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Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, move toward a breach point during a platoon exercise. The training was part of Exercise Eagle Rapid 22 at the Crvena Zemlja Training Area near Knin, Croatia. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. JOHN YOUNTZ)

Army critical to daily global operations

Every day, around the world, the Army is playing a key role in deterring America's adversaries and building strong relationships with partner armies, the service's top civilian leader said.

"The Army is campaigning out in the world every single day," Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said, referring to one of the primary lines of effort in the National Defense Strategy.

From supporting Ukraine and NATO allies in Eastern Europe to training with partner armies in the Indo-Pacific, the Army is investing time, manpower and resources to make sure it's ready to face evolving and growing challenges around the world, Wormuth said.

Speaking Tuesday at an event

hosted by the Atlantic Council, Wormuth highlighted, as an example, the Army's yearslong investment in the European Deterrence Initiative, which allowed an armored brigade combat team to deploy from the U.S. to Europe and draw on pre-positioned stocks in the region in about a week.

The Army also just wrapped up its Defender Europe 2022 exercise, which spanned nine countries and included more than 3,400 U.S. troops and about 5,100 troops from 11 allied and partner nations, she said.

In the Indo-Pacific, the Army is focused on Operation Pathways, a series of seven major exercises in the region in countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

"We are also in the Middle East, in Africa, in Latin America, and we also

have our Army Special Forces who are working all around the world," Wormuth said.

The Army is busy around the world, but it's a "tremendous" force that can "walk and chew gum at the same time," Wormuth added.

This ability has been put into practice as the Army deployed thousands of soldiers to Europe to support NATO allies after Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

That enhanced presence—up to 48,000 American soldiers—likely will remain in place for a while, as the Army prepares to replace the currently deployed units, many of whom were sent overseas with little to no notice, with other units, Wormuth said.

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Cavoli seeks ‘enduring stability’ in European theater

Years of practice and investment allowed the Army to quickly deploy to support NATO allies in Eastern Europe, the senior U.S. Army officer on the continent said.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Gen. Christopher Cavoli said the U.S.’ “multiyear” investment in the European Deterrence Initiative, designed to enhance deterrence and increase readiness, enabled the Army to place “large amounts of very modern equipment, brigade combat team sets, in storage in Europe” and practice drawing that gear on short notice.

Those efforts paid off earlier this year, as the U.S. responded to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, when an armored brigade combat team deployed to Europe from Fort Stewart, Georgia, and started conducting operations in just one week.

“We moved all the troops in about four days by aircraft, and those troops, the first of them, were putting rounds downrange in less than a week,” Cavoli said. “And by the end of three weeks, every screwdriver in the brigade had been issued, and they were ready to roll anywhere.”

Cavoli, commander of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, appeared before the Senate committee May 26 as the



An M1A2 Abrams tank with the 4th Infantry Division moves toward a river crossing during Exercise Defender Europe 22 at Dęblin, Poland, May 12. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. DEVIN KLECAN)

panel considers his nomination to be the next supreme allied commander, Europe, and commander of the U.S. European Command.

Citing the “illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine,” Cavoli said Russia is the core security challenge in Europe. The invasion “heralds a new era in European security,” he said. But it also has energized and united NATO, Cavoli said.

“It’ll be up to us to establish an enduring stability,” he said.

But Russia is not the only challenge facing NATO and Europe, Cavoli said. China, which defense officials have called the U.S.’ “pacing

challenge,” is also a concern, he said.

“We cannot be a one-problem alliance,” he said. “We must have vigilance across 360 degrees, ready to respond to any threats.”

Cavoli said the U.S. should continue to fund the European Deterrence Initiative, calling it critical to the U.S. mission in Europe and combat credible deterrence.

If confirmed, Cavoli said he will conduct a “holistic assessment” of the European Command operational environment and assess the threat posed by al-Qaida, the Islamic State and other violent extremist organizations on the continent.

Wormuth

From Page 1

As the Army maintains its support for Ukrainian forces, it continues to monitor the war “every single day, in real time,” for lessons it can learn, Wormuth said.

To start, “if you look at the Russian military’s failures, it underscores the importance of leadership, training and discipline,” she said.

Another key lesson is “logistics, logistics, logistics,” she said.

“Everything we’re seeing now underscores that,” she said. “You can be the best equipped military in the

world, but if you can’t sustain your forces, it doesn’t matter.”

