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BUT CAN IT PLAY FETCH?



Jennifer Milbrett/Staff

Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning learns about the X-Rhex, a robot hexapod test platform, at the Engility booth at the 2016 AUSA expo at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in D.C.

AUSA Calendar

The October Annual Meeting and Exposition is the biggest but hardly the only event of the Association of the U.S. Army. The educational nonprofit hosts a series of lectures, professional forums and expositions throughout the year, many in the AUSA Conference and Event Center at the association's Arlington, Va., headquarters.

The next scheduled event is an Oct. 19 lecture by Vicki Cody, author of a 2005 guide to parenting for Army families. Married to retired Gen. Richard

A. Cody, a former Army vice chief of staff, she has been a mentor and coach to Army spouses.

Three one-day Hot Topics events are scheduled for the fall. A Nov. 1 forum focuses on ground combat systems. Army cyber capabilities will be the topic on Nov. 3. A Dec. 1 conference will look at Army contracts.

Some events for 2017 are already scheduled.

■ The 13th International Defense Exhibition and Conference, known as IDEX, will be Feb. 19-23 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The USA Security and Defense Pavilion at the annual

event is organized by AUSA.

■ Beginning March 13, AUSA will hold the three-day Global Force Symposium and Exposition in Huntsville, Ala.

■ The 13th International Defense Industry Fair will be May 9-12 in Istanbul. AUSA also organizes the USA Security and Defense Pavilion at this annual event, which is known as IDEF. AUSA's annual LANPAC Symposium and Exposition in Honolulu will be May 23-25.

■ The AUSA's 2017 Annual Meeting and Exposition will be held Oct. 9 to 11 in Washington, D.C.

AUSA SHOW DAILY

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Alan Lessig/Staff
Gen. Carter Ham (ret.), President and CEO of Association of the United States Army, speaks during this year's AUSA.

Reflections on AUSA 2016

BY GEN. CARTER F. HAM,
 U.S. Army retired President and CEO,
 Association of the U.S. Army

Last week's Annual Meeting and Exposition of the Association of the U.S. Army reinforced the precarious point we've reached in Army history. With a shrinking force, constrained budgets and expanding threats, America's Army cannot afford missteps.

For three days, more than 26,000 attendees from nearly 60 countries heard a clear Army message that readiness for today's missions remains the No. 1 priority, and that more attention is required to ensure the Army is sufficiently organized, trained and modernized so as to maintain technological advantage over any potential future adversary. Doing so will require innovative approaches by the Army and the diverse industry partners supporting it. It will also require adequate, sustained, predictable funding by the Congress.

Army leaders reaffirmed the force is, and will remain, strong. "Our enemies need to know these colors don't run from tough fights," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley said. "We will adapt, and we will evolve. In the end, we will win." He predicted fundamen-

tal changes in organization, weapons and doctrine including when, where and how soldiers fight.

Evolution will take a little time, considerable resources, innovative thinking and wider cooperation. AUSA is ready to help tell the Army's story, host professional discussions that stimulate creating thinking, and join in support of the total Army team.

Under Milley's command, the Army has made great strides in rebuilding the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve team. That is an important step, but it won't be enough for the future. Wider cooperation among the services and among multinational partners is increasingly important as potential battlefields extend beyond land, sea or in the air across all domains at once, including space and cyberspace.

Gen. David Perkins, the Army's Training and Doctrine Command commanding general, made this point during our meeting in a discussion that involved Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps leaders as well as foreign military representatives. "Lines are blurring between those domains," Perkins said, noting a critical need for the services to help each other in areas where

they have strengths. A prime example, he said, is for the Army to develop an anti-ship projectile that could be fired from a land-based battery in support of the Navy.

Our Army needs to modernize, not just for multidomain capabilities but to remain ahead of potential enemies. Dramatic technological advances were on exhibit during our meeting and showcased some of what is available, but it takes money and a less cumbersome acquisition process to move ahead.

"We must make sure our Army is so fierce that nobody wants to fight us and if they do, they lose," said Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning.

Our Annual Meeting and Exposition provided a platform for this professional development forum focused on the Army's highest priorities. It also gave unmatched opportunities for soldiers, Army civilians, Army families and others to hear directly from senior leaders. Participation by hundreds of exhibitors allowed the Army to see firsthand the emerging technologies and capabilities available to maintain the fighting edge, and also enabled the Army to convey its developing requirements to industry partners.

We at AUSA also feel honored to host the Army's "family reunion," where generations of America's soldiers—from the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve—gather to strengthen the bonds that only soldiers can fully understand and enjoy. One such moment was the culminating event, when retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan was presented our highest award, the General George Catlett Marshall Medal, for his more than 50 years of service to our nation.

The 2016 Annual Meeting was my first one as president of the Association of the U.S. Army, and I could not have been more proud of this year's event. The amazing team at AUSA, our national headquarters and the incredible volunteer leaders across our association made this a truly memorable event. We take very seriously our dual missions: Voice for the Army; Support for Soldiers.

I am honored to have this opportunity to serve, and we are already planning for next year's Annual Meeting, Oct. 9 to 11, 2017. I look forward to seeing you there.



Jennifer Milbrett/Staff

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commander of U.S. Army Europe, speaks with Defense News Reporter Jen Judson at AUSA.

