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Membership traditionally sees an additional bounce during the AUSA Annual Meeting. (AUSA PHOTO)

Association membership tops 155,000

The Association of the U.S. Army entered October with 155,772 members after a 27-month period of almost continuous growth.

This is nearing AUSA's historical high membership of 165,534 set in 1985.

"It is great to see the success of our sustained focus on increasing membership," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. "We plan to do even better, especially in gaining soldiers and Army civilians as members, but this is a very positive result."

Thanks in part to a creative program of adopting other associations as part of the AUSA team, total membership is 154% greater today than it was in November 2016 and 13.7% greater than at the start of 2019.

Linking AUSA with like-minded organizations, an effort launched in 2017, accounts for 82,647 members today.

The newest member of the team is the Huntsville, Alabama-based Redstone Federal Credit Union, which has branches across Northern Alabama and Central Tennessee.

Also joined with AUSA are the Army Aviation Association of America, the Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area, the Army Strategist Association, the Association of Quartermasters, the Civil Affairs Association, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, the National Infantry Association, The Patriot Project, The Rocks, Inc., The U.S. Army Officer Candidate Schools Alumni Association, the U.S. Field Artillery Association, the U.S. Army Ranger Association and the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association.

Information on these groups can be found at ausa.org/association-members.

These organizations account for 53% of overall AUSA membership, but there has been modest growth in other areas.

AUSA began October with 41,508 individual members and 15,028 life members.

This represents a 5.3% increase in individual members and 6.6% increase in life members over the last two years.

Membership traditionally has an ad-

ditional bounce during the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition, which this year begins Oct. 14.

There are also 10,192 National Partner members and 6,397 Community Partner members.

National Partner members have slightly increased over the last two years, while Community Partner members have slightly decreased.

"In extending memberships to other associations, we went back to 1950 and the origins of our association," said retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, AUSA vice president for membership and meetings. "Our AUSA team has done an incredible job of outreach, training and improving all of the benefits of membership, from education and professional development to huge savings programs."

"We are the Army's only professional association that is open to all. We really only have two requirements to join—you have to love the U.S. Army and agree to abide by our bylaws. Every member counts."



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New Army secretary, Joint Chiefs chairman sworn in

Ryan McCarthy, a 46-year-old Ranger, former business executive and banker, and a former congressional and defense aide, was sworn in Sept. 30 as the Army's 24th secretary.

At a time of great change in military leadership, McCarthy's appointment is a bit of stability as he's already served more than once as the top Army civilian leader in a temporary capacity.

The difference now is that he's the one in charge, working with a team he already knows and with his close colleague Gen. James McConville serving as the Army chief of staff.

Shortly after McCarthy took the oath, Gen. Mark Milley, the former Army chief of staff, was sworn in as the 20th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in a ceremony attended by President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Defense Secretary Mark Esper, the former Army secretary.

Milley succeeds Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford as chairman.

In a message to the Army, issued Sept. 27 after his nomination was approved by the Senate, McCarthy talked about retaining the Army's current focus.

"Despite significant leadership transition across the Department of Defense recently, the Army has remained focused on its missions in support of the National Defense Strategy," he wrote in a message.

"Continuity of priorities and leadership focus is critical to achieve the 2018 Army Vision, which provides the strategic framework for guiding the Army into the next decade. Therefore, the Army's priorities—readiness, modernization and reform—are not changing."

He also pledged to change some Army culture.

"The Army fights and wins with cohesive, disciplined teams. We will reverse the negative trends in suicide, sexual assault, and sexual ha-



Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy, left, and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (U.S. ARMY/JOHN MARTINEZ)

rassment that tear at the fabric of our formations," he wrote.

One key to that change is to become better teammates, McCarthy wrote.

"Teammates know each other, mentor each other, and help each other through difficult times," he wrote.

"Leaders at all levels must build cohesive teams and get to know their people to address challenges before they manifest into larger problems that degrade unit effectiveness."

From chief to chairman

At Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, the new Joint Chiefs chairman said he is honored and grateful for the trust and confidence placed in him, and promised to provide the nation's leaders with "informed, candid and impartial military advice."

Milley also pledged to make sure the U.S. military remains the world's "premier fighting force," with an emphasis on readiness and modernization as well as "unwavering support, care and leadership" of troops and their families.

"With the complex challenges of the international environment, the United States armed forces stand ready," Milley said.

"We stand ready to keep the peace or, if necessary, win the war."

The U.S. military is the best equipped, best trained and best led military in human history, he said.

"Our adversaries should know never to underestimate our skill, our capability, and our combat power."

Milley reiterated his priorities in his first message to the joint force, where he promised to focus on improving warfighting readiness, developing the force of the future and taking care of people and families.

