



Paratroopers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade engage a target using an AT4 anti-armor weapon during live-fire exercises Tuesday in Postonja, Slovenia. (U.S. ARMY/PAOLO BOVO)

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## Survey shows public trust in military

**T**rust and confidence in the military has declined, but it is still the most trusted institution in the U.S., according to a new survey.

Released Dec. 1 by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, the survey found that 48% of respondents said they have a “great deal” of trust and confidence in the military. That’s up from 45% in 2021, but down from 70% four years ago.

This year’s number is still higher than other institutions in the U.S., with 33% of respondents saying they have a great deal of trust in police and law enforcement, 16% each in the Supreme Court and the presidency, and 9% each for the media and Congress.

The 2022 survey was conducted between Nov. 9 and 17 by a bipartisan

survey team, and it is based on interviews of more than 2,500 American adults. This is the Reagan Institute’s fifth annual National Defense Survey.

According to the survey, decreasing public confidence in the military is driven by several factors.

About 62% of respondents said military leadership is becoming overly politicized, about half say so-called “woke” practices undermine the military’s effectiveness and 46% say it’s due to so-called far right or extremist individuals serving in the military.

Among 18- to 29-year-olds, the survey found just 13% “highly willing” to join the military, while 26% are not willing at all.

The survey did find high confidence in the military’s capabilities, with 89% of respondents saying the

U.S. military’s capabilities are the best or one of the best in the world.

The 2022 survey also examined Americans’ positions on pressing national security issues, including support for Ukraine, views on NATO, the threat posed by China and other topics.

As many as 82% of survey respondents said they view Russia as an enemy—that’s up from 65% last year. About 76% consider Ukraine an ally, up from 49% last year.

A majority of respondents—57%—believe the U.S. must continue to stand with the people of Ukraine by sending military equipment and financial assistance, while one third believe America has enough problems at home and cannot afford to

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## Army supports, learns from high-stakes war in Ukraine

**B**y providing weapons and training, the U.S. is working to put the Ukrainians in the “strongest possible position” to defend their sovereignty and engage the Russians from a “position of strength,” Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said.

Speaking Dec. 3 on a panel during the Reagan National Defense Forum, Wormuth said the stakes are high. “Given what is at stake in Ukraine, not just for the Ukrainians, but for NATO and for the entire free world, it’s in our interest to give them what they need to defend their territory and push the Russians out,” she said.

Ten months after Russia invaded Ukraine, the U.S. remains committed to supporting the Ukrainians, providing billions of dollars in weapons and training Ukrainian troops on how to use them.

Leaders look very closely at the Ukrainians’ requests for help, including survivability and how quickly forces can be trained on a certain type of equipment. “A system like the Patriot is not uncomplicated,” Wormuth said.

Technology transfer is another concern, Wormuth said. “There are very legitimate concerns about what happens when things are shot down and get into the hands of Russians,” she said.

The U.S. also continues to learn from the war, Wormuth said. “Certainly, what we thought of the capabilities of the Russian military the day before they invaded Ukraine and how we’ve seen them perform has been pretty startlingly different,” she said. “I think the Russians themselves, frankly, have been surprised at how poorly they’ve performed and how poorly some of their weapon systems have performed.”

Before the war, there was a view that the Russians had “some pretty serious military capability,” Wormuth said, but they have been unable to bring it to bear in Ukraine, and they have struggled to effectively



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, provide covering fire during a Nov. 23 live fire exercise in Bemowo Piskie, Poland. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

conduct combined arms warfare. The Russians also “grossly underestimated” the Ukrainians and their will to fight, she said.

However, Wormuth also warned that the U.S. and its allies and partners should not underestimate the Russians. “I think we need to look hard at where we think the Russian capabilities are going to be in the future ... but I also wouldn’t underestimate the Russians’ ability to learn lessons and rebuild,” she said. “If you

look at their performance over time, they do learn lessons. We shouldn’t be complacent that they won’t try to reset and get stronger again.”

The U.S. has already invested “several billion dollars” and a “tremendous amount” to support the Ukrainians, but leaders believe it is worth it in the long run. “If this war were to widen, and this certainly is a concern everyone’s been paying attention to, ... that would be unbelievably costly,” Wormuth said.



Army Secretary Christine Wormuth observes a 10th Mountain Division soldier demonstrating how an M98 Javelin is prepared for firing at Fort Drum, New York. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## Compromise defense policy bill OKs additional \$45 billion, 4.6% raise



The legislation includes a 4.6% raise for uniformed and civilian workers and supports Army modernization priorities. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

**A** compromise \$857.9 billion defense policy bill edging toward congressional approval includes an additional \$45 billion above the Pentagon's request to offset the effects of inflation while also allowing the acceleration of transformative weapons and programs.

