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Lt. Gen. David Wilson, deputy Army chief of staff for installations, G-9, speaks Thursday during an AUSA Hot Topic focused on Army installations. (AUSA PHOTO)

## Wilson: Installations key to Army strength

**A**rmey installations must act now to become more agile, resilient and adaptable as the service prepares for a future where the homeland is no longer a sanctuary, a senior Army leader said.

“Our world is more unpredictable than ever,” said Lt. Gen. David Wilson, deputy Army chief of staff for installations, G-9. “The question we must ask ourselves is, how do we ensure our Army is prepared to fight and win in the most complex security environment of our time?”

The answer is Army installations, Wilson said Thursday during a keynote presentation at an Association of the U.S. Army Hot Topic titled, “Transforming Army Installations: Our Foundations of Warfighter Readiness and Lethality.”

“They’re not just places where our soldiers live, train or play,” he said. “They’re our power projection platforms, the launching pads from which we deploy our forces around the globe to deter aggression and, if necessary, engage in combat.”

The Army can no longer afford to think of its installations as static facilities or safe havens, Wilson said. “Our installations must be agile, resilient and capable of supporting multidomain operations,” he said. “Our installations must integrate cutting-edge technology such as [unmanned aerial systems] and counter-UAS, enhance force readiness through the modernization of our training areas, our ranges and our facilities, as well as remain secure against cyber, physical or environmental threats.”

In addition to building the resilience of its installations, the Army must do the same for the people who live and work there, Wilson said. “They have to be part of the equation,” he said. “They must be prepared for the challenges of a more contested, unpredictable future.”

Maintaining agile and resilient installations is not just an Army issue, it’s a national endeavor, Wilson said. “The strength of our Army does not begin on the battlefield,” he said. “It begins here on the installations where we mobilize, train, prepare and deploy. The installation of the future will determine our ability to fight both abroad and at home. They’re not just places on a map. They’re the very foundation of our national defense.”

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## Paper: Artificial intelligence can aid leaders' planning

**B**alancing traditional planning methods and targeted artificial intelligence integration will help Army leaders and their staffs maximize their effectiveness, according to a new paper published by the Association of the U.S. Army.

"Military professionals must grapple with the advantages in speed and manpower afforded by AI relative to the understanding and adaptability that result from deliberate planning processes," Maj. Matt Tetreau writes. "The promises of accelerated decisionmaking processes and smaller headquarters footprints could prove advantageous, if not decisive, in future high-intensity conflicts."

In "Harnessing the Algorithm: Shaping the Future of AI-Enabled Staff," Tetreau underscores the value of integrating AI into certain aspects of military planning and decision-making.

AI can complete some things that military staffs are tasked with, but "delegating higher-order cognitive tasks to AI risks sacrificing the shared understanding that results from rigorous collective analysis," Tetreau writes.

Tetreau is an Army strategist on the Army Forces Command staff and is a fellow with the LTG (Ret.) James M. Dubik Writing Fellows Program. He has a master's degree



Soldiers assigned to Army Futures Command's Artificial Intelligence Integration Center discuss how to use an unmanned aircraft system to locate targets during exercises at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. REBECA SORIA)

from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service.

Given the "meaning-making" that comes from planning with peers, AI is best for tasks with a defined problem that may be "tedious, time-consuming or involve more data than humans can reliably process," Tetreau writes.

"In the not-so-distant future, commanders will confront the deci-

sion of which tasks they delegate to AI," he writes. "For the foreseeable future, however, I suggest that humans maintain a firm grasp on the responsibility to define and analyze problems" to "build shared understanding, promote adaptability and ensure that we are solving the correct problem."

Tetreau's paper is part of AUSA's Harding Papers series, which was launched in conjunction with the Army's Harding Project, an initiative that aims to revitalize scholarship and writing across the force.

Though AI is a key tool for decision-makers, "war is a fundamentally human endeavor," Tetreau concludes.

"Our use of AI should be bounded not by the state of the technology, but by the points at which the tool no longer facilitates analytically sound human decisionmaking, ... and our use of AI should augment, rather than replace, the analytical force of our human commanders and staff," he writes.

Read the paper [here](#).

## Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

### Cindy Risch

*Family Readiness Program Manager*

Cindy Risch joined AUSA's Family Readiness team in October. A former soldier, Cindy is also an Army mom and Army wife whose soldier retired in July after 36 years on active duty. She has three children who live in Florida, Texas and Nevada, nine grandchildren and one furry little bichon. Cindy's favorite thing is spending time with her grandkids.



## Eifler: Army streamlining, improving talent management enterprise



Sgt. Jeremy Jackson, left, with the 1st Armored Division, recites the oath of enlistment in front of Army Secretary Dan Driscoll during a reenlistment ceremony April 10 at Draws-ko Pomorskie Combat Training Center, Poland. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. NATHAN ARELLANO TLACZANI)

**T**he Army is refining its talent management processes to keep pace with the demands of large-scale combat operations, the service's top personnel officer said.

