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Retired Gen. Bob Brown, left, AUSA president and CEO, greets a soldier from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) during the opening ceremony of the AUSA Annual Meeting. (AUSA PHOTO)

A 'different but awesome' AUSA 2021

By Gen. Bob Brown, U.S. Army retired

The most exciting thing about the Association of the U.S. Army's 2021 Annual Meeting and Exposition is that we returned in roaring style to having in-person meetings.

As the new AUSA president and CEO, who has attended many Annual Meetings over the years, I know it might not have been exactly like meetings of the past.

There might have been a little less pomp and circumstance, but we succeeded in bringing together more than 20,000 people over three days to focus on America's Army, the world's most powerful land force.

This year's Annual Meeting was not like a regular meeting. It was not business as usual, and we had lots of changes. Going into the meeting, we promised to be different but better.

In my opinion, we were different but awesome.

From Army leaders—uniformed and civilian—we heard of how dedication, planning and rapid maneuvering allowed the force to adjust to a world restricted by COVID-19 while still responding to the demands of combatant commands, real-world needs and plenty of natural disasters.

From industry, we learned of their dedication to national security and got a peek at emerging technologies that will help America's Army remain the world's greatest land force.

The Army has managed to stay prepared and ready, making progress on the promises of its People First strategy and remaining focused on building strong, cohesive and ready teams.

There were many memorable moments during this Annual Meeting.

It was great to watch as Spc. Justin Earnhart was announced as Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Adam Krauland announced as NCO of the Year, and even more exciting when Earnhart received a spot promotion to sergeant from Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston.

I enjoyed meeting with our chapter leaders and members from all over the country, the tireless volunteers who help our association fulfill its mission of supporting soldiers and our Army.

We all paid close attention as Army Secretary Christine Wormuth outlined the way ahead for the Army, and it was fascinating to see and learn about all the new and emerging technologies our friends in industry have to offer to the future force.

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Army mourns the loss of iconic leaders Powell, Odierno

In the span of 10 days, the Army lost two of its giants, men who left indelible marks on the military and the lives of countless troops.

Retired Gen. Colin Powell, the first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and first Black secretary of state, died Monday due to complications from COVID-19, his family said. He was fully vaccinated but had received treatment over the past few years for multiple myeloma, a blood cancer that impairs the body's ability to fight infection, the Associated Press reported. He was 84.

Retired Gen. Raymond Odierno, the former Army chief of staff who commanded U.S. forces in Iraq, died Oct. 8 after battling cancer. He was 67.

Powell was a legendary leader, and he'll "be remembered for so many amazing contributions to our nation," said retired Gen. Bob Brown, president and CEO of the Association of the U.S. Army.

About Odierno, Brown said, "He was a larger-than-life presence in the Army, an inspirational leader filled with innovative ideas on how to lead and take care of soldiers."

His death "casts a shadow over the Army, but his legacy will live on," Brown said.

'Good soldier'

Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants, commissioned in 1958 and

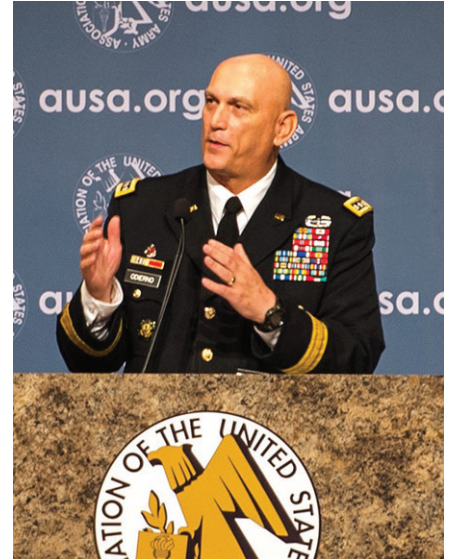


Retired Gen. Colin Powell speaks at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, during an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

served two tours in Vietnam.

From December 1962 to November 1963, he was an adviser to a South Vietnamese infantry battalion, according to DoD. He returned to Vietnam in June 1968 and served in several roles within the 23rd Infantry Division. He would receive the Soldier's Medal for repeatedly returning to a burning helicopter to rescue others despite being injured himself, according to DoD.

