

The theme of the AUSA Annual Meeting reflects the message that readiness remains the Army's top priority, but modernization and reform follow closely behind. (U.S. ARMY GRAPHIC)

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'Ready Now, Investing in the Future'

merica's Army: Ready Now, Investing in the Future is the theme of the 2019 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition.

That is a message reflecting that readiness remains the Army's top priority, but modernization and reform follow closely behind.

The annual event, North America's largest land power exposition, will be held Oct. 14-16 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

It is expected to draw more than 30,000 people from more than 80 countries to see more than 700 exhibits and listen to more than 130 professional development programs.

The program for the meeting is still taking shape, but one of the highlights will be an opening ceremony speech on Monday, Oct. 14, by Acting Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy.

McCarthy was also the Army's senior civilian leader at the 2017 AUSA annual meeting.

The NCO and Soldier of the Year will be announced during a lunch on the first day.

Other highlights include the Tuesday Eisenhower Luncheon address by Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville.

This will be McConville's first big speech as Army chief of staff. The former vice chief of staff became the Army's top uniformed leader on Aug. 9.

Also in attendance will be the Army's new senior enlisted soldier. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston was sworn in alongside McConville.

The meeting will come to a close with a dinner on Wednesday night.

During the dinner, retired Gen. Martin E. Dempsey will receive the George Catlett Marshall Medal, which is AUSA's highest award for public service.

The Soldier of the Year and Eisenhower lunches and Marshall dinner are ticketed events.

Nine Contemporary Military Forums are planned over the three days.

Also on the schedule are military family discussions and professional development events for the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Department of the Army civilians, warrant officers, retirees and veterans.

There will also be opportunities to connect job hunters with employers and small businesses with acquisition officials.

A free concert by Gary Sinise & The Lt. Dan Band will be held Oct. 15.

The concert is open to all registered attendees.

Exhibits, spread over five convention center halls, will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. all three days.

The full program is still taking shape. For updates and more information, visit www.ausa.org/am.

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Army units prepare for deployments to Europe, Afghanistan

our major Army units, including the new 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade, are preparing to deploy this winter to support ongoing missions in Europe and Afghanistan, the Army has announced.

The two units gearing up for rotations in Europe are the 3rd Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Stewart, Georgia, and the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team from Fort Hood, Texas.

Once deployed, the soldiers will be in various locations throughout Europe to conduct multinational training and security cooperation activities with NATO allies and partners, U.S. Army Europe said in a statement.

The 2nd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division will replace the 1st BCT, 1st Infantry Division as part of the regular rotation.

The brigade will deploy with more than 3,500 soldiers and about 85 Abrams tanks, 135 Bradley fighting and fire support vehicles, 15 Paladins and other equipment, according to USAREUR.

The 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade will replace the 1st Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade.

The 3rd CAB's 1,700 soldiers will deploy with about 50 UH-60 and HH-60 Black Hawks, 10 CH-47 Chinooks, 20 AH-64 Apaches and about 2,000 pieces



Soldiers with the 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade conduct sling load training with the D30 Howitzer at Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

of support equipment, USAREUR said.

The two units tapped to support Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan are the 10th Mountain Division Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Drum, New York, and the 3rd SFAB, which was activated July 16 at Fort Hood.

The 10th CAB will replace the 1st Armored Division CAB as part of the regular rotation of forces, while the 3rd SFAB will replace the 2nd SFAB in Afghanistan.

With the recent activation of the 3rd SFAB, the Army is halfway to its goal of standing up six security force assis-

tance brigades, specialized units built to train and advise foreign forces.

The 1st SFAB, stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, has already completed a deployment to Afghanistan, while the 2nd SFAB, currently in Afghanistan, calls Fort Bragg, North Carolina, home.

Work is underway to stand up the 4th SFAB at Fort Carson, Colorado, and the 5th SFAB is to be based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

The sixth SFAB, which will be named the 54th SFAB, will be in the Army National Guard. Its units will be spread across six states.

New ILW paper: Army must adapt for megacity warfare

new report from the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare warns that the Army must pivot from irregular warfare and adapt its tactics, doctrine and training to meet the challenges of a new battlefield likely to be dominated by urban warfare.