"Our Army is lethal, cohesive and ready. We are proud, but we are not satisfied," said Lt. Gen. Brian Eifler, Army deputy chief of staff for personnel, G-1. "The goal is to improve, streamline and renovate how we do things in the [human resources] community to be faster and more efficient. Our readiness for large-scale combat operations depends on it."

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services personnel subcommittee, Eifler said that the Army plans to overhaul its retention processes to "ensure quality over quantity and provide leaders the right skills for our formations."

Some retention changes include using data analytics to support retention targets and modernizing the enlisted retention program and the centralized promotion board system, Eifler said in his written testimony.

After struggling to meet its recruiting goals, the Army's transfor-

mation of its recruiting enterprise is already paying off, Eifler said.

"A couple years ago, we completely revamped it," he said. "Over the last 12 to 18 months, ... we're seeing ... the fruition." He added, "Last year was a good year, this year is a great year."

Just six months into the fiscal year, the Army has recruited over 50,000 recruits. The goal is to bring in 61,000 new soldiers by the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, Eifler said.

The service is undergoing a "fundamental transformation," Eifler wrote in his written testimony. "We are adapting and changing capabilities, force structure and recruiting enterprise in order to recruit and retain the best talent for our all-volunteer Army," he said.

"We are committed to upholding standards, merit-based leadership, and are prioritizing safety and well-being of our personnel," Eifler wrote. "This relationship and these investments in our people will ensure the Army's readiness today and into the future."

# AUSAExtra

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## Senior Fellows receive updates at AUSA headquarters

**O**n Tuesday, the Association of the U.S. Army's Senior Fellows came together at the association's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, to hear from AUSA's leadership and discuss ways to support the association's mission.

The Senior Fellows program was established to assist with strategic communications, develop policy positions, promote Army professional development and education, and educate the American public on the critical importance of the Army.

"The annual gathering of AUSA's Senior Fellows fostered thoughtful engagement that furthered the association's mission to educate, inform and connect," said Alana Jewett, assistant director of operations and planning in AUSA's Education and Programs directorate and Senior Fellows program manager.



Retired Gen. Bob Brown, center, AUSA president and CEO, addresses the association's Senior Fellows on Tuesday at AUSA headquarters. (AUSA PHOTO)



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## Celebrating military children with United Through Reading

**A**s a military spouse, I've learned that service doesn't stop at the uniform—it's a family mission.

At the heart of that family are the resilient, brave and adaptable military children who often don't get the spotlight they deserve.

That's why April, the Month of the Military Child, holds such a special place in my heart. It's our chance to honor their sacrifices, celebrate their strength and amplify the unique challenges and triumphs of their lives.

In 1986, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger designated April as Month of the Military Child. Military installations, cities and school districts honor these young American heroes with special events just for them.

### Family Readiness

One of the highlights of this year's lead-up to the Month of the Military Child was a gathering hosted in March by the Association of the U.S. Army's Family Readiness directorate in partnership with United Through Reading. The program allows service members to record themselves reading books for their families to watch and enjoy while they're away, bridging the emotional gap caused by deployments and separations.

United Through Reading plays an important role in supporting military families by fostering connections and resilience through the power of storytelling. This initiative not only strengthens family bonds but promotes early childhood literacy and emotional well-being.

"AUSA is proud to partner with United Through Reading to support military families," said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. "Their mission is incredibly important, providing opportunities for service members to connect with their loved ones while navigating the unique challenges of military service."



Sally Ann Zoll, center, interim CEO of United Through Reading, speaks with attendees at a 'Book Tasting' event hosted in partnership with AUSA's Family Readiness directorate. (AUSA PHOTO)

We were honored to be there as United Through Reading unveiled its special book selection for the Month of the Military Child, *Sometimes Apart, Always in My Heart: Helping Military Families Send Love from Far Away*. With 13,000 copies distributed to military installations,

libraries and community events, this book by bestselling children's author Tish Rabe honors the courage and strength of military children, ensuring that they feel seen, understood and celebrated.

