



The Army is looking to Congress for steady, predictable funding as it moves forward with several key modernization efforts. (U.S. ARMY/JOHN MARTINEZ)

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Budget delays would slow modernization

Armey leaders are concerned that delayed passage of the fiscal year 2020 defense budget could cause them to lose momentum on vital modernization programs.

Congress returns Monday from its summer break with just three weeks to pass defense policy and funding bills before the start of the fiscal year.

Even short-term delays could interfere with Army development and prototyping plans.

Longer delays could put the Army's roadmap for modest growth in direct competition with the expensive modernization proposals of the other services, Army leaders said.

"We have a great deal of momentum at this point in time," said acting Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, who

could be formally nominated for the Army secretary post when Congress returns. "We are heading into an environment where it will be probably flat, at best, for budgets, so the pressure is on us to deliver, to put points on the board."

If the Army is slow to show progress, it could lose money to the other services, which have their own unfunded priorities, McCarthy said, citing the F-35 fighter and Ohio-class submarine as examples.

"We are rooting for these folks. We want them to be successful," McCarthy said of the Air Force and Navy programs.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville said a lapse in funding or the stop-gap spending bills Congress

often passes to keep the government running while work on the budget continues would hurt the Army, especially its efforts to rapidly modernize.

"It hurts," McConville said. "We do not want to lose any momentum on what we are doing."

His comments came during a discussion on gains made over the previous two years in improving readiness and how the Army was on the verge of important leaps ahead in capabilities.

"We are in a good place in the United States Army right now. We are trending up. We've recovered, and we are working on readiness," he said. "We are on the mend right now, and we've had great support from Congress. We just don't want that to slow down."

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**ASSOCIATION OF THE
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Army transformation requires long-term commitment

Change can be challenging, but the Army must remain committed, flexible and focused in order to successfully transform for the future fight, a new report by the Heritage Foundation says.

“Rebuilding America’s Military Project: The United States Army” shares key recommendations for the Army as it undergoes an ambitious campaign to modernize amid a rise in great-power competition after almost two decades of counterinsurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army’s efforts to modernize the force are based on six priorities: long-range precision fires, next-generation combat vehicles, future vertical lift, the network, air and missile defense, and soldier lethality.

To fulfill those priorities, the Army created U.S. Army Futures Command, a new four-star command focused on streamlining the service’s efforts so that it can quickly and efficiently deliver much needed capabilities to soldiers.

Senior Army leaders also have poured money into these modernization priorities, reallocating more than \$40 billion over the next five years from lower priority programs.

But as the Army continues to modernize, the Heritage Foundation report calls on the service to remain flexible enough to deal with unforeseen challenges, including preserving hard-learned counterinsurgency capabilities.



“The new National Defense Strategy’s focus on great-power competition is helpful, but it should not be interpreted to exclude other regional or counterinsurgency challenges,” the report says. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JEREMIAH WOODS)

“The new National Defense Strategy’s focus on great-power competition is helpful, but it should not be interpreted to exclude other regional or counterinsurgency challenges,” the report says.

The Army’s focus, the report says, should be on enabling its own operational concepts, rather than trying to exceed investments by potential adversaries.

It also should take the challenge of urban warfare seriously, promote critical thinking and avoid so-called “groupthink,” free Futures Command

from near-term modernization capabilities so it can focus on the mid- and long-term challenges, and continue to grow the Army.

“The Army is making a concerted effort to change to meet the future,” the report says. “... Current leaders are dedicating an extraordinary amount of time to this challenge. Time has shown, however, that such efforts must be sustained over the tenures of a succession of key leaders to achieve success.”

Read the full report online at <https://herit.ag/2lw5VkY>.

Budget

From Page 1

This isn’t the first potential budget crisis the Army has faced.

The normal practice for Congress is to pass a continuing resolution that allows federal agencies to continue spending at current levels.

In addition to providing no immediate budget increase, new program starts and major changes usually are prohibited under a continuing resolution.

The interruption in programs concerns McConville.

“It just takes the momentum out of everything everyone is doing,” he said.

