



Soldiers, AUSA members, defense industry representatives and more gather at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center for the 2022 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

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AUSA 2023 theme: 'Be All You Can Be'

With a theme of "Be All You Can Be," the Association of the U.S. Army's 2023 Annual Meeting and Exposition will highlight how the Army is innovating and adapting to operate in an evolving and complex world.

From recruiting, retention and talent management, to training and equipping the force for a multidomain fight, the Army is focused on transforming for 2030 and beyond.

During the annual meeting, Oct. 9–11 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., the Army's vision for the future will be discussed during keynote addresses by senior leaders, a range of contemporary military forums and Warriors Corner and Innovators Corner presentations.

There also will be more than 650 exhibits spread over five halls and several award presentations, including the winners of the Best Squad Competition, the NCO and Soldier of the Year and the Marshall Medal, AUSA's highest award for selfless service to the country.

Attendance at the annual meeting is free, but registration is required. Some seated events require separate reservations and may have a fee.

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

The annual meeting's opening ceremony will feature a keynote address from Army Secretary Christine Wormuth. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George, who has been nominated to be the next Army chief of staff, is expected to provide

the keynote during the Eisenhower luncheon, and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer, who became the Army's senior enlisted soldier on Aug. 4, will host a forum and speak at various events.

The Army is in the middle of its biggest transformation in 40 years, and is simultaneously working to maintain its present-day readiness, with soldiers in high demand at home and overseas, while struggling with one of the worst recruiting environments in the last half-century.

"The Army does an incredible amount of work all around the world to defend this nation," Wormuth said. "We are as busy today, almost, as we were during the years of the global war on terror. We can't afford to get too small."



AUSA 2023

ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

9-11 OCTOBER | WASHINGTON, DC

SPECIAL EVENT TICKETS

	EVENT	MEMBER PRICING*	NON-MEMBER PRICING**
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	President's Reception	\$75	\$90
10 OCT TUESDAY	Dwight D. Eisenhower Luncheon	\$90	\$110
	Guard and Reserve Reception	\$55	\$75
11 OCT WEDNESDAY	George Catlett Marshall Memorial Reception & Dinner	\$140	\$165

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*Member Pricing: AUSA Premium Members (individual, life, honorary), Community Partner Members, National Partner Members

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QUESTIONS? AnnualMeetingOperations@ausa.org

Army aviator, Vietnam hero receives Medal of Honor

More than 55 years after a harrowing rescue in Vietnam, former Army aviator Capt. Larry Taylor received the Medal of Honor during a ceremony Tuesday at the White House.

In June 1968 near Ap Go Cong, Vietnam, Taylor, flying an AH-1 Cobra gunship, repeatedly braved enemy fire to rescue a four-man long-range reconnaissance patrol team that was surrounded by a much larger enemy force. Taylor “refused to give up, refused to leave a fellow American behind, refused to put his own life above the lives of others in need,” President Joe Biden said during the ceremony.

“When duty called, Larry did everything to answer, and because of that, he rewrote the fate of four families for generations to come,” Biden said. “That’s valor. That’s our nation at our very best.”

A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Taylor was a first lieutenant and a team leader of a helicopter light-fire team with D Troop (Air), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division,



Former Capt. Larry Taylor receives the Medal of Honor from President Joe Biden during a ceremony Tuesday at the White House. (DoD PHOTO)

on June 18, 1968. The soldiers were deployed to support a long-range reconnaissance patrol near the hamlet of Ap Go Cong.

“It was pitch black ... no light beyond the glow of Lt. Taylor’s cockpit controls, when he heard a whisper coming through his radio, ‘We’re surrounded,’” Biden said.

The four-man team had set out earlier in the day on a reconnaissance mission, but “in the dark, the men had found themselves in the middle of a Viet Cong stronghold,” surrounded by nearly 100 enemy soldiers, Biden said.

Taylor and his wingman raced toward the team. The soldiers were trapped “in the middle of a rice paddy larger than a football stadium, surrounded by a reinforced company of North Vietnamese,” Taylor told Freedom Sings USA, a Chattanooga-based nonprofit that pairs professional songwriters with veterans, service members and their families to help tell their stories through song.

Taylor radioed the patrol team, asking the four soldiers to mark their location with flares, according to the White House. “The flare went up, and the fight was on,” Biden said. Enemy fire lit up the night, and the Cobras flew “dangerously low” for nearly half an hour, he said.