The measure includes a 4.6% raise for uniformed and civilian workers and expands allowances for lower ranking service members as part of a Basic Needs Allowance.

The fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act is named for Sen. James Inhofe, an Army veteran and the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which is responsible for drafting national security legislation. Earlier this year, Inhofe was a recipient the Association of the U.S. Army's 2022 Legislator of the Year Award. He'll retire on Jan. 3 after 28 years in the U.S. Senate.

Army end strength is set at 452,000 under the bill, lower than the 473,000 the Army had requested in March but more in line with what military leaders expect they can recruit and retain given challenges signing up new soldiers.

There are some new personnel benefits, such as special duty assignment pay for those assigned in cold-weather climates and a new program that reimburses airfare for Alaska-

based service members to travel to their home of record.

Over White House and Defense Department objections, the compromise bill also rescinds the mandate for service members to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The legislation doesn't say what happens to anyone already separated from service for refusing to be vaccinated.

Some big changes may come from the bill. For example, the Government Accountability Office, which is the investigative arm of Congress, will be reviewing officer performance evaluations and suggesting possible changes. The bill also requires deeper study of suicide prevention programs and asks DoD to find ways to reduce the harm of exposure to environmental hazards.

Lawmakers support the Army's transformation priorities and increased procurement funding for combat aircraft, armored fighting vehicles, munitions, air and missile defense programs and long-range fires capabilities.

Lawmakers also asked for a pilot program aimed at improving tactical vehicle safety, while increasing funds for M1 Abrams tanks, upgrades in Stryker vehicles and more funding for a variety of other Army vehicles.

An executive summary of the bill and the complete text are available here.

# AUSA Extra

Voice for the Army –  
Support For the Soldier

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## PERK OF THE WEEK

Raddish Kids is a monthly subscription box service for children 4-14 to teach them cooking skills and instill confidence in the kitchen. They'll receive recipe guides and a kitchen tool, a creative project, a table talk card, an apron patch and grocery list. AUSA members receive an evergreen discount of 15% off every box by clicking here and using code AUSA.





**Survey**

From Page 1

spend more on the conflict.

About 60% have a favorable view of NATO, and 72% support NATO's Article 5 commitments, which would have the U.S. responding with military force if Russia attacked a NATO ally in Europe.

The survey showed concerns about whether the U.S. has a clear strategy for the China threat, with 75% viewing China as an enemy, up from 65% in 2021 and 55% in 2018. A plurality—43%—named China as the country that poses the greatest threat to the U.S.

“Our survey shows that Americans are firmly resolved, as President Reagan was, that the United States has an obligation to fiercely protect our nation and freedom in the world,” said Roger Zakheim, director of the Ronald Reagan Institute.

The survey is available here.



Maj. Gen. John Richardson, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, poses for a photo with Mayor Debbie Nash-King during a Dec. 3 parade in Killeen, Texas. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)



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## Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: USAWOA

**F**ounded in 1972, the United States Army Warrant Officers Association is devoted to the welfare of Army warrant officers—serving, former and retired—and their families.

Located in Herndon, Virginia, the association seeks to provide “professionalism, representation and recognition” to warrant officers in all three Army components, according to the organization’s website.

The association has long advocated for a system of standardized professional development for warrant officers, as well as increased recognition of excellence in the corps. It also has lobbied lawmakers for improvements in education, pay and allowances, commissioning and more.

In its 50-year history, the association “has decisively impacted a remarkable four-decade evolution of



Army Warrant Officers into the indispensable cohort of professional, technical, commissioned Leaders that they are today,” its website says.

The association presents its own national awards each year recognizing those who foster morale, esprit de corps and recognition of warrant

officers. In addition, its scholarship program supports members and their families by providing them with an opportunity to apply for financial assistance in higher education.

To ensure that the warrant officer heritage and history are properly maintained and presented to the public, the association in 2003 fostered the creation of the Warrant Officer Historical Foundation.

For more information about the United States Army Warrant Officers Association, click here.

If your association is interested in partnering with AUSA, please contact Susan Rubel at [srubel@ausa.org](mailto:srubel@ausa.org).

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## Dailey addresses soldiers, community at Aberdeen

**G**reetings from the Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate. Our team—retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, retired Sgt. Maj. Norma Helsham, Tiarra Periman, Michelle Cabotaje and I—wishes you all happy holidays and a prosperous New Year.

Dailey, AUSA's vice president of NCO and Soldier Programs, was the guest speaker at the Army Alliance Annual Breakfast Dec. 1 at the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood, Maryland.

The Army Alliance, a nonprofit organization founded in 1999, seeks to support the programs and organizations at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. To date, the alliance has raised over \$300 million for programs related to the installation.

