



From left to right, Maj. Gen. Paul Stanton, commander of the Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Eisenhower, Georgia; Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Dwight Eisenhower; Army Secretary Christine Wormuth; and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Starrett, the installation's senior enlisted leader, unveil a bust of Eisenhower Oct. 27 during a ceremony redesignating Fort Gordon as Fort Eisenhower. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. FIRST CLASS NICOLE MEJIA)

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Army completes installation renaming

The last of nine Army installations was renamed Oct. 27 when Fort Gordon became Fort Eisenhower in honor of former President Dwight “Ike” Eisenhower.

The decision to rename the installation near Augusta, Georgia, upholds the values the Army holds dear, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said during the renaming ceremony. “The Army is a values-based institution,” Wormuth said. “Today, we choose to honor a man, a general, a president who upheld the values we want our force to embody—values like loyalty, integrity and selfless service.”

Before becoming the 34th president of the United States, Eisenhower was a five-star general who commanded Allied forces in Europe during World War II. After the war, he served as

Army chief of staff. He was elected president in 1952.

Eisenhower enjoyed relaxing in the Augusta area, a connection that prompted locals to suggest his name during the renaming process for the installation.

The redesignation aligns with the recommendations of an eight-member commission tasked by Congress to remove Confederate names, symbols, displays and monuments from DoD assets.

The renaming represents more than a name change, Wormuth said during the ceremony, which was attended by Eisenhower’s granddaughters, Susan and Mary Jean. “Today, I asked all of you to find meaning not only in who we are commemorating, but what this ceremony represents,”

Wormuth said. “It’s the culmination of a base renaming process that began in 2020. Change is often necessary but not often easy. So, I want to thank each and every person who helped with this redesignation for supporting such an important step forward.”

In the past year, eight other Army posts received new names. Three are in Virginia—Fort Barfoot, formerly Fort Pickett; Fort Gregg-Adams, which was Fort Lee; and Fort Walker, formerly Fort A.P. Hill.

The others are Fort Novosel, formerly Fort Rucker, Alabama; Fort Cavazos, formerly Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Moore, formerly Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Liberty, formerly Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Fort Johnson, formerly Fort Polk, Louisiana.

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Former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Glen Morrell dies at 87

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Glen Morrell, a life member of the Association of the U.S. Army who served as the seventh sergeant major of the Army from 1983–1987, died Oct. 26. He was 87.

Born May 26, 1936, in Wick, West Virginia, Morrell enlisted in the Army in 1953. He decided to leave the Army after his first enlistment but reenlisted in 1958. “I found out that I really liked the Army after I got out,” Morrell said in a 1994 interview with the Army’s Center of Military History.

Then-Sgt. Morrell was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division in Berlin, Germany. At the time, a sergeant made \$205 a month. “We lived on a hell of a tight budget. At the end of the month, I’d have to come up with 10 pennies in order to buy [bread] and a cup of coffee,” Morrell said in the interview.

In 1962, Morrell underwent Special Forces training at Fort Bragg, now Fort Liberty, North Carolina. Over the next decade, he deployed



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Glen Morrell was the service’s seventh SMA. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

three times to Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group and twice to Panama with the 8th Special Forces Group.

Morrell was selected in 1976 as command sergeant major of the 1st Ranger Battalion, 75th Infantry, at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where—at 41 years old—he completed Ranger school and was the Distinguished Honor Graduate of his class.

Prior to being named sergeant major of the Army, Morrell was command sergeant major of Army Forces Command.

During his tenure as the Army’s senior enlisted leader, Morrell was known for his devotion to improving soldiers’ training and quality of life. He felt his most rewarding accomplishment “was being able to do something for the good of the enlisted personnel and the noncommissioned officer corps,” according to the Army.

In a tribute on social media, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer, the current and 17th senior enlisted leader, said Morrell was instrumental in the development of the NCO education system.

“To me, an American soldier is a person that had been trained and has the desire to be the best that there is at whatever their job might be, and can do any damn thing under the sun, provided their needs are taken care of and they’ve got good leadership,” Morrell said. “They’ll go the extra mile time and time again.”

ARMY magazine November issue



AUSA Basic Members can now view a selection of articles from the November issue of *ARMY* magazine. To read the articles, [click here](#).

Chief speaks to Army fellows at AUSA



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George addresses more than 70 Army fellows Tuesday during a breakfast hosted at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. (AUSA PHOTO)

Weimer: Technology cannot replace basic soldier skills and leadership

People and technology are both critical to the Army of the future, but the latter can never replace the former, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer told a group of mid-grade officers and NCOs.

"I do believe, and I always will, that people are our competitive advantage against all our adversaries," Weimer said. As the force becomes more tech-driven, his concern is that soldiers will "compromise on the basics."

"ChatGPT should never replace leaders. AI should never replace what it means to make an assessment and make a recommendation to the commander for a hard decision," he said.

