



Florida National Guard soldiers prepare Zodiac boats Tuesday in Tallahassee for potential search-and-rescue missions as Hurricane Idalia churned toward the state. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SPC. CHRISTIAN WILSON)

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 18
AUGUST 31, 2023

Maneuver Force Trains for Future Fight

3

AUSA Papers Focus on Military Thinking

4

Community Partner Challenge for Chapters

5

Book Program

UN Peacekeeping in Jerusalem

6

Chapter Highlights

Eagle Chapters

7

Hokanson on why Guard troops serve

Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the 29th chief of the National Guard Bureau, delivered an upbeat message to the force about why National Guard members and their missions are vitally important.

Speaking in Reno, Nevada, at the 2023 conference of the National Guard Association of the United States, Hokanson said it is worth stopping for a moment to recognize why men and women serve in the National Guard.

"We don't always talk about why—why we wear this uniform, why do we deploy our formations overseas, why do we train, why do we serve and why do we give up our most valuable asset, our time, for something greater than ourselves," Hokanson said.

The simple fact, he said, is the National Guard's missions—at home and

around the world—are important. "Your impact is bigger than you'd imagine," Hokanson said.

"We serve because there is a calling inside each and every one of us to really make a difference," he said. "We seek challenges, wanting to do more, learn more and be more. We are driven by an innate internal force to do something good."

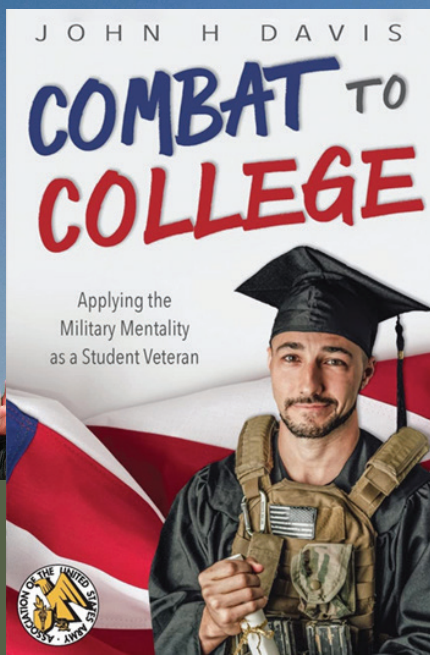
Hokanson added that a person's character "determines what you do when it counts the most. When faced with a crisis, some people freeze, unsure of what to do. Some people flee, running away from the danger. Some people fight back. A rare special few fight for the lives of others," he said.

"That's what being a Guardsman is all about," he said, citing countless times in the last year when National

Guard members have responded to help others.

"We all have reasons to serve. We have reasons we drill, reasons we train, reasons we leave our civilian jobs and our loved ones behind," Hokanson said. "We have reasons we strive and sacrifice, and reasons we wake up the next day and choose to do it all over again."

"We serve because this profession of arms offers untold opportunity to everybody ready to learn it," he said. "We serve because there is no better feeling than your family's arms around you when you return from deployment. We serve because at the end of the day, someone has to stand up and do the right things for our families, for our communities, for our nation and for our world."



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Infantry, armor units focused on training for future fight

A sense of urgency permeates the Maneuver Center of Excellence as it trains the Army's maneuver force for the next fight, the center's commander said.

"I fear that we're a miscalculation away from combat in both the theaters, and folks leaving Fort Moore have to be ready," said Maj. Gen. Curtis Buzzard, commanding general of the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Moore, formerly Fort Benning, Georgia. "We don't want to go that route, but the best way to deter is to be well-trained and well-equipped."

Speaking on a panel at the Association of the U.S. Army's 2023 Warfighter Summit and Exposition in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Buzzard said the Maneuver Center of Excellence is working closely with the Combined Arms Center and Army Futures Command to make sure it's delivering the right training to the Army's infantry and armor troops.

"It's not all about the materiel piece. Some of the changes, as we look toward the future, is doctrinal based, force design updates, training changes," Buzzard said.

