



## Happy Thanksgiving



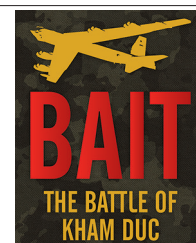
As you celebrate, keep our soldiers and other service members in your thoughts, especially those who are deployed and away from family and friends. (U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXANDRA MINOR)

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## 2019 national scholarships announced

**T**he Association of the U.S. Army is announcing the award of its national scholarships for 2019 valued at more than \$292,000.

Scholarships are being awarded to 33 AUSA members.

### Trident University

Three full-ride scholarships are awarded for Trident University, an accredited online institution offering bachelor's and master's degrees that gives credit for leadership and professional experience. Each scholarship is valued at \$48,000.

A Trident University scholarship is awarded to Brandon Welch, a firefighter and emergency medical technician in Idaho who plans to become a paramedic.

"With the help of a scholarship, I will be able to achieve my goal of becoming a paramedic, which will

not only provide better service to my community, but also a better life for my family," Welch said.

A Trident University scholarship is awarded to Erin Rowcliff, who is studying to be a chemical engineer.

"Clean water and healthy food supply is a need of everyone," she said. "As a chemical engineer, I can use my education to help improve water quality and food production for those living in third-world countries."

The final Trident University scholarship is for Sgt. Andrew Valenza of the Army National Guard.

"My goal for my career is to stay in the National Guard and hopefully obtain a job as a photojournalist at the National Guard Bureau," said Valenza, who is also a college student who is taking extra classes so he can finish school in time for an upcoming deployment.

### Van Autreve scholarships

Eight SMA Leon Van Autreve Scholarships are awarded in honor of the former sergeant major of the Army who died in 2002.

A \$25,000 Van Autreve scholarship is awarded to former Capt. Peter Kyriakoulis, who served in the Army from May 2002 to December 2006, including two combat tours in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Kyriakoulis, who is pursuing a master's in business administration, is a sales director for a brokerage company.

His long-term goal is to run his own consulting firm.

An MBA will be "a vital part of my education and experience that will lay the proper foundation to build this future upon," he said.

See **Scholarships**, Page 5





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## Army secretary ‘very concerned’ about lack of budget

**L**awmakers have reached another agreement to keep the federal government running, but the impact of back-to-back continuing resolutions on readiness and modernization can already be felt across the Army, warned Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.

“From a readiness standpoint, we’re very concerned,” McCarthy said while speaking at the American Enterprise Institute on Nov. 21.

Since the fiscal year began Oct. 1, federal agencies, including the Defense Department, have operated under a stopgap funding measure, known as a continuing resolution, that expired Nov. 21.

With no budget deal in sight, lawmakers agreed to extend current spending through Dec. 20. During an extension, funding is capped at 2019 levels.

McCarthy said Army commands were notified more than a month ago to dial back on investments, expenditures

and recent maintenance by 2%—a reduction that affects training.

“Turning the knob down on training” has an impact across the system as readiness immediately begins to decline, McCarthy said.

Even if a permanent budget deal is reached by the end of the year, the Army will have been at less than 100% readiness for 90 days, he warned.

“We’ve tried to make the adjustment, but if it goes any further than Christmas, the numbers will start going up on the impact,” McCarthy said.

“You’ll have day-to-day slopes, you’ll have time you won’t get back for training events, you’ll lose training events,” he said. “It has a catastrophic effect over time.”

McCarthy said that relying on continuing resolutions can have a negative long-term effect on the Army.

“When you have six, seven or eight years of continued resolutions in a row,



Budget delays have ‘a catastrophic effect,’ McCarthy said. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. DANA CLARKE)

you end up breeding a generation of officers that don’t know what an appropriations bill looks like, and they don’t know what a full training plan looks like,” McCarthy said. “It’s like you’re breeding mediocrity in the system.”

## Three soldiers earn Army’s new Expert Soldier Badge

**O**ut of a group of roughly 100 soldiers, only three were able to complete all the tasks required to earn the Army’s new Expert Soldier Badge during a course held Nov. 17-21 at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

To earn the badge, Capt. David Morin, Staff Sgt. Joseph Hansen and Sgt. Michael Smith scored over 80% on the Army Combat Fitness Test, passed day and night land navigation, completed medical, patrol and weapons lanes, and finished a 12-mile ruck march while carrying a 35-pound pack and rifle in under three hours.

