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AUSA will enter the new year with more members than any time in its entire history. (AUSA PHOTO)

## AUSA membership reaches record high

**A**fter almost three years of near-continuous growth, the Association of the U.S. Army is entering the new decade with more members than any time in its history.

As of Dec. 18, the association's membership stands at 179,369, which is well above the historical high of 165,534 set in 1985.

"When I arrived on the AUSA staff, our membership was just over 62,000. All of us in the Association of the United States Army are thrilled with the membership growth," said retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, AUSA's vice president for membership and meetings. "It reflects our belief in the value of what we provide as the Army's professional association."

She continued, "More importantly, it expands our ability to do our mission better—to be a stronger, more comprehensive voice for the Army and greatly expand our support for soldiers."

A program linking AUSA with like-minded military service organizations accounts for a large portion of the dramatic increase in membership.

This effort began in 2017, and the 14 organizations, known as association members, bring a combined 105,881 members to AUSA.

The newest association member, Redstone Federal Credit Union, helped AUSA achieve the record-breaking number. The credit union operates 24 branches across North Alabama and Central Tennessee.

AUSA has also been joined by the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association, The ROCKS, Inc., the Army Aviation Association of America, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, the Civil Affairs Association, the Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area, the Army Strategist Association, the Association of Quartermasters, the

National Infantry Association, the Patriot Project, the U.S. Army Officer Candidate Schools Alumni Association, the U.S. Field Artillery Association, and the U.S. Army Ranger Association.

For more information about the associations, visit AUSA online at [www.ausa.org/association-members](http://www.ausa.org/association-members).

Out of AUSA's 57,109 individual members, 15,194—more than one-quarter—are life members.

The association also has 10,148 National Partner memberships and 6,231 Community Partner memberships.

"It takes a team," McQuiston said. "I'm proud to say we have a tremendous team of full-time professional staff, an extensive volunteer network in our regions and chapters, wonderful partners in industry, and a network of like-minded associations who have all made this possible."



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# Decade of books highlights heroes, battles and more

By Joseph Craig

**M**y columns about the Association of the U.S. Army's Book Program tend to focus, naturally enough, on new releases.

With 2020 right around the corner, I'd like to highlight some of the great books that have been published over the last decade.

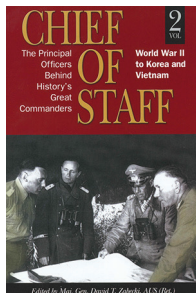
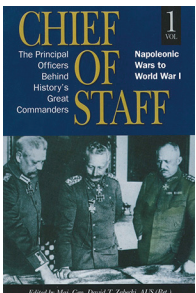
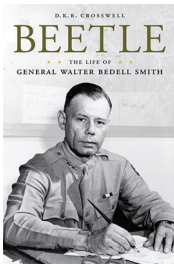
I'll start with one of the most comprehensive biographies the program has ever published:

*Beetle: The Life of General Bedell Smith* by D.K.R. Crosswell, which came out in 2010.

This definitive story of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's chief of staff was highly praised by such noted military historians as Rick Atkinson, Antony Beevor and Carlo D'Este.

It also won the Distinguished Book Award from the Army Historical Foundation.

Not surprisingly, Smith is one of the figures profiled in retired Maj. Gen. David Zabecki's two-volume set *Chief of Staff: The Principal Officers Behind History's Great Commanders*.



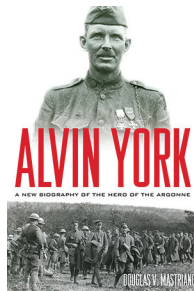
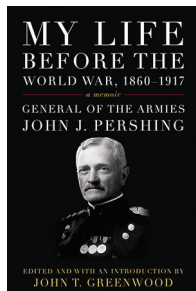
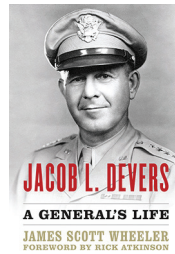
Numerous books have covered the great commanders of history; these books look instead at the key officers responsible for translating commanders' ideas into practical plans for the battlefield.

The AUSA Book Program has also published its share of books about military commanders over the past decade.

*Jacob L. Devers: A General's Life* by James Scott Wheeler spotlighted one of the most underrated and overlooked figures of World War II.

Even though he was one of only two generals (the other being Omar Bradley) to lead an Army group in Western Europe, most people today don't even know how to pronounce his name properly ("deh-vers" rather than "dee-vers").

No one would claim that Gen. John Pershing was overlooked—only George Washington was ranked higher—but he is not as well remembered today as in years past.

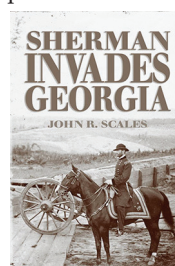


His memoir, *My Life Before the World War, 1860-1917*, contributed to our understanding of this legendary soldier.