During his career, Powell served several assignments in the Pentagon and Washington, D.C. He also



Then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno speaks during the 2013 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

commanded 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, in Korea, and 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

In 1983, he was senior military assistant to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, then commanded V Corps in Europe before serving as President Ronald Reagan's deputy national security adviser in 1987 and national security adviser until 1989.

After receiving his fourth star in 1989, Powell was selected by President George H.W. Bush to be the 12th chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

He was the first African American, the first ROTC graduate and, at 52, the youngest officer to serve in the position, according to DoD.

During his tenure, Powell oversaw 28 crises, including the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989 and Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

He retired from the Army in 1993 and was nominated by President George W. Bush to be secretary of state, serving from 2001 to 2005.

In an interview with students on Scholastic.com in 2000, Powell was asked what he believed history would say about him.

See **Leaders**, Page 6

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

Angelina Flores

Director, Chapter & Region Support

Angelina Flores joined AUSA in June 2015, and as director of region and chapter support, she assists the association's volunteers with executing local programs. She has gained a deep appreciation for how nonprofits seek to support the Army and its soldiers and families. In her spare time, she enjoys crafting flower arrangements and building Lego sets.



New report gives Army ‘marginal’ rating despite strong readiness



Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, engage in a live-fire exercise at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. VINCENT LEVELEV)

The Heritage Foundation’s “2022 Index of U.S. Military Strength” once again scores the U.S. Army as “marginal” because improvements in brigade combat team readiness continue to be offset by struggles to modernize the force.

“The Army is aging faster than it is modernizing,” says the report released Wednesday.

While the service has sustained its commitment to modernizing for great-power competition, “its modernization programs are still in their development phase, and it will be a few years before they are ready for acquisition and fielding,” it says.

The Army isn’t alone. The report rates the Navy as “marginal, trending toward weak,” and the Air Force and Space Force as “weak.” Only the Marine Corps and U.S. nuclear capabilities were ranked as “strong,” with the nuclear enterprise trending toward marginal or even weak.

Overall, the U.S. military continues to be rated as “marginal,” with positive and negative trends, the 2022 report says. The services have made progress in bringing on some new equipment, filling gaps in manpower and rebuilding stocks of munitions and repair parts, but there remain “worrisome” trends in readiness and

continued budget uncertainty.

The Army, like the other services, is at a strategic inflection point.

“That it needs to evolve and transform is unquestioned,” the report says, particularly in the face of advances in firepower and the rise of robotics and autonomous systems.

What’s “open to question” is whether the service will have the “necessary resources” to enable its transformation.

“Of all the services, the Army has fared the worst in terms of resources. Its funding levels plateaued with the FY 2018 budget and since then have declined,” according to the report.

The Army remains “weak” in capacity, with 62% of the force it should have, the report says. The Army has 31 Regular Army brigade combat teams, but the foundation believes it should have available 50 BCTs to be fully sized to meet threats, particularly if faced with two major regional conflicts.

Army capability remains “marginal” because of the age of its equipment and the size and maturity of its modernization programs, the report says.

There is good news—the Army earned a score of “very strong” for having 58% of its 31 Regular Army brigade combat teams at the highest state of readiness.

The full report is available here.

AUSAExtra

Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier

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PERK OF THE WEEK

To better understand military history, one source gives you professional, concise and informative summaries of key battles throughout the ages—*Battle Digest*. Covering seven distinct periods, *Battle Digest* makes it



easy to explore and understand battles in as little as 20 minutes, from ancient and medieval times up through modern wars, with a new issue delivered to your home every other month. AUSA members save 20% at www.ausa.org/battle.

Annual Meeting

From Page 1

We also were happy to present the Marshall Medal, AUSA's highest award for dedicated and selfless service to our nation, to our own retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston. We are so proud of him.

To the Army leadership team, from the Army secretary and undersecretary to the chief of staff, vice chief of staff and sergeant major of the Army, thank you for your incredible support.

We also want to thank leaders from across the Army—Futures Command, Training and Doctrine Command, Forces Command, Materiel Command, the Military District of Washington and so many more—for their participation and support in our educational forums and visiting our many exhibitors.

To the AUSA team, you should all be incredibly proud. This year's Annual Meeting was one of the most difficult



Attendees tour the exhibit hall at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

to plan, but none of this would have been possible without your hard work, creativity and resilience.

It was truly inspirational to watch each one of you work together with the utmost professionalism while facing so many challenges and obstacles—and we'll take lessons from what we did differently to add to our future meetings.

