



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston speaks with soldiers at Fort Benning, Georgia, during a visit alongside Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. JAMES HARVEY)

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2
MAY 14, 2020

NCO & Soldier Programs

Making Virtual Connections

3

Retired Maj. Gen.

Victor Hugo Dies

4



Chapter Highlights

Central Texas-Fort Hood
Redstone-Huntsville

7

AUSA launches virtual ‘Noon Report’

The Association of the U.S. Army is launching a new professional development program called “The AUSA Noon Report.”

It will debut on May 21, with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston as the first guest for the livestreamed event.

Modeled after AUSA’s popular series of breakfast events but tailored to the social distancing era, the 12 p.m. Eastern shows are timed for the lunch hour but will be recorded and available for later viewing.

On the May 21 webcast, retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO, will make opening remarks.

A fireside chat-style interview is planned, with retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey speaking with Grinston for about 20 minutes.

There will be time set aside for questions.

The discussion is expected to cover three general topics: how the Army intends to safely return to collective training, timing and planning for delayed permanent change-of-station moves, and a Grinston priority of shaping Army culture that he refers to as “This is My Squad.”

Dailey, AUSA’s vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs, was the 15th sergeant major of the Army who retired in January.



The 12 p.m. Eastern shows are timed for the lunch hour but will be recorded and available for later viewing. (AUSA GRAPHIC)

Grinston is the 16th, assuming the leadership position on Aug. 9.

A native of Jasper, Alabama, Grinston is an artilleryman whose deployments include Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Inherent Resolve, Enduring Freedom and Kosovo.

He was the 1st Infantry Division command sergeant major for the Army’s first deployment of a division headquarters in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

He later served as the command sergeant major for I Corps and Army Forces Command before being chosen as the senior enlisted adviser to the Army chief of staff.

There is no cost to watch the webcast, but advance registration is recommended because there is a cap on viewers.

To register for the event, click here.



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Dailey meets, engages remotely with chapters, soldiers

By Victoria McAdoo

Changing the narrative from what we can't do to what we can do has been the focus of the Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The closing of nonessential businesses and social distancing has left us all discovering new ways to communicate.

In a typical month, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey, AUSA's vice president of NCO and Soldier Programs, would visit at least two AUSA chapters and meet with soldiers, veterans and chapter volunteers.

Dailey and the rest of the team are currently working remotely like many others, but as the song says, "the Army goes rolling along"—and so does its association.

In the last two months, the NCO and Soldier Programs team reached out to all 123 AUSA chapter presidents to offer virtual teleconferences.

Using platforms such as WebEx, Microsoft Teams, Facebook Live, Skype and Zoom, Dailey has been able to connect with even more soldiers and chapter members than he normally would.

"There is opportunity in every situation, even this one," Dailey said.

Since early April, Dailey has conducted 11 virtual chapter meetings and has six more planned in the coming weeks.

This includes board meetings, town halls, professional development discussions and morale and welfare checks with soldiers in quarantine.

On April 22, Dailey went live for the first time in a Facebook Live chat with AUSA's Hawaii chapter.

More than 100 people joined in, and the video has been viewed over 8,000 times.

Since then, requests for leader de-



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey speaks with AUSA Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon chapter members and soldiers who were in quarantine after a deployment. (AUSA PHOTO)

velopment sessions have expanded beyond AUSA chapters to all types of organizations, including Army recruiting battalions and Army National Guard units.

"The response has been overwhelming," said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch, AUSA's director of NCO and Soldier programs. "Having the ability to maintain open dialogue with our chapters, their members and our soldiers is an opportunity we just had to take advantage of."

NCO and Soldier Programs also has recorded four special edition episodes for AUSA's "Army Matters" podcast.

Guests included Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Copeland of the Army Reserve, Command Sgt. Maj. John Sampa of the Army National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Schmidt of Eighth Army, and Command Sgt. Maj. Walter Tagalicud of U.S. Forces Korea.

Currently in production is a podcast with Command Sgt. Maj. Jim-

my Sellers, commandant of the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence and Sergeants Major Academy, who will discuss how the academy is adjusting to virtual learning.

During many of his discussions with soldiers and AUSA members, Dailey was asked about leadership, what it took to become the Army's top enlisted leader, and how to stay healthy and fit during quarantine.

In addition to staying physically fit, it is just as important to stay mental-ity fit, Dailey said, noting that AUSA offers several online classes and certifications for all members.

"Understand that above all else you're a human being, and you're stressed like everyone else—and probably in ways you may not even realize," Dailey said. "Now is the time get your exercise, eat properly, and make time for the people who are most important to you."

Victoria McAdoo is AUSA's senior coordinator for NCO and Soldier Programs.

