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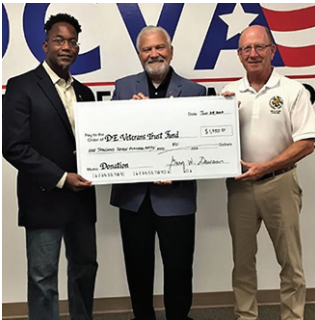
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Army aviation advances

Senior Army aviators discussed developing capabilities at a recent Hot Topic forum

hosted by AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare. Read more on page 3. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. THOMAS MORT)

SecArmy nominee promises continued reform

Ryan McCarthy told a Senate committee that he will continue the push for improved readiness, rapid modernization and overall reform if he's confirmed to be the 24th secretary of the Army.

Appearing Thursday before the Senate Armed Services Committee as it considers his nomination, McCarthy has already served as the Army's civilian leader several times since his unanimous confirmation in 2017 to be the service's undersecretary.

McCarthy is an Afghanistan combat veteran who served with the 75th Ranger Regiment.

"Troops deployed in combat operations will remain my primary focus," he promised, noting that 18 years ago he was preparing for his first combat tour.

People are another priority, he said as he spoke of ensuring soldiers and their families "have the resources to thrive."

For him, that means quality and safe housing, reliable health care and access to childcare.

"Taking care of the force leads to a better quality of life, retention of world-class soldiers and, ultimately, improved readiness," he said.

Global demand for the Army remains high, he said, requiring maintaining warfighting readiness across the total force.

Reform has been a major Army effort, with the centerpiece being the creation of Army Futures Command and a new, streamlined path to modernization.

McCarthy said this would continue if he's confirmed.

"The Army leadership team will continue to build upon the reform agenda we established over the last 24 months," he said. "Significant work remains to solidify the modernization enterprise and finish what we collectively started."

In written answers to questions from the committee, McCarthy said he is concerned about Army resources.

"I believe the current end strength levels are insufficient to meet national defense objectives," he wrote. "I am concerned about the Army's ability to defeat a near-peer adversary while nearly simultaneously denying the objectives of another, defending the homeland, and sustaining counter terrorism efforts."

See **McCarthy**, Page 3

NO MATTER WHERE FUTURE WARFIGHTERS ARE CALLED WE STAND WITH THEM.

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McCarthy*From Page 1*

The Regular Army needs to grow, and so should the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, he wrote, suggesting a force of 1.15 million soldiers is required.

He endorsed the current slow rate of growth of about 2,000 additional soldiers a year to ultimately reach a Regular Army troop level of 500,000.

The difficulty remains finding service-aged youths who are qualified and interested in military service, he said.

"I am currently exploring and, if confirmed, will continue to explore initiatives to broaden the potential pool of Army recruits," he said.

The Army is considering a pilot program that would take in a small group of recruits who "slightly exceed body fat standards" and another pilot program that would use personality test-



McCarthy said he will continue the push for overall reform if confirmed. (U.S. ARMY/CLAYTON WEIS)

ing to determine who is suitable for military service.

As a chief advocate for creating Army Futures Command and the reorganization of the weapons development and procurement processes, McCarthy told the committee that there has been progress but there is also more to do.

"In the last two years, the Army has

implemented a dramatic restructuring of its modernization enterprise to bring unity of effort and unity of command under one roof," he said. "In just 18 months, we have decreased the cycle time to develop requirements by years for complex weapon systems."

If confirmed, he promised to make certain reform efforts continue.

New aviation capabilities key part of Army's future

The National Defense Strategy has shifted from counterinsurgency operations to great-power competition, and future Army aviation capabilities will be a key part of that environment, leaders said at a recent Aviation Hot Topic forum hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

Brig. Gen. Wally Rugen, director of the Army's Future Vertical Lift Cross-Functional Team, said the team is rapidly making leaps forward in lethality, survivability, reach and sustainment.

"We are trying to ensure that we have overmatch" against near-peer competitors, he said, noting that defense industry partners are providing needed assistance with programs such as the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft and the Improved Turbine Engine.

Regarding future unmanned aerial systems, Rugen said six Army platoons will receive the latest aircraft in April 2020.