Trump congratulated Dunford on a job well done and thanked Milley for accepting the position.

"In his new role as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Milley will serve as my top military adviser," Trump said. "I have absolute confidence that he will fulfill his duty with the same brilliance and fortitude he has shown throughout his long and very distinguished career."

"From the great General Omar Bradley to the famed Joe Dunford," he continued, "our nation has been blessed by the advice, counsel and wisdom of 19 chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Today, we pass the baton to the 20th."

AUSA's legislative priorities reflect support for the Total Army

By Mark Haaland

In support of the National Defense Authorization Act conference, the Association of the U.S. Army is advocating for a number of priorities in support of the Total Army and our esteemed membership.

These recommendations have been conveyed to the chairmen, ranking members and staff of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

AUSA supports the SASC's higher authorization levels for the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve accounts for operations and maintenance.

AUSA also supports the Army's request for recruiting and advertising funding within the O&M accounts.

The association is concerned the process of reforming the Defense Department's health care system is moving too fast and without detailed plans and performance metrics to ensure success.

AUSA recommends HASC Section 718 supporting additional review and analysis in order to reduce risk to readiness and health care services for service members and their families.

Sexual assault and harassment have been among the most difficult challenges across the force, and AUSA fully agrees something new is needed to effect positive change.

We support the legislative proposals offered by Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., to reinvigorate the prevention of sexual assault among members of the military.

AUSA opposes the proposed Service Academy Pilot Program to conduct an independent prosecutorial review of all sexual assault reports, as this will undermine the critical role and authority of the commander.

AUSA endorses the House provision to extend Tricare Reserve Select to federal employees who are in the National Guard and Reserve. An effective date



prior to 2030 would convey Congress' strong support for these critical members of the force.

For widows and their families, repeal of the Survivor Benefit Plan—Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Offset is long overdue.

While there is a bill associated with fixing the existing legislation, this is clearly the right thing to do.

AUSA supports the House position on the Integrated Personnel and Pay System—Army. The Army must have this capability as a foundational component of its talent management effort for the Total Army.

We are thankful to the HASC and SASC for including legislation to improve quality of life in the armed forces. Examples include:

- Improving housing, to include tenant rights.
- Supporting spouse employment.
- Improving child care availability that is safe and meets quality standards.
- Granting reimbursement for taxes incurred during relocation moves for civilian employees.

AUSA thanks the HASC and SASC conferees and staff for considering all these recommendations for the fiscal NDAA conference in support of our nation's military.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs Director.

AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier*

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PERK OF THE WEEK

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AUSA members already receive substantial discounts at Hewlett Packard with everyday savings of 35%, free shipping and easy returns, and expert sales agents to assist with your purchase via phone, chat and email support. HP offers a full portfolio of consumer and commercial products, from notebooks and desktops to printers, accessories and more. Check out additional member savings during their Fall Blowout Sale, now through Oct. 5, at www.ausa.org/HP.

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Leading The Situational Awareness Revolution

Dunwoody to receive West Point's 2019 Thayer Award

Retired Gen. Ann Dunwoody, the first woman in U.S. history to reach the rank of four-star general, will receive the 2019 Sylvanus Thayer Award, the West Point Association of Graduates' highest honor for a nongraduate.

Dunwoody, a member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Council of Trustees, will receive the prestigious award on Oct. 10 during a ceremony hosted by Lt. Gen. Darryl Williams, superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

"With four generations of West Point graduates in my family, I am especially proud that I will have the privilege of trooping the line, and the opportunity to salute the men and women of the Corps of Cadets who will lead and inspire our future Army," Dunwoody said in a statement.

Dunwoody's brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all West Point graduates.

Joining the Army in 1974, Dunwoody was a second lieutenant in the Women's Army Corps in 1975 and went on to service at every level of



Then-Army chief of staff Gen. George Casey administers the oath of office to Gen. Ann Dunwoody during her promotion ceremony to four-star general. (DOD/PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MOLLY BURGESS)

command, including several firsts.

She was the first woman to command a battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division; the first female general officer at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and the first woman to command the Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee, Virginia.

In her last assignment, Dunwoody led Army Materiel Command, the largest global logistics command in the Army. She retired in 2012, saying,

"From the very first day that I put my uniform on, right up until this morning, I know there is nothing I would have rather done with my life."

Past recipients of the Thayer Award include Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, Bob Hope, Neil Armstrong, Barbara Jordan, Walter Cronkite, Tom Brokaw, Colin Powell, Madeleine Albright, Henry Kissinger, former President George W. Bush and Leon Panetta.

AUSA, Navy League come together to host special event

In a first for both organizations, the Association of the U.S. Army and the Navy League of the United States came together to co-host a special event featuring the commander of U.S. Southern Command.

