



The Association of the U.S. Army's 2020 Annual Meeting and Exposition, AUSA Now, will feature many senior leaders including Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JAMES HARVEY)

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AUSA Now meeting is fast approaching

Next Tuesday, the Army will make an urgent call for action shaped around the theme of the 2020 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition, "The Time is Now."

This is a theme that Army leaders are applying to strengthening strategic readiness, continuing what they describe as "irreversible momentum" on the path to transformational change in modernization, and modernizing how the Army cares for its people.

Called AUSA Now, the virtual meeting begins Oct. 13.

It provides four hours a day of often simultaneous programming, assessing where the world's most powerful

land force stands today and where it needs to be in the future.

The first day hits on those topics with an opening address by Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, followed by discussions on diversity and inclusion and driving changes in the industrial base, and talks about combat readiness by senior commanders, including Gen. Michael Garrett of Army Forces Command, Gen. Paul LaCamera of U.S. Army Pacific and Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen of the Army National Guard.

Also featured Oct. 13 is an initiatives forum presented by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston.

The theme remains constant over several days of speeches and forums.

McCarthy is optimistic. In an interview published in the Green Book, the October edition of AUSA's *ARMY* magazine, he says, "Our people are working very hard. They've been asked to do extraordinary things, and they have delivered."

McCarthy said he is concerned about how hard people are working and has plans to provide more time for rest, more time for training and more time for counseling.

The Green Book will be available for digital download for registered participants who sign in to the meeting. The download can be found under the media tab in the virtual lobby.

The full schedule and registration details are available here.



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Leading The Situational Awareness Revolution

Grinston: Good leadership means taking care of soldiers

Commanders at all levels must take care of soldiers, even when things go wrong, for the Army to successfully navigate challenges at home and abroad, the sergeant major of the Army said.

Good leadership can make all the difference to soldiers, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston said during the recent Fires Conference held virtually by the Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

“I can deal with repeated combat, I can deal with high op tempo, if I’ve got a great battery commander who says, ‘I’m going to do this for my soldiers, I’m going to stick up for them,’” Grinston said in response to a question about how a soon-to-be commander should prepare to lead.

But if you throw bad leadership into the mix, Grinston said, “all bets are off. It’s going to be a disaster.”

Grinston’s comments come as the Army works to eliminate bias and foster inclusion in the ranks, and one of Grinston’s key efforts is the This is My Squad initiative, which aims to build strong, cohesive teams.

This is My Squad is “not a slogan,” Grinston said. Instead, it’s a call for leaders to take ownership of their teams and get to know their soldiers.

A good way to start is to talk to your soldiers, Grinston said, espe-



Talking to soldiers about their lives and difficult issues is part of good leadership, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston said. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JAMES GEELEN)

cially about their lives and whether they face discrimination.

“Don’t be afraid of it, don’t shy away, don’t ignore it,” he said.

A question as simple as “How did you grow up?” can break the ice and encourage soldiers to open up, Grinston said.

“That, to me, is a good leader, when you know more about your soldiers and what’s going on in their lives,” he said.

Good leaders also care for their soldiers during challenging times, Grinston said.

When asked about his toughest lead-

ership challenge, he cited as an example one of his soldiers who shot himself in the leg but lied about the incident.

The soldier’s lie caused the unit to look for a shooter who didn’t exist.

“How do you continue to be compassionate, empathetic, not only to the soldier but the family?” he said.

Some soldiers in the unit were angry when they learned the soldier had shot himself and then tried to cover it up, he said.

“To protect the soldier and the family and the integrity of the unit was extremely challenging,” Grinston said. “You still need to protect your soldiers even when they do bad things. These are your soldiers.”

Grinston, a career artillery soldier, said he’s proud of how the Army has performed during a tough year.

“Our nation has gone through a lot of things in the last year, but I’m proud to be your SMA, I’m proud to be a field artillery soldier, I’m proud of everything we’ve done in the last nine to 10 months,” he said.

