and deployed the first-ever Urban Augmentee Medical Task Forces across the U.S., including to the Javits Center in New York and to Seattle, Houston, El Paso, Texas, and Los Angeles to help hospitals overwhelmed with COVID patients.

She also led the effort to increase the Army's ability to test for COVID-19, expanding from nine to 46 laboratories and deploying hundreds of testing machines specially designed to test for COVID-19 in a rapid sequence, Dingle wrote.

Additionally, Faris worked with the Army National Guard and Army Reserve to deploy tens of thousands of Guard soldiers and hundreds of Reserve medical soldiers who were recalled from retirement to help fight the pandemic, and she assigned planners and logisticians to work on Operation Warp Speed, the national effort to get the vaccine out to U.S. citizens, Dingle wrote.

Her work is still not done, Dingle wrote, as she continues to host the daily crisis action team synchronization meetings, surpassing more than

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Maj. Gen. Jill Faris, left, speaks with Dallas County Fire Chief Rodney Smith at a community COVID-19 vaccination center in Dallas in 2021. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. ALVIN CONLEY)



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420 days of continuous operations.

“Her presence, steady guidance and direction have in large part contributed to the successful execution of the entire Nation’s pandemic response,” Dingle said.

## 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 Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Leak, a member of AUSA’s Indiana chapter and Army Reserve ambassador for Indiana.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Leak served in the Army and Army Reserve for 39 years, retiring in 2016.

In his civilian life, Leak is the registrar for Anderson University and is a member of the Anderson Morning Rotary Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, the Indiana Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and several other groups.

In 2017, Leak was appointed Army Reserve ambassador for Indiana, where he represents the Army Reserve chief at local functions and celebrations and serves as another set of eyes and ears for the chief with local and statewide units and organizations.

He also is an associate minister of the Friendship Baptist Church and The Sherman Street Church of God, and he is completing his sixth term as a member of the Edgewood Town Council in Indiana. Gibbens, as a former president of AUSA’s 2nd Region, wrote in his nomination of Leak.

“CSM Arthur Leak is truly the epitome of the citizen-soldier,” Gibbens said. “He has consistently shown excellence in leadership, whether it be in the performance of his duties in the Army, in his contributions to his community and church



Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Tomasura and his family, AUSA’s 2022 Volunteer Family of the Year, react after being announced as the 2022 Fort Jackson Family of the Year during an April 28 ceremony at the South Carolina post. (U.S. ARMY/ROBERT TIMMONS)

or in his leadership as registrar at Anderson University. Wherever he has been assigned in the Army or in



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Leak.  
(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

his community, he has quickly risen to the top with his rare combination of servant leadership, selfless service and flawless performance. I am proud to call him my friend.”

## Volunteer Family of the Year

The 2022 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 Timothy Tomasura.

Tomasura, his wife, Amanda, and their three children—Timothy Jr., who is 15, Zoey, who’s 13, and 10-year-old Mackenzie—also are the 2022 Family of the Year for Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

At Fort Jackson, Tomasura was a senior drill sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment.

The family is now stationed at



Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

The Tomasura family “embodies the phrase ‘Staying Ready Together’ while selflessly sharing their time and talents to enhance organizations in the Fort Jackson Army community and in the surrounding Columbia community,” Silvia Butler, of AUSA’s Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter, wrote when nominating the family for the award.

From hosting events for Gold Star teens to organizing reunions for Vietnam veterans, the Tomasuras have dedicated countless hours to helping others.

During the Gold Star Adventure event, 23 teenagers who had lost a parent in combat were given a chance to see what their loved one experienced during basic training.

The Tomasuras coordinated and conducted activities such as land navigation and marching.

Sgt. 1st Class Tomasura also led a reunion for 23 Vietnam veterans from the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment.

The veterans, who came from across the country to Fort Jackson, observed basic training and attended a ceremony dedicating a memorial to the unit.

The Tomasura family also is actively involved in the battalion’s Soldier and Family Readiness Group, with Amanda Tomasura volunteering to lead the group.

She organized fundraising events every 10 weeks, raising \$10,000 each year, with the money being used on events such as a Christmas dinner for 300 families in the battalion and free admission to a South Carolina amusement park for 35 drill sergeants and their families.

“This type of commitment reflects the love and teamwork that exists within the Tomasura home and transfers to the Army community,” Butler wrote.