"We'll have soldiers getting hands-on with what we feel will be a superior ca-



Brig. Gen. Wally Rugen, director of the Army's Future Vertical Lift Cross-Functional Team, describes the team's latest developments at the Hot Topic forum. (AUSA PHOTO)

pability to what they have now," he said.

The collaboration of acquisition authority in the aviation community has been impressive, said Brig. Gen. Allan Pepin, commander of Army Special Operations Aviation Command.

"We can look at accelerating to learn

faster, and, if we have to, field equipment earlier" with strategic investment of special operations funding, he said.

Maj. Gen. David Francis, the Fort Rucker and Army Aviation Center of Excellence commanding general, pointed out the importance of the reserve components in aviation—including at the highest levels of Army leadership.

"Fifty-one percent of our force is composed of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. It's a high priority for [the Army chief of staff], and he won't even hold a meeting without the Guard and Reserve when we're talking about aviation," Francis said.

Future vertical lift and other developing aviation capabilities are also in "great demand" among international allies and partners, Rugen said.

As requirements coalesce and are approved by Army leaders, "you're going to see an international plan," he said, adding that Australia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Japan have already expressed interest in adopting the new technology.

New Army cyber warfare units need more personnel, GAO warns



The Army is quickly standing up new cyber and electronic warfare units in response to emerging threats, but manning those units remains a challenge. (U.S. ARMY/COTTON PURYEAR)

In the race to create new cyber and electronic warfare units for multidomain operations, the Army has not fully assessed the risk involved with creating some of those units at an accelerated pace, according to a recent report by the Government Accountability Office.

Titled “Future Warfare: Army is Preparing for Cyber and Electronic Warfare Threats, but Needs to Fully Assess the Staffing, Equipping, and Training of New Organizations,” the GAO report cites as an example the activation of a cyber battalion in December 2018 that by March 2019 was understaffed by more than 80%.

“Army leadership believed the threats justify developing these units at an accelerated pace.

“Consequently, the Army did not assess the staffing, equipping, and training risk before activating one unit, and only conducted an initial risk assessment before activating a second unit,” the report states.

As a result, Army leaders may not be in a position to assess what other challenges could arise as the units grow in capability.

The report recognized that the Army is revising its doctrine to guide how the force and specific units will function in

multidomain operations; new units are being created to conduct missions in multiple domains; and the responsibilities of key Army formations, such as Army divisions, are being updated.

The Army also is increasing the focus on cyber operations and training units accordingly.

The Army concurred with the report’s recommendation that it conduct a risk assessment before accelerating the activation of any new organizations for multidomain operations.

It partially concurred with two remaining recommendations that a risk assessment be performed for the first activated intelligence, cyber, electronic warfare and space (ICEWS) unit and for the 915th Cyber Warfare Support Battalion, a unit designed to conduct offensive cyber operations inside Army formations at brigade and echelons above.

To read the full report, click here: <https://bit.ly/2lMNVTC>.

The Army’s efforts to boost its cyber force and capabilities will be discussed during an Army Cyber and Networks Hot Topic forum Monday at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

More information on the Institute of Land Warfare event is available at <https://bit.ly/2lKyET5>.

AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier**

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Retired NCO to be honored with 2019 Bainbridge Medal

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, U.S. Army Retired

Greetings from the Association of the U.S. Army, our Army's association for education and professional development, and a major supporter of the Army's Soldier for Life efforts.

Across the total force, Army leaders, soldiers, Army civilians, retired soldiers, veterans, industry leaders and Army families are all excited about this year's AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition.

One of the highlights of the annual meeting is the opportunity to recognize a great noncommissioned officer as our 2019 Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge Medal recipient.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Minosky served in the Army from 1970 until 1995, starting in the legendary 82nd Airborne Division.

Army leaders quickly recognized his natural leadership abilities and rewarded his hard work with more work in the form of early promotions and increased positions of responsibility, including selecting him early in his career for drill sergeant duty at Fort Ord, California, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Minosky served in challenging leadership assignments in Korea, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and in Hawaii, and culminated his career at Fort Hood, Texas, as the command sergeant major of the 3rd "Greywolf" Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

After leaving military service, Minosky sought opportunities to volunteer and continue his life of selfless service to soldiers and the nation.