One battalion will head to the Baltic region — Atlantic Resolve North — while another battalion will deploy to Romania and Bulgaria — Atlantic Resolve South — according to Hodges.

The bulk of the combat team will remain in Poland, staying in Polish barracks at training areas where some of the best ranges and maintenance facilities are situated, such as Drawsko Pomorskie, he said.

Over the course of the rotation, the ABCT will mass “a couple of times,” Hodges added.

While Poland’s national exercise Anakonda is held every other year and therefore will not be held in 2017, Hodge’s command has helped to coordinate opportunities for the ABCT to heavily participate in Saber Guardian, which will take place in July in Bulgaria and Romania. The exercise will consist of more than 30,000 soldiers with 20-plus nations, making it similar in size to Anakonda. The 82nd Airborne, the US Army’s global response force, will jump in like it did in Anakonda. Saber Guardian will also be linked to Sea Breeze — a maritime exercise in the Black Sea — and Noble Partner in Georgia.

The 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division out of Fort Riley, Kansas, will replace the first ABCT in September, Hodges said.

The commander said even though the Army is having to operate under a continuing resolution for the next three months, which means money is only available at 2016 funding levels, there would be enough money to move forward with the deployment of the first ABCT.

Army Secretary Eric Fanning told Defense News in an interview before AUSA that he was concerned over the impact the continuing resolution might have on the Pentagon’s special funding for assurance and deterrence in Europe, called the European Reassurance Initiative.

“ERI is oxygen for us,” Hodges said. “Without the ERI money, there is no rotation of forces, there’s no buildup of Army pre-positioned stock. In other words, there is no real capable deterrent force above and beyond what we have on the ground now ... it’s essential to what we are doing.” **DN**

OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Heavy Armored Brigade To Deploy to Europe in January

BY JEN JUDSON
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The US Army’s first heel-to-toe rotational heavy armored brigade combat team (ABCT) is set to reach Europe in January as part of a US military build-up in the region to reassure allies and deter against an aggressive Russia, the service’s commander in Europe said.

The 3rd Brigade of the 4th Division out of Fort Carson, Colorado, will start loading ships in the coming weeks and is scheduled to arrive in the port of Bremerhaven, Germany, in the middle of January, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said in an interview with Defense News at annual Association of the United States Army conference.

Once in port, the brigade will undergo a readiness test to see how fast it can unload the ships and get to west-

ern Poland. Hodges predicted unloading the ship would not be the challenging part, but rather working to move equipment by rail and highway from a single port.

The ABCT that will rotate in to replace the first one in September 2017 will likely sail into several ports to test its ability to unload and come together in another designated point, Hodges noted.

Based on several factors — from exercising a mission it hasn’t had to do in a very long time to moving equipment via rail and highway to dealing with winter weather in Northern Europe — Hodges predicts the ABCT will reach Polish assembly areas near Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in roughly three weeks.

“I’m going to make all kinds of mistakes on this,” Hodges said, even

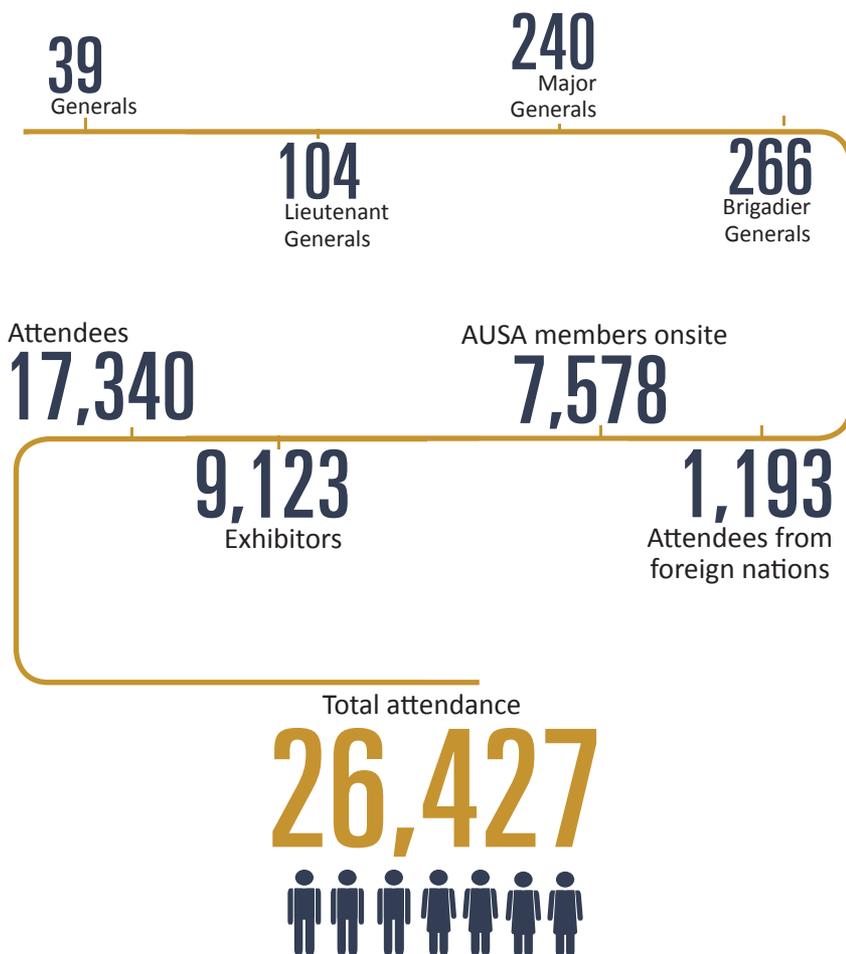
though the Army has been rehearsing and drilling. “We haven’t done it in a long time.”

