



Soldiers with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment conduct a fire safety drill prior to a tactical road march May 8 at Niinsalo Training Area, Finland. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. ELIZABETH MACPHERSON)

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Russian assault gives Army confidence

Watching Russian military capabilities in use in Ukraine provides a level of confidence to the Army's top general about the service's ongoing transformation of capabilities.

"We feel we are going in the right direction," Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said.

Looking at Russian arms and tactics has "reinforced confidence in where we are going with our research, development and future weapons systems," he said.

Testifying Tuesday before the Senate defense appropriations subcommittee, McConville said the U.S. is making smart moves.

Long-range precision fires are an example, he said. If the U.S. or its allies had these weapons, "they would be very, very effective against the

Russians because they would be able to take out their artillery," he said.

This capability, often listed as the Army's top modernization priority, would be able to sink enemy ships, destroy command posts and deter amphibious operations, McConville said.

Lt. Gen. James Richardson, acting commander of Army Futures Command, agreed. Testifying in a separate hearing Tuesday, this one before the Senate Armed Services airland subcommittee, Richardson said the war in Ukraine has "taught us a lesson, [that] our modernization priorities are correct."

During the same hearing, Richardson and Douglas Bush, assistant Army secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology, said long-range precision fires, air and missile defense and the network are the

Army's top modernization priorities, particularly as the U.S. eyes China as its "pacing challenge."

Being able to counter unmanned aerial systems, air and missile defenses and long-range aircraft are important capabilities in the Army's transformation push.

In the coming year, 24 new systems will be delivered to soldiers in the form of prototypes for feedback or the initial equipping of units, Bush and Richardson said.

Among the systems scheduled for delivery in fiscal 2023 are the first hypersonics battery, the first Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicles to replace the 1960s-era M113 family of vehicles, and the Next-Generation Squad Weapon rifle, automatic rifle and new 6.8 mm ammunition.

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Wormuth: Transforming Army has ‘a lot of work ahead’

The U.S. Army has “accomplished a lot” this year, but Army Secretary Christine Wormuth isn’t celebrating.

“We have a lot of work ahead of us,” she told the Senate defense appropriations subcommittee Tuesday during a hearing about the fiscal 2023 budget.

The 2023 Army budget submitted to Congress asks for \$177.5 billion for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, with a pending request for an additional \$5.1 billion for unfunded priorities if lawmakers provide more funds.

The basic budget has some high priorities, like \$35 billion for modernization and \$2 billion for improvements in infrastructure and housing.

It also includes a reduction in troop levels, a move Wormuth said is more a function of making certain the Army maintains high recruiting standards in a tight employment market than an effort to save money.

“We didn’t want to do that,” she said, adding, “We are working hard to adjust our recruiting efforts given the challenging recruiting environment we and the other services are facing.”

The Army is retooling recruiting programs with bigger incentive bonuses for most military occupational specialties and by letting recruits pick their first duty station.

This may not be enough.

“We need to look at some more substantial changes in how we recruit,”



Army Secretary Christine Wormuth speaks with Col. Eli Lozano, commander of Army Medical Activity-Alaska, about ongoing behavioral health projects during a visit to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in April. (U.S. ARMY/JOHN PENNELL)

she said. “We are going to try to be really creative and aggressive in terms of exploring ideas to help us going forward.”

Additionally, the Army has more than 47,000 soldiers in Europe to “reassure our allies,” deter aggression and help defend Ukraine, but “we have not taken our eye off the pacing challenge of China,” she said, noting a deployment of thousands of soldiers on a series of exercises with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific.

The 2023 budget allocates \$1.4 billion to the Indo-Pacific, she said.

“We are trying to make sure that we have Army presence in the theater up to about six months a year,” she said.

“America’s Army is fit, trained and ready when called upon to fight and win the nation’s wars,” Wormuth said. “We are transforming for the future, something we have to do given the dangerous environment we face each day.”

Modernization

From Page 1

The Army also is on track to deliver the Integrated Visual Augmentation System to the first unit by the end of fiscal 2022.

Improvements to existing equipment also is underway, with upgrades scheduled for the AH-64 Apache, UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

The Army also will continue to

modernize its armored brigade combat teams, with plans in fiscal 2023 to buy 44 Abrams M1A2SEPV3 tanks, 102 Strykers, 36 of the new A4 Bradley Fighting Vehicle variants, and other upgrades.