These changes are even more critical as the Army prepares to bring online "a lot of new capabilities," Buzzard said, including the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle, the Next Generation Squad Weapon and the M10 Booker Combat Vehicle.

These are "a lot of important maneuver initiatives," but "they've got to be tied to how we fight," Buzzard said.

As the Maneuver Center of Excellence looks at how it's training the force, it must take into consideration the changing character and nature of war, Buzzard said. "There's a fundamental shift right now in the character of war," he said, citing the rise in manned and unmanned lethal fires, machine learning, robotics, artificial intelligence and an increasingly transparent battlefield.



Soldiers learn how to operate a Bradley Fighting Vehicle during One Station Unit Training earlier in August at Fort Moore, formerly Fort Benning, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

The proliferation of unmanned aerial systems and the need to operate safely in the electromagnetic spectrum are the two biggest challenges, Buzzard said. "For the last 20 years, I didn't have to look up, and I didn't have to worry about how long I keyed the hand mic," he said.

Now, soldiers must know how to defend against unmanned aerial systems at the tactical level. "Our soldiers can't just look and wonder what that is," Buzzard said. Instead, they must recognize the threat posed by these systems and that "an incredible amount of indirect fire is coming" and react accordingly, he said.

Soldiers also should be thinking about how they can employ unmanned aerial systems. "I want captains, lieutenants, flying them," Buzzard said. "Our soldiers are so creative and innovative when we give them this type of technology."

They also must be able to operate on a transparent battlefield, where the enemy can easily monitor their movements and locations. "We're not conditioned right now to operate ef-

fectively on the radio," Buzzard said. "Every time you key that hand mic, you're giving yourself away."

Are soldiers and units staying on the move? Are they using code words? "The last 20 years, we've probably learned some bad habits about operating in the electromagnetic spectrum," Buzzard said.

"We've got to really think about how we train all this," he said. "How do we train [Multi-Domain Operations]?"

The war in Ukraine has reinforced some "timeless lessons" about the fundamentals of fighting, Buzzard said. As an example, Russian forces struggled with combined arms operations, reinforcing the importance of making sure U.S. soldiers are trained on their bread-and-butter tasks, he said.

Amid all this change, war remains a brutal contest of wills, Buzzard said. "In the end, when all the technology fails and two people are staring at each other with guns, ours have to be better prepared ... to lead through adversity and complexity," he said.

AUSA paper series seeks to explore future warfare and military thinking



Master Sgt. Chris McNally, of the Michigan Army National Guard, teaches soldiers training to become drone instructors how to operate a reconnaissance drone Aug. 12 at Camp Grayling, Michigan. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/STAFF SGT. TEGAN KUCERA)

Future warfare and how the military thinks about it will be the focus of a new series of papers published by the Association of the U.S. Army.

The first paper in the series, “Western Military Thinking and Breaking Free from the Tetrarch of Modern Military Thinking,” is now available. It seeks to start a discussion on military thinking about the future of armed conflict by highlighting the differences among strategy, concepts, doctrine, plans and theory. It also will describe how institutional thinking is well represented in contemporary military thinking, but independent ideas are underrepresented.

The series “sets aside conventional wisdom, institutionally perpetuated myths and Futurist ideology, instead probing into the future from a Conflict Realist perspective,” according to series author Lt. Col. Amos Fox, a doctoral candidate at the University of Reading and a freelance writer and conflict scholar writing for AUSA.

Fox, whose research and writing focus on the theory of war and warfare, proxy war, future armed conflict, urban warfare, armored war-

fare and the Russo-Ukrainian War, has been published in *RUSI Journal* and *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, among many other publications.

The first paper in the series is available here.

In the second article, Fox will explore the top myths in military thinking and how they contribute to what he describes as “cognitive stagnation” in military thought. Next, he will begin to delve into the ideas of future armed conflict, including ways to optimize the battlefield to account for systems such as drones, sensors and long-range fires.

The fourth paper in the series will examine the future of force structure and force design, along with some recommendations to address further future operational and tactical military challenges.

Finally, the fifth paper will provide a full history of future war and examine how the U.S. military and its Western partners must be prepared to address future competitors on a technology-rich battlefield.