This exercise to move from the German port to Poland was tasked by Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, the supreme allied commander in Europe, in order to demonstrate speed of assembly, Hodges noted.

Once the ABCT has assembled and prepared its equipment, such as loading ammunition, testing communications and camouflaging, in order to set up its posture “like a crisis response rehearsal,” Hodges said, the brigade will disperse to areas of responsibility aligned with the Atlantic Resolve mission.

Atlantic Resolve is the framework for the US mission to assure allies in Europe and deter Russia through exercises and operations.

AUSA 2016: By the Numbers



New Operations Field Manual To Debut Next Year at AUSA

BY JEN JUDSON
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The Army's Combined Arms Center is in the throes of re-writing its capstone doctrine on how the service fights in the present, according to Lt. Gen. Michael Lundy, the center's commander.

And that newest field manual will likely debut at the Association of the US Army's annual show next year.

The CAC, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, is the proponent for modernizing the force to conduct Unified Land Op-

erations, Combined Arms Operations and Mission Command, which produces doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, personnel, facilities and policy – known as the DOTMLPF-P.

Lundy took over the CAC in the summer after serving as the commander of the Army's Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Updating the manual on how the Army fights – known as Field Manual 3-0 – is a "significant effort," Lundy told Defense News.

The Army's capstone doctrine is

made up of the field manual as well as the Army Doctrine Publication 3-0 Unified Land Operations.

The Army last scrubbed the doctrine and released a new version in 2008 that guides training, leader development and operations.

The doctrine is important because it will shape how the force is organized and what equipment or capability will be needed.

Lundy said he'd recently gauged where the re-drafting of the manual is in the process and said he is "pretty

confident on where we are going there."

The FM 3-0 of 2008 focused on "Full Spectrum Operations" which describes the Army having to not only focus on defeating enemies but, at the same time, shape the situation through operations that stabilize the area.

The Army's Operating Concept – debuted two years ago at AUSA – will drive the new doctrine. The AOC states the Army's job is to "prevent, shape and win" in a "complex operational environment." **DN**

Harris Unveils New EOD Robot

BY JEN JUDSON
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Harris Corp., known for its radios and communications equipment, had a surprising piece of technology at its AUSA booth this year.

While robots that do explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) are nothing new, the T7 EOD robot, designed to disarm improvised explosive devices like car bombs, is so intuitive to use even a reporter can learn how to operate the arm on the robot in a matter of minutes.

The controller looks like the back end of a gun making it easy to hold, and is hooked to sensors that transfer information to the robotic arm on the T7.

The robot can also be armed with a water disruptor used to disengage a trigger, according to a video playing behind the T7's display.

Harris has been developing robotics for a long time behind the scenes for mostly classified customers, Paul Bosscher, the company's chief engineer for robotics systems, told Defense News.

The robot was designed based on the



The T7 EOD Robot at AUSA.

Jennifer Milbrett/Staff

input from hundreds of users, according to Harris.

"Its highly intuitive interface redefines ease of use with dynamic force feedback," Harris said in a statement. This means if the arm hits the ground

or an object, the user holding the control can feel that too, which improves the dexterity of the system.

Cameras on the controller increase the accuracy from a broad range to an overhead, up-close range. **DN**



Kathleen Curthoys/Staff

A Maintenance and Cargo Hauler on display at the John Deere exhibit at the AUSA show.

John Deere Displays Rugged Cargo Haulers

BY KATHLEEN CURTHOYS
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Small, rugged multi-purpose vehicles at the AUSA show were equipped with new features but carry a familiar leaping-deer logo.

Visitors to the John Deere pavilion might have expected to see big green machines that are more at home on the farm than on the battlefield.

What you they saw instead were three tan vehicles shorter than an F-150 pickup that can haul cargo, carry soldiers and maneuver in austere environments.

"People think of John Deere as the yellow and green stuff," said Todd Halstead, manager of the Military Utility Business for John Deere. "We are definitely more than just the yellow and green stuff."

The newest of the vehicles is a Maintenance and Cargo Hauler MACH-2/MACH 2XL, developed in association with International Automated Systems, that can be transported by the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft.

That capability is a new innovation in which the bars over the passenger area reconfigure to sit within that space to keep the vehicle low profile at 60 inches high.

The vehicle's long- and short-bed variations can be configured variously according to the Army's needs, Halstead said. The MACH 2/2XL weight is about 2,200 pounds, and payload capacity is nearly 1,200 pounds. Cargo bed capacity is nearly 770 pounds. **DN**

Oculus Rift Simulates a Future Tank

BY MEGHANN MYERS
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The Griffin is a light tank prototype that General Dynamics would like to sell to the Army. But since it's not real yet, the company is using virtual reality to show Army leaders what it can do.