“We’ve been very disciplined. We’ve helped the country out, whether it’s doctors in New York and Washington or helping with forest fires and a hurricane. I’m proud of everything we’ve done.”



A question as simple as ‘How did you grow up?’ can break the ice and encourage soldiers to open up, said Grinston, left. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. NAHJIER WILLIAMS)

New Army command will consolidate operational support for Europe, Africa

The commanding general of U.S. Army Europe will receive a fourth star and lead a newly consolidated command that will support operations in both Europe and Africa.

Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, who has led Army Europe since January 2018, was confirmed by the Senate Sep. 30. He now will lead U.S. Army Europe-Africa, based in Germany, and provide support to U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command.

Details on the consolidated command are still being finalized, according to an Army official.

Army Europe, which has its headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, is responsible for a 51-country area and is tasked with deterring aggression and reassuring America's allies and partners in Europe.

About 38,000 soldiers, 11,000 Army civilians and 13,000 local nationals are assigned and deployed across the region, according to the command's website.

The Vicenza, Italy-based U.S. Army Africa originated as the Southern European Task Force, which was activated in October 1955.

SETAF, whose storied history includes missions to Uganda, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Liberia, Iraq and Afghanistan, became Army Africa in late 2008 and serves as the Army service component command for U.S. Africa Command, according to the command's website.

Cavoli has served in a variety of positions throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia. His previous commands include the 25th Infantry Division, the 7th Army Training Command and the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

He also has served as the deputy commander of Regional Command-West in Afghanistan and as deputy commanding general for operations at the 82nd Airborne Division.



Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli was confirmed to lead the new U.S. Army Europe-Africa. (U.S. ARMY/MARKUS RAUCHENBERGER)

A foreign area officer with a concentration on Eurasia, Cavoli speaks Italian, Russian and French and holds degrees from Princeton University and Yale University.

In addition to Cavoli, the Senate confirmed several other Army leaders for new assignments or advancement.

Lt. Gen. Andrew Poppas, director for operations on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, was reappointed to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as director of the Joint Staff.

Maj. Gen. James Mingus, who recently completed his tenure as commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, will receive a third star and succeed Poppas as director for operations on the Joint Staff.

Brig. Gen. Sean Bernabe, who on Sept. 30 took command of the 1st Armored Division after serving as deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, and Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank, commander of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, Louisiana, were both confirmed for promotion to major general.

Army National Guard Col. William McClintock was confirmed for promotion to brigadier general.

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New chapter officers discuss support for NCOs, soldiers

By Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch,
U.S. Army Retired

The Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate recently announced the award of the new NCO and Soldier Programs ribbon to 12 qualifying chapters.

One of the requirements for the ribbon is the appointment of a chapter vice president for NCO and Soldier Affairs. We believe the vice president can strengthen the relationship between chapters and the enlisted personnel in their community.

Having a specific person assigned to develop, encourage and assist NCOs and soldiers, and knowing you have counterparts in other chapters with the same goals and objectives, can be beneficial for holistic chapter growth.

On Sept. 24, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, vice president of NCO and Soldier Programs at AUSA headquarters, hosted the first virtual meeting with the newly appointed chapter vice presidents.

The intent of this meeting was to brief the chapter representatives on events hosted at the national level, preview upcoming activities and share ideas.

We had 32 attendees for our first meeting, and we hope more chapters will appoint a representative and join us for future meetings.

"The first meeting with the chapter vice presidents for NCO and Soldier Affairs was a huge success," Dailey said. "All of us at the national headquarters NCO and Soldier Programs directorate look forward to building on this program."

During the meeting, Dailey and the new vice presidents exchanged ideas on everything from fundraising to professional development and membership. Given that chapters often face the same types of obstacles and demographic challenges, the meeting provided the perfect platform for



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, top left, and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, top right, meet virtually with AUSA chapter vice presidents. (AUSA PHOTO)

those ideas to be shared.

Several chapters highlighted the creative programs they have developed to support and engage with soldiers.

For example, one chapter created the First Sergeant Ordway Leadership Program to recognize outstanding first sergeants in their community.

