



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division plan and coordinate troop movement May 17 during exercise Combined Resolve 25-2 in Hohenfels, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS RICHARD HOPPE)

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New manual highlights Army profession

A new Army field manual homes in on what it means to be a soldier dedicated to the profession of arms.

Released by the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, FM 1: The Army: A Primer to Our Profession of Arms, has 10 chapters that are purposely written in a non-doctrinal style and designed to be easily understood. Just 74 pages in length, the book is meant to be read cover to cover and is peppered with historical vignettes that support the concepts and ideas contained in the manual, according to an Army news release.

With a foreword by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George, the new one-of-a-kind publication is focused on what it means to be a member of

the profession of arms, as well as the obligations soldiers have to each other, to civilian leadership and to their fellow citizens.

"This book is written for our Army," George writes in the foreword. "It explains our profession, our purpose, and what it means to be an American Soldier. You will notice this book is not written like other military doctrine; it touches on values and concepts through stories and in non-prescriptive terms. It requires judgment in application."

While primarily designed as a "welcome letter" for new lieutenants and sergeants, leaders at all levels can use FM 1 to guide discussions, professional development and reflection, according to Rich Creed, direc-

tor of the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate.

"At higher levels of professional military education, you may have a block of time to discuss the material from different perspectives," Creed said in the Army news release. "Rather than learning the material in the book, you might think through, 'How am I taking the material in FM 1 and making it real in my unit?' Or 'How is FM 1 serving as the foundation for how I coach, counsel and mentor?'"

Strengthening the profession of arms has been one of George's top priorities since he became Army chief of staff in September 2023. As the manual took shape, George made the decision to publish a "shorter, stand-

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Harter: Army Reserve must be ready to fight when called

The Army Reserve must be “combat ready on Day 1,” the chief of Army Reserve and commanding general of Army Reserve Command said.

“Simply put, your Army Reserve exists for one purpose, to deliver combat ready soldiers and formations at time of need in support of the nation,” Lt. Gen. Robert Harter said Tuesday at a hearing before the House Appropriations defense subcommittee. “We are not a strategic formation. We are an operational force by design and necessity. We are the enabling force for the joint fight.”

Today, almost 9,000 Army Reserve soldiers are deployed across combatant commands throughout the world, Harter said.

One challenge facing the Army Reserve is recruiting. “It’s a wicked hard problem to recruit for the Army Reserve,” Harter said.

“Our challenge in the Army Reserve is that the active Army recruits for us,” he said. “We provided roughly 1,400 Army Reserve [Active Guard Reserve soldiers] to support that effort. While they’re making big strides with [Regular Army] recruiting, they’ve continued to miss our number. They’re delivering about 70%, and what that equates to is we’re currently short about 9,500 privates.”



Soldiers assigned to the Army Reserve's 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) work with Dutch personnel to assess simulated mass casualties May 13 during exercise African Lion 2025 in Dodji, Senegal. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS SOLOMON NAVARRO)

The Army Reserve “has fallen short of its mission by roughly 4,000 recruits per year for the past eight years,” Harter wrote in his written testimony. Recruiting and retention difficulties have created a 40,000-soldier gap in Army Reserve formations, Harter said.

The Army Reserve is home to more than half of the Army’s maneuver support capabilities and more than 90% of certain key theater-level enablers such as sustainment, medical and engineering, Harter said.

“Based on the Army Reserve’s critical mission set, if we’re short people, the Army is short people,” he said.

Beyond its push to shore up recruiting numbers, the Army Reserve is “also looking at how we posture equipment forward,” Harter said.

“We have already tested” putting certain equipment forward “in the European theater ... and we’re now starting to posture for” the Indo-Pacific region “because we will not have time to get that equipment there in large-scale combat operations,” he said.

The Army Reserve is focused on expanding its capabilities to effectively compete in the future fight, Harter said in his written testimony.

“Should the Army be called to support [large-scale combat operations] ... Army Reserve soldiers and formations will be among the first to fight—and we must be fully ready to do so,” he wrote. “It is imperative that the Army review its current capabilities by component; I believe that a rebalance of structure and capabilities across the components is needed to reduce risk and better posture our Army for [large-scale combat operations].”