Retired Maj. Gen. Victor Hugo, Green Beret combat veteran, dies

Retired Maj. Gen. Victor Hugo, a combat veteran with service in Vietnam and Korea and a lifetime member of the Association of the U.S. Army, died Monday.

He was 88.

Born May 28, 1931, in Beverly, Massachusetts, Hugo graduated from West Point in 1954 and was commissioned as an infantry lieutenant.

After completing basic officer training, airborne school and Ranger school, Hugo was assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency as a case officer for unconventional warfare and paramilitary actions in Vietnam.

In 1956, Hugo was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at Fort Myer, Virginia, where he served in various roles and wrote the plan for the internment ceremony of the Unknown Soldiers from World War II and Korea.

After completing Special Forces qualification Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in 1962, Hugo was assigned to the 1st Special Forces Group on Okinawa, Japan, until 1965.

During this time there, Hugo planned and implemented a mandatory area study program for teams deploying to Vietnam and developed an attack assessment matrix that provided indicators to Special Forces teams of impending Viet Cong attacks.

Hugo was next assigned to the Pentagon, where he served in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff until he was deployed again to Vietnam in 1968.

He then returned to the Pentagon and served in several assignments and was instrumental in establishing the Sergeants Major Academy.

Next, Hugo served as commander of the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade at Osan Air Force Base in South Korea.

He planned and implemented President Jimmy Carter's decision to transfer air defense of the Korean peninsula to South Korean forces and deactivated his brigade in June 1981.

Hugo returned to the Washington,



Retired Maj. Gen. Victor Hugo. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

D.C., area and served at Army headquarters before taking on his final assignment as commanding general of the 32nd Army Air Defense Command in Darmstadt, Germany.

He led the command from 1983 until his retirement in 1987 and was responsible for providing combat-ready forces to the NATO Integrated Air Defense System.

Following retirement, Hugo continued to mentor and inspire troops through active membership in multiple veterans' organizations, including AUSA, the Special Operations Association, the Special Forces Association, the OSS Society and the Military Order of the Carabao.

Hugo's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Vietnam Service Medal with 6 Campaign Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, the Republic of Korea Order of National Security Cheon-Su Medal, and the German Bundeswehr Gold Cross of Honor.

He also earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Special Forces tab and Ranger tab.

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Future soldiers depart for basic training, join AUSA

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Central Texas-Fort Hood chapter recently gathered at the Harker Heights Recruiting Station in Harker Heights, Texas, to participate in a send-off ceremony for three future soldiers.

Pfc. Kyra Batalla is departing for Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where she will attend basic training before training to become a practical nursing specialist (68C).

Also going to Fort Sill for basic training is Pfc. Kayla Kunz, who will then train to be a behavioral health specialist (68X).

Pvt. Nazeer Farmek, who signed on to be a motor transport operator (88M), will train at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

During the April 26 event, chapter members expressed appreciation to the future soldiers and shared information about the Army's professional association, leading to all three becoming members on the spot.

Central Texas-Fort Hood



At the send-off ceremony are, from left to right, Pfc. Kyra Batalla, Pvt. Nazeer Farmek and Pfc. Kayla Kunz. All three future soldiers became AUSA members. (AUSA PHOTO)

"All three of our future soldiers completed their AUSA membership application after hearing about the benefits of membership and the mission of our AUSA chapter," said Nancy Duran, a chapter Community Partner member representing the Killeen Independent School District.

Each soldier was also presented with a coin.

"Each recruit was accompanied by their family, but due to social distancing requirements, it was an interesting send-off," Duran said. "Please keep our future soldiers in your prayers."

Chapter members honor, pay tribute to their mothers

By Rhonda Sutton

Over the years, members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter leadership team have lost some of the dearest people in their lives—their mothers.

Past President John Wright, Steve Below, the current president, and Marie Arighi, vice president for special activities, all recently suffered this loss, and they wanted to find a way to honor and remember these women on Mother's Day.

A special place exists in Huntsville, Alabama, to pay tribute to our veterans, Gold Star families and first responders.

The Huntsville Madison County



The Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Veterans Memorial was dedicated on Veterans Day in 2011. It exists to honor those who have answered the call of duty by serving in the armed forces.

To honor our chapter leaders' mothers, we purchased a commemorative brick paver in the memorial park.

The paver will be a lasting place our chapter leaders can visit and remember their mothers while reflecting on those who gave so much for the freedoms we have today.

Sam Bertling, a former chapter Family of the Year award recipient with his wife KumCha and son Sam Jr., recently lost his mother to COVID-19. The chapter plans to continue this tradition by purchasing a paver for her as a way to show our love and support to our members.

Rhonda Sutton is the Redstone-Huntsville chapter's executive vice president.



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