The program is named in honor of



The chapter vice presidents for NCO and Soldier Affairs are part of an effort to increase rapport between chapters and enlisted personnel. (U.S. ARMY/PATRICK ALBRIGHT)

Sgt. John Ordway, who served in the capacity of first sergeant for the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

His duties included making sure the men were taken care of, provided rations and properly equipped.

At the end of the meeting, Dailey and the new vice presidents agreed to sustain this newly developed program and meet every other month.

We are developing an agenda that will be published along with dates and times of future meetings.

"This is an excellent opportunity for us to continue to provide support to our chapters and collaborate in sharing creative ways to engage and support our noncommissioned officers and soldiers across the Army," Dailey said.

We welcome your attendance and look forward to hearing what each of our chapters has been doing to support our troops.

For more information or a schedule of future events, please contact me at twelch@ausa.org or Victoria McAdoo, senior coordinator for NCO & Soldier Programs, at vmcadoo@ausa.org.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch is AUSA's director for NCO and Soldier Programs.

Chapter presents regional awards for outstanding service

The Association of the U.S. Army's Marne chapter recently presented awards to an outstanding Community Partner and chapter volunteer during its general membership meeting.

The GeoVista Credit Union received AUSA's Third Region Community Partner Award, and Barbara Martin VanDuser received the region's Liberty Award.

Both awards were presented by Carla Schreihofner, president of the Hinesville, Georgia-based chapter.

"GeoVista Credit Union joined AUSA as a Community Partner several years ago.

Marne

AUSA's mission to support the soldier is in line with the credit union's mission, which made this relationship the right match," Schreihofner said.

Since 1964, GeoVista has provided financial services to service members and civilian employees at Georgia's Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

"GeoVista helps to build lasting relationships through working with soldiers on affordable car purchases, account management, credit building



Carla Schreihofner, Marne chapter president, left, presents awards to Barbara Martin VanDuser and Marie Stephens of GeoVista Credit Union. (AUSA PHOTO)

and home purchases," Schreihofner said. She added that Elaine Tuten, GeoVista CEO, has made a lasting commitment to AUSA and supports the chapter financially and through numerous volunteer hours.

VanDuser, vice president of branch operations at GeoVista, was honored for her service to the Marne chapter spanning more than eight years.

She has served as treasurer, on the golf tournament and membership committees, and at the chapter's Wreath for Warriors event.

"Barbara also runs our cooking

show demonstrations, a partnership between our chapter, the Fort Stewart USO and GeoVista Credit Union," Schreihofner said.

The bi-monthly cooking shows—funded by GeoVista and held at the USO—provide soldiers and family members an opportunity to have a meal prepared by a culinary expert and learn to prepare, cook and present the meal.

"Barbara is always on the lookout to tell the story of AUSA and share the importance of the association," Schreihofner said.

Nonprofit group seeks to preserve Fort Gordon's history

The Association of the U.S. Army's Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon chapter recently hosted a virtual meeting featuring retired Brig. Gen. Welton Chase, who discussed the history of Fort Gordon, Georgia, and the future of the installation's museum, which is scheduled to close in 2021.

Chase, a lifetime member of AUSA, spoke as a representative of the Fort

Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon

Gordon Historical Museum Society, a group of 26 people committed to building a modern museum and preserving the historically significant artifacts from Fort Gordon's museum.



The museum at Fort Gordon, Georgia, is scheduled to close in 2021. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

He described the long and storied history of Fort Gordon, which transformed from a World War I infantry training camp into a modern cyber dominance platform.

The post has been home to many

types of Army units including signal, military police, aviation, infantry and armor. It is also now home to Army Cyber Command.

"We want to work to preserve that history as we educate the present and prepare the next generation of service," Chase said.

The society seeks to create a live and virtual museum under a public-private partnership with the Army, he said, asking those in attendance to assist through donations, volunteering and spreading the word.

"We hope that you'll join our team and educate those around you so we can help the next generation prepare for the future," Chase said.



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