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Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, chief of the Army Reserve and commander of the Army Reserve Command, speaks at the AUSA Coffee Series event. (AUSA PHOTO)

Army Reserve looks to the future fight

The Army is looking at restructuring to meet the demands of the future fight, and the Army Reserve is poised to follow suit in the coming months with its own review of existing and future capabilities, the component's top officer said.

"The active component has gone through a 'night court' equivalent of all of its formations and is making adjustments to the Total Army, ... deciding which units are the most important and rank ordering them, and we will do that starting this fall," said Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, chief of the Army Reserve and commander of the Army Reserve Command.

Working with the Army National Guard, the Reserve will assess what capabilities it can lose or gain, how its formations should be structured, and how it will "contribute to this

fight," Daniels said Wednesday at a breakfast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army as part of its Coffee Series.

"We know we're headed to multi-domain operations. We know there are these different types of priority units and capabilities that the Army wants to build as we look to 2030, 2040," Daniels said. "But what does the Reserve look like?"

In reviewing the Reserve's structure and contributions, Daniels said she wants to make sure the component is "on a sustainable strategic path" that supports the strategy laid out by Army Secretary Christine Wormuth.

Daniels suggested the Reserve, which provides most of the Army's combat support and combat service support capabilities, may further

adapt by taking on some "combat arms-ish, if not combat arms itself" capabilities.

But rather than attempting to support heavy formations such as brigade combat teams, she said, the Reserve could potentially grow capabilities that closely complement combat operations, such as reconnaissance and counter-unmanned aerial systems capabilities.

As part of taking stock of what the Reserve has, Daniels said, everything will be looked at, including skills resident in the force that can be leveraged to greater advantage, what role technology will play in networking, communications, engineering and artificial intelligence, and what theater logistics should look like in the future.

See **Daniels**, Page 3



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McConville: Soldiers must be ‘masters of their craft’

People remain at the center of everything even as the Army pursues its most ambitious modernization effort in decades, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said.

“The thing about warfighting is it’s not just about equipment,” McConville said July 28 during the Association of the U.S. Army’s inaugural Warfighter Summit and Exposition near Fort Bragg, North Carolina. “You can’t execute strategy, you can’t execute plans, unless you have great squads, platoons and companies, because they’re the ones who actually do it.”

On the future battlefield, where the Army likely will fight in small units spread across large spaces, the service will need to rely on “great small units.”

To build these small units, leaders must make sure they give troops time to develop individual and small-unit skills. The Army needs soldiers who are “masters of their craft through deliberate practice and through expert coaching,” McConville said.

“The most elite fighting forces throughout history, around the world, that’s what they have in common,” McConville said. “They’re masters at their craft. They’re really good at the basics.”

All the Army needs to do is look to

Daniels

From Page 1

“It’s not just about transportation,” she said of theater logistics. “There’s a lot of capabilities in there that the National Defense Strategy says that we, the Army, should be looking at, and the Army Reserve seems to have a bulk of that capability.”

Daniels’ suggestions for the future of the Army Reserve, she said, were offered as “food for thought, because I really don’t know what the answers are, but we’re looking to sort of shape that future.”



A soldier assigned to the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade conducts marksmanship drills at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. JONATHAN VITALE)

the Russian forces in Ukraine to “see what happens when you don’t invest in the right people,” McConville said.

“You can have the world’s best warfighting capabilities, but they’re not worth much if you don’t invest in the actual warfighters,” he said.

The presence of American soldiers on the ground makes a difference, whether it’s reassuring allies or deterring adversaries, McConville said, as he emphasized the importance of the all-volunteer force.

His comments come as the Army faces a tough recruiting environment and contends with stiff competition from the private sector, declining academic and fitness standards among service-aged youth and an overall lack of interest or propensity to serve.

In a recent memo, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth and McConville say Regular Army troop strength will be about 466,400 at the end of the fiscal year, far less than the originally budgeted 485,000.

That is not the worst of it. While the Army is taking steps to improve recruiting, “we currently project that our end strength may further decrease,” the leaders say, warning it could drop as low as 445,000 by the end of fiscal 2023.

“We’re in a very challenging period right now,” McConville told the audience at the Warfighter Summit.

“We’ve got to continue to recruit and retain the world’s greatest soldiers,” he said. “I’m asking every one of you, especially our Soldiers for Life out there, to go ahead and inspire young people to serve. Tell our stories. Tell your story.”

McConville also promised that the Army will not lower its standards. “For us, quality is more important than quantity,” he said. “We’re not going to lower standards because we need the best quality soldier for the United States Army.”



Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville addresses AUSA’s inaugural Warfighter Summit and Exposition in Fayetteville, North Carolina. (AUSA PHOTO)

Post-9/11 burn pit bill clears Congress

An Association of the U.S. Army-supported bill to help veterans exposed to toxic burn pits passed the Senate on Tuesday and will soon be on its way to the White House for President Joe Biden's signature.

It passed the Senate 86-11. The House of Representatives passed it in July, 342-88.

Named for Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson, a Kosovo and Iraq veteran who died in 2020 from a rare form of lung cancer, the measure establishes a presumption in favor of veterans with certain forms of cancer and respiratory illnesses and makes them eligible for veterans' health care and disability pay. This would be similar to the presumption provided to Vietnam veterans who have health issues that might be linked to the toxic herbicide Agent Orange.

Robinson was an Ohio National Guard soldier who enlisted in 2003 and served overseas with the 285th Area Support Medical Company. He was NCO of the Year for the Ohio Army National Guard two times.

Robinson was 39 years old when he died after a three-year cancer battle.

The measure is also known as the PACT Act, which comes from the title "Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics."

Military units deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq commonly used large outdoor pits to burn waste including food, packaging, medical waste, plastic, metal and rubber. The open-air burn pits—large and small—were mostly phased out by 2010 when incinerators were delivered to areas with large troop concentrations. The Army later spent billions destroying the incinerators.

The bill is a sweeping measure that could expand health care coverage to the more than 3.5 million combat veterans who served in the post-9/11 era.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, created in 2014,



Spc. Zackary Miller hauls trash to the burn pit at Joint Security Station Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2008. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

includes the names of more than 289,000 service members or veterans who believe they were potentially exposed to toxic hazards while deployed.

Retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA president and CEO, said the bipartisan bill is an example of taking care of soldiers after the fighting is over.

"Our nation owes it to our soldiers and their families to do our utmost to provide excellent post-war health care and benefits without a lot of red tape," he said in endorsing the bill. "That's what this legislation would do, addressing a risk soldiers faced from burn pits that they could not avoid."

The legislation was controversial because of the potential for excessive costs. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated in June that it could cost \$390 billion over the next decade. Attempts were made to cap the cost, but supporters argued that caps could lead to denying care to some otherwise-eligible veterans.

As passed, service members and veterans would be eligible for medical care, mental health services and counseling if they had toxic exposure while in the service.

The bill also includes the expansion of presumptions for some veterans exposed to radiation and expands some Agent Orange-related coverage for hospital, medical and nursing home care.

AUSA Extra

**Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier**

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AUSA encourages lawmakers to pass defense legislation

Congress has been busy since our last update.

On Tuesday, the Senate passed a bill to help veterans exposed to toxic burn pits. Known as the PACT Act, which comes from the title “Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics,” the bill could expand health care coverage and provide additional resources for millions of veterans.

The bill was supported by the Association of the U.S. Army and was passed by the House of Representatives in July. It is now headed to the White House for President Joe Biden’s signature.

In mid-July, the House passed its version of the 2023 National Defense

Government Affairs

Authorization Act with a vote of 329–101, a strong bipartisan vote for this must-pass legislation.

The bill includes significant investments for the Army’s People First strategy, readiness and modernization priorities. It also provides additional resources to combat inflation.

The Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version of the NDAA in June, and it awaits consideration by the full Senate. The timing of when the Senate will take up



AUSA’s top recommendation for Congress is to pass funding legislation in time for the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

the NDAA remains unclear, but it will likely occur this fall.

To view summaries of the bills, the Senate version is here, and the House version is here.

On appropriations, the House passed its version of the military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies funding bill as part of a package that included five other appropriations bills.

Unfortunately, it is unclear if the House will be able to pass the defense appropriations bill due to concerns in both political parties.

Similarly, the Senate has not passed any of its annual funding bills, and it is very unlikely that it will, as disagreements continue between Republicans and Democrats regarding topline funding numbers.

We do not expect the appropriations bills or the NDAA to become law before the November elections, so it is likely that a continuing resolution will be required before the end of the fiscal year.

AUSA’s Government Affairs team continues to meet with congressional staff to advocate for the Army and in support of AUSA’s Focus Areas.

Our top recommendation for Congress in our meetings with staff is to pass these important bills in time for the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

We urge AUSA members to contact your elected officials and express your views in support of AUSA’s legislative priorities. Here are links to reach your representatives and senators in Congress.

We will continue to monitor these and other developments closely as we advocate for the Total Army with Congress.



Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, listens as soldiers describe autologous blood transfusion training during a tour of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in July. (U.S. ARMY/LAUREN PADDEN)

Mark Haaland is AUSA’s Government Affairs Director.

Get free legal document services with your membership

Your membership with the Association of the U.S. Army provides many benefits.