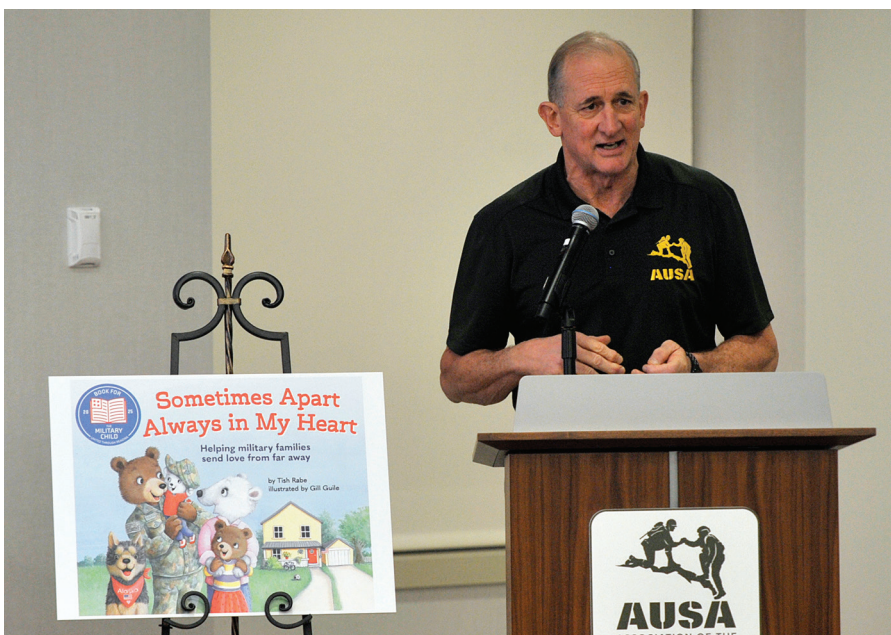
Visit <https://unitedthroughreading.org/app/> to learn more and download the free app.

As we continue to celebrate the Month of the Military Child, please join AUSA Family Readiness in supporting organizations like United Through Reading that celebrate the stories of our incredible military kids. Whether it's through shared stories, community events or simply wearing purple, every gesture of support uplifts the hearts of military children.

To all the military children out there, thank you for your courage, your strength and your endless love.

You are the heart of this community, and we salute you.

**Cindy Risch** is AUSA's Family Readiness program manager.



Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, speaks at AUSA headquarters during an event where United Through Reading announced its book selection for the Month of the Military Child, *Sometimes Apart, Always in My Heart: Helping Military Families Send Love from Far Away*. (AUSA PHOTO)



## Army G-4 discusses logistics transformation at chapter event

Efforts to transform the Army's logistics enterprise center on using technology to drive precision sustainment, demand reduction and advanced power storage, said Lt. Gen. Heidi Hoyle, deputy Army chief of staff for logistics, G-4.

In remarks April 3 at the monthly meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army's George Washington chapter in Arlington, Virginia, Hoyle said that with sustainment brigades now part of the Army's transformation in contact initiative, experimentation with new technology is playing an important part in modernizing logistics and integrating new capabilities with combat formations.

Noting that transformation in contact is taking place over 18 to 24

### George Washington

months and is "really just the first phase" of continuous transformation,

Hoyle explained that persistent experimentation is critical because it takes place outside of "traditional Army processes."

"It is a time that does not have traditional Army processes behind it. ... It is a time for us to prototype, a time for us to experiment and a time for us to get equipment in the hands of the soldiers," she said. "I'm not talking about programs of record that take multiple years to develop. What I'm talking about is emerging technologies, things like unmanned aerial systems, things like countering unmanned aerial systems, things like autonomous delivery."

Hoyle's office works closely with Army Futures Command's Contest-Ed Logistics Cross-Functional Team to address the most pressing challenges in modernizing the logistics enterprise.

Using precision sustainment as an example, Hoyle spoke of being able to predict when a part is going to fail by using existing data. "Predictive logistics is not about looking at past failures, and predictive logistics is



Soldiers with the 8th Theater Sustainment Command facilitate cargo offloading April 6 from the SSGT Robert T. Kuroda LSV-7, an Army logistics support vessel, during exercise Salaknib 2025 at Dingalan Bay in the Philippines. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. TRISTAN MOORE)

not about [loading] up a vehicle with multiple sensors to be able to say that 'This is going to fail,' OK? It's about using the data that is on the platform now," Hoyle said.

In another example, Hoyle pointed out that over time, the Army has gotten heavier, wider and more fuel-hungry by building formations and adding equipment. This has made it harder for maintainers to do their jobs.

"As we've done all that, we didn't re-engineer how we conducted [maintenance] on those vehicles, so we made it harder to conduct maintenance," she said, adding that reducing the demand for fuel will be essential to keeping soldiers safe on the battlefield.

When platforms became heavier, more soldiers hit the road to fuel them, she said, so "we are think-

ing about protection in different ways now, keeping the soldiers off the road, keeping the soldiers off the battlefield," with autonomous delivery capabilities.

*It is a time for us to prototype, a time for us to experiment and a time for us to get equipment in the hands of the soldiers."*

Experiments also are taking place with power and energy solutions, she said. "Right now, hybrid systems are what we believe and what we've observed in the exercises that we've been conducting [as] being very beneficial to how we conduct operations" and cutting down on the need for

big, loud, fuel-hungry generators.

"Every single thing we do right now with technology, capability, new materials, 3D printing, advanced manufacturing is making a difference, and it's going to keep our sons and daughters safe, it's going to keep our grandkids at home and out of harm's way," Hoyle said.





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