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Soldiers, AUSA members, defense industry representatives and more enter the Walter E. Washington Convention Center during the 2021 Annual Meeting. (AUSA PHOTO)

## Sign up now for AUSA Annual Meeting

**R**egister now for the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition.

The three-day, in-person event takes place Oct. 10–12 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.

This year's hashtag is #AUSA2022.

Online registration closes at 8 p.m. Eastern Oct. 4. On-site registration opens at the convention center on Oct. 7. You can register here.

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

Tickets to social events during the meeting, including the President's Reception and the George Catlett Marshall Memorial Award Reception

and Dinner, will be available for purchase during registration hours until they're sold out.

During the Annual Meeting, 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.

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.

The 2022 Marshall Medal recipient is Elizabeth Dole, former U.S.

senator, two-time cabinet secretary, former American Red Cross leader and advocate for troops and their families.

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth is scheduled to provide the keynote speech during the opening ceremony, and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville will be the keynote speaker during the Dwight D. Eisenhower Luncheon. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston is expected to speak at several events.

For the eight contemporary military forums and three family forums planned during the Annual Meeting, topics are framed around the Army's top priorities at a time of broad transformation.

There will be discussions on cyber  
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## DoD unveils plan to help military families fight rising costs

In the face of rising consumer prices, the Defense Department has unveiled a 13-point plan to help service members and their families.

“This is personal for me,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin writes in a Sept. 22 memorandum to Pentagon leaders and combatant commanders. “I have seen firsthand how much our military families sacrifice to keep our force strong, healthy and ready to defend this exceptional nation,” he says. “I understand the extraordinary pressures that our military families face, and we are determined to do right by them.”

In addition to a 4.6% raise in basic pay effective Jan. 1, here are the other extraordinary steps Austin has directed:

1. Basic allowance for housing rates will be increased in October for service members living in areas where average rental costs have increased by 20% or more since rates were set last year. This would be in addition to the normal Jan. 1 allowance adjustments.

2. More money will be poured into commissaries in an attempt to provide shoppers with a 25% discount over off-post shopping.

3. Beginning in January, the Pentagon will start paying a Basic Needs Allowance, a new allowance based on



Sgt. 1st Class Andrea Collier carries her son, Carter, during an event at a child development center at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. (U.S. ARMY/CURTIS KEESTER)

income, family size and location.

4. To reduce out-of-pocket moving expenses, the standard temporary lodging expense will be increased from 10 to 14 days, and it can be extended to 60 days if a service member is moving to a location with housing shortages.

5. Dislocation allowance will be increased in October for enlisted members E-6 and below. Also, to reduce out-of-pocket expenses, service members will receive automatic payments one month before their moving date.

6. More information will be added

to Military OneSource, the information portal that provides information on moving and housing.

7. Austin promises “significant investments” to expand capacity of military child care facilities, but he did not provide details.

8. An employee discount for workers at military child care facilities will be standardized at a minimum 50% for the first child. This policy will begin in October.

9. Access will be improved to in-home and other off-installation child care programs, and a pilot fee assistance program will be expanded.

10. Agreements with seven additional states will be completed regarding professional licenses for military spouses.

11. Military spouse hiring will be expanded in DoD by providing more options for remote work or telework.

12. Beginning in January, a new career-accelerator program will be launched to provide military spouses with private-sector fellowships.

13. By January, the Pentagon promises a 10% expansion of a Military Spouse Employment Partnership plan that connects spouses with organizations that have committed to hiring them.

Read Austin’s memo here.



Spc. Cindy Baron shops for groceries in the commissary at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. KARLESHIA GATER)

## Security force assistance brigades foster partnerships around the globe



Sgt. 1st Class David Jones, left, of the 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade, shakes hands with a Bulgarian soldier at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. (U.S. ARMY/CAPT. ANGELO MEJIA)

**T**he Army's security force assistance brigades are helping the service extend its reach and presence around the globe, particularly in Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

The 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade maintains a presence from the Baltics to the Black Sea and focuses on "interoperability amongst NATO allies" and "building capability and capacity" with them, said Col. Robert Born, the brigade commander. The brigade currently has 19 teams of military advisers, who are specially trained to work with partners and allies, in 10 countries in Europe, he said.

"Through our persistent presence, we are able to develop shared understanding, and that shared understanding enables trust amongst allies," Born said during a Sept. 22 media roundtable. "It also allows us to identify changing conditions and emerging opportunities because we can demonstrate the agility to respond to those opportunities and be in the right place at the right time."