Using the illumination as a reference point, Taylor and his wingman

strafed the enemy with miniguns and aerial rockets. “Then Lt. Taylor heard a sound that only meant one thing—his helo was hit,” Biden said. “And it was hit again and again and again.”

With both helicopters nearly out of ammunition and the enemy still closing in, Taylor learned that a plan to rescue the soldiers with a UH-1 Huey helicopter had been canceled because it was deemed too dangerous. “Taylor decided to extract the team using his two-man Cobra helicopter, a feat that had never been accomplished or even attempted,” according to the White House.

Taylor directed his wingman to fire his remaining minigun rounds along the eastern flank of the patrol team and return to base camp. Taylor then fired his own minigun along the team’s western flank, using his Cobra’s landing lights to draw the enemy’s attention while the patrol team moved to a nearby extraction point.

“Taylor landed his Cobra under heavy enemy fire and with complete disregard for his personal safety,” according to the White House. The team climbed aboard, grabbing on to rocket pods and skids, and Taylor flew them to safety.

David Hill was one of the men Taylor saved. “Hell, we were dead,” Hill said, according to *Stars and Stripes*. “The fortunes of war had turned against us that night.”

Taylor said he was just doing his job, according to *Stars and Stripes*. “I knew that if I did not go down and get them, they would not make it.”

Taylor flew more than 2,000 combat missions and was awarded 61 combat decorations, including the Silver Star for his actions to save the patrol team, 43 Air Medals, a Bronze Star and two Distinguished Flying Crosses, according to the Army.

“I’d flown thousands of missions in Vietnam and saved countless lives, but none had meant so much to me as the four I’d saved that night,” Taylor said, according to Freedom Sings.

ARMY magazine September issue



AUSA Basic Members can now view a selection of articles from the September issue of *ARMY* magazine. To read the articles, click [here](#).

Army pilot program expands child care options for Reserve families



Lt. Gen. Kevin Vereen, upper left corner, deputy Army chief of staff for installations, G-9, visits with preschoolers at the Clarkmoor Child Care Development Center during a visit to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. (U.S. ARMY/PAMELA SLEEZER)

The Army is launching a new pilot program that aims to improve access to child care for Army Reserve soldiers and their families, the service announced.

“The Army recognizes the impact that child care has on the lives of our soldiers and their families,” Lt. Gen. Kevin Vereen, deputy Army chief of staff for installations, G-9, said in an Army news release. “Through increased initiatives to identify and secure accessible and affordable child care options, we enable our military parents to fulfill their responsibilities without sacrificing the well-being of their children.”

The pilot program operates through a partnership between Army installations and local governments, according to the news release. It will be tested in West Liberty, Iowa, and Clay County, Missouri, using the WeeCare Company, a child care network that enables users to find licensed, local child care providers through “an advanced matching algorithm,” the news release said.

Improving access to quality child care is one of the Army’s top quality-of-life initiatives. Service leaders

have worked to also improve housing, spouse employment, permanent change-of-station moves and health care, and the service recently extended the Army Quality of Life Task Force.

“To realize the Army of 2030, we also have to make sure our Army families have access to quality child care—I know how important this is as a mom myself. I know how hard it can be to find, and how expensive it can be when you find it,” Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said during the Association of the U.S. Army’s 2022 Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Partnerships between the Army and local communities, like the child care pilot, are important, leaders said. “Shaping the Army Reserve of the future requires the support of both military and community leaders,” Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the Army Reserve Command, said in the news release. “We are grateful to the organizations participating in this unprecedented partnership for providing trusted, accessible, weekend child care to our soldiers and their families.”

AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier*

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PERK OF THE WEEK

AUSA members can save up to 100% on veterinary expenses through MetLife Pet Insurance. Choose any licensed veterinarian, specialist or emergency clinic in the U.S. Save even more if you’ve served by combining your AUSA discount with your military discount. For more information, visit <https://ausacoverage.com/PetInsurance>.



Iraq War hero Alwyn Cashe featured in graphic novel

Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe, who ignored his own wounds and repeatedly entered a burning vehicle to save his soldiers, is the focus of the latest graphic novel in the Association of the U.S. Army's series on recipients of the nation's highest award for valor.

