



Soldiers in the Army's Recruiting and Retention College at Fort Knox, Kentucky, are fitted with the new Army Greens Service Uniform. (U.S. ARMY/ERIC PILGRIM)

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Army Greens coming soon to soldiers

Distribution of the new Army Greens Service Uniform is underway at training installations, and the uniform is on track to be available to soldiers across the Army by spring 2021.

"The Army's in the final stages of the program that consists of production and distribution," Col. Stephen Thomas, project manager for soldier survivability in Program Executive Office Soldier, said Aug. 11.

Fort Knox, Kentucky, received the first shipment of the Army Greens in July, outfitting a group of 70 soldiers in the Army's Recruiting and Retention College.

According to the Army, the uniforms issued to the group consisted of a service coat, two pairs of pants, a long-sleeve and short-sleeve shirt

each, a pair of shoes, socks, tie, belt, gloves and cap.

Four more installations—Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri—will receive the uniforms in August, said Daniel Koglin, a divisional merchandise manager for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

Drill sergeants will receive the uniform next, followed by new recruits in the fall, Thomas said.

In 2018, Army leaders announced the service was adopting the World War II-inspired Army Greens as its new service uniform, saying the uniform will inspire America's next generation of soldiers and enhance esprit de corps.

"The current configuration of the

uniform is really very close to what we would've seen during the World War II era," said Annette LaFleur, a team leader for design, pattern and prototype in the Soldier Protection and Survivability Directorate within the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center.

"It really speaks back to that heritage, and we haven't changed all that much in terms of the aesthetics of the uniform," LaFleur said.

The biggest change that's been made, she said, is a "more modern fit for everyday wear."

With a goal to improve the uniform for women in the ranks, the Army created an all-female board to provide feedback on the fit and feel of the design, LaFleur said.

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Esper: Modernization pushing ahead despite flat budgets

The Pentagon must fight its “heavily bureaucratic” and “risk-averse” culture if it wants to transform and modernize the force for the future battlefield, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said.

“You have people protecting their programs, protecting their activities, protecting their staff, and on top of that is the risk aversion of taking risks that should be taken,” Esper said in a virtual discussion during the recent 2020 Aspen Security Forum.

The willingness and ability to change the culture in DoD is a big issue, Esper said, especially as the military pushes ahead on several modernization efforts during a time of flat or shrinking budgets.

“It’s DoD writ large, the big agencies where we really need to develop a different culture, and that means giving people room to fail,” he said. “It doesn’t mean that everybody loses their job because they took an appropriate risk, and so part of that is changing the leadership culture as well.”

The military is at a “pivotal moment,” Esper said, citing as an example the Army’s ambitious modernization plans to replace the weapons systems it has been using since the 1980s.

“We really need to develop a different culture, and that means giving people room to fail.”



The military is investing in ‘game changers’ such as artificial intelligence, robotics and hypersonic weapons, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. RYAN LUCAS)

“We just reached a point where it was time to make that change, and across all services you now see everybody doing this, whether it’s the Air Force with the new stealth bomber, three services with the F-35,” he said.

The military also is investing in new, emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and directed energy

hypersonic weapons, “areas we think are game changers in the future that we’ve got to put big dollars into, and we are committing to,” Esper said.

In the near-term, Esper said he is concerned about consistent, adequate funding for DoD.

“I still believe we need to maintain 3% to 5% annual growth ... to make sure that we are as ready as we need to be to face not just today’s threats but future threats, and that is the trade-off,” he said. “It is the present versus the future.”

In the present, the military still faces “serious challenges” in the Middle East, North Korea and elsewhere around the world, he said.

Esper also said he’s worried about how big federal spending on COVID-19-related aid could reduce money for defense programs.

“That’s why I continue to beat the drum that we have to be much more cost aware, cost-efficient,” Esper said. “We’ve got to make those hard choices. We’ve got to get rid of the legacy systems. So many programs are important, but, frankly, some are more important than others. ... We just need to be realistic.”

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

Stan Crow

Director, Region/Chapter Support and Director, National Guard Affairs

Stan Crow has been with AUSA since 2006. For him, it’s a great privilege and labor of love to support AUSA’s regions and chapters and coordinate National Guard matters for the association. He has two children with his wife, Kathy. In his spare time, he enjoys being with family and friends and practicing photography.



New Digital Garrison app offers on-post news, shopping and more

From installation news to online shopping, the Army's newest mobile app, called Digital Garrison, is putting "real-time information" into people's hands.

"Digital Garrison provides information at the ready to improve the quality of life for soldiers and their families," Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commanding general of Army Installation Management Command, said in a press release.

"Staying connected as a community is key to strengthening readiness and resiliency," he said.

