

Happy Thanksgiving



Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Barker, right, senior enlisted leader of the XVIII Airborne Corps, serves turkey to a soldier Nov. 22 during a Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers Thanksgiving held in the Iron Mike Conference Center at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. HERMON WHALEY)

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 31
NOVEMBER 28, 2024

Fires Transformation Faces Challenges

3

AUSA Urges Congress to Pass 2025 NDAA

4



Book Program

Churchill in World War I

6

Chapter Highlights

Eagle Chapters

7

AUSA staff join Veterans History Project

In an effort to help tell the Army story, Association of the U.S. Army staff members are sharing their own experiences as part of the Veterans History Project.

Established in 2000, the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through today. The goal is to ensure future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service, according to the project's website.

"The Veterans History Project is a great program that honors the service and sacrifice of America's vet-

erans while helping them tell their stories," said John Nobrega, AUSA's assistant director of Government Affairs. "At AUSA, we work to help tell the Army story, and this is a good way to do that."

AUSA is contributing to the Veterans History Project by recording and presenting stories from several of its own, including retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA's president and CEO, a 1981 West Point graduate who retired in September 2019 after commanding U.S. Army Pacific.

Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, AUSA's vice president of Leadership and Education who retired from the Army in 2021 after serving as the Army inspector general; retired Sgt.

Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, the association's vice president of NCO and Soldier Programs and the 15th sergeant major of the Army; and retired Sgt. Maj. Julie Guerra, director of NCO and Soldier Programs for AUSA and career intelligence soldier; are among those featured.

Also sharing their stories are retired Brig. Gen. Jack Haley, AUSA's vice president of Membership and Meetings; retired Col. Glenn Yarborough, a former AUSA region president; and retired Col. Daniel Roper, AUSA's director of National Security Studies.

The AUSA team's interviews are available on the association's YouTube channel here.

See **Veterans project**, Page 3

GIVE BACK TO THOSE WHO GIVE THE MOST



Join us on Giving Tuesday and deliver
100% of your donation straight to the source.



AUSA
ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY

DONATE AT
www.ausa.org/give



Your gift is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution within the limits prescribed by law.
U.S. Army photo. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

Obstacles remain as Army transforms fires capabilities

Despite “significant progress” in transforming its fires portfolio, the U.S. Army is not yet capable of overmatching potential adversaries in protracted large-scale combat operations at an acceptable degree of risk, according to a new paper by the Association of the U.S. Army.

“‘Fires for Effect’: Implications for Large-Scale Combat Operations” describes the progress the Army has made in transforming its fires capability and the challenges and implications for offensive and defensive fires and the acquisition system that enables it. The paper was written by retired Col. Daniel Roper, director of AUSA’s National Security Studies; Charles McEnany, a national security analyst for the association; and Maj. Young Joo, a strategic intelligence officer and an Army fellow at AUSA.

It is released as AUSA prepares to host a Hot Topic titled “Land-Based Fires in Large-Scale Combat Operations.” The daylong event on Dec. 3 at the association’s headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, will feature keynote presentations by Maj. Gen. Winston Brooks, commanding general of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence, and Maj. Gen. Brett Sylvia, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



Soldiers with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment fire a 155 mm round from their M777A2 howitzer during a live-fire exercise Nov. 19 in Grafenwoehr, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/CAPT. THOMAS MCCARTY)

“The Russo-Ukrainian War provides clear implications regarding the utility of long-range precision fires and shorter-range massed artillery and rocket fire; the insatiable demand for ammunition, most notably artillery; and the inability of the industrial base to support it,” the paper says.

The Army also must contend with survivability through dispersion, decoys and displacement; the apparent vulnerability of towed artillery; targeting with both military and civilian means; and the increased use of unmanned aerial systems, it says.

“While modernized systems can deliver impressive effects, integration and synchronization are the secret sauce to achieving convergence and contributing to joint force overmatch of enemies on the battlefield,” the authors write.

Moving forward, “the stakes are high for the Army and the joint force as the Army transforms its fires portfolio for [large-scale combat operations],” the paper says. “... The Army must modernize legacy systems even as it develops new systems to replace them. It cannot call a time-out.”

[Read the paper here.](#)

Veterans project

From Page 1

As the Army has struggled to recruit young people to serve, and as leaders work to combat misconceptions about serving and what it means to join the Army, the service has asked veterans to help close the gap by telling their stories.