Logistics are a strength for the U.S. Army, but it must continue to focus on those skills and capabilities, particularly as it prepares for the vast distances in the Indo-Pacific, Wormuth said.

Secure communications are also critical on the battlefield, she said.

“When soldiers use unencrypted communications, that makes them targetable,” she said. “We’re going to have to think about that. We’re going to have to look at how do we reduce our signatures on the battle-

field as much as possible, because the battlefield of the future will be a lot more transparent.”

The growing threat posed by drones and other unmanned systems is another challenge for the Army, not just overseas but “here at home as well,” Wormuth said.

Ultimately, Wormuth said, the goal is to avoid war—whether it’s deterring any Chinese action on Taiwan or preventing the war in Ukraine from escalating to a point “where the war spills over” or leads to the use of chemical weapons or worse, she said.

Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith joins AUSA as leadership, education VP



Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith is AUSA's newest vice president. (AUSA PHOTO)

Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith is the new vice president for leadership and education for the Association of the U.S. Army.

Smith succeeded retired Lt. Gen. Guy Swan on Wednesday.

Swan will remain with AUSA until the end of June, and he will be an AUSA senior fellow.

Smith said he joined AUSA “because it was a great fit that allows me to continue to serve our Army and our nation.”

“I love the teamwork,” Smith said. “What I didn’t know was how close the team is and all the great things they do in support of our soldiers, our Army and their families.”

Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, welcomed Smith.

“Lt. Gen. Smith comes to us after 35 years of Army service, including a final assignment as Army inspector general. A 1985 graduate of Georgia Southern University, he is an inspirational leader whose father served in the Korean War,” Brown said. “He’s often said he’s proud of his family’s service to the nation. We are proud to have him at AUSA.”

Brown also praised Swan.

“For a decade, retired Lt. Gen. Guy Swan has been the face of AUSA for many people as he’s headed our education division. He’s strengthened our

publications, research, government affairs and our many forums and events,” Brown said. “While he’s retiring as a vice president, he’s agreed to become an AUSA senior fellow. We expect him to continue to play a major role in our programs.”

Swan called it a “personal and professional privilege” to serve at AUSA.

“In addition to helping the Army tell its story to a wide range of audiences, I’ve learned more about the U.S. Army and its soldiers, civilians, veterans and retirees and their families here at AUSA than I did in over 35 years in uniform, and I have never been prouder of America’s Army,” Swan said. “I look forward to continuing to support AUSA’s mission to educate, inform and connect the Army with the rest of America in the years ahead.”

In the Army, Smith commanded the 83rd Chemical Battalion, the 3rd Chemical Brigade and the 20th Support Command. From 2008–2010, he was the 25th chief of chemical and commandant of the Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School.

In 2013, Smith became the first chemical officer to lead the Army’s Maneuver Support Center of Excellence. He was the Army inspector general from February 2018 until his 2021 retirement.

AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier*

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PERK OF THE WEEK

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Merrill's Marauders receive Congressional Gold Medal

Nearly eight decades after their heroic actions during World War II, the Army's famed Merrill's Marauders were honored May 25 during a virtual Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.

The Marauders "answered the call for the most dangerous missions" and "faced the most brutal conditions in the jungles of Burma," Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said during the ceremony.

"They represent the best of our Army and the best of our nation," McConville said. "They endured fierce combat, life-threatening illnesses, extreme exhaustion and heat, and in the toughest terrain one can face in battle. Everything they did laid the foundation for the creation of our Army Ranger regiment."

Named after their commander, then-Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill, the 2,997 Americans who served in the 5307th Composite Unit were known as Merrill's Marauders. The soldiers marched and fought through the jungles and mountains in Burma, now known as Myanmar, and defeated the Japanese 18th Division in five major and 30 minor engagements, according to the Army.

Of the nearly 3,000 Marauders who fought in 1944, just over 100 survived, and two remain today—Russell Hamler and Gabriel Kinney.



Soldiers with Merrill's Marauders cross the Tanai River on a bamboo bridge near the village of Ning Awng on March 18, 1944. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

The virtual ceremony, hosted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, was the result of a concerted effort to honor the Marauders. In fall 2020, the Merrill's Marauders Congressional Gold Medal Act, which was supported by the Association of the U.S. Army, was signed into law after it was passed by the House and Senate.