Medal of Honor: Alwyn Cashe tells of the infantryman's actions on Oct. 17, 2005, when his Bradley Fighting Vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb near Samarra, Iraq. Cashe suffered terrible burns, but he kept returning to the burning vehicle to rescue his soldiers.

Cashe pulled six soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter from the wreckage and made sure everyone was taken care of before agreeing to be evacuated. Suffering burns on more than 70% of his body, Cashe died three weeks later.

"I've been wanting to tell this story for years. Alwyn Cashe's actions were extraordinarily heroic, and I am glad he received the recognition he is due," said Joseph Craig, director of AUSA's Book Program. "I'm also glad we had such a talented team to put this book together."

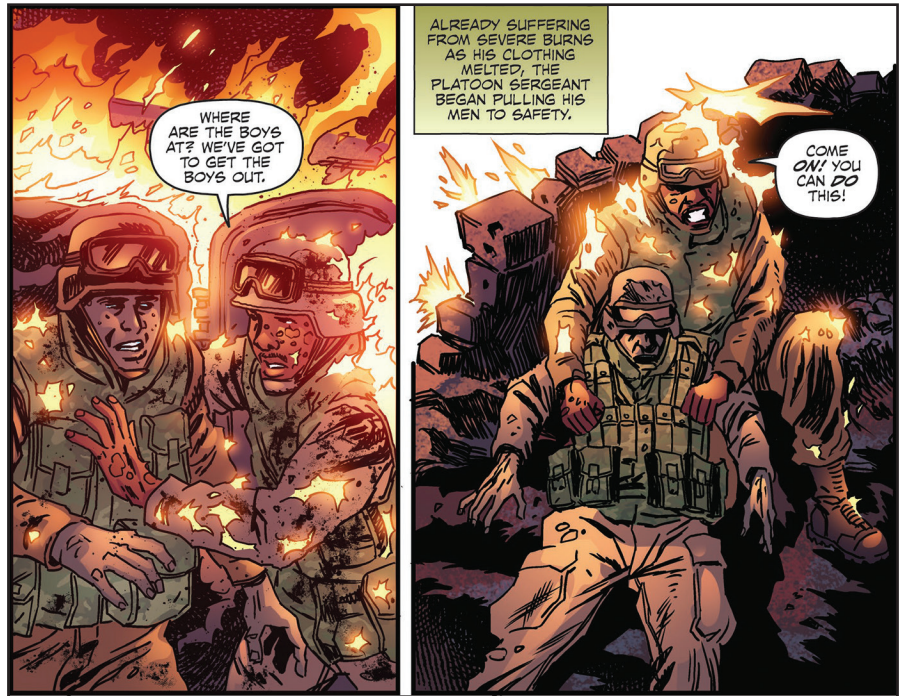
Medal of Honor: Alwyn Cashe is available here.

AUSA launched its Medal of Honor graphic novel series in October 2018. This is the 20th novel in the series. A paperback collection of the four issues produced this year is scheduled for release in the fall.

The digital graphic novels are available here.

A native of Oviedo, Florida, Cashe joined the Army in 1989. He served in South Korea, Germany and at installations across the U.S. and deployed in support of the Gulf War in 1991 before becoming a drill sergeant at Fort Benning, now known as Fort Moore, Georgia.

He participated in the 2003 invasion of Iraq and deployed there again in 2005 as a platoon sergeant in the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Battalion,



15th Infantry Regiment.

On Oct. 17, 2005, Cashe and his soldiers were on a nighttime patrol near Samarra when his Bradley Fighting Vehicle came under enemy fire and was hit by a roadside bomb. The blast tore into the vehicle's fuel cell, causing it to burst into flames.

Drenched in fuel, Cashe escaped through a front hatch. His uniform began to burn as he and another soldier pulled the Bradley's driver to safety. Already suffering from severe burns, Cashe refused to stop, moving back to the Bradley's troop compartment to help his soldiers trapped inside, according to his Medal of Honor citation.

Ignoring the pain and the incoming enemy fire, Cashe opened the troop door and helped four of his soldiers to safety. When he noticed that two other soldiers had not been accounted for, he went back to the burning Bradley to get them.

"Despite the severe second- and third-degree burns covering the majority of his body, Cashe persevered through the pain to encourage his fellow soldiers and ensured they re-

ceived needed medical care," the citation says.