Through your hard work, our Annual Meeting was a resounding success. Army leaders, industry members,

exhibitors and attendees have all expressed overwhelmingly positive feedback, and they were happy we found a way to get them all back tougher.

None of this would have been possible without our amazing AUSA team.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this Annual Meeting a truly extraordinary event.

Retired Gen. Bob Brown is AUSA's president and CEO.

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Army exceeds fiscal 2021 end strength, retention goals

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Army has exceeded its fiscal year 2021 end strength goal of 485,900 Regular Army soldiers.

The end strength for fiscal 2021 reached 486,490 soldiers, Lt. Gen. Gary Brito, deputy Army chief of staff for personnel, said Wednesday.

He credited the success to talented recruiters who signed up new personnel, and soldiers who reenlisted to stay beyond their initial service obligation.

The Army National Guard also exceeded its end strength goal of 336,500 soldiers, ending the year with 337,525 soldiers. The Army Reserve did not achieve its goal of 189,800 soldiers, ending the fiscal year with 184,358 soldiers.

The Army also had success retaining soldiers in the ranks, exceeding its retention goal by 1,852 soldiers, said Sgt. Maj. Mark Clark, senior enlisted adviser for personnel.

“Overall, the Army retained 58,141 soldiers who were scheduled to transition, and an additional 6,618 soldiers elected to transition into the Army Reserve or Army National Guard,”



Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stand in formation Oct. 7 at Fort Carson, Colorado. (U.S. ARMY/MAJ. JASON ELMORE)

Clark said.

These numbers come as the Army moves forward with sweeping changes to the way it recruits, retains and manages soldiers' careers.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville has said that soldiers must no longer be treated as interchangeable parts distinguished only by rank and MOS.

Instead, the Army is looking to capitalize and focus on an individual's knowledge, skills and preferences.

“We're in a war for talent,” he has

said. “We have to compete for young men and women, and we have to compete for their talents, and we have to compete for them to stay in the Army.”

Brito credits leadership across the Army with helping the service exceed its end strength goal.

“The emphasis from our leaders at all echelons to meet the needs of our people and care for our soldiers and our families has made the Army a competitive organization for more people—talented people—to join our team,” he said.

Leaders

From Page 3

“My only request of history is that the history books say, ‘He was a good soldier and served the nation well,’” he said.

Battlefield commander

A native of Rockaway, New Jersey, Odierno, known for his tall, imposing frame, was a 1976 West Point graduate who commissioned as a field artillery officer.

During more than 37 years of Army service, he commanded units at every echelon, from platoon to theater.

He also led the Army as it faced steep budget cuts and struggled to maintain its end strength and readiness under the threat of sequestration.

After a first assignment with U.S.

Army Europe, Odierno served with the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Odierno then returned to Europe and deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He later commanded the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and division artillery for the 1st Cavalry Division.

As commander of the 4th Infantry Division, Odierno led the unit to Iraq from April 2003 to March 2004. As III Corps commander, Odierno led Multi-National Corps-Iraq from December 2006 to February 2008, serving as the operational commander of the surge of forces into the country.

He would later command Multi-National Force-Iraq and U.S. Forces-Iraq from September 2008 to Sep-

tember 2010. He served more than 50 months in Iraq.

Odierno became the 38th Army chief of staff in September 2011, retiring from the Army in August 2015.

Before retiring, Odierno stressed the importance of honoring the fallen and taking care of soldiers.

“We all understand why we do this, and the risks associated,” he said. “But I had the opportunity firsthand to stand side by side by these young men and women who ... really cared about what they were doing. They showed incredible selflessness and courage in what they did, and for me, we should be so proud of them and their sacrifice, and it's important that we remember that, and we do that by taking care of their families, their children as we go forward.”



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POWER TO PROTECT

Annual meeting forums highlight importance of families

By Holly Dailey

Did you ever wonder how topics are chosen for the family forums at the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition?

They are selected based on trending issues and the feedback we receive from soldiers and their families.

At this year's conference, which took place Oct. 11–13, we had three family forums and a robust schedule of top-notch speakers and panelists.

Our in-person and online audience made up of soldiers, family members, senior spouses, military caregivers, surviving family members and more were able to ask questions and have their voices heard.

Quality of life

We kicked off our forum on quality-of-life issues with a message from our Army's senior spouses—Maria McConville, spouse of Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, and Alexandra Grinston, spouse of Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston.

