



IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 20
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Hometown Honors Sullivan, McConville

3

Army Releases Mandatory Vaccine Plan

4

NCO & Soldier Programs

ROTC Professional Development

7



Chapter Highlights

Redstone-Huntsville
Col. Edward Cross

8



Soldiers, AUSA members, defense contractors and more gather on the exhibit floor during the 2019 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. (AUSA PHOTO)

AUSA 2021 adjusts for health, safety

With less than a month to go before the Association of the U.S. Army's 2021 Annual Meeting and Exposition, planning continues for a safe, comfortable and high-quality event.

Scheduled for Oct. 11–13 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., this year's in-person event will have the same key features of past meetings with a few adjustments.

"This year's event may be different, but we will still deliver the same quality you have come to expect from AUSA," retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO, said in a statement Tuesday.

Focused on the theme "America's Army and its People, Transforming for the Future," senior Army leaders including Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, Army Chief of Staff Gen.

James McConville and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston will address the conference.

Other leaders from across the Army also will participate, and there will be several contemporary military forums and military family forums.

There also will be more than 650 exhibitors in five halls on both levels of the convention center.

AUSA remains committed to the health and safety of everyone participating, Ham said.

"We are continuously monitoring recommendations from Washington, D.C., health authorities, convention center leaders and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," he said.

Here's a look at the latest.

Proof of vaccination

Proof of full vaccination will be required to attend the in-person event

at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. This decision was made in consultation with the Army and given the recent trends in COVID-19 transmission levels in the D.C. area.

Full details can be found [here](#).

Masks

Participants at the AUSA Annual Meeting will be required to always wear masks, except when actively eating or drinking.

Masks cannot include vents or valves, and gaiters, bandanas and scarves are not permitted.

Social distancing

Social distancing is highly encouraged and will be implemented where possible. Seating at AUSA events will be spaced out so that everyone feels comfortable.

See **Annual Meeting**, Page 5

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Hometown honors Army generals, former AUSA leader

Eighteen military leaders, including Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, former president and CEO of the Association of the U.S. Army, were honored Sept. 11 by their shared hometown of Quincy, Massachusetts.

City officials honored the general officers by dedicating Generals Bridge and Park to the men, all of whom were raised in Quincy.

Already known as the “City of Presidents” for being the birthplace of John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams, Quincy also has the distinction of being the hometown of several senior military leaders.

In addition to McConville and Sullivan, former Joint Chiefs Chairman Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford and Maj. Gen. Francis McGinn, who still serves in the Army National Guard, also grew up in Quincy.

The new bridge and park are located at the corner of General Dunford Drive and General McConville Way in Quincy Center, according to city officials.

Generals Park features three 7-foot bronze statues of Dunford, McConville and Sullivan, the three highest-ranking generals on the list.

The statues were sculpted by



A 7-foot bronze statue of Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville is one of the features of Generals Park in Quincy, Massachusetts. (U.S. ARMY/LT. COL. MARY RICKS)

world-renowned sculptor Sergey Elanbekov, according to city officials.

Several other leaders, including McGinn, will be honored with bronze busts in the park area. In addition, the names of 11 Quincy generals, dating back to the 1700s, have been engraved in the park’s commemorative stonework, the city said.

Sullivan, who was the 32nd Army

chief of staff and served as AUSA president and CEO for more than 18 years before stepping down in 2016, has continued to contribute to the community after retirement, said retired Gen. Dennis Reimer, the 33rd Army chief of staff who is on AUSA’s board of directors.

“You could say that Gen. Sullivan contributed almost more in retirement than he did during active duty, and that’s a high bar,” Reimer said as he introduced Sullivan during the dedication ceremony.

Steadfast dedication to service members keeps Sullivan involved in projects that serve them, he said.

“If you stick your hand up in the air at some recruiting station and say, ‘Send me, send me,’ you are my hero,” Sullivan said. “There’s nothing like being in a uniform and serving the United States of America. I have told many people, if I could do it again, I would. And I am not kidding.”

McConville, the current and 40th Army chief of staff, took a moment to recognize those lost on 9/11 and service members who died serving their country over the past 20 years.

He then praised Quincy residents for being people of character who are motivated to serve.

“People from Quincy are honorable, they’re resilient,” McConville said. “They’re hardworking patriots who are willing to serve their country in a time of war, knowing they are putting themselves in harm’s way, so others may enjoy freedom and prosperity.”

Dunford, the 19th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, emphasized that Americans’ willingness to serve will keep the U.S. strong.

