



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, left, and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, right, conduct a pass and review during their relinquishment and change-of-responsibility ceremony Aug. 4 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. DEONTE ROWELL)

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## Army bids farewell to senior leaders

**O**n Aug. 4, after leading the Army together for four years, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston stepped down from their posts.

McConville, the 40th Army chief of staff, relinquished responsibility to Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George. George has been nominated to be the next Army chief of staff, but he must still be confirmed by the Senate.

Grinston, the 16th sergeant major of the Army, turned over responsibility to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer, who most recently was the senior enlisted leader for Army Special Operations Command.

McConville and Grinston have been “truly incredible teammates,”

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said during a ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia. “During four consequential years, these two men led our soldiers with honor and demonstrated that one of the Army’s greatest strengths is its ability to adapt with speed and strength to new challenges.”

McConville has been the “consistent and persistent leader that the Army has needed these last four years,” Wormuth said. “Our Army will be stronger and better prepared thanks to your efforts.”

Army leaders could always count on Grinston for honesty and sound advice, Wormuth said. “We have counted on him to speak up, and he has always excelled at his mission,” she said. “You have been an inspi-

ration, SMA, and you will truly be missed.”

McConville said he is “one of the luckiest guys alive because I’ve had the honor of serving with the world’s greatest people.” During his service, particularly as Army chief of staff, he has seen soldiers do “the most incredible things during the most challenging times,” McConville said. From responding to crises in the Middle East and Europe to providing hope and relief to communities grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, soldiers have answered whenever the nation has called, McConville said.

“I cannot be more proud to have served as the 40th chief of staff of the Army,” he said. As he retires, “I take comfort in knowing the Army is in

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## New SMA urges fellow NCOs to lead, care for soldiers

In one of his first messages to the force, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer called on NCOs to set the example for their soldiers.

“We serve in the greatest Army in the world,” Weimer writes. “Our Army earned this reputation on the shoulders of generations of professional noncommissioned officers. Our NCO corps is unique and envied around the world. Sustaining this reputation requires dedication and commitment. I join every NCO in our Army in living up to the expectations associated with modeling what right looks like every day. I will not forget, nor will I allow my fellow NCOs to forget, that we are professional warfighters.”

Weimer, a veteran special operations soldier, became the 17th sergeant major of the Army on Aug. 4. He succeeds Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, who retired after four years on the job.

In his message to the force, posted on social media, Weimer called on his fellow NCOs to lead, develop and care for their soldiers. He also said it’s important for leaders to understand their roles and responsibilities and make sure soldiers know what to



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer, right, is sworn in as the 17th sergeant major of the Army Aug. 4 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. DEONTE ROWELL)

expect from them.

As an NCO, Weimer said, he has two basic responsibilities—accomplishing the mission and taking care of soldiers.

Taking care of soldiers means making sure they’re ready to fight, survive and win, Weimer writes. “In

every case, brilliance at the basics sets the foundation to tackle complex problems,” he writes. “Effective training meets published standards, pushes capabilities, challenges decision-making skills, builds teams and inspires confidence. Invest in your own personal development and invest in developing your subordinates.”

NCOs also have a key leadership role, Weimer writes.

“Our Army functions best when leading through command teams. NCOs are essential to any successful command team,” he writes. “Absent an NCO, it’s not a command team.”

As the Army looks to the future and the possibility of fighting and winning on “any distant battlefield,” NCOs remain “the heart and soul of our formations,” Weimer writes.

“Technology is a valuable enhancer to our profession, but it is and always will be our NCOs who lead, train and inspire young Americans to embrace a warrior mindset shaped by the Army Values and the professional of arms ... ensuring tomorrow’s victory,” Weimer writes.

His message is available here.