Navy Adm. Craig Faller, who has led the Miami-based Southern Command since last fall, spoke Sept. 30 at a Rogers Strategic Issues Forum at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

During the event, Faller said a large-scale Army warfighter exercise in partnership with Latin American and Caribbean nations is being planned for some time in the next two years, adding that a "vicious circle of threats" that includes China and Russia imperils many of the young democracies and weak institutions in the

Western Hemisphere.

Some of those nations have shown interest in doing a full-spectrum military exercise, he said, to bolster interoperability and warfighting skills.

The proposed exercise, which is "still in the unfunded stage," would be led by the U.S. Army, Faller said.

"I'm not ready to give a name or talk about the concept, but I think the time is right. These are nations that have quality armies and want to work together on a mil-to-mil level," Faller said. "There's a humanitarian component of it, but there will be warfighting skills and jointness and combined arms."

Inroads made by China and Russia in what Faller described as a "shared neighborhood" with the 27 democra-

cies in Latin America and the Caribbean have given him a "heightened sense of urgency of how important it is that we get after that, how serious those threats are."

Citing PANAMAX, an annual command post exercise focused on defending the Panama Canal, Faller said, "it's reasonable to take that concept and actually go from a CPX to a live exercise where we exercise those skills more broadly, and I think some of our partners are ready to do that."



Adm. Craig Faller speaks at the forum. (AUSA PHOTO)

Newest benefit is direct-to-member discount program

By Susan Rubel

Here are some of the benefits exclusive to members of the Association of the U.S. Army.

Local and national savings

AUSA's newest member benefit is Abenity, a direct-to-member discount program that will save you money on the things you use every day.

Abenity represents the buying power of more than 45 million members, so it's able to negotiate excellent savings with both local and national retailers.

Save money at 1-800-PetMeds, Audible, Blue Apron, Brooks Brothers, Casper, Chewy, Columbia Sportswear, FatHead, FedEx, GE Appliances, KIND, PODS, Target, TurboTax, U-Pack, World Market and many more.

Abenity's movie ticket discount program pairs with integrated showtimes, trailers and reviews to put everything you need for your next movie night right at your fingertips.

With 300,000-plus offers, you're sure to find merchants you already know and love. Categories include attractions and tours, cell phones, health

and wellness, travel, concerts and events, fashion and beauty, unique experiences, automotive, electronics, gifts and flowers, and restaurants.

Visit <https://bit.ly/2o7bVBT> now to start saving.

Trick or treat

If you're planning your Halloween costume or party, visit Personalization Universe at www.ausa.org/pu for a variety of personalized Halloween gifts and costumes. Save 25% sitewide with code AUSA25.

You can also get delicious Halloween and fall-themed fruit bouquets at www.ausa.org/fruit. Use code 25AUSA for 25% savings sitewide.

Battle Digest

Get your next free issue of *Battle Digest*—*The Battle of Cannae*.

Learn how Hannibal crushed the Roman army in history's most famous double envelopment.

At Cannae, Rome suffered one of the most crushing defeats in history, and the battle would become one of history's great tactical masterpieces, instructing military leaders for more than 2,000 years.

AUSA members get a free download of the current issue of *Battle Digest*, and also get 15% off printed copies or previous issues, at www.ausa.org/battle.

Magazines for military families

Legacy Magazine is a beautiful publication for military families and their communities that operates from the premise that every individual is designed on purpose and for a purpose—with unique experiences, qualities and strengths that can be used for the betterment of our communities.

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Military Kids Life is a quarterly magazine for kids, published by Chameleon Kids, that focuses on the bright side of life in a military family.

The magazine is all about finding your adventure as a military kid, and it contains articles, essays and photographs, making it a good resource for fun ideas, up-to-date information and creative products for military kids.

Save 25% at www.ausa.org/kids.

Susan Rubel is AUSA's Affinity Programs Director.

Member Benefits

New podcasts on mentoring, talent management, families

The Association of the U.S. Army is releasing four new podcast episodes in October, including more information on the Army's talent management efforts and counseling and mentoring among noncommissioned officers.

The first October podcast in the "Army Matters" series features a discussion on how aspiring leaders can become effective mentors.

Co-hosted by retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, both of AUSA's NCO and Soldier Programs, the podcast will be available Oct. 7.

On the Oct. 14 podcast, a group of experts from the Army Talent Manage-



ment Task Force will provide a deep dive into upcoming talent management changes, including congressional authorizations and brevet versus merit-based promotions.

Next up is an episode geared toward military families.

Debbie Nichols, founder and CEO of the Military Children's Collaborative Group, will talk about how she became involved in the military children's com-

munity through her daughter's deployment, and how she established the group as a support system for children affected by deployment. The podcast will be available Oct. 21.