To do that, they brought an Oculus Rift virtual reality system to AUSA, where anyone could immerse themselves in simulated combat to see how the Griffin moves and shoots -- and they could do the shooting.

"We bought this and I wanted to bring it here to kind of show people what the difference is between that and the other Strykers," the vehicle that the Griffin is trying to complement, spokesman Mike Peck told Army Times.

Users can sit down with the headset and be dropped into an urban combat

scenario, firing at enemies and blowing holes in buildings, in the infantry-support role that General Dynamics envisions for the vehicle.

And there are other implications for the headset, he added.

"We want to show people that industry is not anti-innovation," he said. "We've been using 3D capability and immersion capability for human-factors engineering for a long time. This is just an upgrade to it."

For now, they can use it to demonstrate their programs, but the services have looked into the technology for training and simulation. There's potential to use virtual reality to train on weapon systems or teach maintainers how to fix equipment.

"At some point in time, this may become a way to do that training and modeling and sim for those systems -- we're just not there yet," Peck said.



Jennifer Milbrett/Staff

Keith Nelson of General Dynamics Land Systems tests out General Dynamics' tank concept via Oculus Rift on the show floor at AUSA.

"The Army's not quite ready for it, quite honestly. But I wanted them to know that we are." **DN**

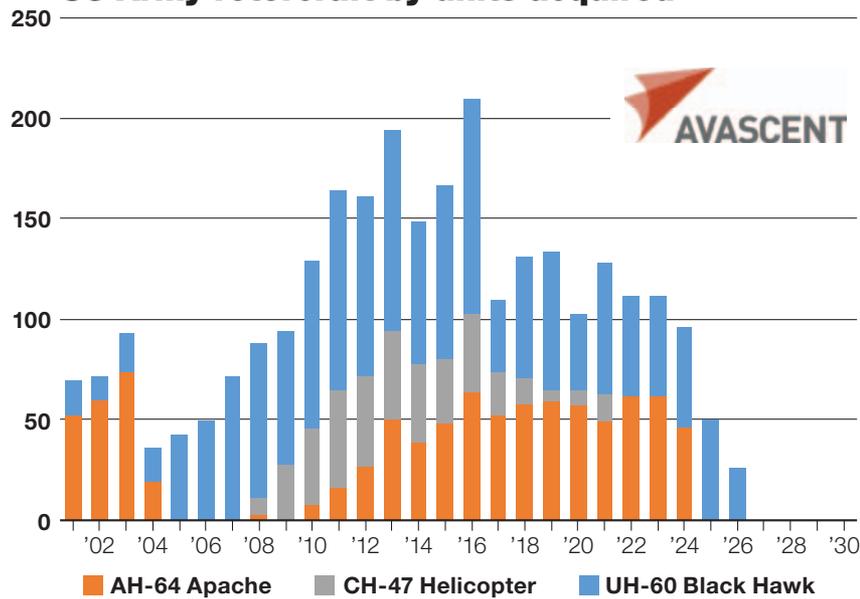
Spending Breakdown: Rotorcraft

The Army may be narrowing its focus on Future Vertical Lift, but according to industry analyst firm Avascent, dollars continue to funnel to an array of platforms.