“What I learned from being away is we can’t take what we have for granted,” Dunford said. “I also learned that the real strength of our country and what will allow us to remain the land of the free and the home of the brave is the willingness, the simple willingness, of good citizens to answer the call to service.”



At the dedication ceremony are, from left to right, retired Gen. Dennis Reimer, the 33rd Army chief of staff who now serves on AUSA’s board of directors; retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, the 32nd Army chief of staff and former AUSA president and CEO; and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville. (U.S. ARMY/LT. COL. MARY RICKS)

Army rolls out mandatory vaccine plan for active, reserve components

Active-duty units must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Dec. 15, the Army announced Tuesday as it implements a vaccine mandate put in place by DoD.

Under the Army's plan, units in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve must be fully vaccinated by June 30, 2022.

"This is quite literally a matter of life and death for our soldiers, their families and the communities in which we live," Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle said in a statement. "Case counts and deaths continue to be concerning as the Delta variant spreads, which makes protecting the force through mandatory vaccination a health and readiness priority for the total Army."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Aug. 24 ordered that all service members be vaccinated against COVID-19. His decision came a day after the Food and Drug Administration announced its full approval of the two-shot vaccine made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech.

More than 414,700 soldiers are already fully vaccinated, and nearly 192,000 are partially vaccinated, according to DoD data as of Sept. 8.

Soldiers can request an exemption from receiving the vaccine for legitimate medical, religious or administrative reasons, the Army said. Those who don't could face reprimand, administrative action and even discharge if they refuse to be vaccinated, the Army said.

Commanders will request a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand be initiated for any soldier who refuses to be vaccinated and does not have a pending or approved exemption request, the Army said, adding, "Such reprimands can be career ending."

Soldiers who continue to refuse the vaccine after being counseled by their chain of command and medical



Sgt. Morgan Evans, a combat medic specialist with the 2nd Stryker Brigade Stryker Team, 4th Infantry Division, prepares a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at Fort Carson, Colorado. (U.S. ARMY/JEANINE MEZEI)

providers could receive administrative or non-judicial punishment, including relief of duties or discharge, the Army said.

Commanders, command sergeants major, first sergeants and officers in Command Select List positions who refuse to be vaccinated could face suspension and relief. They would then be counseled and given the opportunity to get the vaccine before they are subject to removal by a general officer, the Army said.

Officers and NCOs who have been selected and are waiting to assume Command Select List command, key billet or nominative sergeant major positions are likewise subject to removal from the list if they refuse to be vaccinated without a pending or approved exemption.

Ensuring the health and safety of soldiers is paramount, the Army said.

"The health protection of our force is a top priority, and we will continue to ensure that our personnel have the most up-to-date information on appropriate safety measures to prevent potential spread of the virus," the Army said.

AUSAExtra

**Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier**

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PERK OF THE WEEK

Hurley

Abenity is a members-only discount site that AUSA partners with for member discounts. Sign up at www.ausa.org/abenity to access thousands of local and national savings. Examples from this week include JoyRide Bikes, with 25% off MSRP on any Hurley bike or E-Bike; restaurant gift cards (\$3 for a \$25 card); 25% off at Foster Grant and Sunglass Warehouse; and 15% off at Jiffy Lube.

Annual Meeting*From Page 1***Food and beverage restrictions**

The convention center is mandating that all food and beverage be consumed sitting down or standing at a table. Food and beverage cannot be consumed while moving around the convention center. If you are hosting events with food or beverage this year, please plan accordingly.

In addition, AUSA is adjusting events where food is traditionally served to large audiences to ensure the health and safety of everyone participating.

Here are a few notable changes:

Oct. 11

- Moorhead Guard and Reserve Breakfast – Modified to a forum.
- SMA Forum and Awards Breakfast – Modified to a forum and awards presentation only.

- Community Partner Luncheon – Canceled, with awards presented at the AUSA Regional Breakfasts.

- SMA Awards Luncheon – Modified to an awards ceremony.

- President's Reception – Canceled.

Oct. 12

- Warrant Officers Breakfast – Canceled. The Warrant Officer Forum will occur as planned.

- Congressional Breakfast – Canceled. AUSA will provide shuttle buses from Capitol Hill to the convention center on Oct. 12–13.

- Eisenhower Luncheon – Modified to a presentation by McConville. Awards will be presented as scheduled.

Oct. 13

- Army Civilian Luncheon – Canceled. Civilian forums continue as planned.

- National Partners Luncheon – Canceled.

- Marshall Reception and Dinner – Modified to an award presentation. More information will be available soon.