The Oct. 28 podcast will feature author James Fenelon, who will discuss his new book *Four Hours of Fury: The Untold Story of World War II's Largest Airborne Invasion and the Final Push into Nazi Germany*.

The book follows the 17th Airborne Division as it prepared for Operation Varsity, a campaign that would rival Normandy in scale and become one of the most successful and important of the war.

Learn more: <https://podcast.ausa.org>.



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Chapter hosts luncheon for survivor of USS Indianapolis

By Nancy Kate Braugher

A recent event sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter featured a 94-year-old survivor of the USS Indianapolis, the decorated Navy cruiser that was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine during World War II.

Marine Sgt. Edgar Harrell was the featured speaker at the USS Indianapolis Survivor Luncheon, which was co-sponsored by the chapter and Aria Wealth Management.

More than 250 people attended to listen to Harrell's eyewitness account of the horrific sinking of the USS Indianapolis. Attendees included local veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Residents of the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home, ROTC and Hazel Green High School JROTC cadets, military personnel and elected officials were also present at the Sept. 19 event at the Jackson Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Harrell, now 94, held the audience spellbound as he spoke of the ship's secret mission to bring its top-secret cargo from the port of San Francisco



Sgt. Edgar Harrell, front right, and his assistant, Robert 'Scooter' Miller, front left, meet with current and former Redstone-Huntsville chapter officers at the luncheon. (AUSA PHOTO)

to the Island of Tinian in the Pacific Ocean.

The cargo were components for the atomic bombs that would be dropped on Japan and ultimately end World War II.

The ship and crew succeeded in delivering the cargo to its destination, but disaster struck as they traveled from Guam to Leyte in July 1945.

Two torpedoes ripped through the USS Indianapolis, which was carrying 1,197 men. Near death after a narrow escape from the explosions, 317 were able to abandon the ship but unable to send a distress signal.

No one knew they were in danger, leaving them stranded for four and a half days in shark-infested waters covered in oil before the survivors were spotted by the crew of a PV-1 Ventura on routine patrol.

Harrell, who lives in Nashville, travels extensively throughout the United States telling of his experience. Redstone-Huntsville was grateful to be one of his stops along the way to hear his story of courage and survival.

Nancy Kate Braugher is the Redstone-Huntsville chapter's vice president for media relations/website.

AUSA membership open to all who support America's Army

The president of the Association of the U.S. Army's Las Vegas-John C. Fremont chapter recently discussed the association's purpose and activities, and the benefits of membership in an interview with a local news outlet.

Las Vegas-John C. Fremont

AUSA is a private, nonprofit educational organization that supports all aspects of America's Army, and membership is open to anyone who supports the Army's history and mission, retired Sgt. 1st Class Ken Salazar told the Boulder City Review.

"The organization is open to anyone who supports the Army's objectives and a strong, national defense," Salazar said, adding that AUSA provides education through publications and information concerning what is said to be the critical nature of land forces and the importance of the U.S. Army.

Members of the Las Vegas-John C. Fremont chapter benefit by connecting with and supporting other members,



Ken Salazar. (AUSA PHOTO)

soldiers and their families through chapter meetings, sponsors dinners and other area activities, he said.

Additionally, AUSA advocates for the Army and soldiers on Capitol Hill.

Among other topics, the organization is asking Congress to support improved military modernization, upgraded military housing, and wider medical eligibility for National Guard and Reserve soldiers, Salazar said.

Salazar emphasized that one does not have to be a veteran to join AUSA, and anyone interested in additional information can contact him at salazar_2693@msn.com.



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2019 MEETINGS & EVENTS



2019 AUSA ANNUAL MEETING

WASHINGTON, DC

October 14–16, 2019



HOT TOPIC: RUSSIA | CHINA

ARLINGTON, VA

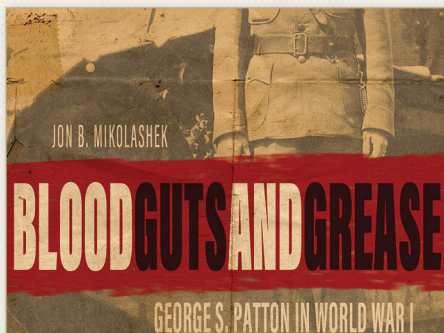
October 30, 2019



ARMY ACCESSIONS FORUM

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November 6, 2019



ILW LEMNITZER LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING – JON B. MIKOLASHEK

ARLINGTON, VA

November 13, 2019



ILW BREAKFAST SERIES – MG JOSEPH P. MCGEE

ARLINGTON, VA

November 14, 2019



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