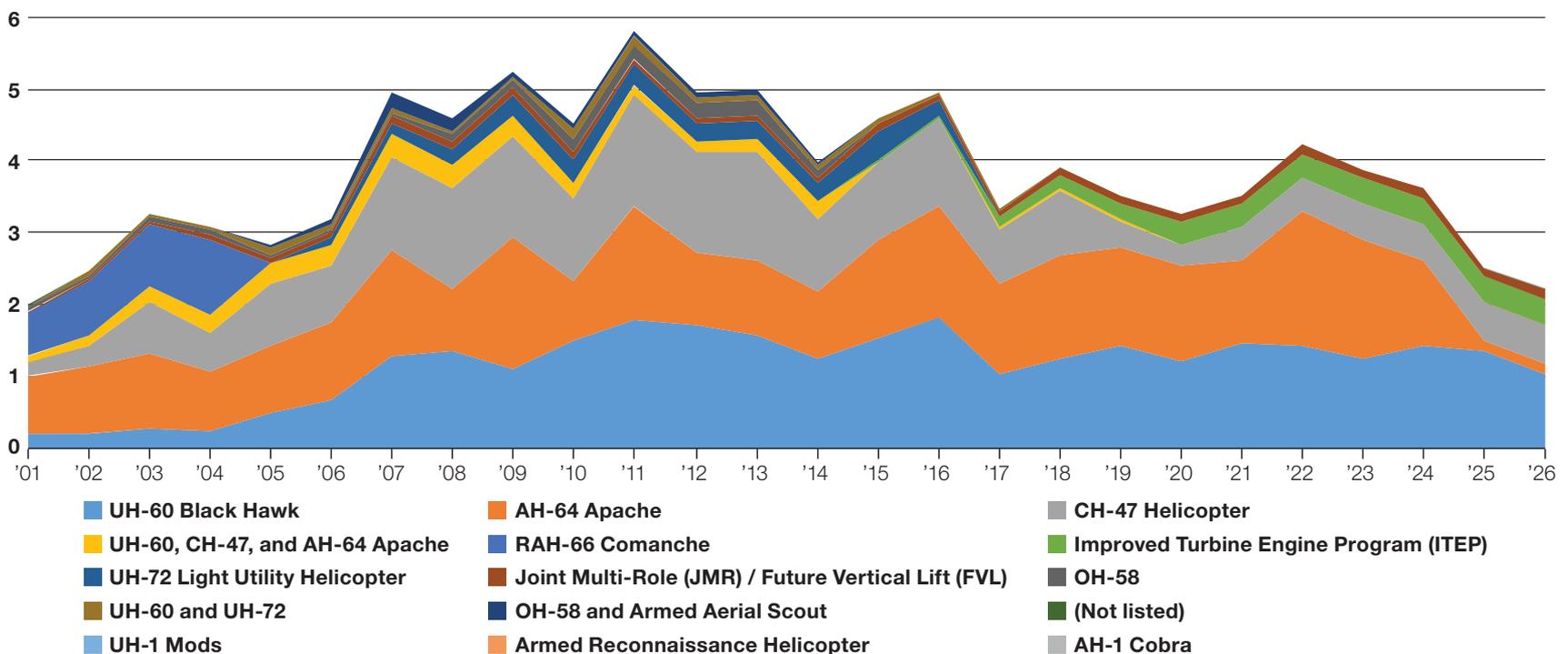


Defense Department

US Army rotorcraft by units acquired



US Army rotorcraft spending, in \$billions



Source: Avascent

Staff

AVIATION

Aircrew Tether Designed to Increase Soldier Survivability

BY MEGHANN MYERS
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Even in a small impact, there's great risk that helicopter aircrew can be thrown from a helicopter or knocked around inside, to deadly results.

A new restraint system is designed to close safety gaps, giving aircrew a tether that is mounted to their seats, moves with them in the aircraft and locks up if they trip or fall.

"Bottom line, it is designed to increase aircrew survivability in a trip-and-fall situation or in a crash," said Chris Motta, a government business development manager for Cobham Mission Systems.

Originally developed for the Navy, the Mobile Aircrew Restraint System was inspired by a crew member who fell out of an MH-60 during a vertical replenishment, Motta told Army Times at this year's AUSA convention. It's

been in use since 2004 and is now used by the Air Force as well.

It's a seatbelt-like tether controlled by a reel mounted to an aircrew seat. It's designed for crew chiefs, who are moving around inside the helo or hopping in and out moving supplies or personnel.

In-flight, the tether has 63 inches of webbing to allow the crew chief to walk around. If he trips, the jerking movement will lock the tether, keeping him from smacking into the ground or falling out of the helo.

In the current system, called the personal restraint tether, soldiers have an adjustable webbing that goes out to 12 feet, clipped to the floor of a helo near their seat. They are supposed to adjust the tether to only give them enough length to get to the door, but that doesn't always happen properly, Motta said.

"And the problem with that is, they



Meghann Myers/Staff

The Mobile Aircrew Restraint System by Cobham Mission Systems.

could have it connected toward the back — in a crash scenario, they're going to go over," he said.

MARS closes that gap by locking in place if there's an impact. A tap tightens it, and a tap loosens it back up.

"If they're doing a hoist operation and they're leaning out the door, they can tap it and they're locked in," Motta said.

Cobham is working with the Army's utility helicopter program at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, to bring MARS on-

line. There has been some back and forth about testing, Motta said, but Cobham is dubious.

"There should be no reason to do testing, because the Air Force has been flying it," Motta said. "The Navy flew it."

The Army is working on a requirements document, he said, and the plan is to meet again at the end of October. Once the Army approves the idea, he said, they have hundreds in stock, ready to send to the force. **DN**

Army Contemplates Future Apache Helicopter Orders

BY VALERIE INSINNA
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The US Army is weighing a future block upgrade to its AH-64E Apaches, although whether that will entail a purchase of an "F" model or remanufacturing current aircraft has yet to be decided.

The Army is set to obtain 690 "Echo" models through either new production or remanufacturing old AH-64Ds, which would take Apache production out until 2026, said Col. Jeff Hager, the service's program manager. However, it may need to buy new Apaches or modernize the current model to bridge the gap between the AH-64 program and Future Vertical Lift (FVL), the fu-

ture rotorcraft planned to eventually replace it.

"What we're looking at right now is that timeline in between there, how long the timeline is if FVL stays where it's at, comes back or goes to the right," Hager told reporters during a briefing. Depending on the timing, "we're going to have to make a decision on whether to maintain or make this aircraft more capable."

Among the upgrades currently under consideration are an improved radar, forward-looking infrared sensor and a new helmet, he said.

The Army has already started taking its first steps for procuring some of those capabilities, said Richard Tyler, the service's deputy project man-

ager. The program office released a request for information last year for a next-generation radar and has received industry input.

"We are evaluating the responses currently based on what the technological readiness levels are of those systems, as well as what requirements the TRADOC capabilities manager defines as what he wants in the next generation of systems," he said. A request for proposals will likely be issued "sometime in the next few years."

Boeing is confident that the service will need to modernize its Apaches before acquiring FVL, said Kim Smith, the company's vice president of attack helicopters.