Spec. DeAndre Swinson, left, receives instruction from Staff Sgt. Jacob Wair, both assigned to the 549th Military Police Company, in assembling a fixed gun position during training in July at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. (U.S. ARMY/BETHANY HUFF)

## Vietnam hero, special operations and airborne legend dies at 90

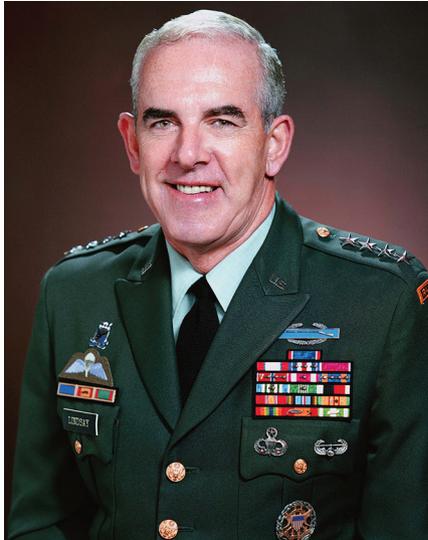
**R**etired Gen. James Lindsay, the first commander of U.S. Special Operations Command who also led the XVIII Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne Division and was a life member of the Association of the U.S. Army, died Aug. 5. He was 90.

“Gen. Lindsay was truly the heart and soul of what we are all about. His leadership impacted the fabric of our nation, and our generation owes him tremendously for his presence and mentorship,” Lt. Gen. Christopher Donahue, commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Liberty, formerly Fort Bragg, North Carolina, said in a statement.

A native of Vass, North Carolina, Lindsay enlisted in the Army in February 1952 and was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1953 after attending Officer Candidate School, according to the *Fayetteville Observer*. During his 38-year career, Lindsay held eight assignments within the 82nd Airborne Division, from platoon leader to division commander.

For actions during his second deployment to Vietnam, Lindsay received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army’s second-highest award for valor. At the time, then-Lt. Col. Lindsay commanded the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, which located and destroyed three main force Viet Cong and North Vietnamese battalions in the Plain of Reeds from May 31–June 4, 1968.

After an airborne insertion on the enemy flank, Lindsay’s battalion came under heavy fire from automatic weapons and small arms, according to the award citation. “Moving from position to position under the hail of bullets, [Lindsay] directed his troops’ fire and, once fire superiority had been gained, led an assault into the hostile bunker complex which destroyed sixty of the fortifications and



Gen. James Lindsay. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

forced the enemy to withdraw,” the citation says.

Lindsay continually fought through “vicious” fire, both on the ground and from his helicopter, to repel enemy counterattacks throughout the battle. “While leading a sweep through the woodline early in the morning of 4 June, he surprised three Viet Cong whom he engaged and killed before they could inflict any casualties upon his men,” according to the citation.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross, Lindsay was awarded two Distinguished Service Medals and four Silver Stars for his service in Vietnam.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated Lindsay as the first commander of the newly created U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base near Tampa, Florida, according to the *Fayetteville Observer*. It was Lindsay’s final assignment before his retirement in 1990.

“Our hearts are heavy as we render one last salute for Gen. James Lindsay,” the 82nd Airborne Division said in a Facebook post. “We thank you for your service to our nation and a commitment to excellence. Old Paratroopers never die, they just slip away.”

# AUSA Extra

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## ‘Highly effective’ Army equipment aiding Ukraine fight

**E**quipment the Army has been sending to Ukraine to help in the fight against Russia has been proven “highly effective” in combat, a senior Army official said.

Douglas Bush, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, said the performance of vehicles and munitions in Ukraine “validates the Army’s approach to how we produce things and how we test and design them.”

“Wars are complicated endeavors, they rise and fall based on many factors,” Bush said Monday during a meeting with Pentagon reporters. “American equipment that is getting to Ukraine is highly effective in combat, and that doesn’t just happen, that’s the result of decades of work by thousands of people to make sure our equipment’s tested well.”

Bush noted that the Army’s indus-

try partners produce equipment “at a high level of quality.” While many allies and partners also contribute to production, Bush asserted that the United States produces the best in terms of quality.