Weimer spoke Oct. 10 at a Leader Solarium held during the Association of the U.S. Army's 2023 Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. The solarium, organized by AUSA's Center for Leadership, hosted about 100 specially selected soldiers who heard from top Army leaders and civilian subject-matter experts and had small-group discussions on challenges facing the Army.

At the end of the three-day event, the group provided feedback to Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George and Weimer.

In his remarks, Weimer encouraged the soldiers to maintain a positive attitude as leaders. "If we harp on the negative as leaders, then we are crushing and stymieing innovation" and dulling the ambition of soldiers who could be the next generation of leaders, he said.

Responding to questions from the group about retention, Weimer said that while recruiting is the Army's No. 1 priority right now, the service's "war for talent" includes retaining top-quality soldiers. "We don't hire talent, we grow talent," he said.

Weimer said he encourages colleagues who are weighing leaving the service to "think twice" and con-



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer addresses young leaders Oct. 10 during the 2023 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. (AUSA PHOTO)

sider their options, such as transferring to the National Guard or Army Reserve. "That's not a loss, we're a Total Army," he said. "That's talent we're maintaining to leverage in the future."

Other areas Army leaders are studying to retain talented soldiers include adjustments to retention control points, choice of assignments, and extending tours to increase stabilization and unit cohesion, Weimer said. "Those are things we know we have to get after—but they're not easy," he said. "That retention mission has to mean something because of how quickly we lose those investments in our people."

At the end of the day, the desire to serve is inherent to remaining in the Army. "The first opportunity we present is the opportunity to serve your country," Weimer said. "We're not going to 'bonus' our way out of this."

Weimer concluded his remarks by asking the solarium participants to be honest with their comments and recommendations. "Army senior leaders need to hear the truth," he said. "That's what we need to get after some of these issues."

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Membership in the Association of the U.S. Army provides you access to a variety of discounts and benefits. This month, I want to focus on ways you can save on expenses related to education, business and publication subscriptions.

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AUSA has negotiated a special program for members to offer their children, grandchildren or any other family member free training materials for the SAT and ACT.

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Susan Rubel is AUSA's Association and Affinity Partnerships director.



AUSA membership provides access to a variety of discounts and savings for you and your family. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. IVAN MENDEZ-ROMAN)

AUSA member receives national medal for innovation

Rory Cooper, a life member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Pitt chapter, recently was honored at the White House for his work developing cutting-edge wheelchair technologies and mobility devices.

Cooper, who works with the University of Pittsburgh and the Department of Veterans Affairs, received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from President Joe Biden during an Oct. 24 ceremony.

Through his work, Cooper has empowered the lives of "millions of Americans," according to the citation accompanying his award.

"By inventing and developing cutting-edge wheelchair technologies and mobility devices, cultivating the next generation of rehabilitation engineers, and championing wounded veterans and students with disabilities, he moves us closer to being a nation that is accessible for all," the citation reads.

First presented in 1985, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation is the nation's highest award for technological achievement, recognizing American innovators whose vision, intellect, creativity and determination have strengthened America's economy and improved its quality of life, according to the White House.

Cooper is no stranger to innovation and big ideas.

While stationed with the Army in Germany in 1980, an accident left Cooper paralyzed from the waist down. Since then, he has become a leader in improving wheelchair technology and holds more than 20 U.S. patents.

Earlier this year, Cooper was announced as a 2023 inductee into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, where he was recognized for "innovations in wheelchair technology that have improved manual and electric wheelchairs, and advanced the



AUSA life member Rory Cooper, left, receives the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from President Joe Biden Oct. 24 at the White House. (U.S. ARMY/CHRISTOPHER KAUFMANN)

health, mobility and social inclusion of people with disabilities and older adults," according to a news release from the Hall of Fame.

He was inducted into the Hall of Fame Oct. 26.

Born in 1959 in Los Angeles, Cooper said his experience as an Eagle scout and working in his parents'

automotive and repair shop helped grow his interest in problem-solving and piecing together machinery.

After his accident, Cooper attended California Polytechnic State University, where he became frustrated with the limited maneuverability of his 80-pound chrome and steel wheelchair and designed his own ultralight wheelchair in his family's shop. "Informed by his experience with building a better wheelchair for himself, Cooper researched adaptive technologies and was determined to reduce the repetitive stress injuries plaguing many users of manual wheelchairs," the Hall of Fame news release says.

He is the founding director and VA senior research career scientist of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories, a collaboration between the VA and the University of Pittsburgh. He also is the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Pennsylvania (West).

"The Army taught me a lot of things that I still use to this day," Cooper has said. "The concept of selfless service is really reinforced in the Army."



Rory Cooper and his wife, Rosi, right, greet retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, recipient of AUSA's 2023 Marshall Medal, and his wife, Patricia, Oct. 11 during the association's Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

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