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

Jared Lieberher

Manager, Web and Data Analytics

Jared Lieberher has been with AUSA for 17 years. He manages AUSA’s social media channels as well as numerous IT and communications platforms. Jared lives in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, with his wife and two loquacious children, Archie and Chase, and in his spare time he enjoys watching weird movies, listening to yacht rock and spotting construction vehicles with his kids.



Brunson: Land forces invaluable to 'lasting security' in Indo-Pacific

Proximity, speed and complexity are just some of the many challenges in the Indo-Pacific, but the presence of land forces in the region offers a tangible deterrent to any potential adversary, said Gen. Xavier Brunson, commanding general of U.S. Forces Korea.

Speaking May 15 on the final day of the Association of the U.S. Army's LANPAC Symposium and Exposition in Honolulu, Brunson emphasized the important role of land forces in a region often thought of as an air and maritime theater.

"Our presence in Korea imposes and challenges the calculations of leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia and China, and provides options for our nation's most senior leaders," said Brunson, who also leads United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command. "In any conflict, time and distance are pervasive adversaries. We can, however, leverage our geography and positional advantage to great effect."

By being present, U.S. forces and their allies and partners give "our adversaries pause," Brunson said. "By being forward stationed, we effectively operate inside the adversary's anti-access, area denial bubble and inside their headscape," he said.

As the relationships between Russia, China and North Korea continue to grow, the U.S. military has gotten smaller as it has increased its technological capabilities, Brunson said. "We have smaller militaries with much more expensive and capable tools," he said. "But ultimately, fighting comes down to the fundamentals of blocking and tackling."

On the Korean peninsula, land power remains a decisive part of the arsenal of capabilities, Brunson said. "You can control the skies, you can control the seas, but ultimately you must control the ground to win and to achieve any lasting security," he said.



Gen. Xavier Brunson, commanding general of U.S. Forces Korea, addresses AUSA's LANPAC Symposium and Exposition May 15 in Honolulu. (AUSA PHOTO)

Land power is the connective tissue of the joint force, supporting offensive and defensive missile batteries, command and control nodes, sustainment, maintenance, logistics and more, Brunson said. "A strong land presence allows us to maintain consistent contact with partners, set the pace of events in the region, ... and it does so in a way that no other environment can truly replicate. Visible land presence speaks volumes far louder than any formal declaration."

Land power is a tangible expression of commitment that builds deterrence, Brunson said, but troops must work at it every day. "It's the reason our dedicated service members train unceasingly, why our partners willingly exercise and train alongside us, and why positional advantage with a deep understanding of geography remain fundamentally important," he said.

As threats continue to evolve, so must the U.S. military's approach, Brunson said. "We must continually adapt, innovate and strengthen our land capabilities," he said. "Deterrence doesn't rest, and neither can we."