Among them is a free legal document service through Epoq Inc. Called LawAssure, the service helps with everything from wills to health care directives.

Here's more on trusts and wills, as explained by Epoq's legal team.

What is a living trust?

It's a way for your loved ones to inherit your assets without going through probate. Probate is the court process to determine who gets your property when you die. It can be costly and time-consuming.

The best way to avoid probate is to not own property in your name when you die.

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That's where a living trust comes in. It's an agreement that gives your property to a trust, with directions telling the trustee what to do with it.

You'll be the trustee while you're alive and continue to control your property as you always have. When you die, the person who takes over as trustee must manage the assets according to your directions. Then, because the trust owns the property and not you, there's no probate.

What is a pour-over will?

It's a special type of last will and testament for someone with a living trust. It takes care of anything not already in the trust when you die.

Ideally, assets such as cash, bank accounts and real estate are transferred to your living trust while you're alive. But you might forget to transfer an asset, have an asset that isn't valuable enough to be worth holding in trust, or acquire new assets after you create the trust.

A pour-over will simplifies the probate process for these remaining assets. It tells the probate court that you want the leftover assets outside your



LawAssure, a free service available to AUSA members from Epoq Inc., can help with everything from wills to health care directives. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

trust to be given to the trust when you die. Your trustee then handles the distributions according to the trust agreement.

This saves time and money because the court only oversees the transfer of a few assets to one beneficiary—the trust.

What else can a pour-over will do?

You can do many of the other things you would do with a standard last will and testament, including:

- Appoint a personal representative or executor to oversee your estate settlement.
- Name a guardian for any minor or disabled children.
- Set aside money to care for your pets.
- Give specific items as gifts to specific people.

Visit www.ausa.org/legal to learn more and to create your will, powers of attorney, medical directive and much more, based on the laws in your state.

There is no fine print and no up-sell—just take advantage of this valuable service for AUSA members.

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If you're still finalizing your vacation plans, use your member savings on resorts, hotels, guided travel, car rentals and airport parking. Visit www.ausa.org/savings#travel to access them.

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

Chapter band performs for veterans, local community

On July 24, the Sounds of Freedom Band, part of the Central California chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, performed for the local community at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District in Clovis, California.

“We are a part of the Central California chapter [of the] Association of the United States Army, which is the voice of the American soldier,” said Monty Gmur, the band’s director, according to the *Clovis Roundup*. “We present five formal concerts like this one every single year.”

During the summer concert, the band played songs such as “Midway March,” “Zoot Suit Boogie” and “Emblem of Freedom,” before concluding with a performance of the “Star Spangled Spectacular.”

“We perform anywhere our presence might enhance a veterans’ event ... wherever and whenever we’re called,” Gmur said, as reported by the *Clovis Roundup*.

The Sounds of Freedom Band was formed in 1984 by a group of veterans from the American Legion Post 509 in



The Sounds of Freedom Band performs for members of the local community at Clovis Veterans Memorial District in Clovis, California. (CLOVIS VETERANS MEMORIAL DISTRICT PHOTO)

Fresno. As the AUSA military concert band, it maintains the tradition of the American concert band through performances of notable band literature.

The band is composed of volunteer musicians who donate their time to the organization. Some members are veterans, while others come from all walks of life to honor service members, veterans and their families through music.

Band members perform at military events such as change-of-command ceremonies and have played at bases

and stations across California, including Naval Air Station Lemoore, the Coast Guard base in Alameda, and the Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento, in addition to local community events.

The band has been recognized with three congressional citations for outstanding service, and Gmur has served with the organization for nearly 20 years.

“It’s inspirational to see other people apply their talents toward making others smile and, in the process, honoring this great nation with wonderful music and passing the baton to the next generation by showcasing these beautiful works of art,” said Lorenzo Rios, CEO of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District, according to the *Clovis Roundup*.

Established in 1946, the Clovis Veterans Memorial District’s mission is to provide a permanent living memorial honoring the U.S. military and veterans, provide facilities and support programs to promote a legacy of service, and preserve the community’s and country’s foundational ideals.

“Our purpose is to serve as a permanent living memorial honoring the service of those who have paid the ultimate price,” Rios said.

For more on the Sounds of Freedom Band, [click here](#).

Central California

March,” “Zoot Suit Boogie” and “Emblem of Freedom,” before concluding with a performance of the “Star Spangled Spectacular.”

Volunteers showcase AUSA mission



Tobyhanna Army Depot

Volunteers from AUSA’s Tobyhanna Army Depot chapter in Pennsylvania share information about the chapter during a recent employee appreciation event, where eight Tobyhanna employees became AUSA members. (AUSA PHOTO)



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