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A soldier takes the temperature of a motorist at one of the gates to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, South Korea, on Feb. 27. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. KANG, MIN-JIN)

DoD takes action to contain coronavirus

The Army is scaling down the upcoming Defender-Europe 2020 exercise amid growing concerns about the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The announcement Wednesday from U.S. European Command is the latest in a series of actions being taken across the military to try and contain the virus.

It also comes as the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic, and President Donald Trump announced a 30-day ban on travel from several European countries to the United States.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper also has announced new travel restrictions for U.S. troops, civilians and their families.

“After careful review ... we will modify the exercise by reducing the number of U.S. participants,” EU-

COM officials said in a statement. “Activities associated with the exercise will be adjusted accordingly, and we’ll work closely with allies and partners to meet our highest priority training objectives.”

Defender-Europe 2020, slated to be the largest Army exercise in the region in more than two decades, was to include 20,000 U.S.-based troops, 17,000 U.S. service members stationed in Europe and troops from 10 allied and partner nations.

Equipment and troops are already arriving in the region, and soldiers were ramping up for exercises in April and May spanning 10 countries.

EUCOM did not say how the exercise might be reduced or how many troops may no longer participate as planned.

“The health protection of our force, and that of our allies and partners, is a top concern,” the command said in

its statement. “As we work through the arrangements with our allies and partners, we’ll provide additional updates.”

Also on Wednesday, Esper announced new travel restrictions for service members, Defense Department civilians and families traveling to, from or through Level 3 locations as designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The restrictions are effective March 13 and will be in place for 60 days.

Level 3 locations are those the CDC warns to avoid nonessential travel.

They include almost 30 countries throughout Europe, South Korea, China and Iran.

The restrictions include all forms of travel, including permanent change-of-station moves, temporary duty and government-funded leave.

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Army chief says seat belts, soldier skills prevent accidents

The Army could reduce the number of casualties from vehicle accidents by ensuring soldiers wear their seat belts, the Army's top officer recently told lawmakers.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said the Army needs to emphasize some basic soldiering skills so that new soldiers properly learn to drive their vehicles.

"We are not satisfied. We need to fix that," he said when asked about the fiscal year 2019 mishap rate that included 116 Army accidents resulting in 28 casualties and approximately \$362 million in damaged or lost equipment.

McConville's comments came during testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on the Army's 2021 budget request.

"I am very, very concerned about some of the training exercises we had where we were starting to have vehicles rolling over and people not wearing seat belts," he said, describing having young soldiers driving on difficult terrain.

The Army needs "to be back to some of the basics," he said.

McConville said he is urging a sharper focus on squad-level training in which seasoned combat veterans can guide junior leaders who are "coming right off the block."



Soldiers maneuver a Humvee through a driver's training course at the 7th Army Training Command's Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/GERTUD ZACH)

The new soldiers "need time to learn how to drive their vehicles. They need time to learn how to maneuver their vehicles," he said.

A review of accidents showed something as simple as wearing a seat belt would have saved a soldier's life, he added.

"We are rolling over and we are not wearing out seat belts," he said. "If you are wearing your seat belts, you survive. If you are not wearing your seat belt, you don't."

Some basic soldiering is being overlooked, he said, like having a ground guide for vehicles in an assembly area, especially at night.

Not doing this can lead to tragedy, McConville said.

"We don't necessarily need to change our policies," he said. "We need to execute them and make sure that we have given our soldiers, at the lowest level, the training that they need to do, to make sure that they are successful on the battlefield."

Coronavirus

From Page 1

On March 6, the Army had already halted PCS moves and travel for school for troops in South Korea and Italy, two of the hardest hit countries, to help contain the spread of the disease.

U.S. Forces Korea also implemented health screenings at gates, including temperature checks and a questionnaire asking about possible exposure.

On Tuesday, DoD officials said at least four active-duty troops had been diagnosed with the disease.

"From a medical standpoint, the immediate risk to our force remains low across the force, and I want to be very clear about that," said Air Force

Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, Joint Staff surgeon.

On Monday evening, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, the Army's largest basic training post, announced that it is canceling Family Day activities for graduating soldiers.

Officials are also implementing changes to graduation day ceremonies in a bid to limit soldiers' exposure before they move on to advanced individual training.

A vaccine is being developed by researchers and scientists at the Medical Research and Development Command at Fort Detrick, Maryland, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health,

and nine Army laboratories are validated to develop and build test kits, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said.

Citing health concerns, the Association of the U.S. Army on Tuesday announced the cancellation of its Global Force Symposium and Exposition.

The three-day event was to be held next week in Huntsville, Alabama.

"For the health and safety of all of our members and the participants in Global Force, canceling next week's event is, regrettably, the right decision," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA's president and CEO.