If you have purchased tickets to any affected event, stand by for additional guidance.

Livestreaming

AUSA, in coordination with the Army, will livestream the main events, including the opening ceremony and contemporary military forums.

If you're not able to attend in-person, the livestream will be available on the AUSA website beginning Oct. 11.

Additional livestream viewing areas will be added to the Convention Center.

To view the program, click [here](#).

To register, click [here](#).

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Army Ten-Miler goes virtual again amid COVID concerns

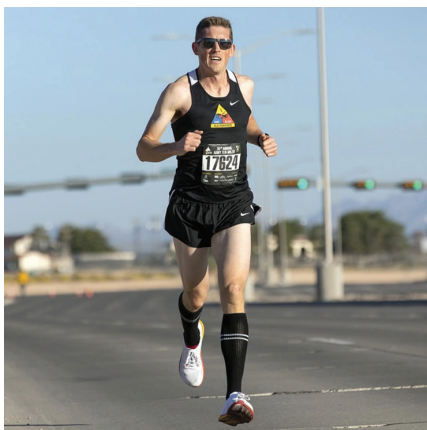
This year's Army Ten-Miler race will no longer be an in-person event and instead will take place virtually, the Army Military District of Washington announced Monday.

Due to "rising COVID-19 case rates and the addition of the Delta variant," race officials determined that an in-person event presented too many risks to staff, participants and spectators, officials said.

"The safety and health of ATM participants remains our top priority," officials said. "While we had hoped that COVID-19 conditions would allow runners to gather in person this year, the risks remain too great at this time."

The virtual Army Ten-Miler is now scheduled for Oct. 10 to Nov. 29, and registration is still open.

Runners can use the code "B2S" at



Maj. Branden Hestermann runs the virtual Army Ten-Miler in 2020 at Fort Bliss, Texas. (U.S. ARMY/DAVID POE)

checkout to receive 10% off.

This will be the second year the Army Ten-Miler will be held virtually. The 2020 in-person race also was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

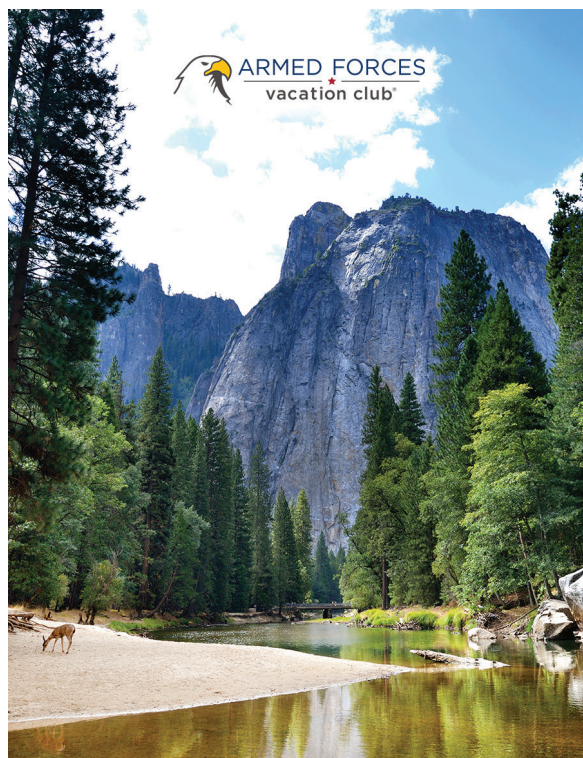
Those who registered for this year's in-person race will be transferred to the virtual race and receive a \$30 credit for the 2022 event.

Runners who bought tickets to the pasta dinner, scheduled for Oct. 9, will receive refunds or credit, the Army said.

The Army had been planning for an in-person Army-Ten Miler of up to 12,000 runners. It was scheduled to take place at the Pentagon on Oct. 10, one day before the Association of the U.S. Army's 2021 Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. AUSA is a founding and co-lead sponsor of the race.

For more information and to register for the virtual Army Ten-Miler, click here.

Runners can email usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.armytenmiler@mail.mil with questions or concerns.



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Future Army officers learn from top NCO's experiences

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey,
U.S. Army retired

On a recent visit to El Paso, Texas, the Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs team had the opportunity to meet with ROTC cadets and staff from the University of Texas at El Paso.

This unique leader development opportunity was made possible by Gus Rodriguez, AUSA's 4th Region president, and John Bailey, the region vice president. Both men are huge supporters of everything El Paso, including their friends at the university.

