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Soldiers with the Florida National Guard fire a round from an M777 Howitzer at Eugen Kvaternik Military Training Area in Slunj, Croatia. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JOSHUA OH)

McConville: Army maintains global focus

While the Army remains busy supporting Ukraine and America's NATO partners, the force has not let go of its focus on other hot spots around the world, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said.

"We're a global organization," McConville said Wednesday. "We have to be able to do more than one thing at once."

Speaking at an event hosted by Defense One, McConville said this includes boots on the ground in the Middle East, Asia, Europe and elsewhere, all while supporting defense of the homeland.

"I think one of the biggest lessons a lot of countries learned, and I personally learned talking to some of my counterparts, was a regional conflict in Ukraine affected the world," McConville said.

The war in Ukraine has affected food supplies in the Middle East and Africa, and it has impacted nations in Europe and beyond in countless ways, he said.

The U.S. also must continue to pay close attention to China, which is America's "pacing challenge," McConville said.

"[China] is a country with an economy that certainly matches ours, they're developing a world-class military, which they didn't have before that can certainly compete with ours, and from a defense standpoint, we just want to make sure that we can protect the nation and defend the country," McConville said.

More than six months into the war, the Army continues to be "very much in support" of what's happening in Ukraine and Europe, McConville said.

"It's certainly in all of our interests ... to bring this unprovoked invasion to some type of solution where there's peace in Europe," he said.

Tens of thousands of American soldiers are deployed to Europe to bolster NATO partners, particularly in Eastern Europe, and they also are supporting and training Ukrainian forces.

"The United States Army is providing the equipment, the training and the ammunition we've been requested to provide the Ukrainians in a very rapid manner," McConville said.

Those weapons—including the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the M777 howitzer—are making a difference, he said.

"We saw initially the value with Javelins and Stingers and small-arms and small-unit fighting, but at the end of

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Modernization gains momentum amid budget pressures

The Army is hitting its stride when it comes to reaching its modernization goals, Army Undersecretary Gabe Camarillo said.

“I think we’ve got a tremendous amount of momentum headed into our modernization portfolio,” Camarillo said Wednesday during a conference hosted by *Defense News*. “Many of our programs ... are working their way through the process to achieve these critical milestones and getting to the next phase ... where we can field capabilities that are relevant to our soldiers.”

While budget trade-offs are expected, Camarillo said that they are “just the normal course of doing business.”

“The challenge of [modernizing within budget constraints] is how do you keep that momentum going? In the [fiscal] ‘23 budget, we worked very hard to make sure that we were able to sustain that momentum,” he said. “In any given budget year, you do have to make trade-offs.”

In fiscal 2023, which begins Oct. 1, the Army plans to field or deliver prototypes for 24 signature modernization systems, including long-range hypersonic missiles, medium-range missiles, the Precision Strike Missile, Mobile Protected Firepower, the Maneuver Short-Range Air Defense System and the Next Generation Squad Weapon.

Camarillo pushed back on the idea



Army Undersecretary Gabe Camarillo, center, discusses long-range hypersonic weapons with members of the Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office during a visit to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. (U.S. ARMY/WILLIAM KING)

that supplementing Ukraine’s stockpiles will affect U.S. readiness, adding that the Army and Defense Department have been “working very, very diligently.”

“My entire tenure has been working with this issue,” he said. “I give a lot of credit to teams across the Department of Defense, from the Army all the way to DoD, for ... providing [a] very fast, timely and well-coordinated response in terms of capabilities that were provided to the Ukrainians.”

The Army also is working to address recruiting challenges that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19

pandemic.

In the near-term, the Army “extended some of our best military recruiters” and provided additional incentives such as bonuses for recruits who ship quickly to basic training, Camarillo said.

Leaders also established the Future Soldier Preparatory Course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, a 90-day program aimed at helping recruits meet Army physical and academic standards, and Army Secretary Christine Wormuth stood up a task focus focused on “addressing more systemic ways we can approach this challenge,” Camarillo said.

McConville

From Page 1

the day, what seems to be making the difference is artillery and the ability to effectively target each other’s artillery,” McConville said.

The training U.S. soldiers are providing is just as important. “What we’ve done, and our NATO partners are all doing, is making sure the Ukrainian soldiers have the training they need to operate the systems and also the training they need to main-

tain these systems,” McConville said.

He added, “We’re all working together to give the Ukrainians what they need to defend their country.”

When asked, McConville said it was too early to tell if the Ukrainians are winning the war.