The Army has six security force assistance brigades—five in the Regular Army and one in the Army National Guard. These teams are regionally aligned, except for the Guard's 54th SFAB, which is "glob-

ally focused." The brigades were created to reduce the burden on brigade combat teams and free them to focus on fighting near-peer threats.

Born said the U.S. will continue to assist Ukraine with materiel and training as the war continues.

In the Indo-Pacific, the 5th SFAB has been busy, with 20 teams in 14 locations in the region. The Army's partnerships throughout the region have only deepened in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and as Russia wages war in Ukraine.

"A lot of our partners have recognized and seen what has been displayed on the world stage," said Col. Jonathan Chung, the brigade commander. "COVID and the discussions they've seen ... about what was happening in Ukraine was an opportunity to increase our level of partnership and commitment to what we're doing with our partners in the region."

The partnerships fostered by the 5th SFAB are its best defense against evolving threats in the region, Chung said during a separate media roundtable.

"The greatest counterweight to any ... threat or any security cooperation challenge in this area is building this network of allies and partners," he said.

# AUSA Extra

Voice for the Army –  
Support For the Soldier

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### PERK OF THE WEEK

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## New member elected to AUSA Standing Bylaws Committee

**R**etired Col. William Hudson has been approved by the Association of the U.S. Army's Board of Directors to serve on the association's Standing Bylaws Committee.

Additionally, revisions to AUSA's bylaws have been approved by a vote of the association's general membership. The Board of Directors approved the revisions in August.

Hudson, who retired from the Army in 2010 after 27 years of service, was approved to join the committee by AUSA's Board of Directors on Monday.

A partner in the law firm of Tully Rinckey PLLC's Washington, D.C., office, Hudson focuses his practice on military, security clearance and federal employment law.

In the Army, his assignments included serving as special assistant for legal and international security affairs in the office of the assistant



Retired Col. William Hudson. (COURTESY PHOTO)

secretary of defense for legislative affairs, and staff judge advocate for the 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he deployed twice to Iraq.

He also served as the acting general counsel to the Department of Veterans Affairs from November 2019 to January 2021.

The Standing Bylaws Committee is elected by the board for the purpose of receiving and considering proposed amendments to the bylaws and to make recommendations for any amendments to the bylaws.

### Recent revisions

Most recently, the board and AUSA's members approved three modest changes to the bylaws.

First, it makes changes related to a new AUSA membership category that will be introduced in October.

Second, it increases the size of AUSA's Board of Directors to as many as 19 members, up from the current 15, and limits the board to having 11 to 19 members.

Third, it corrects typos, errors and omissions in the current bylaws.

### Annual Meeting

From Page 1

and information warfare, modernizing combat capabilities and what's needed for the future fight. There also will be forums on how the Army is tackling recruiting challenges while working to improve quality of life programs for soldiers and families.

Two theater-focused forums are planned—one will look at land power in Europe, while the other focuses on deterrence in the Indo-Pacific and the Arctic—and there is a panel on climate change and its impact on national security.

The three family forums will include the popular town hall discussion where senior Army leaders answer questions from military families.

Additionally, there will be a seminar focused on homeland defense and how the Army must adapt the way it defends the homeland. This discus-



A soldier registers on-site for the 2021 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. (AUSA PHOTO)

sion comes as military leaders expect that the days when the Army could mass and mobilize troops in an uncontested environment and project

power abroad without adversarial disruption are over.

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

## Author provides tips for veterans seeking education

**E**ducational opportunity has been one of the most popular benefits available to service members since passage of the original GI Bill in the years following World War II—but many veterans have found the classroom to be a battlespace with its own set of challenges.

Former Staff Sgt. John Davis knows both these areas well. After serving two combat deployments with the 101st Airborne Division, Davis returned to civilian life and decided to get a college degree.

In fact, he got two: a bachelor's in history from St. Joseph's College, then a master's degree in education from Harvard—where he is confident that he is the most heavily tattooed grad in school history.

### Book Program

Davis has distilled his hard-won lessons in *Combat to College: Applying the Military Mentality as a Student Veteran*, the latest title in the Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program.

This practical guide shows veterans how to navigate the transition to the academic world and make college success nonnegotiable.

We recently sat down with Davis discuss the book and his own college experiences.

\*\*\*\*\*

**AUSA:** What inspired you to get a college degree after your Army service?

**Davis:** I wanted to be a teacher. That's what I loved about the military: teaching people. A college degree is a requirement, so I went all in on college and took it as serious as my military contract.

**AUSA:** Getting a degree is challenging enough. What drove you to write this book?

**Davis:** I worked in a VA work-study program helping student veterans during college. I gave tours of campus, certified benefits and volunteered for all things student veteran-related. I saw firsthand and up close the challenges student veterans face. That led to me



*Combat to College* is a practical guide that shows veterans how to navigate the transition to the academic world. (DOD PHOTO)

making a list that I gave to incoming student veterans called “John’s College Tips.” Those eventually morphed into the chapters of my book.