Digital Garrison provides publicly available, installation-specific information, including weather, events, a directory, gate locations and hours, fitness and recreation options, and information for newcomers.

The app—done in partnership with IMCOM and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service—connects users with critical local information, including emergency push notifications, COVID-19 information and hotline numbers.

After the next major update, which is scheduled for the end of August, garrison commanders will be able to provide announcements and customized messaging through the app.

"Digital Garrison is a powerful tool to help provide up-to-date information and help them gain access to the services that are available on their local installation," said Scott Malcom, a spokesman for IMCOM.

The app also features a shopping function with local Exchange shopping and dining information and a mobile wallet function with the option to use a Military Star card, the Army says.

Digital Garrison, now available for download in the App Store and Google Play, was released July 29 and has had several thousand downloads since its launch, Malcom said.

An initial report shows positive



The Digital Garrison mobile app provides installation-specific information including weather, events, a directory, gate locations and hours, fitness and recreation options, and more. (U.S. ARMY GRAPHIC)

feedback from users, Malcom said, but the service will continue to keep "a close eye" on feedback provided through an in-app function.

"[Digital Garrison is] not perfect. We recognize that, but it's a strong application," he said, adding that the app will be continuously updated and improved. "This is not a 'one and done' thing."

With access to 62 installations—with more to come in future updates—the app is available to soldiers, families, veterans and civilians. Users can browse the app using a "guest" mode, Malcom said, or create an account to enable touch ID and a customized dashboard.

According to the Army, joint bases operated by other services and garrisons without a website on the network were not part of the initial launch.

More information on the app is available here.

AUSAExtra

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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

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PERK OF THE WEEK



Enjoy R&R resorts (formerly Space A) for just \$359 a week through Armed Forces Vacation Club. Previously available only to veterans, all AUSA members may join, regardless of veteran status. Availability varies but frequently includes destinations in the U.S., Mexico, South America and Europe. Sign up at www.ausa.org/afvc.

Army Greens*From Page 1*

The board, Thomas said, requested trousers as the “primary uniform” in place of a skirt.

Female soldiers will have the option of wearing pants or skirts while in Army Greens, and they will have a choice of corresponding footwear.

“The everyday professional look of the AGSU will complement soldiers of today and in the future,” Thomas said.

On Oct. 1, 2027—the required “wear date” for the Army Greens—the current blue Army Service Uniform will be for formal wear only.

In the meantime, soldiers will be able to buy the new Army Greens uniform with their clothing replacement allowance, which is designed to “offset the cost over time,” Thomas said.

While the price list was not available, the average cost of the uniform—depending on the combination of clothing—is about \$500 for the “standard components,” Koglin said.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Hernandez of the Army's New England Recruiting Battalion, right, greets civilians while wearing the Army Greens uniform. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. JUSTIN MORELLI)

That includes a coat, shirt, tie, socks, trousers, belt and garrison cap.

While initial sales are being handled by AAFES, responsibility is expected to transfer to the Defense Logistics Agency in October 2021, Koglin said.

As Army training installations

begin to issue the Army Greens this summer, Thomas said he's received “constant positive feedback” about the uniform's appearance.

“The Army is ready for this uniform,” Thomas said. “I think it's going to be a very positive introduction.”

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Operation Homefront distributes backpacks for military children



Operation Homefront distributes backpacks sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army to military families on Aug. 14. In honor of 70 years of service to the Army, AUSA headquarters hosted a 15-day fundraiser, exceeding its goal of sponsoring 100 backpacks to Operation Homefront's Back-to-School Brigade. (AUSA/STAN CROW)

Golf event supports veterans in need

The third annual Camaraderie Classic charity golf tournament, co-sponsored by the Army Distaff Foundation and Homes For Our Troops, will be held Oct. 26 at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia.

The event raises awareness and generates support for veterans in need of secure, safe housing and specialized health services.

The registration deadline is Sept. 1.

The Army Distaff Foundation is a nonprofit founded in 1959 that built, owns and operates Knollwood Military Life Plan Community in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 2004, Homes For Our Troops builds and donates specially adapted custom homes for severely wounded post-9/11 veterans.

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

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Cybersecurity education available for military spouses

By Patty Barron

We have often heard that military spouses can do anything. They are certainly well represented in the education and health fields, but cybersecurity?

Not so much.

Enter Socratic Arts, a provider of performance improvement solutions.

In 2016, Socratic Arts developed a training program for DoD that could turn novices with no formal computer science or IT experience into cybersecurity professionals.

The success they had with candidates who never dreamed of such a career inspired them to reach out to military family members.

The Association of the U.S Army's Family Readiness team recently interviewed Leslye

Family Readiness

Arsht, a supporter of Socratic Arts and a former deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy, to find out more.

AUSA: Why is offering cybersecurity courses to military spouses and others in the military family important to you?