However, the ceremony also came on the heels of several significant losses to the surviving Merrill's Marauders. In the past month, three surviving Marauders have died, including Raleigh Naves, Gilbert Howland and Robert "Bob" Passanisi.

The Congressional Gold Medal ensures that the U.S. will never forget the sacrifices of the Merrill's Marauders, said Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, who spoke during the ceremony.

"To the surviving members of Merrill's Marauders, your achievements shine brightly as an example for today's 75th Ranger Regiment and all of the soldiers of the United States Army to follow," Wormuth said. "Your bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma speaks for itself, and the ultimate sacrifice of the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) will not be forgotten."

Kinney, one of the surviving Marauders, reflected on what the Congressional Gold Medal means to him.

"For all of those members that returned to the States when I did, and [those who] passed away and never saw or heard of this medal, I hope that their descendants could be as pleased with and proud of this decoration as I and my family were," Kinney said. "There's one other group that we all want to be proud of. That is the young men that were left in Burma and did not get to return. So, let us remember [them] now and forever."



The late Gilbert Howland, left, and Robert "Bob" Passanisi of the 5307th Composite Unit (Merrill's Marauders) speak to lawmakers on Capitol Hill in 2020. (AUSA PHOTO)



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Leadership lessons from George Patton still apply today

Soldiers in today's Army can learn much from Gen. George Patton's leadership style and actions during World War II, author Stephen Moore said Wednesday during an Association of the U.S. Army Noon Report webinar.

Patton fought in nearly every major American 20th century conflict and earned a reputation as "one of America's greatest battlefield commanders," according to the National World War II Museum website.

"Although many of Patton's campaign tactics can be questioned ... the underlying traits of a strong leader and his training techniques are very evident," said Moore, who wrote *Patton's Payback: The Battle of El Guettar and General Patton's Rise to Glory*. "He was not a man who was afraid to get his own hands dirty. He inspired men to believe that success was possible with the right mindset. He believed ... that leaders should lead from the front."

In *Patton's Payback*, Moore writes about how Patton reinvigorated a de-

feated Army corps to claim victory over Germany's Erwin Rommel.

In March 1943, in their first fight with the Germans, American soldiers in North Africa were pushed back 50 miles by Rommel's Afrika Korps and were nearly annihilated, according to a description of the book.

Then-Lt. Gen. Patton was brought in to rally the troops. "Charismatic, irreverent, impulsive and inspiring, Patton possessed a massive ego and the ambition to match. But he could also motivate men to fight," according to a description of the book.

Patton's leadership still translates in a modern Army, Moore said.

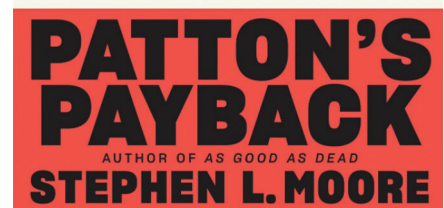
"Today's world would be a little bit more of a challenge, but I think with some assistance, he could definitely motivate people and get them going down the right path," he said.

Despite Patton's personality, which could be divisive at times, Moore likened his communication and leadership skills to that of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"If you look at Patton and compare a



THE BATTLE OF EL GUETTAR AND GENERAL PATTON'S RISE TO GLORY



modern guy like President Zelenskyy, he's a very charismatic leader," Moore said. "He's a very effective communicator. He's out front, he's in harm's way, he is calling out world powers ... and he's not afraid to speak his mind. ... Patton was the same way."

Johnson, longtime AUSA volunteer and leader, dies

Retired Col. Calvin Johnson, a longtime volunteer leader with the Association of the U.S. Army, died May 24 at his home in Leavenworth, Kansas.

"Cal was a champion for soldiers and their families, our Army and our association," said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Morris, who serves as AUSA's Fifth Region president.

Johnson was serving as AUSA's Kansas State President at the time of his passing, and he previously served as president of AUSA's Henry Leavenworth chapter.

He was commissioned through ROTC in 1974 at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. During his military career, Johnson served in various leadership positions from platoon leader to assis-



Retired Col. Calvin Johnson and his wife, Vickie. (COURTESY PHOTO)

tant division commander.

Johnson deployed and served as the deputy commander of Multinational Forces, Multinational Brigade (North), Stabilization Force-13, where he coordinated multiservice and mul-

tinational planning and staff actions for operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"His quiet, behind-the-scenes guidance and mentorship was incredibly effective, as he knew the right time to be heard, and he always was a source of wisdom and calm leadership," Morris said.

