

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1
MAY 15, 2025

Pacific Requires Agile, Predictive Sustainment

3

Energy Initiatives Aim to Enhance Lethality

4

NCO & Soldier Programs

Best Ranger Competition

7



Chapter Highlights

Fort Novosel-Wiregrass

8



Gen. Ron Clark, commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific, addresses AUSA's LANPAC Symposium and Exposition on Tuesday in Honolulu. (AUSA PHOTO)

Clark: Land power key in Indo-Pacific

As the Army transforms for the future, land power remains as relevant as ever, the commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific said.

"Today, as we think about our responsibility to prevail, it's land power that comes to the fore," Gen. Ron Clark said Tuesday in a keynote address during the Association of the U.S. Army's LANPAC Symposium and Exposition in Honolulu.

"The nature of warfare remains timeless, and some of the challenges that the Continental Army worked through during the Revolutionary War are some of the same sort of challenges we're dealing with today," Clark said.

The Army of 250 years ago relied

on allies and partners for legitimacy and direct military support, including military support from France and loans from the Dutch, Clark said.

The Continental Army also fought across multiple domains where it did not have supremacy, and the troops of the time had to adapt.

"We were not prepared to fight battles in the European style of warfare, so we had to transform in contact," said Clark, who has commanded U.S. Army Pacific, the Army's largest service component command, since November 2024. "Most importantly, the Revolutionary War proved that we could prevail through land power. It was land forces that guarded the sovereignty of our new nation."

Pivoting to modern times, land

power remains relevant in large-scale combat operations, Clark said. "It's relevant to our challenges here in the Indo-Pacific ... despite misperceptions that it's simply an air and maritime theater," he said.

After more than two decades of counterinsurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army today faces a "very different" adversary, Clark said. The Army is preparing to deter an adversary that has an anti-access, area denial network designed to fix U.S. air and maritime assets and put them at risk, he said. "Our mission, our responsibility, is to understand that threat and attempt to neutralize their ability to impact our other domains," he said.

See **LANPAC**, Page 5



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Army strengthening Indo-Pacific sustainment network

The Army is building a sustainment network that gives commanders options across a crucial and challenging region, a panel of experts said Tuesday during the Association of the U.S. Army's LAN-PAC Symposium and Exposition in Honolulu.

"We don't do it alone," said Maj. Gen. Gavin Gardner, commanding general of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command. "It's an entire network—it's a network that creates the foundation that allows for operational maneuver and gives options to the commander. That's what logistics is supposed to do. Our job is to be the unsung heroes that set options up for the commander so they can be decisive at the place of our choosing."

Speaking during a panel titled "Sinews Across the Pacific," Gardner and other leaders talked about the challenges of operating in the Indo-Pacific. From the vastness of the theater to the different and challenging types of terrain, the region poses unique challenges for sustainers, the panelists said.

"Every piece of equipment that we mis-ship or we inadvertently put in the wrong place creates a lot of ad-



A panel of military and civilian experts discusses logistics challenges in the Indo-Pacific region on Tuesday during AUSA's LANPAC Symposium and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

ditional friction that's not going to be helpful," said Lt. Gen. Jered Helwig, deputy commanding general of U.S. Transportation Command. "We've got to make sure that connection is well integrated, well-rehearsed, to ensure that when we do flow, it's at the speed and scale desired," he said.

Gardner agreed, adding that the Army is working to set the theater now through a multitude of ways.

One key element is prepositioning the right stocks and equipment forward, Gardner said.

"You only deter if you're forward in this theater," he said. "It's got to be at the right place, you've got to know what's there ... and knowing how to get access to it rapidly."

To combat the vast distances in the Indo-Pacific, the Army must have a logistics network that's built upon a mesh system, Gardner said, so if one node fails, the system is agile enough to keep working.

Another challenge is reducing demand for energy, whether it's power or fuel or water, he said. "We need to do some energy reduction, and that's all forms of energy," Gardner said.

Soldiers operating in the Indo-Pacific often deal with heat and humidity, which means they drink a lot of water, he said. "Moving water on the modern battlefield is a pain in the butt," he said. "It's one of the hardest things we do."

Options to move water production forward and other ways to reduce demand are just some of the things the Army is looking at, he said.

The Army's efforts all support the soldier, Helwig said. "We owe them the best logistics network, in position, ready to go, in the future," he said. "It can't be one that hasn't been rehearsed, built and purpose-driven to support them. We owe [soldiers] the conditions for them to be successful."



Soldiers with the 25th Infantry Division receive a supply drop from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter April 24 during Exercise Balikatan 25 in the Philippines. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. BRANDON ROLAND)

Cockrell: Delivering energy to point of need powers Army lethality



Spc. Aydan Weaver, an air traffic controller assigned to the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, sets up a generator in support of joint aviation interoperability training in April at Fort Carson, Colorado. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. DONIEL KENNEDY)

The Army is prioritizing a targeted approach to rapidly get energy and technology to soldiers at the point of need, said Brandon Cockrell, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for energy and sustainability.