“[The ESB is] exhausting and challenging but a great experience overall,” Morin said. “I feel like I have really accomplished something, and it was a good test to evaluate how well you could complete the tasks required.”

The new badge is meant to raise standards for soldiers across the Army, leaders said.



Capt. David Morin transmits a spot report during the Expert Soldier Badge course. (U.S. ARMY/SENIOR AIRMAN DEREK SEIFERT)

“We’re trying to make sure every soldier gets back to their warrior skills and battle drills,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Mitchell, the senior enlisted leader at the Center for Initial Military Training.

The badge, which was announced on June 14 in conjunction with the Army’s 244th birthday, is designed to improve lethality, recognize excellence and increase individual, unit and overall Army readiness, the service said.

The Expert Soldier Badge is equivalent to the Expert Infantry Badge and Expert Field Medical Badge, which are limited to soldiers in those military occupational specialties.

All soldiers are eligible to try out for the ESB except for those in the MOSs of 68W (combat medic), 18 series (Special Forces) and 11 series (infantry), Mitchell said.

“If you are not getting ready to [try for] an Expert Soldier Badge, then you are wrong,” said Mitchell.

The ESB was first awarded at the recent Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition, where Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville presented it to 11 top-performing soldiers.



## Books examine special operations forces during the Vietnam War

By Joseph Craig

**T**he battle of Kham Duc is one of the least known—and least understood—major battles of the Vietnam War.

Kham Duc was a U.S. Army Special Forces camp near the Laotian border.

From May 10–12, 1968, it and the nearby patrol base of Ngok Tavak were attacked by two full regiments of the North Vietnamese Army.

The forthcoming book *Bait: The Battle of Kham Duc* is the latest addition to the Association of the U.S. Army Book Program.

Author James McLeroy was based at Kham Duc and led U.S. and indigenous troops in the fight, while co-author Gregory Sanders was part of an in-depth intelligence analysis of the events.

Their personal experiences and years of research and interviews will revise our current understanding of the battle.

In Vietnam, special operations forces focused on counterinsurgency and in training local forces in Ranger techniques and tactics.

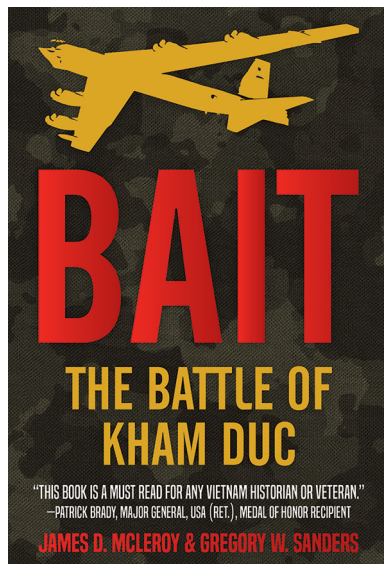
### Book Program

The AUSA Book Program has many titles devoted to their work, such as *Ranger: A Soldier's Life* by Col. Ralph Puckett and *Forging a Special Operations Force: The US Army Rangers* by Dominic Caracciolo.

The camp at Kham Duc also included soldiers in the Studies and Observations Group. The Pentagon created SOG in 1964 as a secret joint services unit under the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

The group specialized in reconnaissance and unconventional warfare, and Kham Duc served as a launching point for cross-border missions into Laos.

*Black Ops, Vietnam: The Operational History of MACVSOG* is a comprehensive history of the unit across its nine years in Southeast Asia. It details SOG's role in operations from the Gulf of Tonkin through the Tet Offensive to the Son Tay raid into North Vietnam.



Recently declassified materials also underlay *The Green Berets in the Land of a Million Elephants: U.S. Army Special Warfare and the Secret War in Laos, 1959–74* by Joseph Celeski. Written by a former commander of the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), the book tells for the first time the story of the Green Berets' service "across the fence."

Maj. Richard "Dick" Meadows also had adventures in Laos—as well as Korea, North Vietnam and many other places. This legend of the Special Forces community, a key figure in the founding of the U.S. Army's Delta Force, is the subject of *The Quiet Professional: Major Richard J. Meadows of the U.S. Army Special Forces*.

The Vietnam War also included, of course, many tales beyond those of the special operations forces. The AUSA Book Program has those covered as well, with books such as *The 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam: Unparalleled and Unequaled*, *Danger's Dragoons: The Armored Cavalry Task Force of The Big Red One in Vietnam, 1969*, and *Kontum: The Battle to Save Vietnam*.