Publication dates for the remaining four papers have not been set.

Read the first paper here.

AUSAExtra

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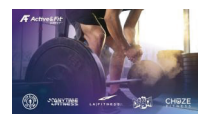
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Chapter challenge aims to grow AUSA Community Partners

As part of its Community Partner program, the Association of the U.S. Army is sponsoring a yearlong recruiting challenge for its 121 chapters.

The monthly challenge, which kicked off in July, aims to encourage AUSA chapters to recruit or renew more Community Partners. It is designed to boost partner engagement and encourage chapters to connect with local businesses.

“Community Partners are important to AUSA chapters, and revitalizing the Community Partner program is an ongoing focus for the association,” said Angela Quidley, AUSA’s business development manager for Community Partners.

There are five award groups, based on chapters’ overall membership size. The winning chapter in each category receives \$500 and five

points toward Best Chapter. AUSA also is awarding five points to the second and third place chapters in each group.

The following chapters are the winners of the Community Partner Challenge for July:

- George Washington—Award Group 1
- Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon—Award Group 2
- GA Omar N. Bradley—Award Group 3
- Rock Island Arsenal—Award Group 4
- Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge—Award Group 5

Chapters placing second and third in their award group for the month of July—with some finishing in a tie—include Redstone-Huntsville, Central Texas, Fort Novosel-Wiregrass, Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri,

Fort Knox, Northern New York-Fort Drum, Arizona Territorial, Capital District of New York and Henry Leavenworth.

The Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley, Las Vegas-John C. Fremont, National Training Center-High Desert, Central California, Thunderbird, Tucson-Goyette, MG William F. Dean, Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge, Rhode Island, Stuttgart and Hellenic chapters also placed second or third.

Winners of each month’s competition will be announced in *AUSA Extra*.

“Each month is a new opportunity to win, and we look forward to recognizing our outstanding chapters for their efforts,” Quidley said.

Chapters needing assistance with their Community Partners can contact Quidley at aquidley@ausa.org.

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Author details UN peacekeeping assignment in Israel

The American public is often unaware of the broad range of missions tackled by the Army. As one example, U.S. forces partner with the United Nations for peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations across the globe.

While these missions are commonly overlooked due to a natural focus on using military force to achieve victory in war, history has demonstrated the importance of winning the peace.

Book Program

The newest title in the Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program gives a first-hand account of one such mission. In *Yanks in Blue Berets: American UN Peacekeepers in the Middle East*, retired Col. L. Scott Lingamfelter details his Army assignment as a military observer in Jerusalem in the early 1980s during a time of heightened Arab-Israeli tensions.

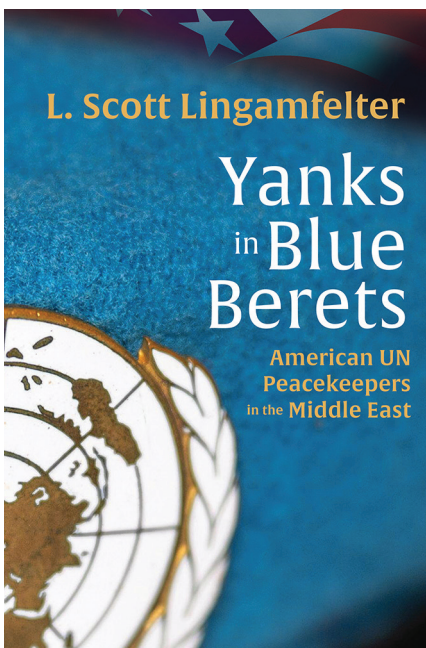
The Book Program sat down with Lingamfelter to talk about, in his words, "a warrior's book about peace."

AUSA: How were you selected to serve in the U.N. peacekeeping operation?

Lingamfelter: It was actually serendipitous. The Army sent me to the University of Virginia to earn a master's degree in Middle East and Soviet studies with a follow-on assignment to Iran. But in the middle of my studies, Iran "changed management" during its 1979 revolution. I was diverted to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Jerusalem.

AUSA: What prepared you for the dramatic change in roles, going from combat officer to peacekeeper?