"With the current assumptions and

projections, it's felt very strongly that there will be another run of the Apache prior to Future Vertical Lift," she said. "The technological advancements that we're studying — some of which have been mentioned — in collaboration with the government or other industry partners to make sure we bring the best technology to bear while we continue to drive affordability. We do have a very methodical approach to how we do that."

Boeing, which is partnered with Sikorsky, is one of the competitors vying to win the FVL program, which starts in the 2019 time frame. The Sikorsky-Boeing team plan to base their offering on the SB-1 Defiant aircraft that will fly in the joint multirole demonstration program, but investments in Apache upgrades could also help to de-risk FVL, Smith said. **DN**



Ben Listerman/MDA

A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor is launched from a THAAD battery located on Wake Island, during Flight Test Operational (FTO)-02 Event 2a, conducted Nov. 1.

not just US policy, it's also some of the national caveats that are out there" from allies, Mann said. "It's tedious at times, but I think we're starting to see some progress."

While doctrine, training and policy are key, technological developments will of course play a part. Some of those are already coming online through a series of upgrades to the Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense systems.



Mann

Mann also expects improvements in both the cyber and directed-energy portfolios to be in play for missile defense down the

line, with the Pentagon trying to bring to bear a wide spectrum of both kinetic and non-kinetic options for destroying incoming threats. Both technologies could be especially effective against the boost phase of flight, Mann said.

But getting there may not be easy, particularly given what Mann acknowledged as "finite" resources for Army science and technology research.

"I think it's fair to say we could always use more dollars, but I don't think it's appropriate for me to second-guess the leadership of the Army, quite frankly," Mann said. He notes that Gen. Mark Milley, the Army chief of staff, has prioritized readiness for the current force. As a result, "We've been forced to make some cuts or delay, really, in our S&T programs, to make sure that whatever happens right now we can assure the American people that their sons and daughters will have the very best we can give them as they go out the door."

One option Pentagon leadership is looking at in order to drive down technology development costs is getting international partners more involved in that process. That is something that could play out down the line for missile defense, the general predicted.

"I would not be surprised in the future if you see more efforts where we're partnering with our allies to develop future technologies and future systems. I wouldn't be surprised at all," he said. **DN**

MISSILES

3-star: Global Networking Crucial for Missile Mission

BY AARON MEHTA
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The missile defense system of 2040 will be networked across nations and feature cyber and directed-energy components – at least if a top US Army general has his way.

Asked by Defense News to describe missile defense 25 years from now, Lt. Gen. David Mann, the head of US Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, put an emphasis on a network that is joint both across the Pentagon services and foreign partners.

"What you are probably going to see is probably more of a combined nature to missile defense," Mann said Monday at the AUSA conference. "You'll see more integration. You'll see more cross-talk, sharing of data, sharing of components. But I think in 25 years from now you're going to see more of a combined integration where we have a lot more allied integration into what we're doing."

"So we might be using a German Patriot radar data, providing data that will queue a Spanish Patriot system or a US patriot launcher," Mann said. "Same thing in the Middle East.

Hopefully in the Middle East we will see, maybe, data provided from a Kuwaiti radar that is feeding information to one of the other GCC partners out there to prosecute a threat."

To lay the groundwork for that future, however, the Army needs to work through the policy hurdles that can make working with allies difficult. While stressing that the US services are doing a "doggone good" job of coordinating amongst themselves, Mann said the Pentagon "could do better" with integrating allied capabilities.

"Some of that, we have to work through some of the policy issues. It's



Chad Padgett/Army

NETWORKS

5 Updates on Army IT Projects

BY MARK POMERLEAU
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During a panel discussion at the annual AUSA conference, Army's Chief Information Officer Lt. Gen. Robert Ferrell provided an update on the projects and progress the Army is making in the IT space.

Data centers

Ferrell said the Army has awarded its contract for a pilot taking place at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama.

Redstone has 24 data centers, 11 of which are Army-owned. The goal of the pilot is to migrate apps into that environment, he said.

Col. Rodney Swann, chief of enterprise architecture at the Army Architecture Integration Center, has said that 25 applications have been identified and targeted for migration.

"Once we do those migrations," he said, "then we're going to reach oper-

ational capability, probably sometime in 2017. ... Then eventually once we do that we're going to begin to build that velocity [and] be able to migrate more and more applications."

Ferrell also discussed data center closures, offering a robust and aggressive initiative to reduce more than 200 data centers to 10.

Four locations within the United States have been identified to house data centers in the future: Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Carson, Colorado; and Redstone. He also said there will be six overseas, though the Army has not yet identified those locations.

Unified capability

The Army released a request for proposals last week, Ferrell said, to acquire a capability aimed at "untethering" the soldier from the desk. This will involve video and voice capabilities, among others, and will be one of the first steps toward an eventual

software defined environment, Ferrell said.

Automation

Ferrell discussed the pitfalls of continuing to operate a legacy enterprise, despite modernization efforts. In order to foster continued use, he noted that the Army is working on an initiative that should be accomplished this year to acquire tools to help automate patching and security of the enterprise.