For more on the DoD travel restrictions, click here. For the CDC's travel health notices, click here.

Army seeks intelligence domination as it prepares for future battlefield



Intelligence capabilities for the Army need to improve, and quickly, said Lt. Gen. Scott Berrier, the Army's deputy chief of staff for intelligence. (AUSA PHOTO)

The Army's deputy chief of staff for intelligence says future threats require having multidomain intelligence by 2028 and intelligence domination by 2035, improvements that will come from better sensors, data management and advanced analytics.

"We need to go high. We need to sense deeper," said Lt. Gen. Scott Berrier, who spoke Wednesday at an Association of the U.S. Army breakfast.

He said an Army task force is focused on the capabilities needed for a wide variety of threats, ranging from large competitors like Russia and China to regional threats from nations such as Iran.

Berrier said he sees Russia and China as continuing great-power competitors into the future, although his assessment is that Russia is a slightly decreasing threat while the threat from China is slightly increasing.

Both nations covet U.S. power and influence and want to impede the U.S. while increasing their own influence.

About Russian President Vladimir Putin, Berrier said, "I don't think he wants to get in a toe-to-toe fight with the United States, but he does want to press that envelope in Europe. He wants to be regionally dominant and

[is] working to be a player on the global stage."

Russia is on an economic downhill slide, which will limit its military advances, Berrier said.

China's leader Xi Jinping has a political strategy similar to Putin's, of wanting to stay in power and, like Putin, he has reorganized the military into a small force with larger capabilities, Berrier said. China's military has "extensive capability and capacity," with a goal of keeping the U.S. "out of the Pacific," he said.

"We have got to be worried about both of these threats," he said, noting that the Army's modernization priorities "really will do the same thing for us in both theaters."

Intelligence capabilities for the Army need to improve, and quickly.

"The Army wants to move much faster. Generally, that means more risk for our partners," Berrier said at an event widely attended by industry.

"We have to be able to explain exactly what we need, and as I have been reminded by a few of my colleagues, at times we don't do a good job explaining what a requirement is. We have to get better in the requirements development process, and communication has to be open and clear."

AUSAExtra

Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier

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Leading The Situational Awareness Revolution

AUSA paper: Humanitarian affairs will affect future wars

Great-power competition remains a top priority for the U.S., but humanitarian affairs and underlying issues such as the impact of high-intensity warfare on civilians still need attention, one author argues.

In “Humanitarian Assistance and Future War,” a new paper published by the Association of the U.S. Army as part of its Landpower Essay Series, author Lt. Col. Jim Cahill urges readers to think about the relationship between military and humanitarian affairs and its impact on future operations.

While defense experts recognize the importance of humanitarian issues, Cahill wrote, the military-humanitarian relationship is often framed in distinct and conflicting ways.

The ambiguity surrounding this relationship can cause coordination and communication to suffer, he wrote.

Cahill says defense experts should know practical aspects of these affairs



In his paper, Lt. Col. Jim Cahill writes that the military-humanitarian relationship is often framed in distinct and conflicting ways. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. DAISY ZIMMER)

and determine how to approach the humanitarian-military relationship, and he provides seven frameworks to facilitate dialogue, debate and coordination surrounding these issues.

“With improved situational understanding of the impact that military

force has on civilians, and the ways in which the U.S. government operates to mitigate this impact, U.S. defense practitioners can better support the generation of sustainable strategic outcomes,” Cahill wrote.

Read the full paper here.

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NCO professional development system gains momentum

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey,
U.S. Army Retired

The U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy was founded in July 1972 and graduated its first students in 1973.

Since that time, the academy has graduated more than 120,000 soldiers from various NCO education courses.

For decades, USASMA has been acknowledged by military and civilian organizations as the world's premier institution for the education of noncommissioned officers.

Throughout its history, USASMA has continuously adapted to meet the ever-changing educational needs of our NCOs.

In 2019, during the academic year of resident class 69, the academy achieved a historic milestone.

NCO & Soldier Programs

As a result of a decade's worth of preparation, USASMA became a fully accredited academic institution of excellence under the Higher Learning Commission and conferred its first degrees during class 69's graduation in June 2019.

During that monumental mark in enlisted education history, 113 graduates became the very first enlisted soldiers to earn a degree through the U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System, or NCO PD.

Those sergeants major who participated in the degree program earned a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Workforce Development.

The program is a 120-credit hour, fully accredited bachelor's degree that is offered as part of the Sergeants Major Academy curriculum.

Soldiers who pursue the degree receive 47 college credit hours at the completion of the 10-month course and only need 27 hours of major requirements and 15 credit hours in electives to attain the bachelor's degree.