Cashe died Nov. 8, 2005, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. He was 35.

While he was quickly awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest award for valor, there was a long campaign to have his award upgraded after the extent of his actions became known.

On Dec. 16, 2021, Cashe posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Each AUSA graphic novel is created by a team of professional comic book veterans. The script for the graphic novel on Cashe was written by Chuck Dixon, whose previous work includes *Batman*, *The Punisher* and *The 'Nam*.

Pencils and inks were by PJ Holden, a veteran of *Judge Dredd*, *Battlefields* and *World of Tanks*; colors were by Peter Pantazis, who previously worked on *Justice League*, *Superman* and *Black Panther*; and the lettering was by Troy Peteri, who has worked on *Spider-Man*, *Iron Man* and *X-Men*.

Stopgap funding measures threaten military readiness

The next few weeks will be busy on Capitol Hill, and the situation, as ever, is fluid for a variety of reasons.

The Senate returned this week from the August recess, and the House of Representatives is expected to return next week. Much work remains on the appropriations process before fiscal 2023 ends on Sept. 30.

Both the Senate and the House are expected to take up appropriations legislation in the coming weeks.

Government Affairs

However, it is likely that a continuing resolution, a stopgap measure that funds the government at current levels, will be required to avert a government shutdown.

The Association of the U.S. Army's Government Affairs team continues to advocate for immediate passage of increased funding for Army priorities, DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Swift enactment of these bills will ensure that our soldiers, their families and our veterans receive the resources and benefits they require and have earned.

We also advocate for passage of all 12 appropriations bills, as a strong national defense begins at home, and national security requires a whole-of-government approach.

On Aug. 30, AUSA joined with five other military associations to advocate for increased funding for



Sgt. Adrian Saltos, left, an Avenger team chief with the Florida Army National Guard, explains the functions of the FIM-92 Stinger missile system to Betsy Bina, a majority clerk with the House Appropriations Committee staff, during a congressional staff delegation tour Aug. 31 at Camp Adazi, Latvia. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. OSCAR GOLLAZ)

national security priorities. Passing fiscal 2024 appropriations “will provide the predictability and resources commensurate with the demonstrated need and the urgency that our national security challenges require, and our veterans have earned,” says the letter signed by retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO,

and leaders of the other like-minded associations.

Lawmakers also must pass the National Defense Authorization Act to provide policy and program direction to the armed forces. The timing of that critical legislation remains to be seen, and there are significant differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. We remain hopeful that the NDAA will become law before the new year.

You can help build momentum for passage of these critical pieces of legislation by contacting your representatives and senators and encouraging them to pass full-year appropriations for the government.

We will continue to monitor these developments closely as we advocate for the Total Army with Congress.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs director.



AUSA continues to advocate to ensure that soldiers, their families and veterans receive the resources and benefits they require. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

Members can save on an array of products and services

While the Association of the U.S. Army is a nonprofit organization that provides education and professional development opportunities, we also want your membership to provide you with additional value.

That's why AUSA partners with companies to offer you products and services at discounts that should be above and beyond what you can find on your own. We also require these

Member Benefits

companies to give back to AUSA initiatives such as scholarships,

family support and NCO and soldier programs. It's win-win-win—you get great savings, AUSA programs get funding and the partner sees additional business.

Please review and take advantage of the many discounts offered at www.ausa.org/savings.

Here are some examples:

Soldier Fuel

Designed for hard chargers, the Soldier Fuel energy drink has no sugar, 200% of the recommended daily allowance of four key B vitamins and 116 mg of caffeine plus taurine.

Studies suggest that taurine supplementation might improve athletic



AUSA members can save 15% on Soldier Fuel energy drinks. (COURTESY PHOTO)



You can use your AUSA membership discounts on a variety of fitness and health services. (U.S. ARMY/DAN AMBURG)

performance, and that taurine combined with caffeine improves mental performance, according to the company.

Soldier Fuel dedicates 15% of its profits to pro-veteran organizations like AUSA. Members save 15% with promo code AUSAmember at checkout.

Spouse-ly

Spouse-ly is an online marketplace to shop and support a variety of military- and first responder-owned businesses. AUSA members save 10% at Spouse-ly with promo code AUSA. Use its one-of-a-kind platform to shop small, make a big impact and purchase with a purpose.