“The Army’s [focus] is knowing that we have to deliver the energy when it’s needed, where it’s needed and at the level that it’s needed,” Cockrell said May 8 during a Noon Report webinar hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

As the service drives forward, it is keeping an eye on several key risks, including cyberattacks, natural disasters, physical attacks and increased energy demand, Cockrell said during the webinar titled “U.S. Army: Powering the Mission.”

The Army is leveraging and testing new technology, especially for soldiers in combat roles who may be farther from typical power sources, he said. “If you place a battery between the generator and the need, we’re seeing up to a 50% reduction in generator run time,” Cockrell said. “Battalion commanders ... are raving fans, because at night they’re able to

shut down the generator. ... They are almost to the point of there’s no thermal signature, there’s virtually no auditory signature and they are at full ops.”

Maintaining the energy and sustainability edge supports lethality and readiness for soldiers and their families, Cockrell said.

In addition to making sure soldiers “have the energy that they need when they deploy,” the Army also is focused on ensuring “we have the energy back at the installation, to make sure we take care of that family through the entire deployment cycle,” he said. “While that soldier is deployed, as long as they ... know their family is taken care of at our installations, that ... allows them to be the most lethal soldier that they can be.”

Above all, “getting this resilience in place for our soldiers is key,” Cockrell said. “We’re pushing hard, and we’re pushing fast, and I think that is so critical moving forward. Everything we do is going to be through the lens of a soldier,” he said. “If we are better than our competitors in certain areas, we have to ... stay ahead of them.”

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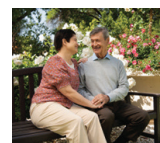
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LANPAC

From Page 1

America's adversary has been "repeatedly aggressive, belligerent and coercive," can mass forces and has developed magazine depth that can support troops at extended ranges and attempt to contest the sovereignty of many of America's neighbors and allies, Clark said. "These challenges are real," he said. "They intend to test the joint force ... in a way that we haven't seen before."

To counter that threat, the U.S. must "prevail through combined, joint, all-domain operations on and from the land," Clark said. "We must maintain the ability to execute multidomain operations as part of a joint, multinational force to gain positional advantage."

Key to that task is maintaining the strategic land power network—the relationships, "built on bonds of trust," that the Army has cultivated with its allies and partners, "our



Spc. Steven Palomares, of the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division, secures an area during air assault training May 8 in South Korea. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. ALEXANDER KNIGHT)

ability to work together in time and space with our allies and partners on the land," Clark said.

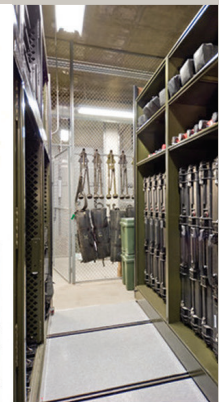
The Army also is placing capabilities forward in the theater, including deploying troops to train with partner armies and setting the the-

ater for the joint force, Clark said, emphasizing his priorities of people and partnerships with the mission to prevail.

"Land power opens those windows of opportunity to meet, partner and to win," he said.



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Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: ANCA

Based in San Antonio, the Army Nurse Corps Association exists to preserve the history and traditions of the Army Nurse Corps, foster communication between all components—including currently serving nurses, veterans and retirees—and promote nursing scholarship, professionalism, scientific inquiry and research.

The organization was formed in 1977 by a group of retired Army Nurse Corps officers and initially was restricted to retirees. In 2000, its bylaws were amended to include Army nurses and veterans from all three Army components.

One of the association's major initiatives is its scholarship program, which supports nursing education for soldiers and veterans, as well as their family members, in an accredited baccalaureate or graduate nursing or anesthesia program. It also advocates for the advancement of military nursing knowledge through seed grants for nursing research and evidence-based practice and supports publication of military nursing research findings and nursing specialty certifications.

The group publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Connection*, and



“maintains an online membership roster to facilitate networking and communication among members,” according to the association’s website. In addition, the association conducts a biennial national convention.

Finally, “one of the principal missions of the Army Nurse Corps Association is to serve as a repository and conservator of the Army Nurse Corps’ rich history,” the group’s website says.

For more information, please visit <https://e-anca.org/>.

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

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Best Ranger Competition represents Army's finest soldiers

Last month brought a longstanding tradition to Fort Benning, Georgia: the Army's annual Best Ranger Competition.

Now in its 41st year, the event is a grueling three-day competition held each April at the home of the Army's Ranger School featuring 52 teams from across the Army.

This year, 1st Lts. Kevin Moore and Griff Hokanson of the 75th Ranger Regiment took the top prize. A different team from the 75th Ranger Regiment came in third place, with soldiers from the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade coming in second.

NCO & Soldier Programs

In true Ranger fashion, history was made as the first female Ranger competed in and completed the competition. First Lt. Gabi White and her teammate, Capt. Seth Deltenre, representing the Maneuver Center of Excellence, came in 14th place.

The Best Ranger Competition began in 1982 after Ranger Hall of Fame inductee Dick Leandri found a way to honor his friend and Ranger legend, retired Lt. Gen. David Grange.