AUSAExtra

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FM 1

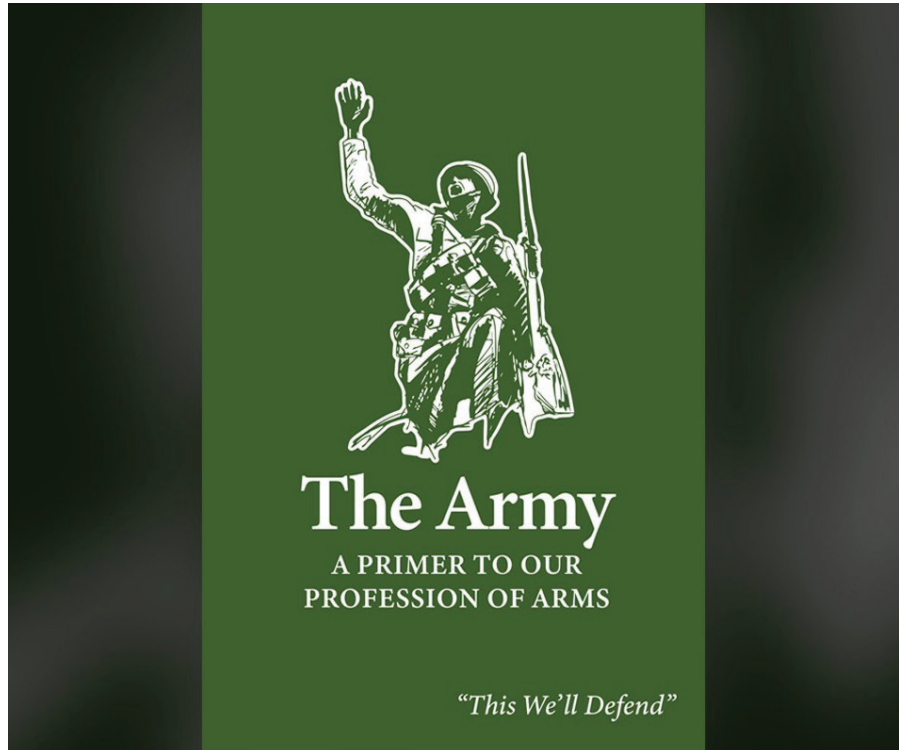
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alone publication” that would meet his intent, rather than including it within Army Doctrine Publication 1: The Army, which is written for more experienced and external audiences, according to the release.

George also has driven The Harding Project, an effort to revitalize scholarship and professional writing across the Army.

As a part of the Harding Project, the Association of the U.S. Army has partnered with Army University Press to host the LTG (Ret) James M. Dubik Writing Fellows Program—a voluntary, non-resident writing fellowship to encourage discourse that contributes to a community of military and national security professionals. AUSA's Harding Papers series exclusively publishes the work and scholarship of the Dubik Writing Fellows.

Read FM 1 here.



Released on May 13, FM 1: The Army: A Primer to Our Profession of Arms, is purposely written in a non-doctrinal style and designed to be easily understood. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)



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Several events strengthen AUSA support for families

The Association of the U.S. Army's Family Readiness directorate has been on the move, strengthening its connections with military families across the country and expanding its initiatives in exciting ways. From mentorship programs to record-breaking Operation Deploy Your Dress events, the team has been hard at work building relationships and fostering traditions.

In early April, AUSA Family Readiness director Holly Dailey and I, alongside retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, the association's vice president for Leadership and Education, traveled to AUSA's Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning chapter in Georgia for its Industry Day event.

Family Readiness

During the visit, we attended a reception hosted at the National Infantry Museum, engaged with military families and strengthened ties within the community. We also led a session on military customs, courtesies and traditions at the newly established USO Coffee Connection, ensuring that Army spouses and families have the tools to carry forward the time-honored traditions that define military life.

Special thanks to Lynda Morgan, the chapter's vice president for Family Programs, for helping make this opportunity possible.

Later in the month, Dailey hosted the annual General Officer Spouse Mentorship Program, where a group of Army spouses collaborated on mentorship, sharing insights and strategies to further support all spouses. The Family Readiness team is grateful to Melissa Helmick, who leads this program with unwavering dedication. Her commitment to Army spouses is inspiring, and her efforts have strengthened the mentorship network.

We marked a milestone on April 24 as AUSA Family Readiness and Operation Deploy Your Dress joined



AUSA Family Readiness deputy director Thea Green shares the association's mission with attendees during the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Conference in May in San Diego. (AUSA PHOTO)

forces to host our eighth annual pop-up event. The association's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, was transformed into a boutique stocked with thousands of dresses, and for the first time, men's suits were included, expanding the event's impact.

Thanks to the dedication of our incredible volunteers, a record-breaking 951 dresses and 70 suits were given away, ensuring service



Holly Dailey, right, AUSA's Family Readiness director, and Family Readiness program manager Cindy Risch, second from right, lead a session on military customs, courtesies and traditions in April at Fort Benning, Georgia. (AUSA PHOTO)

members and spouses were outfitted with formal attire to attend military functions. Many military-friendly organizations attended as well to share family resources.

