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Staff Sgt. Steve Burton, a team leader with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, participates in a live-fire exercise Jun. 29 at Fort Drum, New York. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. ALEXANDER RECTOR)

Warfighter Summit focuses on soldiers

A new Association of the U.S. Army event focused on the Army's warfighters will feature presentations from the service's top leaders and the new commanding general of Army Forces Command.

The inaugural AUSA Warfighter Summit and Exposition will take place July 27–28 at the Crown Complex near Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The two-day, in-person summit is focused on the warfighter, and its theme is “America's Response Force: Ready Today, Ready Tomorrow.”

“AUSA is excited to present a new event aimed at the Army's most important asset—the soldier,” said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO. “Our two-day leader and professional development event near one of the Army's largest and

busiest installations will highlight the importance of properly equipping, preparing and supporting those who fight America's wars.”

Brown added: “We're looking forward to hearing from our distinguished speakers and learning about the latest industry has to offer.”

Gen. Andrew Poppas, who assumed command of Forces Command July 8, is slated to deliver the opening keynote on July 27.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston are scheduled to be the keynote speakers on the second day, and leaders from Army Special Operations Command, the XVIII Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne Division also are slated to speak.

There will be panel discussions focused on how Army operational forces can sharpen their capability to win on a future, expanded battlefield.

Attendees will hear about building family support readiness, equipping the future force, Army special operations and the future of irregular warfare, the nature of the future battlefield, and the Army's support to NATO allies in Eastern Europe.

There also will be a town hall with Grinston and senior enlisted leaders from across Fort Bragg, and attendees can network with key decision-makers and learn from industry about the latest equipment, products and technologies aimed at addressing warfighters' needs.

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Lessons from Ukraine will inform latest Army doctrine

When the Army launches a final version of its Multi-Domain Operations doctrine by year's end, it will be partly informed by the fighting in Ukraine, a senior officer said.

"We say lessons learned a lot, but we're observing those lessons right now," Gen. Paul Funk, commander of the Army Training and Doctrine Command, said at a recent breakfast event hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army as part of its Coffee Series.

"We've got the entire Center for Army Lessons Learned over there [in Europe] to capture these observations so that we can come back, check our doctrine, make sure it's up to speed," said Funk, who expects the doctrine to be released "sometime before the end of the calendar year."

In addition to learning from Ukrainian forces' fight against the Russians, Funk said training future leaders in multidomain operations doctrine will take place in the Army's schoolhouses, but not before soldiers master the basics.

"We don't need a lot of lieutenants worrying about FM 3-0," he said, referring to the warfighting doctrine in the Army's operations field manual.



Trainees from the 1st Battalion, 81st Armor Regiment, 194th Armored Brigade, conduct tank live-fire training at Fort Benning, Georgia. (U.S. ARMY/PATRICK ALBRIGHT)

"We want you to understand your platoon doctrine, move, shoot, communicate, be competent with your weapons systems. Let's build leaders of character, let's do the basics, and from there, you then begin to build [more advanced knowledge]," he said.

Funk said he wants "repetition to be the key" to learning.

"We've got to get back into the books, reestablish what it means to be those professionals that learn and

grow," he said.

The Army's combat training centers, Funk said, are "a significant advantage" as units and the opposing force use real-time lessons learned in all domains, including cyber and space, and train and fight through difficult situations such as a loss of communications.

Additionally, the expansion of initial entry training for enlisted infantry and armor soldiers at Fort Benning, Georgia, from 14 to 22 weeks, he said, allows more time for the repetitions soldiers need to gain proficiency before arriving at their first assignments.

"It makes all the difference in the world," Funk said. "When they come in [to a unit], they're actually contributing members to the team ... taking some of the burden off the operational force by having these competencies they didn't have before."

Funk also talked about how he's concerned about the widening gulf between the Army and the American people.

"We have to get out and tell our Army story all over the country," he said. "We've got to reconnect with the American people."



Gen. Paul Funk, commander of the Army Training and Doctrine Command, speaks at AUSA's Coffee Series event. (AUSA PHOTO)

AUSA paper stresses importance of sustaining Army modernization



Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Division mount a Javelin onto a remotely operated weapon station on a Stryker at Fort Carson, Colorado. (U.S. ARMY/MAJ. JASON ELMORE)

The Army is progressing in its bid to transform into a multi-domain-capable force by 2035 through its efforts to invest in people, readiness and modernization, according to the author of a new paper published by the Association of the U.S. Army.

Since the Army's last significant modernization effort in the 1980s, soldiers have been called upon to respond to crises at home and around the world, demonstrating the service's ability to carry out any mission with the equipment it has.