“They’re certainly making a difference,” he said. “I think it’s too early to tell what’s happening there, but they’ve certainly made ... a huge difference.”

As the war drags on, the Army must

replenish its stocks and weapons systems, McConville said.

“We want to replace them with new equipment,” he said. “We don’t want to buy new old stuff. We want to buy new new stuff.”

This requires working closely with industry and the organic industrial base, he said.

“We still have to be ready,” McConville said. “We have to be ready to fight tonight, and that’s what the Army is prepared to do.”

Army medics focused on readiness, working with sister services



Army medics participate in a simulated casualty evacuation as part of the 2022 Joint Emergency Medicine Exercise at Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. ARMY/MASTER SGT. TOBY VALADIE)

Individual readiness is the key to preparing medical soldiers for a complex, joint operating environment, the Army's top medical officer said.

The Army's medical professionals are already working with their fellow service members, said Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle, the Army surgeon general and commander of Army Medical Command. That interoperability was evident when soldiers worked side by side with Navy and Air Force medical personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It didn't make a difference what was on the left of your uniform," Dingle said Wednesday during a webinar hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army as part of its Noon Report series.

Every service member was filling a joint mission, where their specialty or skill set was needed "as part of a larger team," he said. "It was a joint task force, we executed well."

The domestic joint environment, he said, is one where lessons are being learned that can be applied to a multidomain environment.

"My Title 10 responsibility is making sure that the Army force is able to support the Army mission jointly,"

Dingle said. "When the joint force surgeon or that combatant commander puts together that joint assemblage of a team to support a joint mission, I submit that we are prepared to do that because of the individual readiness of the Army medical specialties."

Command Sgt. Maj. Diamond Hough, the senior enlisted adviser to the surgeon general and command sergeant major of Army Medical Command, noted that the U.S. military "has always been a joint force."

"We make sure the Army soldiers we train are the best at what we do, and then as we integrate with the rest of our sister services, we'll be the best teammates we can be," Hough said during the webinar.

Hough explained that with the reorganization of military medicine under the Defense Health Activity, which lowers the number of medics working at medical treatment facilities, those soldiers are able to train more on their individual critical tasks.

"With the separation now, we get to really focus down on that readiness," Hough said. "What that means for us is different opportunities to get the training that our soldiers need."

AUSA Extra

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PERK OF THE WEEK



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Annual Meeting event tickets available for purchase

Tickets are now on sale for some special social events taking place during the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition, including the black-tie George Catlett Marshall Memorial Award Reception and Dinner.

Scheduled for Oct. 10–12, the three-day, in-person annual meeting will take place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

This year's theme is "Building the Army of 2030," marking a focus on the continued transformation of the force.

Attendees will be able to hear keynote addresses from senior Army leaders, participate in a wide range of forums featuring Army, DoD and industry leaders, view Warriors Corner and Innovators Corner presentations and visit more than 650 exhibits spread over five halls.



Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, speaks at the Marshall Award Dinner during the 2021 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

There will be several award presentations, including the winners of the inaugural Best Squad Competition, NCO and Soldier of the Year and the Marshall Medal, AUSA's highest award for selfless service to the country.

Also scheduled are several social events during the annual meeting.

They include the Robert G. Moorhead Guard and Reserve Forum and Breakfast, the President's Reception featuring senior Army leaders, the Dwight David Eisenhower Luncheon where Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville will speak, and the Marshall Dinner.

Tickets for these events and more are available until 5 p.m. Eastern Sept. 19. AUSA members receive a special rate. To get tickets, click here.

Registration for the annual meeting is also open, and attendees can register for housing.

Online registration is open until 8 p.m. Eastern Oct. 5. On-site registration will open at the convention center on Oct. 7.

All attendees and exhibitors must be vaccinated against COVID-19.

For more information or to register, click here.

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Continuing resolution looms as defense funding stalls

Action is expected to resume on Capitol Hill this week after the August recess.

With just a few weeks remaining before the new fiscal year, much work remains to be done to authorize and provide funding for national defense and the federal government.

To date, the House has passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act along with the military construction and veterans affairs appropriations bill as part of a five-bill package.

Unfortunately, Congress does not have a clear path forward to complete the NDAA or needed appropriations for the Defense Department or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Government Affairs

We fully expect a continuing resolution will be required to fund the federal government and the military at current levels and avoid a shutdown.

Continuing resolutions hurt the Army's "People First" policies and its modernization and readiness priorities. The current funding levels do not take into account the high inflation rate that is cutting into budgets and degrading readiness due to the increased costs of food, fuel, repair parts and more.