**AUSA:** What are some common obstacles veterans face in the college environment?

**Davis:** We’re nontraditional students, we’re older, more likely to have

families, more likely to need employment—and over 50% of student veterans have a service-connected disability. All of this presents challenges. That’s why I wanted to prepare veterans to better succeed in college and make the most of their education.

**AUSA:** How can veterans find the support they need to succeed?

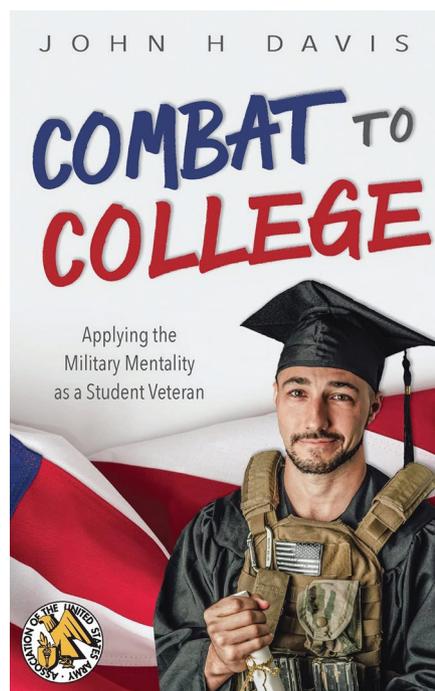
**Davis:** You didn’t run military missions alone; don’t go at college alone, either. Build support around yourself like armor, find mentors, connect with student veteran organizations and get as involved on your campus as you can.

**AUSA:** What would you say to a veteran who is struggling in the first semester and considering dropping out?

**Davis:** Student veterans that make it through their first year are more likely to make it to graduation. You have grit—if you made it through the military, you can make it through college. And like the military, it doesn’t need to be pretty, just get the job done.

\*\*\*\*\*

To order a copy of *Combat to College*, please visit [www.ausa.org/books](http://www.ausa.org/books).



**Joseph Craig** is AUSA's Book Program director.

## AUSA life member receives Order of Saint Maurice

**T**om Mullikin, a life member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter, received the Order of Saint Maurice (Civis level) during ceremonies at the South Carolina State House on Sept. 1.

The award, presented by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, recognizes distinguished infantry service or exceptional support of the infantry. Approved by the National Infantry Association, one of AUSA's Association Partners, the Order of Saint Maurice includes a medal and a citation signed by the Army's chief of infantry.

The Civis level of the award is presented to civilians who have supported the infantry.

Mullikin, a former Army JAG officer, is an environmental attorney, university professor and world-re-



South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, left, and retired Marine Corps Col. Steve Vitali, right, present Tom Mullikin with the Order of Saint Maurice. (AUSA/W. THOMAS SMITH JR.)

nowned explorer who has hiked and climbed mountain ranges stretching across every continent on Earth.

He is a retired commander of the South Carolina State Guard and current chair of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission.

Throughout his career, Mullikin

has been a tireless supporter of the armed forces, primarily infantry, special operations and veterans' organizations.

**W. Thomas Smith Jr.** is a member of AUSA's Fort Jackson-Palmetto State chapter.

## Eagle Chapters

**The following chapters attained Eagle status for August by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1, 2022, is shown in parentheses.**

Arkansas (2)	Mediterranean (2)	Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (1)
Braxton Bragg (2)	North Texas (2)	Fort Riley-Central Kansas (1)
Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley (2)	Northern New York-Fort Drum (2)	Gem State (1)
Col Edward Cross (2)	Sunshine (2)	GEN William C. Westmoreland (1)
Corporal Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (2)	Texas Capital Area (2)	George Washington (1)
Delaware (2)	The Villages (2)	Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (1)
Denver Centennial (2)	Western New York (2)	Houston Metroplex (1)
Florida Gulf Stream (2)	Allegheny-Blue Ridge (1)	Milwaukee (1)
Fort Rucker-Wiregrass (2)	Arizona Territorial (1)	Northern New Jersey (1)
Greater Los Angeles (2)	Central Virginia (1)	Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (1)
Hawaii (2)	Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (1)	San Francisco (1)
Korea (2)	Connecticut (1)	Suncoast (1)
Magnolia (2)	Des Moines Freedom (1)	Thunderbird (1)
Major Samuel Woodfill (2)	Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista (1)	Utah (1)
	Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (1)	Virginia Colonial (1)

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