To remain ready while preparing for the next 40 years and the requirements of a future battlefield, the service has undertaken important steps to balance the needs of its people and their families with the modernization plan that is underway, writes Latashia Bates, the daughter of an Army veteran who retired after 20 years of service, and a professional instructor in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

"Guided by its People First philosophy, the Army is ensuring it maintains a healthy, cohesive force, ready to deploy on a moment's notice, while fielding the capabilities required for Soldiers to prevail on the battlefields of the future," Bates writes in her

paper, "Army Readiness and Modernization in 2022."

She points out that Army leaders testified before Congress in June 2021 that a plan to realign the service's priorities to put people first would "enable improved readiness by creating a healthier, more cohesive force."

She also highlights the Army's overhaul of its personnel system "to a '21st-century, data-rich and people-centric approach' that leverages the diverse talents of Soldiers and improves culture," and the importance of its six modernization priorities of long-range precision fires, next-generation combat vehicles, future vertical lift, the network, air and missile defense and soldier lethality.

"Modernization of the Army ensures that it maintains the organization, leadership, training and conviction, weapon systems and resources necessary to execute its duties in collaboration with the joint force and allies," Bates writes.

She also warns that "constantly changing threats and unpredictability" make it imperative that the modernization efforts are sustained if the Army is to "continue to protect the American people for the next 40 years and beyond."

Read the full report here.

AUSAExtra

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Warfighter

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The Warfighter Summit also will feature the Battle Challenge, where participants compete against each other and the clock in a series of military skills and fitness challenges. It is free and open to all attendees.

Additionally, the Defense Technology Symposium will be held in conjunction with the Warfighter Summit. Scheduled for July 26, the day before the summit, the symposium will highlight the advanced technology needs of the Defense Department.

The symposium also will seek to establish a dialog and partnerships between industry, academia and the government to address the future technology needs of America's warfighters. It will be held at the Fayetteville Technical Community College.

Online registration for the Warfighter Summit is open until July 20. There is no cost for military and



Parachute riggers with the 647th Quartermaster Company participate in airborne training June 21 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

government civilian personnel and members of the media.

On-site registration will be available July 26–28. There will be a higher fee for attendees who are not military and government civilian personnel or media.

All attendees, exhibitors and speakers are to be vaccinated against

COVID-19. Masks are optional.

AUSA continues to monitor recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health authorities, and health requirements are subject to change.

For more information or to register, click here. For more on the Defense Technology Symposium, click here.

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Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: NIA

Founded in 1921, the mission of the National Infantry Association is to support the chief of infantry and the entire infantry branch, share the camaraderie of like-minded soldiers and citizens who believe in maintaining the infantry spirit and recognize outstanding soldiers and supporters, according to the organization's website.

In the 1950s, the Infantry Association merged with other military associations to create the Association of the U.S. Army.

The individual Infantry Association was reestablished in 1982 at Fort Benning, Georgia, and is the publisher of *Infantry* magazine.

Twelve years later, it was restructured and incorporated as the National Infantryman's Association.

The association, which adopted its current name in 1998, also seeks



“to preserve the infantry heritage” through the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park in Columbus, Georgia, just outside Fort Benning.

Opened in a 2009 ceremony with retired Gen. Colin Powell as the keynote speaker, the museum “honors the legacy and valor of the U.S. Army Infantryman.” It also tells the story of the nation's past with customizable tour packages available for students, service members, church groups, scouts, military reunions and more.

In addition to more than 70,000 ar-

tifacts, the museum campus is home to World War II Company Street, Vietnam Memorial Plaza—featuring the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall—and the Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

The association also awards the Order of Saint Maurice medal and the Shield of Sparta medal to soldiers and spouses, respectively, who have contributed significantly to the infantry.

For more information, please visit <https://infantryassn.com/>.

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

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AUSA connects with NCOs, soldiers around the country

Over the past couple of months, the Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate visited Fort Lee, Virginia, Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Fort Drum, New York.

When retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs, arrived at Fort Drum, he had the honor of joining Command Sgt. Maj. Mario Terenas, senior enlisted leader of the 10th Mountain Division and commandant of the NCO Academy, in a corporal frocking ceremony.

They promoted 150 new graduates from the Fort Drum Basic Leader Course to corporal in front of a huge crowd, widely attended by the installation's leadership and families.

Dailey conducted a leader development session with battalion and brigade leaders from across the installation, then was the guest speaker at the Basic Leader Course graduation. "It was impressive to see the number of leaders and families present to support their newly promoted NCO," he said.

In addition to his role at AUSA, Dailey serves as co-chair of the Army Chief of Staff Retired Soldier Council. While at Fort Drum, Dailey briefed a large group of retirees and soon-to-be retirees on issues the council presented to Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville in its annual report.