The program is open to all USASMA resident class students, including



Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Beauchamp was one of the 113 sergeants major to receive their Bachelor of Arts degree in Leadership and Workforce Development in June 2019. (Photo courtesy of NCO Leadership Center of Excellence Public Affairs)

those from sister services and foreign military exchange students.

The Leadership and Workforce Development degree was chosen because of its similarities to the core competencies and essential requirements for senior Army noncommissioned officers.

The degree requirements focus on four areas: leadership, decision sciences, training program management and communication.

The program intentionally leverages the Army's leader development program for NCOs, as well as individuals' professional experience.

More importantly, it is designed to develop better NCOs capable of performing the complex tasks required of them on today's modern battlefield.

This historic milestone will have a profound effect on the Army, the NCO corps and the legacy of our NCOs throughout history.

An investment in our people is an investment in our future.

Less than a year from its inception, the program is gaining momentum as the students in USASMA class 70 navigate through their 10-month academic program.

Since August, the start of class 70, 122 students have already met the

requirements to earn the degree.

An additional 101 students are on track to receive the degree by the end of the academic year.

The academy expects 223 of the 300 students enrolled to complete all degree requirements prior to their graduation on June 19.

"This is only the beginning," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Sellers, the commandant of the academy and the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence. "There's more to come when it pertains to the education and development of our soldiers and noncommissioned officers."

The NCO Leadership Center of Excellence is working to build a degree path through all levels of the NCO Professional Development System that supports and culminates with the bachelor's in leadership and workforce development degree.

For more information about the USASMA degree program and the latest news regarding NCO education, please visit: <https://ncolcoe.armylive.dodlive.mil/>

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's Vice President for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.

Murray discusses Army Futures Command at chapter event

The Association of the U.S. Army's Texas Capital Area chapter recently hosted a breakfast featuring Gen. Mike Murray, commander of Army Futures Command, at the Capital Factory in Austin, Texas.

The Feb. 6 event was moderated by retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, AUSA's vice president for Membership and Meetings.

The conversation broached topics such as Futures Command's goals for 2020 and what programs have had the biggest impact since the command stood up in 2018.

Texas Capital Area

"AUSA's Texas Capital Area chapter hosted a tremendous community event at this great venue to share successes, challenges and opportunities that Army Futures Command provides," McQuiston said.

"We were also able to talk about



Gen. Mike Murray, right, speaks with retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, AUSA's vice president for Membership and Meetings, at the chapter breakfast. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. WILL REINIER)

upcoming events, like an inaugural AUSA event for Futures in Austin this June," she added. "Stay tuned for more as we roll out that event in the coming weeks."

Also present were several civilian aides to the secretary of the Army,

including Abdul Subhani, the newly appointed CASA for the Texas capital region. Subhani was appointed to the position in January by Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, so this also served as a welcome and introduction to the Austin AUSA community.

ROTC competition honors WWII Medal of Honor recipient

This year, the Association of the U.S. Army's Greater Philadelphia (Penn and Franklin) chapter is holding a series of events to honor Sgt. John McVeigh, a World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

"I think sometimes people can get lost," said Graylin Worcester, the chapter president. "And Philadelphia is really great about taking someone who is brought back up and lifting them back up. It's really part of the fabric of the city."

Greater Philadelphia (Penn and Franklin)

Shortly after dusk on Aug. 29, 1944, the Germans launched a counterattack near Brest, France, where McVeigh was serving.

His platoon was not dug in, and the enemy was threatening to overrun their position.

"McVeigh, heedless of a tremendous amount of small arms and flak fire directed toward him, stood up in full

view of the enemy and directed the fire of his squad on the attacking Germans," his citation reads.

"He then drew his trench knife, and single-handedly charged several of the enemy.

In a savage hand-to-hand struggle, Sgt. McVeigh killed one German with the knife, his only weapon, and was advancing on three more of the enemy when he was shot down and killed with small arms fire at point blank range."

McVeigh's heroic sacrifice allowed the two remaining men in his squad to concentrate their machine-gun fire and repel the enemy assault, saving several lives.

"There's a lot of humanity there that people forget," John Kershaw,



Sgt. John McVeigh. (COURTESY PHOTO)

McVeigh's nephew and a retired Army aviator, said in a local news report. "And we're making an endeavor to ensure they don't."

The chapter events commemorating the anniversary of the posthumous award 75 years ago began Feb. 7 with the inaugural Liberty Stakes competition among Army ROTC teams from the local Temple, Drexel and Widener Universities.

The competition included a four-mile trek with weighted backpacks, a hand grenade assault course, tug of war, a casualty evacuation exercise, a rifle assembly and disassembly challenge, and a marksmanship exercise.

"We just wanted to be a part of it," said Lt. Col. James Hannigan, professor of military science for Drexel's Army ROTC program. "We're grateful for this opportunity to honor Sgt. McVeigh and to share his story with our cadets."



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