Speaking of legends, *Alvin York: A New Biography of the Hero of the Argonne* by Douglas Mastriano has been one of our book program's best sellers.

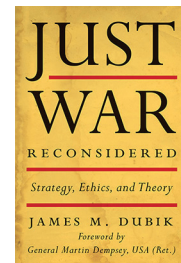
Moving beyond biographies, AUSA books have also covered campaigns in wars across the scope of American history.

In addition to many books on World War I, World War II and Vietnam, the past decade has seen books such as *Sherman Invades Georgia* by John Scales on the Civil War, a trilogy on the Korean War by William Bowers,



and even books on foreign wars that have informed U.S. doctrine such as *At the Decisive Point in the Sinai: Generalship in the Yom Kippur War*.

We have also examined the theoretical and philosophical aspects of war.



In *Just War Reconsidered: Strategy, Ethics, and Theory*, retired Lt. Gen. James Dubik argues that political and military leaders as well as the soldiers on the

ground need to be held accountable for the planning and execution of warfare. The book was selected as one of the titles on the Army chief of staff's professional reading list.

Finally, I'd like to highlight one of our practical guides for soldiers.

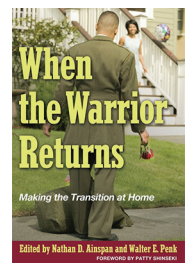
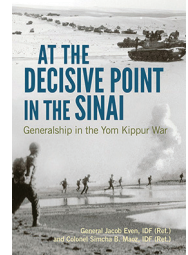
*When the Warrior Returns: Making the Transition at Home*, edited by Nathan Ainspan and Walter Penk, offers straightforward answers to a full range of questions facing soldiers and their families during the transition following a deployment.

To check out these or any of the other AUSA Book Program titles, please visit [www.ausa.org/books](http://www.ausa.org/books).

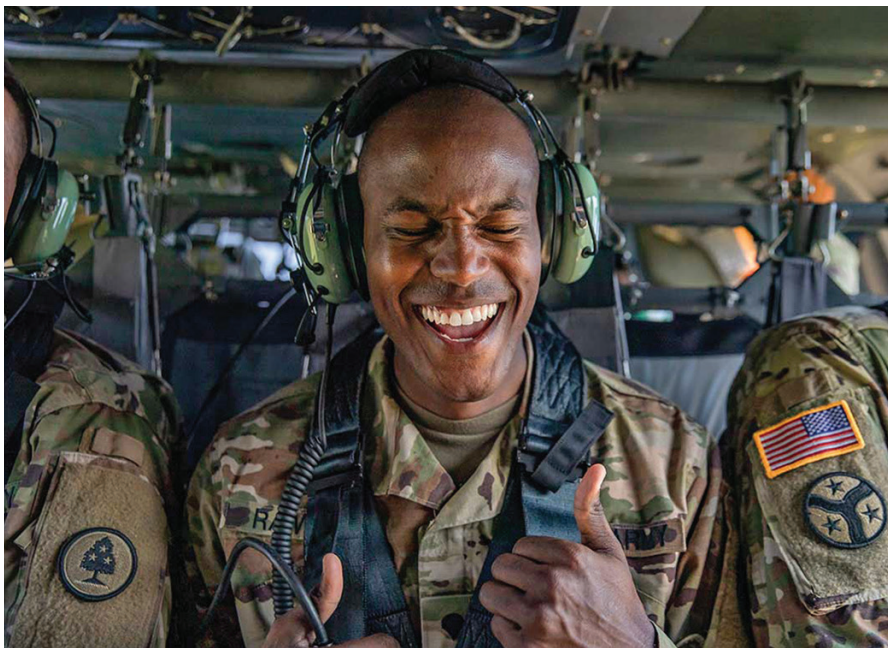
You can also view and download our Medal of Honor graphic novels by clicking here.

I welcome any of your thoughts for new titles (drop me a line anytime at [jcraig@ausa.org](mailto:jcraig@ausa.org)) and look forward to bringing you many more great books as we head into the '20s.

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



## Annual 'Best Places to Work' rankings reveal high satisfaction for Army



A soldier with the Tennessee Army National Guard celebrates his reenlistment in a UH-60 Black Hawk, 200 feet above Tullahoma, Tennessee. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. SARAH KIRBY)

One of the best places to work in the federal government is the Department of the Army, according to an annual rankings report that places the Army seventh out of 17 large federal agencies and departments in 2019.

The report, "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government," by Partnership for Public Service, shows the Army's ranking was up 1.3 points from the 2018 report.