In his report, "Urbanization and Megacities: Implications for the U.S. Army," author Jeremiah Rozman, an ILW national security analyst, writes that the Army must "organize, equip and train to fight and win" within the confines of an urban environment, in-

cluding megacities with populations of more than 10 million people.

Tactical operations in such an urban environment present a new set of challenges, including difficulty communicating between floors in high-rises and subterranean areas; seeing beyond obstacles and inside buildings and tunnels; vehicles, aircraft and dismounted soldiers needing to navigate in tight spaces; breaching equipment with capabilities for a variety of industrial materials; and soldier protection from multiple, sometimes obscure, angles, Rozman writes.

To continue to modernize, the Army must have predictable, stable funding and adapt its doctrine, training, leader development, materiel and resourcing to meet the challenges of megacities.

Rozman adds that the expertise in the Army's reserve components must also be leveraged to maximum effect.

"As the world urbanizes, megacities are becoming increasingly vital to national security and will likely be the decisive terrain in future conflict," Rozman writes.

Read the full paper by clicking here: https://bit.ly/2L4WLFg.

Operation Deploy Your Dress opens new location with AUSA support

By Patty Barron

he Association of the U.S. Army's Pikes Peak chapter, in collaboration with the AUSA Family Readiness directorate, was proud to team up with Operation Deploy Your Dress for the grand opening of the group's brick-and-mortar shop at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Operation Deploy Your Dress began when founders Renee Chapman, Ronya Rendon, Yvonne Coombes, Liz McKenrick and Melissa Riely decided to organize a dress swap to defray the costs associated with buying formal wear for holiday balls.

It wasn't long before the idea became an organization, run entirely by volunteers, that provides free evening wear to military members and spouses.

Through a partnership with the Mountain Post Spouses Club, Operation Deploy Your Dress was able to open its seventh shop since its founding in 2015.

Other locations include Fort Irwin, California, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Fort Stewart, Georgia, Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Eustis, Virginia.

The event at Fort Carson began with a "Sip and See" event, co-sponsored by the Pikes Peak chapter and AUSA national headquarters.

Family Readiness The evening reception allowed local military senior spouses and com-

munity leaders to get a first look at the gowns, suits, and accessories that came from all over the country.

The grand opening occurred the next day, Aug. 15, with two sessions—a morning session for members of the Mountain Post Spouses Club and an afternoon session for all military and dependent ID card holders.

"The event was awesome in every way. The amazing volunteers involved under Yvonne Coombes' leadership and vision, the incredible effort to



Operation Deploy Your Dress helps distribute formal attire to military and dependent ID cardholders. (AUSA PHOTOS)



get the 'shop' space renovated and ready, the effort involved in getting the dresses prepared and displayed, the obvious support from the senior spouses and community VIPs, and the atmosphere of excitement and fun each day," said Doug Harris, president of the Pikes Peak chapter.

"We also appreciated the superb support that Thea Green, AUSA Family Readiness program manager, provided during her trip here," Harris said. "Thea's presence and enthusiasm, not to mention hard work in getting display materials here and set up, added a special AUSA touch to the event."

For more information, click here: http://operationdeployyourdress.org/.

Patty Barron is AUSA's Family Readiness Director.

AUSAExtra

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Don't forget to use your discounts at Office Depot, OfficeMax, Apple, Dell and HP for your back-to-school shopping. Members may join Sam's Club (www.ausa.org/entertain) for \$24.88 (regular price is \$45). You'll receive a \$5 Sam's Club gift card and a \$20 entertainment credit that is used towards the cost of the membership. Access all member discount codes and links by logging in using your AUSA username and password. Visit us at www.ausa.org/savings.

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Army task force creates cutting-edge AI applications

he U.S. Army Artificial Intelligence Task Force, stood up less than a year ago, is working on several cutting-edge applications to assist with tasks ranging from aircraft maintenance to talent management.

The operational element of the task force, led by Col. Doug Matty, is located at Carnegie Mellon University's National Robotics Engineering Center in Pittsburgh.

"We were able to leverage existing relationships" through the Army Research Lab, Matty said, according to an Army News Service story.