The attendees gave positive feedback on the Soldier for Life network initiative—an online network for all Army veterans and active-duty soldiers that replicates some functions of the now-defunct Army Knowledge Online. They agreed a program like this was needed to improve communication between the Army and its nearly 1 million retirees.

Dailey also met with company- and battalion-level leaders from the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team. After his briefing, where an engaged group asked many



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs, addresses soldiers at Fort Drum, New York. (AUSA PHOTO)

questions, brigade leaders asked if he would do the same for their company commanders and first sergeants.

A highlight of Dailey's trip to New York was spending time with retired Command Sgt. Maj. Burnie Haney.

An active member of both the local AUSA chapter and the Fort Drum Sergeants Major Association, Haney is the founder and sole proprietor of New York Fishing Adventures, a Lake Ontario-based fishing guide service.

Haney shared his story as part of the NCO and Soldier Programs veteran entrepreneur podcast series.

The episode is scheduled for release in August, and you can download all

of AUSA's "Army Matters" podcasts at <https://www.ausa.org/podcast>.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, AUSA's director of NCO and Soldier Programs, visited Fort Lee and spoke to about 100 future quartermaster, logistics and supply soldiers. All were very eager to graduate from Advanced Individual Training and get to their first unit.

Welch spent time answering questions about his career and what the soldiers can expect from NCOs when they arrive at their duty station.

AIT instructors Robert Hankins and Anthony Madison and division chief Selina Gilliam then took Welch on a tour of their building and classrooms. The instructors decorated the hallways—out of their own pocket—after the Army's divisions, with interactive displays students can use with their smart phones.

The intent is to teach Army history in a fun and interesting way, Hankins and Madison said.

Welch also visited AUSA's Fort Knox chapter and was the keynote speaker at its Army Birthday Ball membership luncheon. He provided information about AUSA and a little Army history to a sold-out crowd at the Fort Knox Community Club.

With no time to rest, we are off to support more of our chapters in July and will close out the month with the first-ever AUSA Warfighter Summit and Exposition near Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



Cutting the Army birthday cake are, from left to right, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeremiah Gan, senior enlisted leader for Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, Kentucky, retired Maj. Gen. Troy Kok, president of AUSA's Fort Knox chapter, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, AUSA's director of NCO and Soldier Programs. (AUSA PHOTO)

Outstanding students receive scholarships from AUSA

The Indiana chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army presented \$2,000 scholarships to six young people during its annual Scholarship Luncheon and General Membership Meeting June 23 at The Garrison in Indianapolis.

The recipients are all graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled college undergraduates who are either AUSA members or whose parents are members.

Scholarship recipients include Kathleen Arndt of Ball State University; Cody Crawford of Purdue University; Rebekah Novak of Taylor University; Katherine Pfaff of Indiana University; Lucy Pickett of Purdue University; and Emma Pitz of Indiana University.

All six recipients attended the luncheon except for Crawford, who was at ROTC Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The Indiana chapter's scholarship program has granted over \$120,000 in scholarships since its inception in 2010. The idea for the scholarship



From left to right, Maj. Gen. R. Dale Lyles, Indiana's adjutant general; Cynthia Gatto, AUSA's Indiana chapter president; recipients and representatives of the chapter's 2022 scholarships; and chapter board member Audrey Smith. (AUSA PHOTO)

program was conceived by me and past president Michael Jarrell as a way for the chapter to give back to its members.

Maj. Gen. R. Dale Lyles, Indiana's adjutant general, was the guest speaker at the luncheon. He congratulated the recipients for furthering their education and career goals and encouraged them to get involved and

give back to their communities.

Lyles also spoke of the pride and patriotism we should all share for being American and the opportunities available to us. He was presented a chapter coffee mug as a token of appreciation for his time and remarks.

At the event, the chapter also recognized eight Community and National Partners whose contributions to the chapter and the scholarship program were instrumental in furthering the chapter's goals.

Recognized were the Financial Center First Credit Union, Allison Transmission, AM General, American StructurePoint, Dallara USA, Operation: Job Ready Veterans, Guidon Design and Jones Charitable Trust.

All partners had a senior officer present to support the luncheon.

Cynthia Gatto, the chapter president, concluded the luncheon by congratulating all the recipients—and their parents—for their achievements. She also thanked the chapter's scholarship committee, chaired by chapter board member Audrey Smith.

Chapter marks Armed Forces Week



Rhonda Sutton, far right, president of AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter, kicks off Armed Forces Week in June in Huntsville, Alabama, with, from left to right, Dale Strong, chair of the Madison County Commission; Madison Mayor Paul Finley; retired Lt. Col. Sam Scruggs, a chapter member; Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker, deputy commander of Army Materiel Command; and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. (AUSA PHOTO)

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. W. Douglas Gibbens is AUSA's Indiana State President and a Senior Fellow.

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