Amanda Tomasura also has dedicated more than 500 volunteer hours with Habitat for Humanity and more

than 700 hours with the American Red Cross.

“The Tomasura family understand the skills and discipline needed to make serving others possible,” Butler said. “They always strive to give their best within their family and strive to give their best to others.”

#### National Service Award

AUSA is honored to present its National Service Award to Bass Pro Shops and Cabela’s and their founder and CEO Johnny Morris.

Founded in 1972, Bass Pro Shops is a leading national retailer of outdoor gear and apparel, with 200 stores across North America, according to the company’s website.

Morris, an avid angler, started the business with 8-square-feet of space in the back of his father’s liquor store in Springfield, Missouri.

Today, Bass Pro Shops locations draw more than 200 million visitors a year, according to the company’s website.

Bass Pro Shops, which acquired Cabela’s in 2017, also has several conservation initiatives, including protecting wildlife and habitat, connecting kids and families to the outdoors and protecting sportsmen’s rights through access and advocacy efforts, the company website says.

Motivated by his father, who served in World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, Morris is a “true

patriot” who has “instilled a culture of giving and patriotism in all of the organizations that he owns,” retired Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Morris, AUSA’s 5th Region president, wrote when nominating Johnny Morris for the award.

Every year, the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela’s team reaches out to ensure it does something special to honor the troops, and this past year was no different, wrote Rick Morris, who is not related to Johnny Morris.

In July 2021, Johnny Morris donated a home to Marine Sgt. Joe Bartel, an amputee, and paid the mortgage for Army Staff Sgt. Dan Barnes, a wounded warrior.

He also pledged to pay for 25% of the next 100 donated homes through the Helping a Hero organization.

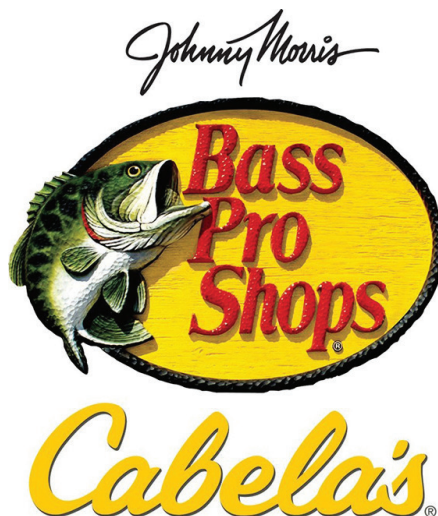
He offered a free day away to the more than 500 soldiers at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, who weren’t able to be with their families during holiday block leave in December, providing them with a visit to Johnny Morris’ Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.

Spanning 350,000 square feet with more than 1.5 miles of trails, Wonders of Wildlife is located next to Bass Pro Shops’ headquarters in Springfield.

His company donated \$1.5 million to establish a series of memorials honoring heroes at the College of the Ozarks in Missouri; recruits veterans for its workforce; and hosts events for recovering veterans including fishing tournaments for disabled veterans; among other initiatives.

“Johnny Morris would be the last person to seek or want any attention,” Keith Pritchard, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Missouri (West), wrote in a letter endorsing the nomination.

“His service to the men and women of America’s Armed Forces is unprecedented. ... Mr. Morris is a humble man that uses his unmatched generosity to support our service members and their families in substantial life changing events.”





## Connections critical to building military family resilience

In July, the Association of the U.S. Army hosted its inaugural Warfighter Summit and Exposition in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and the AUSA Family Readiness directorate was thrilled to participate in a forum titled “Community Grit: Building Family Support Readiness.”

Aligned with the symposium’s overall theme, “America’s Response Force: Ready Today, Ready Tomorrow,” this panel focused on programs, resources and connections available for service members and families to build and enhance resiliency and grit.

Moderated by Tina Wright, an AUSA senior fellow, the panel featured Maj. Gen. Walter Duzzny, chief of staff for Army Materiel Command; Kevin Griess, deputy garrison commander at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Tawni Dixon, an Army spouse whose family was AUSA’s 2021 Volunteer Family of the Year; Jill Kiah-Saslav, director of development and community relations for the Fort Bragg YMCA; and Steven Moore, chair of the military affairs council in the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce

These experts highlighted the importance of working together to



Army leaders, spouses and community leaders speak on a panel on family readiness at AUSA’s Warfighter Summit and Exposition in Fayetteville, North Carolina. (AUSA PHOTO)

strengthen quality-of-life programs across the Army, which in turn increases the health and well-being of our soldiers and families.