Arsht: After I retired, I wanted to keep my connection to the military community by advising companies that supported the DoD mission—which to me means readiness of the troops and the role families play in readiness.

I was introduced to Socratic Arts by the founder of Tutor.com, my very first post-DoD client.

The possibility of a career in cybersecurity, being a relatively new specialty, doesn't occur to people who would be successful at it but don't yet know it. I knew many military spouses might find this to be a very satisfying, portable career.

The more I learned, the more I was sure that transitioning service members, veterans and other family members would also be good candidates.



Military spouses, veterans and transitioning service members could all find cybersecurity to be a good career fit with the right training. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. GARRETT DIPUMA)

AUSA: What personality traits help cybersecurity candidates be successful?

Arsht: A good candidate is deeply curious about how things work.

You are a problem solver and will not give up on a problem, no matter how difficult it is. You have a high level of attention to detail. You prefer to figure things out for yourself. The program's educational approach builds on and reinforces these traits.

You also learn how to report appropriately to your bosses and colleagues what you uncovered and how you acted to fix it.

These "softer" skills are critical to being successful in this field.

AUSA: Socratic Arts uses a "learning by doing" philosophy called Story-Centered Curriculum. Can you explain how it works?

Arsht: Teaching through immersive, story-centered courses, set in the context of real-world problems, has long been Socratic Arts' philosophy of education and training. It works perfectly in this domain.

The Cyber Academy immerses students in realistic situations, such as a cyberattack on a defense contractor.

Instead of listening to lectures, doing well-defined homework problems and taking tests, students immediately begin solving realistic, complex problems with the help of comprehen-

sive online support material and live expert mentors, who are nearly always available online to provide help, advice and feedback on student work.

AUSA: Why is attending a webinar before enrolling important?

Arsht: In the Cyber Academy, a student is acting as a professional in a small government agency, who is given a series of authentic tasks where they must learn by using the available online resources highlighted in a "project roadmap" for accomplishing the task.

The webinar explains this so prospective students can understand what the work environment online is like and decide if the program provides challenges that would excite you.

AUSA: When is the next webinar and how can AUSA members sign up?

Arsht: The webinar is Sept. 1 from 8–9 p.m. Eastern time. You must sign up by 11 a.m. Eastern the day before the webinar.

Military spouses need to sign up through the National Military Family Association here. Transitioning service members, veterans and their families register here.

Both groups will need to validate their military affiliation to receive free registration.

Patty Barron is AUSA's Family Readiness Director.

Chapter supports community with volunteering, donations

Despite the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Association of the U.S. Army's Braxton Bragg chapter is working hard to support its local community through a variety of volunteer efforts and donations.

Braxton Bragg chapter members partnered with the Fort Bragg Sergeants Major Association to support a back-to-school supply drive Aug. 14–15 at the north and south Post Exchanges at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The event, hosted by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the Fort Bragg Garrison Chaplain Office, collected seven large boxes of school supplies for students in the Fort Bragg School District.

Exchange patrons bought and donated backpacks, notebooks, paper, pencils and pens, and other supplies and materials.

Participating AUSA members included retired Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew McFowler, chapter president; retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, executive vice president; and Wally Wallace, chapter treasurer.

Alongside members of the Sergeants Major Association, they hand-



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew McFowler, left, president of AUSA's Braxton Bragg chapter, assists with donations for the back-to-school drive. (AUSA PHOTO)

ed out 10% AAFES discount coupons to shoppers to help with the donation purchases.

"Big thanks to the chaplains' office and AAFES for hosting this important event and allowing the local associations to be a part of it," said retired Sgt. Maj. Shirley Draughn, the chapter's vice president for Education and Public Affairs.

"The associations enjoyed fellowshipping with the community Exchange patrons and thank them for helping raise a tremendous amount of school supplies that will have a

profound impact on teachers, schools and the learning experience of the students in the Fort Bragg district," she added.

Donations

Earlier in the year, leaders of the Braxton Bragg chapter delivered needed supplies to the Fayetteville Urban Ministry in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

McFowler and Spencer delivered the donations July 20 to the ministry's executive director, Johnny Wil-son.

Among the donations were box fans, canned goods and diapers.

The Fayetteville Urban Ministry is a nonprofit organization that has served the needs of thousands in the greater Fayetteville area for free for more than 40 years.

Its mission is "to show God's compassion for our neighbors in need, and thus build our community together," according to the organization's website.

McFowler also presented a check for \$350 to Bill Bauer, executive director of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, in early August.

The donation is for the association's educational fund and will be used to benefit service members' children.



McFowler, center left, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, center right, deliver donations to the Fayetteville Urban Ministry in Fayetteville, North Carolina. (AUSA PHOTO)



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