After retiring from the Army, Johnson continued to serve as a Department of the Army civilian for over 30 years.

He would later be recognized with the AUSA Fifth Region Cribbins Award "for his incredible work" as an Army civilian and AUSA volunteer leader, Morris said.

"Cal made a huge difference in the lives of those he was around," Morris said. "He will be missed greatly by all of us around him."

Free test prep, legal services available for members

Being a member of the Association of the U.S. Army comes with many professional development and networking opportunities. But members also receive many tangible benefits, including discounts on travel, electronics, education, entertainment, finance and insurance, health and wellness, shopping and gifts.

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In a previous column, I discussed a free benefit for members—ACT and SAT test prep materials through eKnowledge.

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AUSA has paid for a legal document service for all members to provide access to cutting-edge legal technology used by many law firms. (ISTOCK PHOTO)

AUSA has paid for a legal document service for all members, to provide access to cutting-edge legal technology, the same used by many law firms to create legal documents for their clients. Designed by attorneys, the program makes their knowledge accessible to you so you can deal with legal matters on any device you choose.

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er disputes, creating a trust, arranging housesitting, renting out a room or a house and more.

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If you have questions, write me at srubel@ausa.org.

Susan Rubel is AUSA's Association and Affinity Partnerships Director.

New chapter program seeks to increase blood donations

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army accomplish the mission of taking care of service members and their families in a variety of ways. In one such effort, AUSA's Fort Leonard Wood-Mid-Missouri chapter recently created the Giving4Living program to increase blood donations at the installation.

The Armed Services Blood Program serves as the official provider of blood

Fort Leonard Wood-Mid-Missouri

products to the U.S. military. This joint operation col-

lects, processes, stores and distributes blood products for service members, veterans and their families at home and abroad.

Blood and blood products are used for patients of all ages, and military members and their families depend on blood donors every day.

With a Blood Donor Center on Fort Leonard Wood, the AUSA Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri chapter values its mission to take care of one



Retired Gen. Bob Brown, center, AUSA president and CEO, stands with Fort Leonard Wood-Mid-Missouri chapter members, Blood Donor Center staff and soldiers at the opening of the chapter's Giving4Living program to increase blood donations. (AUSA PHOTO)

another. The Giving4Living program incentivizes leaders and service members to host blood drives. An award will be presented to those who provide at least 100 units of blood to the center in a day.

Additionally, their names will be added to a plaque in the center and a guidon streamer will be presented to the unit.

This new program began April 26, with retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA

president and CEO, the chapter's executive board and staff members from the Blood Donor Center in attendance.

The Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri chapter is proud to support the Armed Services Blood Program and its mission-critical, lifesaving service that makes an immediate impact.

Brittany Raines is an executive consultant with AUSA's Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri chapter.

AUSA members receive update on new veterans' home

At a recent meeting hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Rucker-Wiregrass chapter in Enterprise, Alabama, AUSA members heard from retired Navy Rear Adm. Kent Davis about "a huge project" coming to the region.

Fort Rucker-Wiregrass

Davis, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, said the department plans to break ground in Enterprise in June on the state's fifth veterans' home, according to the *Southeast Sun*.

The single-story, 182,000-square-foot facility will provide residential care for 174 eligible veterans.

"Services will include everything from geriatric care to handling disabled veterans, to a memory care unit for advanced Alzheimer and dementia patients," Davis said.

The home will be named after the late Bennie Adkins, an Alabama native and retired command sergeant major and Green Beret who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam. In March 1966, as a sergeant first class with the 5th Special Forces Group, Adkins distinguished himself during a 38-hour battle against North Vietnamese forces during the Battle of A Shau, according to his Medal of Honor citation.

"For many of those who had the honor of meeting [Adkins], including me on several occasions, will never forget him," Davis said, as reported by the *Southeast Sun*.

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs hopes to open the new facility in early 2024, he said.

"We're most proud of the fact that we will be able to further serve those great Alabama veterans," Davis said.



Retired Navy Rear Adm. Kent Davis, left, greets Doug Wynn, president of AUSA's Fort Rucker-Wiregrass chapter, at the chapter meeting. (SOUTHEAST SUN/MICHELLE MANN)



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