“The Veterans History Project is an easy and accessible way to spark conversations about service, patriotism and sacrifice in communities across America,” said Mark Haa-

land, director of Government Affairs at AUSA. “We hope AUSA’s members in chapters around the world will be inspired to participate and help us continue telling the Army story.”

Described as a national, grassroots oral history initiative, the Veterans History Project encourages participants to interview veterans in their lives and communities.

Veterans from all services and ranks who served at any point since World War I are eligible to participate, even if they did not see combat,

according to the project’s website. Anyone, including students ages 15 and older, may volunteer to record an oral history interview or gather and donate a veteran’s original photographs, correspondence or other materials.

Veterans also can submit their own materials to the Library of Congress.

Learn more about the Veterans History Project [here](#).

Find out how to create and submit a Veterans History Project interview [here](#).

AUSA calls for quick passage of 2025 defense bill, pay increase for troops



AUSA is advocating for swift passage of the fiscal 2025 National Defense Authorization Act and additional funding for the Army. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

The Association of the U.S. Army is urging key lawmakers to authorize full funding for the Army and DoD, a pay increase of at least 4.5% for service members and the resources needed to continue the Army's transformation and quality of life efforts.

In a letter to the chairmen and ranking members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, AUSA advocates for swift passage of the fiscal 2025 National Defense Authorization Act and additional funding for the Army as it supports critical missions at home and overseas.

"The Army is vital to national security with ongoing conflicts across the globe demonstrating that land power is essential," retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, writes in the Nov. 21 letter. "As such, we believe it is essential for the Total Army and the Department of Defense (DoD) to have the resources needed to deter any adversary, to 'Fight and Win' when necessary, and to ensure the continued excellence of the all-volunteer force."

Soldiers are bolstering NATO allies in Europe, countering threats in the Middle East and building part-

nerships and alliances in the Indo-Pacific, the letter says. At home, soldiers provide life-saving support to local authorities responding to natural disasters.

As lawmakers finalize the 2025 NDAA, AUSA is asking for inclusion of at least a 4.5% pay increase for service members and at least 2% for DoD and Army civilians. "Providing appropriate compensation is an important incentive for recruitment and retention," Brown writes in the letter.

The association also asks lawmakers to support quality-of-life programs for soldiers and their families, including improvements to child care, housing and health care.

"AUSA requests your continued support for the Army's modernization priorities and ... training and sustaining priorities [including] a strong and expandable organic industrial base," Brown writes.

The Army is indispensable to national security, Brown writes. "We urge you to swiftly pass the NDAA and authorize additional resources that reflect the demonstrated need and urgency that our national security challenges require," he writes.

Read the letter here.

AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier*

Gen. Bob Brown, USA Ret.
President and CEO, AUSA

Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, USA Ret.
Vice President, Leadership and Education,
AUSA

Luc Dunn
Editor

Desiree Hurlocker
Advertising Manager

Advertising Information Contact:
Fox Associates Inc.
116 W. Kinzie St. • Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 800-440-0231
Email: adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com

ARTICLES. Articles appearing in AUSA Extra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the officers or members of the Council of Trustees of AUSA, or its editors. Articles are expressions of personal opinion and should not be interpreted as reflecting the official opinion of the Department of Defense nor of any branch, command, installation or agency of the Department of Defense. The publication assumes no responsibility for any unsolicited material. Email: extra@ausa.org

ADVERTISING. Neither AUSA Extra, nor its publisher, the Association of the United States Army, makes any representations, warranties or endorsements as to the truth and accuracy of the advertisements appearing herein, and no such representations, warranties or endorsements should be implied or inferred from the appearance of the advertisements in the publication. The advertisers are solely responsible for the contents of such advertisements.

MEMBERSHIP RATES. Premium membership rates are \$40 for two years or \$75 for five years. Lifetime membership is \$400 and can be paid in full or in four monthly installments. A special Premium rate of \$10 for two years is open to E1-E4 and cadets only. New two-year Basic membership with select benefits is free. Learn more at www.ausa.org/join.

PERK OF THE WEEK

AUSA members can save on Emergency Assistance Plus to have peace of mind while traveling. EA+ is

an emergency assistance service, a safety net that helps pay for emergencies your health insurance generally will not cover. Click here or call 1-888-883-1993 for more.