It was interesting to learn that the University of Texas at El Paso is one of the largest and most successful

NCO & Soldier Programs

Hispanic-serving institutions in the country, with a student body that is over 80% Hispanic. It enrolls nearly 25,000 students in 168 bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs over nine colleges and schools.

The university is also one of 1,100 schools that provide Army ROTC. The program, located on the El Paso campus, is set against the Franklin Mountains in the Chihuahuan Desert near the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

The program enjoys a close relationship with the Army and AUSA, as it is just a stone's throw away from Fort Bliss and AUSA's General Omar N. Bradley chapter in El Paso.



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, center, meets with cadets and cadre from the University of Texas at El Paso's ROTC program. (AUSA PHOTO)

Lt. Col. James Bogan, the university's professor of military science, was kind enough to gather a few cadets on short notice, affording us the opportunity to spend some time with some of the Army's future leaders.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, director of NCO and Soldier Programs at AUSA, and I provided insights from our Army experiences and answered the cadets' questions.

As we went around the room and the cadets shared their personal stories of where they grew up and how they became part of the Army's future leader program, a distinct similarity quickly became evident. All of them, except for one, were prior enlisted soldiers.

Whether this was a coincidence or by design, it wasn't the only thing these cadets had in common. Each of them, as they shared their journey from the enlisted ranks to ROTC, gave a strikingly similar reason for why they chose to become members of the Army officer corps.

Each of them chose their new paths to better themselves, but, more importantly, they felt that becoming an officer would enable them to provide the quality leadership our soldiers deserve.

Throughout the session we were continuously impressed by the enthusiasm, morale and humility of the cadets. In short order, it was easy to see in them the hard work put in by the ROTC staff and cadre—and it was comforting to know that soldiers will be in good hands.

Of course, this wasn't my first opportunity to spend some quality time with future officers of our Army, but it did serve as a personal reminder to not let it be my last.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, center, shares his Army experiences and answers questions from ROTC cadets. (AUSA PHOTO)

AUSA chapter event honors exceptional Army civilians

Nineteen Army employees recently were recognized for their outstanding service by the Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter in Alabama.

The chapter's annual Civilian of the Year awards dinner honors "local Department of the Army Civilians who have demonstrated exceptional perfor-

Redstone-Huntsville

mance as members of the Army team," according to a chapter Facebook post.

This year's event took place Aug. 17.

Stephanie Reitmeier received the top honor as the chapter's Civilian of the Year. She is the associate director for propulsion and structures in the technology development directorate of the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center.

"The Army couldn't do it without our civilians," said retired Col. Matt Mingus, a chapter board member, as he welcomed attendees to the awards dinner at the Jackson Center.



Nineteen Army civilians were recognized at the annual dinner hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter. (THE REDSTONE ROCKET/ERIC SCHULTZ)

In his keynote speech, Joseph Giunta, executive director and senior contracting official for the Army Contracting Command-Redstone, praised the award recipients.

"Tonight it is all about you, your individual accomplishments. The citizens of our nation depend on you every day," Giunta said, according to the *Redstone Rocket*.

Reitmeier was nominated by Christi Dolbeer, acting director of technology

development at the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center, and Spencer Hudson, the center's deputy director of missile technology.

Dolbeer described Reitmeier as "a recognized leader" and said she "has made a tremendous impact for our soldiers in delivering combat capability that will ensure the Army's dominance in the 21st century."

In his nomination, Hudson praised Reitmeier's "professionalism, technical expertise, programmatic and acquisition skills, goal-oriented personal standards, and passion for workforce development."

Reitmeier thanked her team and other colleagues and mentors from her career. She also thanked her father, Mike Brown, who she described as "my best mentor ever," as reported by the *Redstone Rocket*.

In addition to Reitmeier, nominees in the technical/technical management category include William Smith, George Bailey, Katherine Olson, Nathan Kennedy, Billy Parsons Jr., Cory Cox, Steve Chisgar and Amanda Clark.

Other nominees include LaMeshia Billington, Michelle Gilbert, Michelle Gilyard, Daniel Matyas and Timothy Hanson in the professional/technical category; Katherine Lamm in the supporting staff category; and Eduardo Francis, Seth Shepherd, Michael Durham and Kate Kelly in the non-appropriated funds category.

Chapter president addresses cadets



Col. Edward Cross

Greg d'Arbonne, center, president of the Association of the U.S. Army's Col. Edward Cross chapter in New Hampshire, speaks to University of New Hampshire ROTC cadets about AUSA's mission of supporting soldiers, families and veterans. The chapter hosts a back-to-school barbeque each year for cadets. (AUSA PHOTO)

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