Continuing resolutions especially hurt the Army National Guard and Army Reserve because these temporary funding measures impede the process for mobilizing and training for and supporting emergencies.

Similarly, new projects and programs are often hampered.

The Association of the U.S. Army continues to meet with lawmakers and staffers to encourage Congress to pass the NDAA and defense-related appropriations as soon as possible.

You can help by contacting your representatives and senators and encouraging them to act before going out for the national elections.

On a positive note, Congress has



Staff Sgt. Joshua Sunderland, left, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard Smith conduct improvised explosive device training at Camp Grayling, Michigan. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO)

passed, and the president has signed into law, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, also known as the PACT Act.

This law will help our veterans and families who suffer from toxic exposure such as from burn pits.



AUSA expects that a continuing resolution will be required to fund the federal government and the military at current levels. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

AUSA has supported and advocated for the PACT Act, and we applaud Congress and the White House for coming together in a bipartisan way.

The association also supports the recently proposed Military Spouse Employment Act, which would authorize federal agencies to hire military spouses to work remotely. Spouse employment is a top quality-of-life priority for the Army and AUSA.

This legislation could be a game changer, opening new opportunities for military spouses to work for the government and to do so remotely.

The bill can be viewed [here](#).

In October, AUSA will have its Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. AUSA's Government Affairs team is inviting congressional staff to attend the symposium and meet with senior Army leaders and industry to better understand the important role of our Army in national security.

We also are planning to host a reception at the annual meeting to thank staffers for their support of the Total Army.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs director.

AUSA chapter regatta benefits veterans, wounded warriors

Continuing an annual tradition, the Association of the U.S. Army's Hawaii chapter hosted the Na Koa Wounded Warrior Canoe Regatta Aug. 27 at the Hale Koa Hotel.

"We are truly blessed to have this special day to join in the camaraderie of outrigger canoe paddling and continue a powerful legacy that has existed for hundreds of years passed down from our Hawaiian ancestors, which enriches our communities and our way of life," said retired Col. Penny Kalua, the chapter's 2nd vice president and co-director of the race.

Hawaii

The Na Koa Wounded Warrior Canoe Regatta began in 2008 with a vision by Edward Kubo, then-assistant U.S. attorney for the district of Hawaii. In collaboration with retired Lt. Col. Gervin Miyamoto, they pursued the idea of creating a canoe regatta for wounded warriors and veterans.

They reached out to then-Maj. Kalua, and with her canoe club, the Honolulu Pearl Canoe Club, and the Navy's Pearl Harbor Morale, Welfare and Recreation program, the idea became a reality.

Launched in 2009, the regatta was created to help recovering troops through the healing power of Hawaiian waters.

The first event took place at the



One of the teams participating in the Na Koa Wounded Warrior Canoe Regatta poses for a photo. (AUSA PHOTO)

Pearl Harbor Marina with 67 teams from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and first responders. The regatta has since expanded to include our Gold Star "ohana"—or family—in the wounded warrior division.

As word spread of the Na Koa regatta, a private company sponsored the event, followed by the Honolulu Navy League. AUSA's Hawaii chapter has hosted the race since 2014.

The regatta has quickly gained in popularity. This year, we had nearly 120 crews and over 600 paddlers, with more than 1,000 people in attendance.

We continue to honor our brothers

and sisters in arms who have served and died in service to our country. We support our Gold Star families, wounded warriors, veterans and their families, and increase awareness of the challenges they all face.

We also bring the community together in support of active-duty, National Guard and Army Reserve service members through the friendly competition of Hawaiian traditional outrigger canoe paddling.

Koa canoes carried the strongest and bravest of warriors across rough, open oceans. In regattas such as the Na Koa event, we honor our ancient Hawaiian history.

This event would not be what it is today without the great support of Paul L'Ecuyer, our race chairman and president of AUSA's Hawaii chapter; the race directors, Kalua, Marc and Natasha Haine and Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Liz Sabog of the Hawaii National Guard; Ray Jardine, who handles the awards; the staff of the Hale Koa Hotel; and our hundreds of volunteers and partners.

Follow us on Facebook and consider a donation to the regatta in 2023 by clicking here.



Nearly 120 crews and over 600 paddlers participated in this year's Na Koa Wounded Warrior Canoe Regatta in Hawaii. (AUSA PHOTO)

Retired Col. Ben Lukefahr is AUSA's Pacific Region president.