LANDEURO

G E R M A N Y

16-17 JULY '25 | WIESBADEN

WWW.AUSA.ORG/LANDEURO



EXHIBIT SPACE AVAILABLE

LANDEUROExhibits@ausa.org

Author explores Winston Churchill's resilience during WWI

This weekend marks a major milestone for a towering figure of world history. Winston Churchill was born 150 years ago on Nov. 30, 1874.

Churchill led an incredible life, with multiple accomplishments in the literary, political and military worlds. Most people today likely picture him as the man who led Great Britain to victory in World War II. But his triumph as a great Allied statesman only came out of his ability to overcome earlier failures.

Book Program

In *Blood, Mud, and Oil Paint: The Remarkable Year that Made Winston Churchill*, Association of the U.S. Army author J. Furman Daniel recounts the tribulations Churchill faced during the first world war. He shows how dealing with a series of disastrous events from May 1915 through May 1916 required personal reinvention and resilience, skills that the world would later need.

As Daniel notes, "Churchill could not have succeeded in 1940 had he not failed in 1915."

Daniel is an associate professor at Concordia University Chicago. He writes on a range of subjects, and his previous books include *21st Century Patton* and *Patton: Battling with History*.

The AUSA Book Program recently sat down with him to talk about his new book.

AUSA: You have written on many disparate subjects. Why did you want to focus on Churchill for this book?

Daniel: During the spring of 2020, my daughter was born two months early, and she was helicoptered to a hospital 100 miles away. To say the least, this was a test of my family and faith.

I found myself alone one morning, misquoting Churchill's "We will fight on the beaches" speech. I found the courage to continue and knew that I

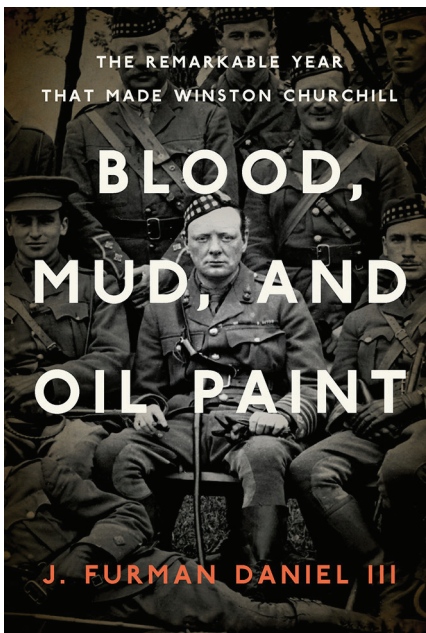


Winston Churchill, then-commander of the 6th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, is shown here in 1916 on the Western Front of World War I in France. (COMMONS PHOTO)

would write a book about Churchill and dedicate it to my daughter. Fortunately, my daughter is a healthy and beautiful child, and this book is for her.

AUSA: What is the significance of this particular year in his life?

Daniel: Simply stated, this was the worst year of Churchill's entire life.



He faced his first major political failure, teetered on the brink of financial ruin, was abandoned and betrayed by many of his friends, struggled with depression and was nearly killed multiple times while serving in the trenches. Any one of these struggles could have broken him, and yet he endured and emerged stronger.

AUSA: Where did Churchill find the resilience to persist after this low point?

Daniel: Churchill believed in himself, had a few close friends and found solace in a new hobby—painting. The book discusses each of these in greater detail, but simply surviving this tumultuous year was an incredible triumph.

AUSA: How did fellow soldiers react to serving in the trenches with the former First Lord of the Admiralty?

Daniel: At first, Churchill was treated with suspicion and disdain. Most saw him as an effete politician, not a serious soldier. Ultimately, he was able to win the trust and respect of his troops by sharing the harsh conditions with the men and showing that he cared about their health and welfare.

AUSA: Which part of Churchill's story do you love but didn't have room to include?

Daniel: Churchill's letters. Even while at the front, he found time to compose multiple letters per day to his wife, his friends, artists, journalists and politicians. These letters comment on an impressive range of subjects and are a pleasure to read.