Dailey spoke to an audience that included senior leaders from Aberdeen Proving Ground, state and local elected officials and Mary Jane Jernigan, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Maryland, about how local communities and the alliance can help transitioning service members who are looking to get involved in supporting soldiers and families.



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, center left, meets with soldiers and civilians Dec. 1 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

He encouraged them to remember the veterans in their communities, conduct or participate in job fairs or hiring events and, if able, hire a veteran. "There's a lot of talent leaving the Army every day. ... Give them a chance, and you won't be disappointed," Dailey said.

Following the breakfast, our team traveled to Aberdeen Proving Ground and met with Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Conaty, senior enlisted leader for the Army Communications-Electronics Command.

Together, we hosted a professional development forum with roughly 150 soldiers and civilians and 450 online participants.

In his address, Dailey discussed leadership, uniform changes, self-awareness, humility and recruiting. He also spoke about soldiers' pay and

decreasing food insecurity among Army families.

He highlighted that AUSA, their professional association, recently donated \$1 million to Army Emergency Relief. Any soldier can take financial awareness classes, and the AUSA donation to AER will help pay their loan. "We want to teach you to fish, not buy it for you," Dailey said.

Dailey also fielded questions from the audience, including one about Army policies on social media. While he wouldn't address current policies, Dailey was able to discuss his experience when he was the sergeant major of the Army.

"Don't give us a reason to make policies," Dailey said. "Like it or not, you all are walking billboards. Everything you say and do in front of the camera sends a message to the American public about our Army."

As an example, Dailey said, he recently searched Google for videos on why young people should join the Army.

"You know what I found? Over 100 telling me why I shouldn't, [and] some were soldiers in uniform," he said. "We must do a better job of telling positive stories about our Army. A nation builds armies, and right now our nation is looking at the Army in a negative light. We need to shine a brighter light."

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



During the professional development forum, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey addressed topics such as leadership, recruiting and soldiers' pay. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)



## Chapter challenge encourages community engagement

The Association of the U.S. Army congratulates its George Washington chapter for winning the Community Partner Challenge for November.

To focus on its Community Partner program, AUSA sponsored a recruiting challenge for its 122 chapters. The challenge, to recruit three new Community Partners in November, was designed to boost partner recruitment and encourage chapters to connect with local businesses.

Community Partners are important to AUSA chapters, and revitalizing the Community Partner program, which saw a decline during the pandemic, has been a focus for the association this year.

Twelve chapters met the challenge in November. They are Alamo, Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri, Fort Rucker-Wiregrass, GEN Creighton W. Abrams, GEN William C. Westmoreland, George Washington, Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon, Korea, Major Samuel Woodfill, MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen, Monmouth and Texas Capital Area.

Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA



Christine Lathrop, left, AUSA's deputy director of membership, and retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, select the winner of the association's Community Partner Challenge for November. (AUSA PHOTO)

president and CEO, selected the winning chapter randomly on Monday from those that qualified. The George Washington chapter will receive \$1,000 to put back into its program.

"Connecting with businesses in their local communities is vital to our Army," Brown said. "When chapters put focus on and experience success

with their Community Partner program, they connect our Army with America and together educate and inform the public on the key mission of our Army—defending our freedom."

AUSA will continue to offer chapters incentives, as well as training, tools and resources, to engage businesses in their communities.

## AUSA members volunteer for installation cleanup effort

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter recently joined community members and soldiers from Fort Hood for the third annual Operation Great Place Cleanup.

### Central Texas-Fort Hood

Hundreds of volunteers met at the Marvin Leah Visitor Center and collected more than 100 bags of trash outside the front gate of Fort Hood.

The event was held in conjunction with the AUSA chapter's third annual mentorship program, started by retired 1st Sgt. Fernando Fernandez, the chapter's committee chair.

Junior ROTC Cadet Andre Mon-

tanez, a senior at Shoemaker High School, said she volunteered because so many newer cadets wanted to help.

"I'm actually proud, especially because we have a lot of freshmen that took the initiative, and you can just

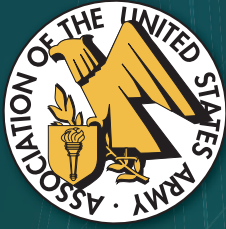
see how ready these kids are to be leaders," Montanez said, as reported by the *Fort Hood Sentinel*.

"Thank you to all our community partners for participating," the chapter said in a Facebook post.



AUSA members, soldiers and other volunteers gather to pick up trash outside the front gate at Fort Hood, Texas. (AUSA PHOTO)

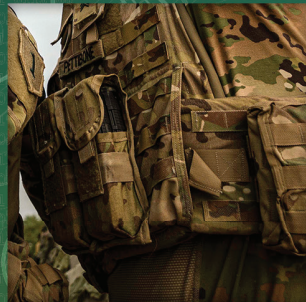




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