Please visit [www.ausa.org/books](http://www.ausa.org/books) to get your copy of any of these titles.

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

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## PERK OF THE WEEK

### Local and national discounts

AUSA now offers Abenity, a members-only platform providing more than 302,000 discounts around the country ... likely at places you already shop! Create your account at [www.ausa.org/abenity](http://www.ausa.org/abenity) and start saving at national retailers and many local restaurants, gyms, service stations and more. Abenity is a great resource for holiday shopping and entertaining, with discounts on movies, concerts, theme parks and sporting events. Learn more at [www.ausa.org/savings](http://www.ausa.org/savings).



## Scholarships

From Page 1

A \$10,000 Van Autreve scholarship is awarded to Hunter Adams, a sophomore at Rice University who wants to become an Army doctor.

Adams set his sights on being an Army doctor after his father was wounded during a deployment in Afghanistan, he said.

"I was able to visit my father at Brooke Army Hospital and saw firsthand how great his doctors were," he said. "This was my first experience with military doctors, and it left me with feelings of someday wanting to join their ranks in uniform."

A \$5,000 Van Autreve scholarship is awarded to Army Reserve Capt. Garrison Haning, who is pursuing a master's in business administration.

"At the Military Academy, we learned the language of the Army profession. We spent years studying why some commanders succeeded and where others failed," he said.

"This is why I am attaining my MBA, for the opportunity to study with the future Eisenhowers, MacArthurs and Pattons of finance and philanthropy."

Five Van Autreve scholarships of \$2,000 each also are awarded.

The recipients are: Lucy Pickett, an Army brat and nursing student who hopes to work at a military or Veterans Affairs hospital upon graduation; Nadjallette Hernandez-Lopez, who is studying to become a doctor and hopes to complete her residency at a military hospital; Nathaniel O'Brien, who is studying economics with a concentration in finance; Patricia Najera, who is working to become a neurosurgeon; and Alison Becker, the stepdaughter of a former Special Forces soldier who aspires to attend medical school and train to become a surgeon.

### Cribbins scholarships

Two Joseph P. and Helen T. Cribbins Scholarships of \$10,000 each are awarded to students completing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math.

The Cribbinses were longtime supporters of AUSA and the Army.

The recipients are Frederick Wiersig, who is working to complete a bachelor's degree in computer engineering and then a master's in cybersecurity, and Megan Lopez, who plans to graduate from Regis University in 2020 with a doctorate in physical therapy.

### Chabreja, Merritt scholarships

Six Nicholas D. Chabreja Scholarships of \$5,000 each are also awarded for science, technology, engineering and math, named for a former AUSA Council of Trustees chairman.

The recipients, each a military family member, are: Jacqueline Loving, who is pursuing a career in veterinary medicine; Andrew McCaffrey, a childhood cancer survivor who aspires to be an orthopedic oncologist; Victoria Stuart, who is working to become a physician assistant and hopes to join the National Guard; Hannah Duncan, who is pursuing a career in the natural sciences; Kathleen Stone, who will attend the University of Michigan this fall and plans to obtain a career in cybersecurity; and Abdiel Hernandez-Lopez, who is working toward a degree in aerospace engineering.

Two Gen. Jack N. Merritt Scholarships, each \$5,000, are awarded in the name of the former AUSA president.

Bryan Wyks, a military family member and Eagle Scout who aspires to become a park ranger or work in local government, and Russell Watts, a retired first sergeant who served from May 1998 to July 2018 and is pursuing a master's and wants to help other veterans transition into civilian life, are the 2019 recipients.

### Professional development scholarships

Four professional development scholarships, each \$3,000, are awarded to Julia Stoker, Christian Hernandez-Zegada, Jonathan Chang and Samantha Bullinger.

Stoker is working to become a physical therapist and is interested in working with patients with spinal cord injuries or prosthetic limbs.

Hernandez-Zegada is studying to become a neurologist, and Chang is enrolled in a doctoral program in artificial intelligence at Cornell University.

Bullinger is studying for her master's at Auburn University and hopes to become a city manager.

AUSA also is awarding three \$2,000 College Debt Reduction scholarships.

The recipients are Staff Sgt. Aaron Davis, a 13-year soldier who is training to become a physician assistant; Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Saroya Porche, who is stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and is pursuing a doctoral degree; and Kylie Garo, an Army brat who is studying to become a social worker focused on helping children and teens.