Lingamfelter: Nothing. There was no training in peacekeeping in the Army then, and UNTSO offered rudimentary training, driver and equipment familiarization, and regulations. Nothing in conflict resolution or peacekeeping.



The best training we received was from U.N. military observers who had been there a while and taught us the ropes. That kept us alive.

AUSA: I was surprised that families were encouraged to accompany those sent to the region. What did your wife think of the experience?

Lingamfelter: We were both thrilled. I had just completed my Middle East studies, and Shelley was



A U.N. peacekeeper from the U.S. Army's 728th Military Police Battalion practices patrolling techniques during the multinational exercise Shanti Doot 4 in Bangladesh. (MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. ADAM MONTERA)

working on her Ph.D. in education. The chance to see Israeli and Arab schools interested her. She would live in relative safety in Jerusalem when I would pull duty in southern Lebanon that we referred to as "the Wild West without a good saloon."

Whenever I said goodbye to her, I hoped it really wasn't a last goodbye.

AUSA: You certainly faced your share of dangers. Do you think the signs of being unarmed observers—the blue berets, the U.N. vehicle markings—kept you safe or made you a target?

Lingamfelter: In the book, I wrote, "We in UNTSO had only the protection of our blue berets and our wits, the former useless in deflecting bullets, the latter vital in avoiding them." We relied on our instincts and our wits to survive. We were warriors who were sentinels of peace for a season. But being an unarmed military observer was dangerous business.

AUSA: What lessons learned would you share with the Army for future peacekeeping efforts?

Lingamfelter: To be sure, the parties of the conflict must buy into the peace regimen. Additionally, any peacekeeping operation must be planned in detail. You can't rush into a war zone similar to southern Lebanon like an ambulance answering an emergency call down the street. It takes planning, organization, trained soldiers, a clear mandate and the will of the international community to attain peace.

Think about Ukraine. Are we thinking ahead? I see nothing that suggests we are. We are totally unprepared to assist in implementing a peace, and our leaders should harvest the lessons in *Yanks*. You always go forward best by going back first.

To order a copy of *Yanks in Blue Berets*, visit www.ausa.org/books.

Joseph Craig is AUSA's Book Program director.

Eagle Chapters

The following chapters attained Eagle status for July by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1, 2023, is shown in parentheses.

Allegheny-Blue Ridge (1)	Fort Sheridan-Chicago (1)	National Training Center-High Desert (1)
Arizona Territorial (1)	Francis Scott Key (1)	Newton D. Baker (1)
Arkansas (1)	Gem State (1)	North Texas-Audie Murphy (1)
Arsenal of Democracy (1)	GEN Creighton W. Abrams (1)	PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (1)
Benelux (1)	GEN John W. Vessey, Jr. (1)	Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (1)
Capital District of New York (1)	George Washington (1)	Puerto Rico (1)
Central California (1)	Greater Atlanta (1)	Rhode Island (1)
Central Ohio (1)	Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (1)	San Diego (1)
Central Texas (1)	Greater Philadelphia (Penn & Franklin) (1)	Silicon Valley (1)
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Moore (1)	Hellenic (1)	Stuttgart (1)
CPL Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (1)	Henry Leavenworth (1)	Suncoast (1)
Delaware (1)	Houston Metroplex (1)	Texas Capital Area (1)
Denver Centennial (1)	Indiana (1)	Thunderbird (1)
Des Moines Freedom (1)	Isthmian (1)	Tobyhanna Army Depot (1)
Dix (1)	Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (1)	Tri-State (1)
First In Battle (1)	Last Frontier (1)	Virginia Colonial (1)
First Militia (1)	Magnolia (1)	West Point Area (1)
Florida Gulf Stream (1)	Major Samuel Woodfill (1)	Western New York (1)
Fort Knox (1)	Massachusetts Bay (1)	
Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (1)	MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (1)	
Fort Liberty (1)	MG William F. Dean (1)	
Fort Pitt (1)	Milwaukee (1)	
Fort Riley-Central Kansas (1)	Minutemen (1)	
Fort Novosel-Wiregrass (1)		



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