Known for his dedication to duty and contributions to the Army, Grange was a veteran of 20 campaigns in three wars as an infantryman. He enlisted in the Army in June 1942 and served as a parachute infantryman in Europe, taking part in the Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe campaigns of World War II.

In 1950, Grange was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served in Korea with the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment. He served his first tour of duty in Vietnam in 1963 as an airborne/Ranger/infantry adviser to the Department of Defense's Research and Development Field Unit.

Grange also commanded 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, in Vietnam. He went



First Lts. Kevin Moore, left, and Griff Hokanson, assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment, cross the finish line of the final buddy run during the 2025 Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY/PATRICK ALBRIGHT)

on to direct the Ranger Department at the Army Infantry School, serve as assistant division commander of the 4th Infantry Division and was chief of staff of I Corps in Korea. He commanded the 2nd Infantry Division, the Infantry School and Sixth U.S. Army before retiring in 1984 after more than 41 years of service.

The 2025 Best Ranger Competition included Day Stakes and Ranger First Responder events at Doughboy Stadium, night land navigation, helicopter jumps, a Zodiac event, a buddy run and many others over the three days. I arrived to observe the Day Stakes, connecting with members of the Ranger Hall of Fame, vendors and community representatives who were all excited to support the leaders participating in the competition.

I also was proud to present a set of Randall Made knives to Moore and Hokanson on behalf of the Association of the U.S. Army.

Only 16 teams made it to the final event, showcasing how difficult and strenuous the competition is.

In the Ranger Creed, one stanza stood out to me as I watched the competition and the heart of the competitors in person: "I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other Soldier."

Not only is the Best Ranger Competition a very physical competition, but there is a lot of brain power, teamwork and sacrifice needed just to make it to the end. Each and every Ranger that qualified to compete in the event not only personified their creed, but they proved that they do indeed "Lead the Way."

Follow NCO and Soldier Programs on Instagram @ncosoldierprograms.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Julie Guerra is AUSA's director of NCO and Soldier Programs.

Aviation leader shares branch updates at chapter meeting

Brig. Gen. Kenneth Cole, deputy commanding general of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Novosel, Alabama, provided an update on the aviation branch and a glimpse into future plans during a general membership meeting hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Novosel-Wiregrass chapter.

"At Fort Novosel, we have a clear mission: We produce aviation warfighters for the U.S. Army and for our nation," Cole told those in attendance, as reported by the *Dothan Eagle*.

Last year, the installation trained more than 18,000 students in more than 100 courses, Cole said. About 1,200 of those students were new Army aviators. "We conduct initial

Fort Novosel-Wiregrass

warrant officer training [and] enlisted soldier advanced individual training, among dozens of other professional military education courses for our Army and our joint force teammates every year," he said, as reported by the *Dothan Eagle*.

The Army aviation enterprise is transforming along with the rest of the force, Cole said, citing as an example a new pilot program aimed at revolutionizing the future of initial entry rotary wing training, called "Flight School Next." This initiative, which kicked off in early April, puts aspiring Army aviators behind the controls of commercially owned and operated helicopters, with the goal of enhancing training quality, producing more proficient pilots and reducing costs, according to the Army.

"This program is currently being piloted at a civilian flight school, and it will begin [to be] phased into our curriculum next year," Cole said. "As a key member of the Army's combined arms team, Fort Novosel soldiers and professionals are also actively involved in all aspects of unmanned aerial systems, as well as managing



Attending the recent membership meeting of AUSA's Fort Novosel-Wiregrass chapter are, from left, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Alabama (South) Mike Schmitz; retired Command Sgt. Maj. Otis Smith, the chapter president; Brig. Gen. Kenneth Cole, deputy commanding general of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Novosel, Alabama; and Enterprise Mayor William Cooper. (AUSA PHOTO)

the complex technologies and procedures in the Army's joint air space."

Fort Novosel also has a significant impact on the surrounding communities, Cole said, noting that the installation employs more than 22,000 soldiers, civilians and contractors, and roughly 45,000 military ID card holders in three states live within a 40-mile radius.

"From the pioneering aeronauts in hot air balloon days to today's innovations, look at how far we've come



Army aviation flight school students from Fort Novosel, Alabama, participate in April in a proof-of-concept for a pilot program known as 'Flight School Next' aimed at revolutionizing the future of flight training. (U.S. ARMY/LESLIE HERLICK)

together," he said, as reported by the *Dothan Eagle*. "The Home of Army Aviation is the fifth largest employer in Alabama, generating \$9.3 billion in 2024, according to the Alabama Economic Commission."

Cole lauded AUSA's Fort Novosel-Wiregrass chapter for its dedication to supporting soldiers and families on the installation and around the region. "This chapter has been instrumental in supporting the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Novosel, all of our tenant units, Army National Guard, Army Reserve and all of the Army recruiting units, as well as the JROTC programs in the schools," he said, as reported by the *Dothan Eagle*.

In the past year, the chapter also awarded 19 scholarships totaling \$20,200 based on academic and personal achievement and community involvement, he said.

"It's exciting to see the continuing growth of [the AUSA] Wiregrass Chapter, and we know the chapter will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our military and their families," Cole said. "Above the Best, Fly Army."

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