HUSK

Finding and choosing the right wellness provider can be overwhelming. HUSK is a curated wellness marketplace that offers exclusive pricing on gym memberships, equipment and virtual subscriptions in nutrition, fitness, pre- and post-natal, health coaching and mental health.

HUSK Marketplace members gain access to best-in-class pricing with some of the biggest brands in the in-

dustry, including LA Fitness, Gold's Gym, Planet Fitness and more. You also can sign up for private nutrition counseling for \$49.99 a month.

ChooseHealthy

AUSA provides members with access to ChooseHealthy, where you can save 10%–50% on popular health and fitness brands like FitBit, Garmin, Skechers, Vitamix, New Balance, MyxFitness, Echelon, Sunbasket and more.

You also save 25% on specialty practitioner services like acupuncture, chiropractic, physical therapy, therapeutic massage, occupational therapy, nutrition services and podiatry.

ChooseHealthy offers free online health classes based on up-to-date clinical information. These self-guided coaching classes allow you to study a variety of health improvement topics, with an option to ask experts for assistance.

FedEx

Your AUSA membership provides exceptional FedEx discounts, with savings of up to 50% off FedEx Express and up to 30% off FedEx Ground and FedEx Home Delivery.

If you ship with FedEx, you'll be able to continue using it the same way you do today. After you enroll, the discounts will be added to your account and then automatically applied to your shipments. If you don't have an account, you can open one when you enroll.

HistoryNet

HistoryNet is the world's largest publisher of history magazines, covering topics like the Civil War, the Vietnam War and World War II. AUSA members save 20% off all nine of their publications with code AUSA2023.

Susan Rubel is AUSA's Association and Affinity Partnerships director.

Exceptional Army civilians recognized at chapter dinner

Outstanding Army civilians were honored Aug. 15 during the annual Dr. Richard “Dick” Rhoades Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Awards Dinner hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army’s Redstone-Huntsville chapter in Huntsville, Alabama.

The chapter recognized 37 Army civilians. Winners were selected from five categories, including technical/technical management, professional/technical, support staff, management executive and Department of Defense.

Redstone-Huntsville

The overall 2023 Army Civilian of the Year is Keith Creekmere, a Missile Defense Agency technical director, who was nominated in the management executive category. “It’s quite an honor. It is a tribute to the mission MDA does on a day-to-day basis,” Creekmere said, according to an Army news release.

Brandon Price of Program Executive Office Missiles and Space won the technical/technical management



Thirty-seven Army civilians are honored by AUSA’s Redstone-Huntsville chapter during the chapter’s Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Awards dinner. (AUSA PHOTO)

award; Thomas Davidson from PEO Aviation came out on top in the support staff category; and Dana Stewart from the Defense Acquisition University was selected for the DoD award.

Megan Gully of Army Materiel

Command and Furman Daniels, from the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center, shared the professional/technical award.

“It’s an honor to receive this award,” Gully said, according to the Army. “I am very proud to serve in Army Public Affairs and on the AMC team. It’s an incredibly rewarding profession, and I’m grateful for all the experiences it’s granted me.”

Remarks for the dinner were provided by Brian Toland, Army Materiel Command’s command counsel, who told the nominees that the work they do is important to national defense. “You have been nominated for your vital contributions. You are truly experts in your chosen endeavors,” Toland said.

Toland also emphasized the Army’s values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, and the importance of leadership.

“The positive environment you create matters—not just for yourself, but for others,” he said. “Demand excellence for yourself, and others will follow.”

AUSA leadership meeting focuses on Army modernization efforts



GA Omar N. Bradley

Col. Zachary Miller, commander of the Army Joint Modernization Command, addresses modernization efforts, technology and more Aug. 28 at a leadership meeting hosted by AUSA’s GA Omar N. Bradley chapter in El Paso, Texas. (AUSA PHOTO)

LISTEN. LEARN. LEAD.

AUSA's Army Matters podcast amplifies the voices of the Total Army—one story at a time.

Join hosts LTG (Ret.) Les Smith and SMA (Ret.) Dan Dailey every other Wednesday as they interview the modern chroniclers of the Army experience to discuss inspiring leadership stories, current issues faced by Soldiers and our military families' journeys.



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