McCarthy said the Army would be able to manage a short delay in 2020 funding if Congress needs time to work out all of the details of the 2020 and 2021 budget deal, “but for that not to get a table slap by mid-fall brings concerns to the department.”

In 2020 and 2021, the Army will

need funding to pay for low-rate initial production of some newly developed systems.

“If you don’t get a budget deal, it is going to slide,” he said, interfering with careful synchronization of programs with industry.

“The Greek tragedy here is we are in lockstep for what we want. We have focus about what we want,” he said. “We are working very hard to lock in requirements and stay consistent.”

Defense budget needs loom as Congress returns to Washington



The Association of the U.S. Army's advocacy priorities include supporting the Army's No. 1 priority, which is continuing to improve readiness. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. RYAN LUCAS)

By Mark Haaland

Congress returns on Monday with a full slate of appropriation bills to pass.

The House has passed its defense, military construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations, but the Senate has not yet marked any of its bills.

With 14 legislative days remaining before the new fiscal year begins, Congress has much work to accomplish.

Given the limited time remaining this fiscal year, we understand the appropriations committees are considering a continuing resolution to keep the government operating initially in fiscal year 2020 and allow them more time to complete the 12 annual appropriations bills.

Fortunately, Congress and the administration were able to reach a budget agreement for fiscal 2020 and 2021 just before the August recess.

This agreement gives the appropriations committees the funding levels they need to work with in their bills.

The era of budget caps and the threat of sequestration are now behind us.

Lawmakers' success in passing the two-year bipartisan budget deal will hopefully set a course for funding the

government without the fiscal brinkmanship of recent years.

This should also allow the White House and Congress to get through the 2020 national elections without a government shutdown.

The budget deal raises spending \$320 billion over current levels and lifts the debt ceiling for two years.

As a short review from our previous update, the House and Senate have both passed their versions of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Their staffs continue working and negotiating to reach an agreement on the differences between the two measures before the senators and representatives meet and conference the legislation.

The Association of the U.S. Army's advocacy priorities for both the NDAA and the appropriations bills include supporting the Army's No. 1 priority, which is continuing to improve readiness for the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

Second, AUSA continues advocating for Army modernization.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs Director.

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Podcasts highlight deployments, talent management

The Association of the U.S. Army has five new podcast episodes for September, including a discussion about standards and discipline and an overview of the Army's talent management efforts.

The first September podcast in the "Army Matters" series is a discussion with retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch about standards and discipline and how they keep soldiers alive and focused on the mission.

Preston and Welch are of AUSA's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate. The podcast was available Sept. 2.

The Sept. 9 podcast will feature soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The Fort Hood, Texas, soldiers will discuss their upcoming deployment to Poland in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve and AUSA's partnership



with the brigade with the goal of providing a supporting relationship before, during and after the deployment.

In the next episode, a retired Army officer shares his personal story of dealing with alcohol while in the military, including how to help a loved one dealing with addiction and how soldiers can find help through Alcoholics Anonymous.

It will be available Sept. 16.

Next up is an episode, available Sept. 23, featuring Maj. Gen. J.P. McGee, director of the Army Talent Management Task Force.

The discussion will focus on the changes the Army is making to its industrial age personnel system to best leverage the knowledge, skills, behaviors and preferences of its officers and noncommissioned officers.

September also will include a special edition episode featuring Lt. Gen. Eric Wesley, director of the Futures and Concepts Center and deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Futures Command.

In the episode, Wesley describes how the Army is responding to the re-emergence of long-term strategic competition with Russia and China, and how the U.S. military and its allies will overcome the problem of layered standoff and anti-access area denial capabilities.

The episode is available Sept. 30.

Full details are available online at <https://podcast.ausa.org>.