This is very important, as our warfighters are more effective and can better focus on the mission when they know everything is fine at home.

No matter where families are located, building a support system is imperative to thrive. Building strong relationships is the key.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, technology introduced many ways for us to sustain connections to other

people, resources and timely information. As long as those connections are made, our families are not alone.

New families join the Army journey every year, so education on the family readiness support system is a continuous cycle. The system includes Army provided programs and other federal, state and community-based agencies and organizations that support the Army and provide access to resources, programs and services.

Our exploration of connections continued later in the month as we hosted a podcast with Molly Haskins, director of Army, Air Force and Space Force programs for United Through Reading.

“United Through Reading connects military families who are separated—for deployment or military assignment—by providing the bonding experience of shared story time,” Haskins said.

Listen to our podcast to find out more ways to stay connected, including through the United Through Reading app and mobile story station, and through the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation libraries.

**Holly Dailey** is AUSA’s Family Readiness director.



A soldier’s daughter speaks to a United Through Reading representative during an event at Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. ARMY/RODNEY JACKSON)



## AUSA recognizes this year's most successful chapters

**T**he Association of the U.S. Army has named its “Best Chapter” winners for 2022 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. 10–12 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 Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon chapter in Georgia is Best Chapter 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 Dix chapter in Fort Dix, New Jersey, is Best Chapter for groups with 200 to 349 members.

- The Puerto Rico Chapter in Fort Buchanan 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 121 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.

The overall level of achievement was high, as 32 chapters increased membership in the operating year, 59 had events for ROTC, 62 held events for Army families, 43 supported recruiters, 51 sponsored professional development programs, 25 had events



Retired Col. John Davies, AUSA's director of membership, speaks to chapter presidents at a workshop during the 2021 AUSA Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. (AUSA PHOTO)

to honor Vietnam veterans and 29 hosted young professional events.

“Despite the limitations placed on chapters in the last few months of the operating year, they continued to support soldiers, families and their local communities,” said Angelina Flores, AUSA's director of region and chapter support.

### Other honors

AUSA also announced that 26 chapters achieved Chapter of Excellence status, 33 chapters qualified as Superior Chapters, and 54 achieved Merit Chapter distinction.

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

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Braxton Bragg               | 8. Texas Capital Area                    |
| 2. Fort Rucker-Wiregrass       | 9. Arizona Territorial                   |
| 3. Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon | 10. Coastal South Carolina               |
| 4. North Texas-Audie Murphy    | 11. First Militia                        |
| 5. GEN John W. Vessey, Jr.     | 12. Dix                                  |
| 6. Hawaii                      | 13. Central Ohio                         |
| 7. Suncoast                    | 14. Milwaukee                            |
|                                | 15. Tri-State                            |
|                                | 16. Space Coast                          |
|                                | 17. Corporal Bill McMillan-Bluegrass     |
|                                | 18. Mid-Palatinate                       |
|                                | 19. National Training Center-High Desert |
|                                | 20. Cowboy                               |
|                                | 21. Central California                   |
|                                | 22. Utah                                 |
|                                | 23. Isthmian                             |
|                                | 24. MG John S. Lekson                    |
|                                | 25. Hellenic                             |
|                                | 26. New Orleans                          |
|                                | 27. GEN William C. Westmoreland          |
|                                | 28. Ethan Allen                          |
|                                | 29. The Villages                         |
|                                | 30. Magnolia                             |
|                                | 31. Thunderbird                          |
|                                | 32. First in Battle                      |



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## COUNTERING SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

**MG Sean A. Gainey**

*Director, Joint Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office  
& Director of Fires, G-3/5/7, U.S. Army*

Moderated by **MG Ted Harrison, USA, Ret.**



### JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

This webinar will include a Q&A session in which questions submitted by the audience will be selected and asked by the moderator.

A recording of the webinar will be available on our YouTube page the following day.



**23 AUGUST 2022**  
1200-1300 EST

Join us for a discussion on the efforts made by the Army and DoD to bring an enterprise approach to the protection of personnel, materiel and missions in the context of the growing threats and hazards associated with the rapid increase in small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) technology.

The discussion will describe the Army's designation as the Executive Agent for Counter-sUAS and the establishment of the Joint Counter-sUAS Office to develop integrated plans, technologies, training concepts and doctrine while minimizing duplication and redundancy.

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