Of the systems being sent to Ukraine, he listed as examples the Patriot missile system; the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, known as GMLRS; the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS; the Javelin anti-tank weapon system; many types of 155 mm artillery; counter-unmanned aerial systems and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

On the way to Ukraine by early fall are M1 Abrams tanks, he said. The tanks, he said, “have to get to Europe and then to Ukraine along with all of the things that go with them—ammunition, spare parts, fuel equipment, repair facilities. It’s the

full package that goes with it, and that’s still on track.”

Bush addressed “uninformed speculation” that U.S. Army stockpiles are at risk of being depleted in the race to help Ukraine. “There is a lot of support, we are working through our allies to help make sure Ukraine is supplied, so it’s not all the United States, and I think that’s a success story,” Bush said.

“The U.S. Army is committed to and will succeed in maintaining our stocks sufficient for training and readiness ... while also supporting our ally Ukraine with what they need, working as part of an international team to make sure that happens,” Bush said. “The United States is the arsenal of democracy, but we can have multiple arsenals in other democracies, and we have those, and they’re helping.”

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**Leaders**

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great hands,” McConville said. “The Army has the best leaders I’ve seen in 42 years of service.”

Grinston echoed McConville’s remarks. “The future of our Army is in good hands,” he said. The outgoing sergeant major of the Army said he’s often asked about his legacy. “It’s pretty simple,” he said. “It’s the people. If you want to know what I think my legacy is, it’s those that will follow me.”

In his remarks, George, who became the 38th vice chief of staff last August, said the Army faces many challenges at home and abroad. “But this is not new,” George said. “Facing down challenges both known and unknown is what our Army is built to do. We remain ready today to respond whenever our country calls. Whether it’s large-scale combat operations, disaster response, something in be-



Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville is honored with a clap-out Aug. 2 as he leaves on his last day of work at the Pentagon. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. XAVIERA MASLINE)

tween or something unprecedented, we will be ready, we will adapt, and we will win.”

The Army will aggressively tackle any challenge, Weimer said. “Our

success will come through cultivating a warrior culture grounded by personal discipline and personal courage,” he said. Soldiers will be “disciplined and brilliant at the basics to ensure we’re ready now and ready to handle the most complex problems here to come,” Weimer said.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin praised McConville and Grinston for their service and expressed confidence in George and Weimer.

“We’ll deter conflict where we can, but if we have to defend ourselves, we will fight and we will win—and we will win decisively—and that’s because of the leaders that we are honoring today,” Austin said. “It’s because of all our selfless soldiers who raise their hands to serve, and it’s because of your commitment to make our country stronger and our world safer. The United States Army has never failed its mission for the American people, and it never will.”



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## Defense bills support pay raise, global deterrence efforts

**W**ith Congress out of town for the August recess, this is a good time to recap recent events and where things stand with respect to the annual authorization and appropriations process.

Before going on recess, the Senate passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act by a large bipartisan majority, 86–11. Several important provisions impacting the Army and DoD are included.

In particular, the Senate version of the NDAA authorizes a 5.2% pay raise for service members and DoD civilians, which will help blunt the

### Government Affairs

impact of inflation and help recruiting and retention efforts. The legis-

lation authorizes full funding of the administration's budget request for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and the European Deterrence Initiative, and requires the establishment of the Indo-Pacific Campaigning Initiative. Together, these efforts are critical to countering adversaries in both Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

It also includes significant investments to support recruiting efforts and improve supply chains in the industrial base.

This bill is expected to be conferred with the version passed a few weeks ago by the House of Representatives, but the timeline and what form that conference will take are unclear.

Similarly, the Senate Appropriations Committee held markups and passed all 12 appropriations bills by large bipartisan majorities, including the defense appropriations bill and the military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies bill. These bills provide significant investments in our armed forces, veterans and their families.

The appropriation bills largely support budget requests from the Army and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the defense appropriation



Soldiers with the 1st Cavalry Division explain the capabilities of the M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle to Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., during a congressional visit in July to Pabrade Training Area, Lithuania. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. OSCAR GOLLAZ)

adds \$850 million for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account.