The momentum continued in May, as Family Readiness deputy director Thea Green attended the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Conference in San Diego, representing AUSA and engaging with attendees to share the association's mission.

"As a parent of a son who has chosen the path of the Army, I was elated to see the level of support that is offered. Talking to you made my whole day," one Army mom shared about speaking with Green. "I look forward to sharing the information on your organization with so many others. I was also so impressed with how AUSA sees the benefit and importance of supporting our youth through organizations like the Boys & Girls Club."

Then, last week, Dailey traveled to AUSA's LANPAC Symposium and Exposition in Honolulu, again teaming up with Operation Deploy Your Dress to host the first-ever pop-up event at Schofield Barracks and "deploy" dresses to the military community in Hawaii.

As summer approaches, AUSA Family Readiness is keeping the energy high, with many more initiatives on the horizon. The team is gearing up for the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in October, where even bigger plans are in motion to bring valuable resources, mentorship and tradition-focused programming to the military community.

Recent months have already demonstrated the powerful impact of AUSA Family Readiness in action—and with even more events, collaborations and innovations on the way, the best is yet to come. Stay tuned and get ready for an unforgettable year.

Cindy Risch is AUSA's Family Readiness program manager.

AUSA luncheon honors senior veterans' service, sacrifice

Furthering the Association of the U.S. Army's mission to honor those who have served, AUSA's First in Battle chapter in Ansbach, Germany, recently hosted a Veterans Appreciation Luncheon to celebrate senior veterans.

Organized by retired Sgt. Maj. Joseph Guevara, the chapter's vice president for special events, along with partners from the local community, the event welcomed 70 veterans for an afternoon filled with camaraderie, gratitude and meaningful conversations.

First in Battle

"It is our honor to host this event as a token of gratitude for the unwavering dedication and service of our veterans. Their sacrifices have shaped our communities, and we remain committed to ensuring they feel valued and supported," Guevara said during the May 7 event.

The gathering provided an opportunity to acknowledge veterans' service and sacrifice and reinforce the community's commitment to supporting those who have devoted



AUSA members and community supporters attend a luncheon honoring senior veterans hosted by the association's First in Battle chapter in Ansbach, Germany. (AUSA PHOTO)

their lives to the country. Attendees enjoyed a warm meal, shared stories and strengthened bonds with one another.

Local businesses, volunteers and community members generously contributed time and resources to make the event a success, according to the chapter.

"This event serves as a powerful reminder that appreciation and recognition are vital in fostering strong relationships with those who have served," the chapter said in a Facebook post. "The chapter remains committed to hosting meaningful engagements that continue to honor and uplift our veterans."

Exceptional soldiers, recruiters recognized at chapter event

Outstanding soldiers and recruiters were recognized for their efforts during the recent annual awards dinner of the Association of the U.S. Army's Col. Edward Cross chapter in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Col. Edward Cross

New Hampshire Gov. Kelly Ayotte was the chapter's distinguished guest at the event, providing opening remarks and spending time with attendees, including special guests from the New Hampshire Veterans Home. "Thank you for your service to our great state and our nation," she said.

Ayotte joined chapter representatives Dane Rota and retired Com-

mand Sgt. Maj. Mike Rice in presenting the awards.

This year's recipients include Spc. George Munson, who received the Soldier of the Year award, and Staff Sgt. Brad Roberts, who was honored as the NCO of the Year. Both soldiers are with the New Hampshire National Guard.

Staff Sgt. Mark Hayward was recognized as the National Guard Recruiter of the Year, and Sgt. 1st Class Jheudys Rivera received the active duty Recruiter of the Year award.

The chapter said in a Facebook post that it "honors our local top soldiers each year in recognition of their commitment to their leadership and acquiring the best talent for the U.S. Army."



New Hampshire Gov. Kelly Ayotte, left, presents Staff Sgt. Mark Hayward of the New Hampshire National Guard with the AUSA Col. Edward Cross chapter's National Guard Recruiter of the Year award during a dinner hosted by the chapter. (AUSA PHOTO)



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