### Delta Dental scholarships

Ten Delta Dental scholarships, each \$2,000, are awarded to applicants pursuing health and wellness training, including dentistry, nursing, home healthcare or caregiver training.

The recipients include Claire Rice, who completed dental hygienist training in May; Colton Piri, who is studying biology at Angelo State University in Texas and plans to become a physical therapist; Hannah Lukow, an Army brat who is studying biology at the University of Richmond in Virginia; Brittany Burke, a biochemistry major at Rutgers University in New Jersey; and Alannah Skinner, a biochemistry major at Iowa State University who plans to go on to medical school.

The remaining recipients of the Delta Dental scholarships are recipients of two AUSA scholarships this year.

They are Hunter Adams, who also received a Van Autreve scholarship; Megan Lopez, who also received a Joseph P. and Helen T. Cribbins scholarship; Victoria Stuart, who received a Nicholas D. Chabreja scholarship; Julia Stoker, a recipient of a professional development scholarship; and Staff Sgt. Aaron Davis, who received a College Debt Reduction scholarship.

For more information on AUSA's scholarship program, click [here](#).





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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daphney Black. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.



## Lecture series marks Vietnam War's 50th anniversary

A member of the Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter recently spoke as part of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War lecture series at the Jackson Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

The lecture series is an annual event marking the 50th anniversary of the war.

"I have to say this is the highlight of my year to be here with you, be-

cause we were there and the Lord brought us home," said Vietnam veteran Jim Henderson, who serves as the chapter's chaplain, during his invocation at the Nov. 4 event.

One member of the audience was 78-year-old Vietnam veteran Dick Ordway, who served as an infantry



Static displays at the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War lecture series. (AUSA PHOTO)

platoon leader with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in 1966-67.

Ordway served a second tour in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot in Da Nang in 1972 before leaving the Army as a major in 1973.

"I think it's good," Ordway said of the event. "It makes people aware of

what happened a long time ago."

The event also featured static displays, such as a Huey helicopter with the call sign "Buc-3," which served in Vietnam, was refurbished by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and ended up in the local veterans' museum.

## Eagle Chapters

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

A.P. Hill Rappahannock (4)  
Arkansas (4)  
Arsenal of Democracy (4)  
Capital District of New York (4)  
Charleston (4)  
Connecticut (4)  
Dix (4)  
Emerald Coast (4)  
First Militia (4)  
Fort Campbell (4)  
Fort Rucker-Wiregrass (4)  
Fort Sheridan-Chicago (4)  
Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (4)  
Greater Los Angeles (4)  
Joshua Chamberlain (4)  
Korea (4)  
Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (4)  
Magnolia (4)  
Major Samuel Woodfill (4)  
Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (4)  
Rock Island Arsenal (4)  
Texas Capital Area (4)  
Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (4)  
Tri-State (4)  
Tucson-Goyette (4)  
Utah (4)  
Virginia Colonial (4)  
West Point Area (4)

Arizona Territorial (3)  
Central Virginia (3)  
Corporal Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (3)  
Cowboy (3)  
CSM James M. MacDonald-Keystone (3)  
Delaware (3)  
Des Moines Freedom (3)  
Fairfax-Lee (3)  
Florida Gulf Stream (3)  
Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (3)  
Francis Scott Key (3)  
Gem State (3)  
GEN John J. "Black Jack" Pershing (3)  
George Washington (3)  
Greater Atlanta (3)  
Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (3)  
Henry Leavenworth (3)  
Leonidas Polk (3)  
Massachusetts Bay (3)  
Newton D. Baker (3)  
North Texas (3)  
Northern New York-Fort Drum (3)  
Pikes Peak (3)  
Puerto Rico (3)  
Rhode Island (3)  
Robert E. Lee (3)  
San Diego (3)  
San Francisco (3)

Space Coast (3)  
Thunderbird (3)  
Western New York (3)  
Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley (2)  
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (2)  
Col Edward Cross (2)  
Denver Centennial (2)  
Fires (2)  
First In Battle (2)  
GEN Creighton W. Abrams (2)  
Greater Philadelphia (Penn and Franklin) (2)  
Isthmian (2)  
Japan (2)  
Last Frontier (2)  
Marne (2)  
MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (2)  
Minutemen (2)  
National Training Center-High Desert (2)  
Polar Bear (2)  
Suncoast (2)  
Sunshine (2)  
UAE (2)  
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Fort Pitt (1)  
Greater Kansas City (1)  
Kuwait (1)  
Milwaukee (1)  
PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (1)

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