Windows 10

The DoD-wide Windows 10 migration effort is ongoing, Ferrell said, adding that the Army is focusing on installations within the U.S. and Europe. They have 700 early adopters in Europe moving to Windows 10, he said, with approximately 28 states in the National Guard that are testing and evaluating the operating system now. The move provides a layer of security that the Army didn't have, he said. It

The Army is looking to "untether" soldiers from their desks.

also means the the entire Defense Department will be working on one operating system.

Tactical space

When looking at early entry communications, Ferrell said the Army is doing a lot of work at the Network Integration Evaluation as it relates to command posts, looking at making them more scalable, more mobile, more agile, even looking at the generator power as well as wireless capability. A lot of work is being done at the tactical space, he said, which is a key focus of the Army as it looks to become more expeditionary.

Despite the positive steps Ferrell outlined during the briefing, he said he remains concerned about the security of the enterprise.

"When you look at the enterprise writ large, it's a legacy enterprise with too many back doors, too many separate disparate networks, too many systems that are not interoperable," he said. "We have a lot of work to do and we are up for the challenge to ensure that we meet these requirements." **DN**

INTERNATIONAL

2016 Foreign Military Sales Totals Down

BY AARON MEHTA
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US foreign military sales dropped by around \$10 billion in 2016, but the Pentagon's top weapon sales official isn't concerned that interest is waning globally.

Vice Adm. Joseph Rixey, director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, said during the AUSA conference that the unofficial tally of FMS deals is at "about the mid-30s" in terms of billions of dollars. Those totals are not finalized for the year but are unlikely to shift much.

At least year's AUSA conference, Rixey announced 2015 had brought in a record \$46.6 billion, but predicted that the 2016 total would drop due to lower oil prices and cuts to global defense budgets. While the drop happened as predicted, Rixey said he learned an important lesson about assuming a root cause.

"I have spent the entire year trying to correlate something to pricing, and

in fact we have found you can't really correlate that. My answer to you is we don't have an economic indicator out there," Rixey told reporters after his speech. "It could also be currency difference. There are so many factors that it's not what I thought it was. I thought we could directly correlate it."

"Now, I'm sure oil price is having an impact on that particular number, but I didn't find the correlation I was looking for," he added.

The drop in dollar value is also partly misleading, Rixey noted, because a number of high-end sales – most notably a trio of fighter jet sales to Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain – have been delayed.

The package reportedly includes 72 Boeing F-15E Strike Eagles for Qatar and up to 40 Boeing F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets for Kuwait. Bahrain's package includes Lockheed Martin F-16 fighters.

"What would have happened if they had gone this year? We would have had record sales again," Rixey said.



Caleb Foreman/Army

Sales of weapons to foreign partners, such as the M1A2 Abrams tank, drove FMS sales in 2016, but numbers still dropped from the previous year.

"So we've decided maybe we should look at this like a rolling three-year number" in order to have a truer sense of trends.

But Rixey also downplayed the overall figure, noting that the US does not set a sales target each year.

"We don't look at sales like a benchmark we're trying to capture. It's not a number we're trying to go for. Sales is really a fundamental result of foreign policy. We just have to understand what kind of workforce we're going to

need to prosecute those sales," Rixey said. "It's nothing more than a tool for us to anticipate what we're going to anticipate and work with."

The admiral also continued his defense of the speed of the FMS system, following up on comments made last month at a conference and an editorial featured in Defense News.

As to the jet sales, Rixey would not comment on the full status, but acknowledged media reports that the sales are "moving forward." **DN**

Army Looks To Cut Acquisition Red Tape

BY JEN JUDSON
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The Army is soliciting ideas on how it might make its contracting processes more agile, the service's acquisition chief Katrina McFarland said during a panel at the Association of the US Army's annual conference.

The current contracting process in acquisition "causes problems" when it comes to being agile, she said. "We are trying to understand where we can create agile contracting methodology that allow us to address the emerging threat more rapidly."

She added, the contracts should "allow for insertion of replacement technology as we fly, if you would, and we have to think of ways together ... to

keep abreast real-time with upgrades, with anything from performance to reliability to sustainment or maintaining capability."

One way the Army is going to make contracting more agile is through the Rapid Capabilities Office, which will likely help the service bypass certain red tape to get funding quickly to development and field capability to the warfighter within one to five years. The Rapid Equipping Force and procurement mechanisms tied to urgent operational needs requests also help speed along the process.

But as Arun Seraphin, a Senate Armed Services Committee staff member on the same panel as McFarland, said: "If it's worth our time to cut red tape and provide special attention to

these rapid offices, why isn't it worth our time to fix the system as well? So whatever flexibilities and special care we are giving to the other, I hope we draw some lessons learned, if it's good enough for them, it's good enough for everybody."

Army Secretary Eric Fanning said during a recent interview with Defense News that the hope is lessons learned from acquisition processes within the Rapid Capabilities Office could be transferred to major acquisition programs as well.

Andrew Hunter, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the Defense Department generally has to get away from trying to plan too much in advance of a program because it ties its hands too much when

it needs to make necessary changes.

Technology is moving too rapidly to lock a program in at the beginning, he argued.

And the Army has had a track record of waiting until it can get the piece of equipment that meets 99.9 percent of its requirements before deciding to procure it, which often takes years beyond when the warfighter needs it, and more often than not ends in program cancellation before ever fielding.