The Association of the U.S. Army has recommended that the Senate Appropriations Committee add fund-

ing to support Army modernization and infrastructure, but the budget agreement between the president and the House speaker has limited what lawmakers can do.

As the appropriations process proceeds in both the House and the Senate, AUSA continues to advocate for additional money for the Total Army and for the appropriations bills to be passed on time for the new fiscal year. Congress faces significant odds to pass appropriations bills by Sept. 30, the last day of the current fiscal year, and a continuing resolution will likely be needed to avoid a lapse in funding.

AUSA's Government Affairs team will track these and other developments and continue advocating for the Army with Congress. You can help to build momentum for passage of critical legislation that supports the Army, including appropriations and the NDAA, by contacting your representatives and senators.

**Mark Haaland** is AUSA's Government Affairs director.



AUSA continues to advocate for additional money for the Total Army and for the appropriations bills to be passed on time. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

## Wormuth inducts four AUSA members as civilian aides

**F**our members of the Association of the U.S. Army were sworn in as civilian aides to the secretary of the Army during a recent investiture ceremony at the Pentagon.

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth presided over the ceremony for retired Lt. Col. Keith Baranow, CASA for Vermont; retired Lt. Col. Donna White, CASA for New Mexico (North); Logan Morris, CASA for Louisiana (North); and retired Marine Col. Susan Malone, CASA for Nevada.

“It’s an honor to welcome our four newest CASAs to the Army team. As CASAs they will be great advocates for the Army in their local communities,” Wormuth said, according to an Army news release. “I have asked them to help share the Army story to help young people see how the Army can give them a sense of purpose and provide a fulfilling career.”

Baranow is president of AUSA’s Ethan Allen chapter in Graniteville, Vermont. He joined the Army National Guard as an infantryman in 1991, transferred to active duty in 1994 and commissioned through Officer Candidate School in 2001.

After 30 years in uniform, Baranow retired in 2022 and is currently the associate vice president of military partnerships and business development for Norwich University.

“I am honored to be given the opportunity to continue and serve the exceptional men and women who chose to ‘Be All They Can Be’ and serve in today’s Army. Soldiers and their families have been a top priority over the past 30 years, and I look forward to working with the secretary of the Army to tell the Army’s story to residents of Vermont,” he said, according to the Army news release.

White, a life member with AUSA’s MG John S. Lekson chapter in Albuquerque, New Mexico, served on active duty from 1975 to 2001. For the past 20 years, she has been an



Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, center, welcomes new civilian aides, from left to right, Keith Baranow, Susan Malone, Logan Morris and Donna White. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. DAVID RESNICK)

admissions field force member for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and she is now the New Mexico state coordinator for students seeking appointments to West Point.

“Being an enlisted soldier and a commissioned officer in the Army changed my life in many important ways,” White said in the news release. “I look forward to being a teammate of the secretary as we serve the needs and aspirations of residents in New Mexico.”

A life member of AUSA’s Leonidas Polk chapter in Leesville, Louisiana, Morris is the CEO of the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce. He has worked with the command team at Fort Johnson—formerly Fort Polk—and leaders at the local, state and national levels to improve housing, education and spouse employment for troops and their families.

“I look forward to continuing a personal commitment to improving the quality of life for all soldiers and their families—past, present and future. Louisiana is fortunate to have been the home to some of the finest defenders of our freedom. I humbly

commit my time and efforts in support of the greatest Army in the world,” Morris said, according to the Army news release.

Malone, whose membership with AUSA comes through an association partnership, has had an extensive career, including as human rights adviser to Haiti’s minister of justice and special adviser to the Commission on Public Integrity’s Anti-Corruption Unit in Baghdad, according to the Army.

She was also one of the first two female special agents selected by the FBI in 1972.

“I am honored and grateful to be given the opportunity to assist the Army by supporting the men and women and their families who serve our great nation. I look forward to working with the secretary to showcase and enhance the role of the Army in Nevada,” Malone said.

CASAs promote good relations between the Army and the public, advise the secretary about regional issues, support the total Army workforce and assist with recruiting and helping soldiers as they transition out of the military.

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