The task force's location offers access to sensors, electro-mechanical devices and computing capabilities that enable the task force to quickly develop artificial intelligence for other applications, Matty said.

Five university staffers have formed an AI Hub to interface directly with the Army task force and reach out to



Josh Cauvel, program manager for the Artificial Intelligence Hub at Carnegie Mellon University, points out characteristics of CHIMP, a humanoid robot. (U.S. ARMY/GARY SHEFTICK)

other universities and industry partners, creating a network of researchers.

One of the jobs of the AI Hub is to facilitate smooth communication between universities and the Army, said Josh Cauvel, the hub's program manager.

"Army language doesn't always translate into academic," he said.

The task force has also been working closely with the Army's cross-functional teams and Army Futures Command to assess modernization initiatives for ways AI might help.

Additionally, Matty said, they are creating an entire "AI stack," to include doctrine, organizations and training.

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U.S. must step up investment in artificial intelligence

hina is investing in artificial intelligence at a "much, much faster pace" than the U.S. government, though it is not yet ahead, a prominent AI expert recently told Army intelligence planners.

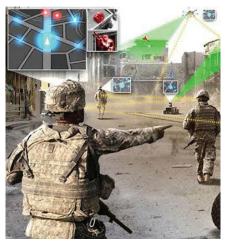
Tuomas Sandholm, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and a renowned expert on artificial intelligence, made his remarks at a lecture sponsored by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's intelligence division and the Association of the U.S. Army's Virginia Colonial chapter.

The Chinese government and its regional governments combined "are probably investing 100-to-1 in AI compared to the U.S. government," he said.

While the U.S. still has the lead, and there is a lot of technology China does

Virginia Colonial not yet have, the Chinese "are moving at a much, much faster pace, he said.

In 2009, when he began traveling to China, English was not even spoken at the only five-star hotel in Beijing, Sandholm said.



The U.S. government needs to invest more in AI to keep pace with China, Sandholm said. (U.S. ARMY GRAPHIC)

In 10 short years, as he has lectured at conferences and meetings around the world, he has watched the Chinese leap ahead in artificial intelligence.

"Now, they're submitting more papers to the top conferences and journals than any other country in the world. It is a very scary thing," Sandholm said at the July 23 lecture at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

He described witnessing "extreme

learning" during his lectures by audiences stacked with low-paid Chinese workers taking copious notes, recording with video cameras, and at dinners with questions submitted to him in English.

Sandholm also had some advice for the Army on how to work more closely with the technology industry, including how to choose the right people.

"There are a lot of people now who talk about AI, companies who talk about, 'Hey, we do AI.' It's hard to see who's real, but it's actually really easy," he said.

Start by consulting the H-Index, a public metrics system that measures the work and impact of specific authors and scientists rather than those of a publication.

Complement that information, he said, by looking at a scientist's track record, whose systems have been fielded and how long they have been running, "so it's not just, 'Oh, I fielded it and two years later it was discontinued and put on the shelf.' It's a track record, there's nothing better, because anybody can talk."

AUSA chapter event honors 'Soldiers of Excellence'

he Association of the U.S. Army's Braxton Bragg chapter hosted its annual Soldiers of Excellence Luncheon on Aug. 9 at the Crown Coliseum Ballroom in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

This year, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., was the keynote speaker.

Every year, the Army's Best Warrior Competition tests the knowledge and

Braxton Bragg

skills of soldiers and noncommissioned officers from

11 Army commands.

The Soldiers of Excellence Luncheon recognizes the accomplishments of those who did not win the highest level of the competition but are nonetheless outstanding, high-performing individuals.



At the luncheon are, left to right, Sen. Thom Tillis, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew McFowler, who is the Braxton Bragg chapter president, and retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, AUSA president and CEO. (AUSA PHOTO)

"The program recognizes those who have done excellently. It's an opportunity for the community to be involved and for the soldiers to be seen," said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, the chapter's executive vice president.

The soldiers' diligence and leader-

ship earned them recognition at the luncheon, Spencer said.

Retired Gen. Carter F. Ham, president and CEO of AUSA, also spoke at the event. He highlighted the local AUSA program as well as others across the country.

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