The Army shouldn't wait to start a plan to procure a capability with a complete list of requirements because the pace of technology is just too fast and too much can change in a short period of time, several panelists noted.

Therefore the service needs to look for ways to inject requirements without having to go back to ground zero and start through the whole process, "because you know its going to evolve," Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, the Army's intelligence branch chief, said. **DN**

Heroism on Display in 'Hacksaw Ridge'

Medal of Honor Recipient's Tale Inspires at AUSA

BY CHUCK VINCH
ARMY Magazine Senior Staff Writer

A pre-release screening of a dramatic movie about a World War II medic who received the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions in Okinawa was a popular addition to the Association of the U.S. Army's 2016 Annual Meeting and Exposition.

About 275 people attended the showing of "Hacksaw Ridge," a film about the first conscientious objector to receive the nation's highest award for valor. The screening was hosted by AUSA and We Are the Mighty, and was provided by U.S. film distributor Lionsgate.

Battle-hardened combat warriors might think they have no use for conscientious objectors. But they've probably never met a conscientious objector quite like Pfc. Desmond T. Doss.

Directed by Mel Gibson, the movie tells the true story of Doss, a Lynchburg, Va., native who voluntarily enlisted in the Army but would not carry a weapon, even when threatened with court-martial.

The special screening opened with a short greeting from Gibson to AUSA members. Then came the film. The first hour is relatively slow-paced and placid, showing Doss' rural boyhood in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, the son of a hard-drinking World War I veteran (portrayed by Hugo Weaving) who is haunted by the trauma of combat and the loss of some very close friends at Belleau Wood.

That first hour also shows the young adult Doss, played by Andrew Garfield, enlisting and heading to basic training under a typically hard-bitten drill sergeant (Vince Vaughan), who doesn't have much use for Doss' application for conscientious objector status and his refusal to touch a weapon—character traits that are not fully explained until later in the film.

That first hour is the calm before the storm. Once it starts raining, it pours, as Gibson portrays the hellish combat carnage of Okinawa in May 1945 in-



Mark Rogers photos



In "Hacksaw Ridge," Andrew Garfield, above, portrays Pfc. Desmond T. Doss, a conscientious objector who received the Medal of Honor after pulling dozens of soldiers to safety during the Battle of Okinawa. Vince Vaughan, center left, plays Doss' drill sergeant.

credibly visceral detail.

Amid the blood and guts, Doss goes from being his unit's oddball pariah to an object of awestruck admiration among his fellow soldiers as well as his commanders for refusing to abandon the wounded, no matter how heavy the enemy fire was and the number of

shredded, mangled corpses he had to wade through to find survivors.

Doss is credited with saving about 75 fellow soldiers, carrying them one by one to the edge of a cliff and lowering them by an improvised litter in an evacuation that took hours. On subsequent days, he exposed himself to

enemy fire to save others.

AUSA meeting attendees who took the opportunity to catch the special screening seemed duly impressed.

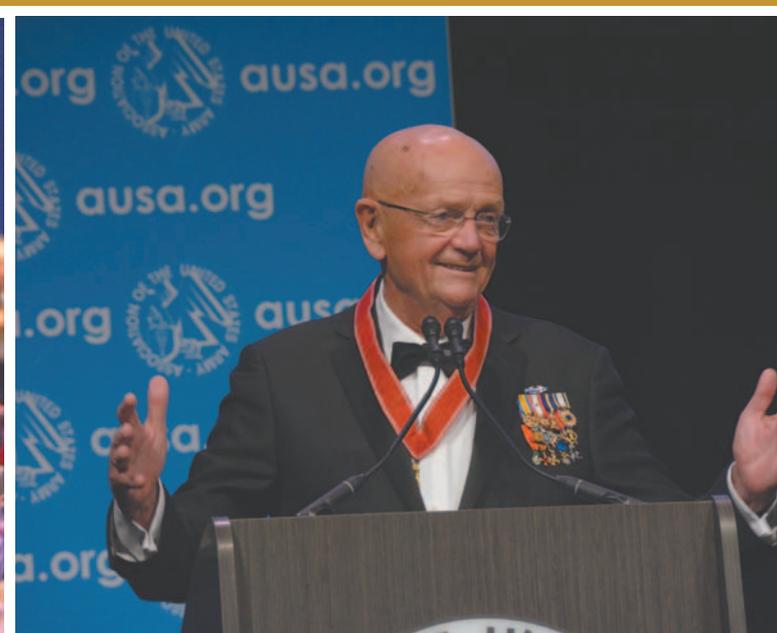
"An amazing story of a guy who stuck to his principles and didn't let peer pressure, or any kind of pressure, deter him from doing what he believed in," said Staff Sgt. Chris Cummings, a combat engineer with the Army Reserve's 478th Engineer Battalion at Fort Thomas, Ky.

"Breathtaking ... the true spirit of human beings," agreed Sgt. 1st Class Jarrod Kreitzer, an automated logistics NCO with the Ohio National Guard's 371st Sustainment Brigade, based in Springfield, Ohio.

The R-rated movie is scheduled for wide U.S. release on Nov. 4. It had its world premiere Sept. 4 at the Venice Film Festival. **DN**



Faces of AUSA



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