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ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2019 MEETINGS & EVENTS



HOT TOPIC: ARMY AVIATION

ARLINGTON, VA

September 5, 2019



HOT TOPIC: ARMY CYBER + NETWORKS

ARLINGTON, VA

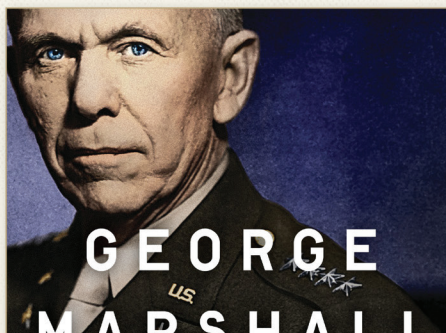
September 16, 2019



ILW BREAKFAST SERIES – LTG JAMES F. PASQUARETTE

ARLINGTON, VA

September 18, 2019



GEORGE MARSHALL ILW LEMNITZER LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING – DAVID L. ROLL

ARLINGTON, VA

September 23, 2019



ILW ROGERS STRATEGIC ISSUES FORUM – ADM CRAIG S. FALLER

ARLINGTON, VA

September 30, 2019



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Membership in AUSA offers many educational benefits

By Susan Rubel

Now that school is back in session, this is a good time to remind you of the education-related benefits and opportunities available through your Association of the U.S. Army membership.

SAT, ACT prep

Prepare for the SAT and ACT with the PowerPrep program.

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For more information, click here: www.ausa.org/gradifi.

Go to www.ausa.org/savings to access all your member savings.

Susan Rubel is AUSA's Affinity Programs Director.

AUSA chapter brings Vietnam memorial to New York

Recent visitors to the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site in New York were able to pay tribute to the men and women who served in Vietnam thanks to the Northern New York-Fort Drum chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

From Aug. 23-25, the chapter sponsored The Moving Wall, a portable, traveling version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The memorial honors the more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives during the war or remain missing.

"I think it's going to impact the community in a lot of different ways," said Tina Thornton, the AUSA chapter board member who solicited The Moving Wall's visit.

The Moving Wall was created in 1984 and funded through public and personal contributions.

It is transported around the country on a single truck.

"Obviously, we have veterans in our community. It's going to impact them differently than maybe someone who has never seen the Wall. Once they see it and they see the meaning behind it, I think it will be emotional and real for everyone," said Thornton, according to a press release from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum.

Northern New York-Fort Drum



AUSA volunteers and soldiers from the 41st Engineer Battalion unload and assemble The Moving Wall in Sackets Harbor, New York. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. PAIGE BEHRINGER)

Motorcyclists with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association escorted The Moving Wall truck, and AUSA volunteers and an honor guard from the 41st Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, were waiting to render honors as it arrived.

Soldiers from the 41st Engineer Battalion, alongside AUSA members, assembled The Moving Wall's 70 panels, and it remained on-site for almost four days and was open to the public around the clock.

AUSA members and soldiers manned rotating shifts throughout

the weekend, maintaining a guard presence and helping visitors find names on the nearly 253-foot wall.

There also was a memorial ceremony featuring an invocation and benediction from Joseph Sesito, a retired Navy captain and Vietnam veteran, and remarks from Michelle Capone, the Northern New York-Fort Drum chapter president.

"We had a lot of moving parts," Thornton said. "The village of Sackets Harbor has been amazing support for us ... and they have offered just about everything that they can to support the event. They have been an amazing community to work with."

Chapter helps collect school supplies for local students

In August, the Association of the U.S. Army's Braxton Bragg chapter partnered with the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to collect and deliver school supplies to Fort Bragg students.

Larry Hall, secretary of the department, was joined last week by retired Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew McFowler, president of the Braxton Bragg chapter, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, the chapter's

executive vice president, to deliver some of the supplies to Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

"As a member of one of the largest chapters in the country, supporting soldiers and their families is one of the main goals of our chapter and we are grateful for this opportunity," McFowler said.

Officials said the school supply drive, sponsored by Gov. Roy Cooper, was held July 29 to Aug. 16 to address

the need for school supplies in classrooms across North Carolina.

The annual drive was held in partnership with cabinet agencies, the North Carolina Business Committee for Education, State Employees Credit Union, Communities in Schools of North Carolina, and Long Beverage, a local business.

Crockett Long, owner of Long Beverage and a lifelong veteran advocate, said the company considered it "an honor to be part of the effort."

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