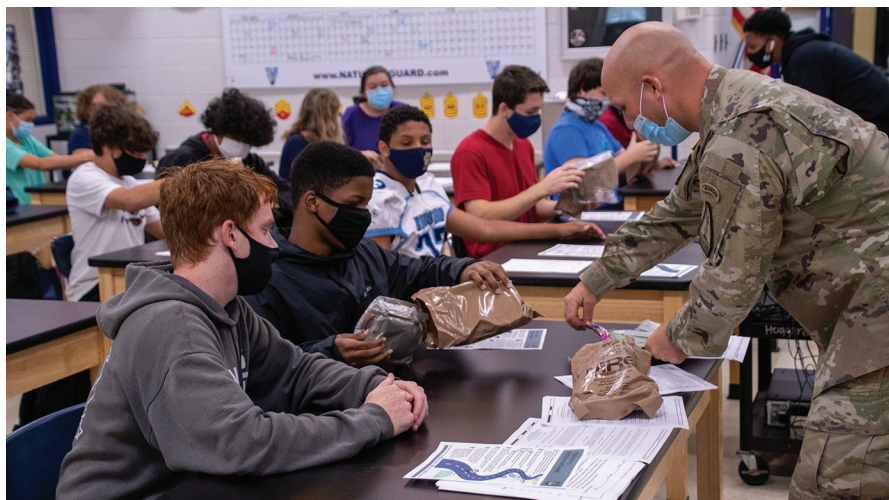
Nearly four years into its biggest transformation in four decades, the Army is making progress, Bush and Richardson told lawmakers.

“To be clear, the Army will never be done modernizing,” they said. “As

we deliver Army 2030, Army 2040 and beyond, we are laying the foundation to persistently modernize in response to emerging technologies, evolving challenges, and our adversaries’ actions.”

For now, “we feel very, very comfortable with them,” McConville said of the Army’s plans. “As we look at each system, we are weighing that on how that will work in either Ukraine or against a more sophisticated adversary.”

Army National Guard recruiting in ‘good spot’ despite challenges



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Caldwell of the North Carolina Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion explains a meal, ready-to-eat to junior ROTC cadets at Hoggard High School in Wilmington, North Carolina. (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. 1ST CLASS CRAIG NORTON)

Even though the Army National Guard is grappling with many of the same challenges faced by the Regular Army and Army Reserve, the component expects to meet its recruiting goal this year, a senior leader said.

Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said the Army National Guard is “in a pretty good spot today ... at about 99% strength” for the current recruiting year.

But he also acknowledged that private sector businesses have begun laying down hurdles by offering many of the benefits once only provided by the military, such as educational opportunities, signing bonuses and other enticements.

National Guard recruiting is keeping up because it is “very localized” and many of the units have been in a community for a long time, Hokanson said. Generations of family members who “see the value that that provides” help maintain a strong tradition of serving, he said Monday at an event hosted by the Heritage Foundation.

In the current recruiting environment, he said, the National Guard is keen to draw the interest of non-prior service individuals, people “coming

straight off the street,” which is where the competition with the private sector comes in, as well as a dearth across the nation of those willing to serve or fit to serve.

Describing a typical National Guard recruit as being part of a “unique group,” Hokanson said recruiters “look out for those people that do want to have that civilian opportunity, but then also want to serve their country.”

Under the Army’s 2023 budget proposal unveiled March 28, overall troop strength would slightly decline. Authorized Regular Army end strength would be 473,000 under the proposed budget—that is 12,000 fewer than authorized for fiscal 2022.

Army Reserve strength would remain at 189,500, while the Army National Guard would remain at 336,000.

In fiscal 2021, the National Guard met its end strength goal in May rather than September, which is more the norm, Hokanson said.

As for the effort to reach new recruits, he said, “we’re doing everything we can to reach out to them because we think we’re a great team, and we’d love to have great teammates.”

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AUSA staff mark Asian American Pacific Islander Month

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army staff marked Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month during a meeting Monday that featured Allen Hoe, a former soldier who is a proud Hawaiian, Gold Star father and son and grandson of veterans.

In May, the U.S. celebrates Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and their cultural traditions, native languages and unique experiences. The celebration traces its origins to 1978, when a joint resolution was passed by the House and Senate and signed by then-President Jimmy Carter.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a long history in the U.S. Army and military.

“Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been serving honorably in the United States military since the War of 1812,” according to a Department of Veterans Affairs fact sheet. Today, about 29,313 active-duty soldiers are Asian or Pacific Islander, according to 2020 DoD data.

Hoe was one of those who served. During the meeting, retired Gen. Bob



Allen Hoe speaks during a change-of-command ceremony and centennial celebration for the 196th Infantry Brigade at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, in 2021. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. TERESA CANTERO)

Brown, AUSA president and CEO, introduced Hoe to the AUSA staff.

“When I think of selfless service, I think of Allen Hoe,” Brown said. “He’s an amazing person, amazing leader [and a] very proud Native Hawaiian. Allen is a Vietnam veteran, where he was an incredible selfless servant and a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Hawaii.”

For Hoe, his interest in the military stemmed from his Hawaiian ancestors and his community and their service.

“Growing up, I heard these stories of individuals ... and of their experience as warriors,” he said. “I think it was generational for me.”

Though Hoe never pressured his two sons to serve, they both did.

First Lt. Nainoa Hoe, his oldest, was serving as an infantry platoon leader when he was killed Jan. 22, 2005, in Mosul, Iraq. His younger son, Sgt. 1st Class Nakoa Hoe, serves with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment.

“Growing up, they experienced some of the difficulties that dad had in dealing with the effects on an individual who has experienced that really hard combat,” Hoe said.

Regardless of the challenges Hoe faced throughout his career, he shared an important lesson about perseverance that he learned from the gravel pit at boot camp.

“So, it was just one inch at a time, but eventually I made it through,” he said. “And that has always stuck with me. No matter how tough the journey or how long the journey is, it’s just one step at a time. Once you accept that, then you will accomplish the task.”

AUSA hosts Army’s xTechsearch 6



This week at AUSA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, the top 20 finalists of the xTechSearch 6 competition presented their novel technology solutions to a panel of Army and DoD experts for the opportunity to win a prize of \$25,000 each and the chance to submit for a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research contract award of up to \$250,000 each. For more on xTechSearch, click here. (AUSA PHOTO)

Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: USARA

Since 1973, the U.S. Army Ranger Association has been a social membership organization dedicated to supporting active-duty and veteran Army Rangers.

Its purpose is to strengthen relationships among all Army Rangers—past, present and future; foster camaraderie among those who have earned the title of Army Ranger; and provide an extended community for all Army Rangers and their families.

Currently organized as a Georgia nonprofit, the association accepts applications for membership from individuals who have been awarded the Ranger Tab or who have served in a combat arms capacity in an Army Ranger unit for at least one year, or, if less, were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat Action Badge or Combat Medical Badge while serving in that unit.

The organization also provides affili-



ate and associate memberships to those who support the Ranger community.

An important component of the association's mission is to support Ranger programs. It does so by sponsoring its own activities and providing funding and support for activities of other entities and individuals that support the Ranger community, such as:

- Annual Ranger Muster/Ranger Rendezvous.
- Fundraising events.
- Monthly breakfasts.
- Regional planned events.

Other efforts include the Ranger Assistance Program and the Michael

B. Ranger Legacy Scholarship Program.

Established in 2010, the Ranger Assistance Program provides short-term and immediate financial relief to active-duty and veteran Rangers and family members.

The Legacy Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to former Rangers and the dependents of Rangers to help defray the cost of attending an accredited college or university or technical (trade) school.

For more information, please visit <https://www.ranger.org/>.

If your association is interested in partnering with AUSA, please contact Susan Rubel at srubel@ausa.org.

Association Partnership with AUSA is an opportunity for like-minded military service organizations to join AUSA in support of the total Army—soldiers, DoD civilians and their families.



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AUSA chapter activities support NCOs and soldiers

The Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate is constantly on the lookout for those taking care of our most precious resource—our soldiers.

This past October, during AUSA's Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C., we recognized a few of our chapters for focusing their annual programming on supporting, educating and developing NCOs and soldiers.

These chapters received the distinguished NCO and Soldier Ribbon. In addition, we awarded the top three chapters that excelled in this area with monetary prizes to enhance their efforts in the future.

NCO & Soldier Programs

The top winner of the Honorary Don Thomas Chapter Challenge Award for 2021 was the Henry Leavenworth chapter based in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Recently, the NCO and Soldier Programs team was invited by the Leavenworth chapter to take part in a few of its soldier support activities and see how the chapter was putting its first-prize money to use.