They are truly dedicated to taking care of our families.

Our keynote speaker was Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, director of the Defense Health Agency, who focused on people and how quality-of-life programs are transforming for the future.

The forum's panel was moderated by Dee Geise, director of Soldier and Family Readiness in the office of the deputy Army chief of staff for installations, G-9, and included experts from the Army Installation Management Command, U.S. Transportation Command and much more.

You can hear from our speakers and panelists—their expertise, insights and valuable information—right here.

Family Support

Our second forum focused on transforming soldier and family support.



Military spouses gather for a photo during a Family Readiness event at the 2021 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

The keynote speaker, Patricia Barron, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy, shared her expertise and discussed the importance of collaboration in the military family readiness system of support.

Col. Deydre Teyhen, Army Medical Command's deputy chief of staff for support, G-1/4/6, moderated the forum, which included leaders from the DoD COVID-19 Task Force, the DoD Education Activity, the Army Public Health Center and more.

This overall system of support came to life—see it for yourself here.

Caregiver and local support

Speaking of support, learn about the caregiver workgroup that supports our wounded warriors and how you can join as a volunteer by contacting Myron McDaniels (myron.b.mcdaniels.mil@mail.mil) or Thomas Webb (thomas.d.webb.civ@mail.mil).

Support for soldier and family readiness is also found through AUSA's 121 chapters and nine regions worldwide.

Through each chapter's unique tailoring of programs and events, this volunteer force is part of the collab-

orative effort in making a positive impact.

Senior Leaders Town Hall

At the third family forum, we honored our 2021 AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year—1st Sgt. Justin Dixon, his wife, Tawni, and their son Cameron.

It was followed by the popular Army Senior Leader Town Hall moderated by Lt. Gen. Jason Evans, deputy Army chief of staff, G-9. Attendees had a unique opportunity to speak with Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, McConville and Grinston.

Thank you to the incredible planning committee led by the Army G-9, with assistance from many other Army staff members.

I also want to recognize the AUSA Family Readiness team of Thea Green, Kevon Green and Geryl Walsh. Thank you so very much!

In line with AUSA's mission to educate, inform and connect, the Family Readiness directorate is here to be your "eyes, ears and voice."

We welcome your feedback for next year's military family forums.

Holly Dailey is AUSA's Family Readiness Director.

Chapter car show helps provide gifts for military children

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter recently hosted a car show to raise money for the chapter's annual toy drive, which provides toys and gifts for military families in need.

"Typically, we go to local businesses and ask for donations. This year we wanted to try something different," said chapter member Fernando Fernandez.

"The funds generated by this car show will directly support our efforts in helping soldiers and their families this holiday season," he said, according to the *Killeen Daily Herald*.

The event, held Oct. 2 at the Killeen Special Events Center, included raffles, live music, food trucks and more. It also featured a display

Central Texas-Fort Hood



AUSA volunteers, service members, community supporters and sponsors gather at the car show hosted by the association's Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter. (AUSA PHOTO)

with the Army's new Joint Light Tactical Vehicle.

"Thank you to our sponsors, car show participants, vendors, commu-

nity partners, and all the volunteers for making this inaugural event a huge success," the chapter said in a Facebook post.

AUSA members raise funds for Fisher House Foundation

The Association of the U.S. Army's MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen chapter in Maryland hosted its annual gala Sept. 18 to raise money for the Fisher House Foundation, which provides housing to military and veteran families whose loved ones are in the hospital.

"In a changing, dangerous world that can be difficult to understand, one thing remains certain: our military will always be there to defend our freedoms and our homeland at any cost," said Bob Gutjahr, the chapter president.

MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen

"Their sacrifices can never be repaid, but we can, in some small measure, lessen their burden by giving magnanimously to this worthwhile cause that provides much needed support to our wounded service members, veterans and their families," he said.

The event was held at the Water's Edge Events Center in Belcamp,



Representatives from AUSA's MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen chapter present a \$130,000 check to the Fisher House Foundation. (AUSA PHOTO)

Maryland, with approximately 350 attendees and 68 sponsors.

A check for \$130,000 was presented to the foundation, to be used for services, scholarships and construction

of a new facility at the Perry Point VA Medical Center in Maryland.

Over the past 17 years, the event has raised more than \$1.6 million for Fisher House.



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