As a volunteer with the Veterans Service Alliance of Central Texas, Minosky served as an advocate for closer coordination among the many community organizations in Texas that serve veterans.

While working with the alliance, Minosky was recruited to serve as a



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Minosky, center, is inducted into the III Corps and Fort Hood Good Neighbor program in October 2018 by then-Lt. Gen. Paul Funk, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

veteran mentor and recruiter for the Fort Hood Veterans Court and the Veterans Treatment Court.

Minosky and other volunteers in the court program now provide over 2,000 hours of help annually with time management, communication skills, and education and career opportunities.

Dedicated service

For more than two decades, Minosky has also served as a business development specialist for Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, focused on bringing businesses to the Fort Hood community by highlighting the presence of highly qualified and educated veterans for employment.

Additionally, Minosky served in several city organizations including the Belton City Council, as chairman of the Belton City Chamber of Commerce, and on the Planning and Zoning Board for the City of Belton.

"I learned a great deal about AUSA and effective community partnerships from my time at Fort Hood," said retired Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry.

"We took those lessons and applied them in Hawaii, and I credit Frank and the rest of the Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter with teaching us what right looks like."

Tireless advocate

In the Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter, Minosky serves on the Board of Governors and scholarship board and has multiple tours of service on the Executive Board.

"Frank's community involvement is extensive," said retired Col. Lawrence Phelps, the chapter president.

"In all he does, he serves as a voice for soldiers, breathing life into AUSA's mission, vision and values, even beyond the organization's direct involvement."

Minosky plays a key role representing the chapter at the AUSA annual meeting in Washington, D.C., each year via outreach through the newcomers' briefings for soldiers and their families, chairing the Adopt-a-Unit program, and assisting with Community Partnership renewals.

Minosky's support of AUSA is in keeping with the highest traditions of our Army and representative of the Bainbridge Medal.

We are honored to recognize this great soldier.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston is AUSA's Vice President for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 13th sergeant major of the Army.

Health and wellness forum highlights military caregivers

The Association of the U.S. Army's Hawaii chapter recently sponsored "The Caregiver Journey," a forum for military caregivers, at the Schofield Barracks Desmond T. Doss Health Clinic.

The August forum provided soldiers and their families access to a panel of experts from across Oahu, Hawaii.

It also was a place for caregivers to share their experiences caring for wounded veterans and family members with special needs.

Lt. Col Matt Geiman, the clinic's deputy commander for health readiness, shared his own caregiver journey.

"What I will tell the group is that the love and support my family received from family, friends, co-workers, doctors and nurses during those many challenging years, with more ups and downs than I can remember, were invaluable to my parents as caregivers and us as a family," he said.

Panelists included representatives from Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Healthcare, Military OneSource, the Army Wellness Center, and the Ready and Resilient Performance Center.

Hawaii



Col. Dave Zimmerman presents certificates of appreciation to the guest speakers at the 2019 Health & Wellness Forum. (SCHOFIELD BARRACKS HEALTH CLINIC/RAMEE OPPERUDE)

Col. Dave Zimmerman, commander of the Desmond T. Doss Health Clinic, discussed the importance of bringing together resources to support military caregivers.

"The caregiver journey can be demanding, each day requiring an increasing amount of physical and emotional strength," Zimmerman said.

"Caregivers' voices are all differ-

ent, but they share a similar story of struggle and resilience."

The final event of the day, a question and answer panel, provided an opportunity for attendees to speak directly with dozens of experts.

Questions from attendees highlighted several areas where multiple agencies on Oahu could assist active-duty service members, veterans and their caregivers.

AUSA chapter contributes to Veterans Trust Fund

This summer, the Association of the U.S. Army's Delaware chapter donated \$1,750 to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund.

The donation came from the proceeds of a golf tournament at Salt Pond Golf Club in Bethany Beach. This was the second event in two years by the chapter for the Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund provides assistance to local veterans who have financial emergencies.

Delaware

Established in 2013, it has already brought relief to veterans in need of help with reintegration, housing, utilities and incidental expenses for health and welfare.



Presenting a check to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund are, from left to right, Larence Kirby, the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs executive director, Dave Skocik, who is president of Friends of Delaware Veterans, and retired Col. Gary Dawson, president of AUSA's Delaware chapter. (COURTESY PHOTO)



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