It also shows that the departments of the Navy and Air Force, which ranked 11th and 15th, respectively, were each down slightly from last year.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff, defense agencies and Department of Defense Field Agencies were collectively ranked No. 8.

The overall rankings are determined by an "employee engagement score" calculated through an employee survey by the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit and non-partisan organization, and Boston Consulting Group.

The happiest parts of the Army include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Army War College, all of which showed an increase in satisfaction over the 2018 report, according to the report.

Within the Department of the Army's subcomponents, the U.S. Army Cyber Command ranked lowest but was up 1.3 points since last year.

The subcomponents that showed the most improvement over last year were U.S. Army Central, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, and the U.S. Army Military District Washington, which all climbed more than 8 points.

Employees who took the survey said the Department of the Army had improved over 2018 in the areas of innovation, work-life balance, effective leadership, training and development, diversity, strategic management, performance-based awards and teamwork.

You can view all rankings in the full report by clicking here.

# AUSAExtra

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## PERK OF THE WEEK

### Entertainment discounts

After the holidays, unwind and treat yourself to a show. AUSA offers MemberDeals, a members-only site for deals on movie tickets, Broadway shows, sporting events, concerts, theme parks and attractions, ski resorts and more. Take advantage of a special Sam's Club deal on the site to save on a one-year membership and receive a free gift. Normally \$45.00, AUSA members get a membership for \$24.88. Visit [www.ausa.org/entertain](http://www.ausa.org/entertain) to access these entertainment savings.



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## Chapters support Army recruiting in local communities

The Association of the U.S. Army's Central Virginia and Fort Lee & Southern Virginia chapters recently teamed up with the Army's Richmond Recruiting Battalion and the Quartermaster Foundation to help tell the Army story and support the service's new "What's Your Warrior?" recruiting campaign.

At the Richmond Recruiting Battalion's annual training meeting in late November, the Central Virginia chapter briefed the 250 recruiters present on several ways AUSA members can help their efforts.

This includes supporting the Our Community Salutes events that swear in high school students in front of family, friends and fellow students.

### Fort Lee & Southern Virginia, Central Virginia

In September, the chapter helped organize a swearing-in ceremony during a rock concert at the end of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic PGA event.



A soldier briefs Fort Lee & Southern Virginia chapter members on training. (AUSA PHOTO)

The Central Virginia chapter also provides AUSA publications about the Army to new soldiers' family members.

Also in September, the Fort Lee & Southern Virginia chapter teamed with recruiters and the Quartermaster Foundation at Fort Lee, Virginia, to provide retired soldiers and AUSA industry partners a chance to learn about today's Army training in order to better share the Army story with civil-

ians and potential recruits.

"We wanted to help pull this effort together, since it meets AUSA's goal of supporting Army recruitment efforts," said retired Col. Mike Flanagan, the chapter's vice president for Community Partners. "We thought if we could do this at Fort Lee, it might serve as a prototype for other AUSA chapters to do something similar."

The event, which Flanagan planned with retired Maj. Gen. Dick Beale, Quartermaster Foundation president, and Brig. Gen. Douglas McBride, the Army's 55th quartermaster general, centered on briefings and on-site visits to view quartermaster training.

More than 80 attendees were able to watch soldiers conduct refueling and water purification training, both with physical equipment and virtual simulations in a state-of-the-art classroom.

They also visited modern-day barracks rooms and family living quarters, which were described by the attendees as "much nicer" than what was available during their time in the service.


"We wanted to create a venue that keeps our distinguished members of the Quartermaster Corps informed, relevant and linked to current and future force initiatives" so they can be successful ambassadors in the local community, McBride said.

"This is important for the Army's recruiting and retention efforts and is closely nested with the principles of the Soldier for Life program."

## Eagle Chapters

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

Arizona Territorial (4)	Greater Kansas City (2)
Arsenal of Democracy (5)	Joshua Chamberlain (5)
Connecticut (5)	Korea (5)
Corporal Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (4)	Kuwait (2)
Cowboy (4)	Leonidas Polk (4)
CSM James M. MacDonald-Keystone (4)	Major Samuel Woodfill (5)
First In Battle (3)	Marne (3)
First Militia (5)	MG John S. Lekson (5)
Fort Campbell (5)	Monmouth (1)
Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (4)	National Training Center-High Desert (3)
Fort Pitt (2)	Northern New York-Fort Drum (4)
Fort Riley-Central Kansas (3)	PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (2)
Fort Rucker-Wiregrass (5)	Puerto Rico (4)
Gem State (4)	Rock Island Arsenal (5)
GEN Creighton W. Abrams (3)	SGM Jon R. Cavaiani (4)
GEN John J. "Black Jack" Pershing (4)	Texas Capital Area (5)
Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (5)	Western New York (4)



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