Please visit www.ausa.org/books to order a copy of *Blood, Mud, and Oil Paint* and other titles in the AUSA Book Program. Use the promo code F24AUSA for select member discounts when purchasing directly through the publisher links.

Joseph Craig is AUSA's Book Program director.

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.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Allegheny-Blue Ridge (4) | Tri-State (4) | Mediterranean (3) |
| Arsenal of Democracy (4) | Virginia Colonial (4) | MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (3) |
| Big Bend (4) | West Point Area (4) | MG William F. Dean (3) |
| Capital District of New York (4) | Western New York (4) | Mid-Palatinate (3) |
| Catoctin (4) | Alamo (3) | Milwaukee (3) |
| Central Ohio (4) | Arizona Territorial (3) | Minutemen (3) |
| Central Virginia (4) | Arkansas (3) | Monmouth (3) |
| Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Moore (4) | Benelux (3) | National Training Center-High Desert (3) |
| COL Edward Cross (4) | Captain Meriwether Lewis (3) | New Orleans (3) |
| CPL Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (4) | Carlisle Barracks-Cumberland Valley (3) | North Texas-Audie Murphy (3) |
| CSM James M. McDonald-Keystone (4) | Central California (3) | Northern New York-Fort Drum (3) |
| Delaware (4) | Central Texas (3) | PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (3) |
| Dix (4) | Coastal South Carolina (3) | Pikes Peak (3) |
| Florida Gulf Stream (4) | Columbia River (3) | Puerto Rico (3) |
| Fort Campbell (4) | Connecticut (3) | Rock Island Arsenal (3) |
| Fort Knox (4) | Cowboy (3) | San Diego (3) |
| Fort Pitt (4) | Denver Centennial (3) | San Francisco (3) |
| Francis Scott Key (4) | Des Moines Freedom (3) | SGM Jon Cavaiani (3) |
| George Washington (4) | Ethan Allen (3) | Silicon Valley (3) |
| Greater Atlanta (4) | Fires (3) | Southern Virginia (3) |
| Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (4) | First In Battle (3) | Space Coast (3) |
| Greater Philadelphia (Penn & Franklin) (4) | First Militia (3) | St. Louis Gateway (3) |
| Indiana (4) | Fort Huachuca-Sierra Vista (3) | Stuttgart (3) |
| Joshua Chamberlain (4) | Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (3) | Texas Capital Area (3) |
| Magnolia (4) | Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (3) | Thunderbird (3) |
| Major Samuel Woodfill (4) | Fort Riley-Central Kansas (3) | Topeka (3) |
| Marne (4) | Fort Sheridan-Chicago (3) | Tucson-Goyette (3) |
| Massachusetts Bay (4) | Gem State (3) | White Sands Missile Range (3) |
| Newton D. Baker (4) | GEN John W. Vessey, Jr. (3) | Fort Liberty (2) |
| Northern New Jersey (4) | Greater Kansas City (3) | GEN Creighton W. Abrams (2) |
| Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (4) | Greater Los Angeles (3) | GEN Joseph W. Stilwell (2) |
| Potomac-Liberty (4) | Hawaii (3) | Kuwait (2) |
| Redstone Huntsville (4) | Henry Leavenworth (3) | MG John S. Lekson (2) |
| Rhode Island (4) | Houston Metroplex (3) | MSG Leroy Arthur Petry (2) |
| Suncoast (4) | Japan (3) | Polar Bear (2) |
| Sunshine (4) | Korea (3) | United Arab Emirates (2) |
| | Lafayette (3) | Utah (2) |
| | Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (3) | Tobyhanna Army Depot (1) |

ENHANCE YOUR LIFE.



© AUSA Life Member Hans Halberstadt/Military Stock Photography. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

The U.S. Army has had to cut funding to their certification programs, but that doesn't mean you have to surrender your career goals. As the Army's professional development association, **AUSA wants to Enhance Your Life.** We've got your six to keep you mission-focused.

AUSA Members have access to savings on certifications and degree plans through partnerships with academic and financial institutions that will Enhance Your Life both in and outside the Army. Whether you're serving, a family member, or planning your next move, AUSA has a program that will enhance your role at the next level.

30+ Certification & Degree Programs

**CYBERSECURITY
TRAINING**

**FINANCIAL
COURSES**

**PROJECT
MANAGEMENT**

LEARN MORE: WWW.AUSA.ORG/EYL ►