'Marathon' of support

Last month, chapter members planned, resourced and executed a two-day marathon of soldier support.

The festivities kicked off with a breakfast attended by chapter members, community partners, junior ROTC cadets, local and state elected officials and a healthy dose of soldiers from Fort Leavenworth.

Throughout the remainder of the day, we accompanied chapter members to several more events.

We met with Fort Leavenworth senior leaders to receive updates on the Army's education and talent management initiatives. Then we met with the Fort Leavenworth Sergeant Audie Murphy Club to talk about leadership and discuss ways to collaborate



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, center, AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs, meets with soldiers from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. (AUSA PHOTO)

to provide better support to soldiers and families.

We then traveled to Leavenworth High School for a professional development session with junior Army ROTC faculty and cadets. A tremendous engagement with the cadets provided reassurance that we have incredible young men and women participating in these programs.

Next, the chapter hosted an NCO professional development session that was widely attended by units from across the installation.

When the sun began to set on the western plains, chapter volunteers decided the day wouldn't be complete without arranging a dinner for senior NCOs.

Meeting future leaders

There was no time for breakfast on day two, especially when we were invited to do CrossFit with chapter members at a local gym.

After realizing that I am not in my 20s anymore and a short recovery, the chapter had us up and running again.

We were off to support the cadets competing in the 27th annual ROTC Ranger Buddy Competition hosted by

the Kansas University Army ROTC program.

It was an incredible day. We got to talk with hundreds of cadets, and we were invited to take part in the evening awards presentation at the conclusion of the competition.

Just like with the junior ROTC cadets from the previous day, this engagement assured me that our Army is in good hands well into the future.

Our thanks to the Henry Leavenworth chapter for an incredible two days, but much more importantly, for leading the way in taking care of our most precious resource.

Thanks as well to all our other chapters doing the same thing. A word of caution, though—I think the Henry Leavenworth chapter is gunning for the top title again in 2022.

If you would like to support the Leavenworth chapter, it is hosting a golf tournament May 20 with proceeds supporting soldier and family programs. Click here for more information.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.

Petraeus discusses Ukraine conflict at chapter event

Retired Gen. David Petraeus, former commander of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and a former CIA director, discussed the conflict in Ukraine and other world events during a fundraiser hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter and the Army Heritage Center Foundation.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is "the first war of the TikTok age."

Redstone-Huntsville

... Ordinary citizens can upload and record the events," Petraeus

said during the April 19 event at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama, according to the *Redstone Rocket*.

Petraeus, who served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency after his retirement from the Army in 2011, was critical of Russia's strategy during the invasion.

"They wanted to take the capital and topple the government," Petraeus said, as reported by the *Redstone Rocket*, but "there is no way they're going to take Kyiv, let alone control it."



Retired Gen. David Petraeus speaks at an event hosted by AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama. (AUSA PHOTO)

In addition to commanding U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, Petraeus' other four-star assignments include serving as commander of U.S. Central Command from October 2008 to June 2010 and commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq from February 2007 to September 2008.

He relied on his experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan in his appraisal of

Russia's military.

Despite years of preparation after seizing Crimea in 2014, the Russians have been less than successful in Ukraine, Petraeus said.

"The Russians weren't training. As far as I'm concerned, they were going camping," he said.

"There's a whole host of lessons—logistics; they don't have a non-commissioned officer corps; their command-and-control systems keep breaking down, that's why they keep losing generals," Petraeus said, according to the *Redstone Rocket*.

He also pointed to the effectiveness of U.S. sanctions against Russia.

"We are leading the world with sanctions. We are crushing the Russian economy," he said.

The evening event had 425 attendees and raised funds for the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum in Huntsville and the Army Heritage Center Foundation in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, according to the chapter.

"Thank you to everyone who helped make our co-sponsored event ... a great success through attendance, sponsorships and donations. Because of you, we are able to make a difference for two deserving organizations," the chapter said in a Facebook post.

Chapter honors Best Warrior winners



Texas Capital Area

Retired Col. Garry Patterson, center, president of the Association of the U.S. Army's Texas Capital Area chapter, presents awards May 6 to Airman 1st Class Rodney Morales, left, and Army Staff Sgt Eric Rodriguez, winners of the Texas Military Department's 2022 Best Warrior Competition. (AUSA PHOTO)

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