



KC-AUSA News

Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Association of the United States Army

www.kcausa.org

January 2009

ANOTHER YEAR OF EXCELLENCE

KCAUSA wraps up 2008, looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2009

The Greater Kansas City Chapter of AUSA wrapped up a great year of Soldier support and community awareness work and members of the board are working hard to make 2009 a year of new successes.

In 2008, KCAUSA conducted a Corporate Appreciation Reception in February; supported AUSA National at the Army Installation Symposium in Kansas City in April; participated in the AUSA 5th Region Meetings and in regional ROTC graduation ceremonies in May; and conducted a huge Heart of America Birthday Celebration and a Veteran's Stand Down in June.

In August and September, members of the chapter participated in leadership training; visited local area ROTC programs; supported the 418th Civil Affairs Battalion during their

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Photo by Mark H. Wiggins

Member volunteers from the KC Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), KCAUSA and the Leavenworth Chapter of the VFW gather for a group photo with the family of Kansas Army National Guard Soldier Sean Resare and his wife Kim, Oct. 4, 2008, at the second annual OPERATION SOLDIER ASSIST.

deployment; participated in the Kansas City Royals Military Appreciation Day; and conducted a breakfast meeting with Terry Buckler, the youngest member of the Son Tay Raid mission.

In October, KCAUSA conducted

Your Chapter Needs You

In 2008 the Greater Kansas City Chapter of AUSA conducted or participated in a myriad of events and activities. True to the nature of non-profit organizations such as ours and the nature of volunteerism in general, we have a core group of members who carry the load for all of us. Suffice it to say, there's room for more of us to get on board with a project or event.

Make it a 2009 resolution--help us support Soldiers and educate our community on Soldier and national defense issues. Whether you're an individual or corporate member, contact any of the board members with your ideas or your willingness to help.--Our Soldiers, our Army, our military, our community and our Nation need our voices and support.

2009 Resolutions reflect continued focus on key issues in manning, budget, policy and resources

By Gen. Gordon Sullivan, U.S. Army, Ret.
President, AUSA National

As we approach the transition and promises of transformation with a new President, number 44, and a new Congress, the 111th, the needs of the Army have not changed. In fact, the pending transition/transformation may even require greater allocation of national resources.

AUSA will maintain its position on increased end strength, increased share of the

base DoD budget and the need for preservation of those policies and resource levels to maintain our terrific all-volunteer force. Our 2009 resolutions reflect our focus on those issues.

Our new national leadership in the White House and Congress must recognize that there has been a paradigm shift regarding forces of a strategic nature. As a nation,



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Chapter President's Note

Can you recall a time in your life when time seemed so precious? Look at our economy, the politics of the day, a new president, persistent conflicts around the world and, oh yes, your own family and job. Technology has created more options allowing us to accomplish significantly more in the same time. Simply put, we are busier than previous generations used to be.

Our society and culture are built on the premise of interdependence. The give-and-get principle validates that the more you give, the more you get. It is therefore crucial that we maintain our focus and obligation to give – to help others, even as we are being pulled in many directions. Luck favors the prepared mind. If we put ourselves in a position for good things to happen, we probably won't be disappointed.

The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the AUSA has benefitted from more choices as well. Rather, those we serve have benefitted. In 2008,



Photo by Mark H. Wiggins

KCAUSA President Rick Katz, fourth from left, pauses for a photo with KCAUSA and VFW volunteers on the morning of Operation Soldier Assist, Oct. 4, 2008. From the right is KCAUSA Board Member Mike Katzman, Diane Boeger, Executive VP, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Bob Forman, Chairman, and Col. (Ret.) Mike Neer, Immediate Past President.

our chapter submitted 186 “Chapter Activity Reports.” These reports represent various activities ranging from Supporting the Army Recruiting Command to our Army Birthday Celebration to ROTC events to Wounded Warrior events and more.

Our continued success and ability to serve those who serve us is contingent upon your choice to participate. Your level of commitment can range from participating in an event to being a part of our leadership. We understand that we are competing for your time and resources. When you commit your time and those resources, remember our freedom and what needs to be done to maintain it. Affirm your voice for our Army and support for our Soldiers. We benefit from your presence and participation. Please call or write me today to identify how you can help the association and in turn support our soldiers.

Respectfully,

Rick Katz, President

2009 Major Events

April 4

KU ROTC Ranger Challenge

April 27-29

AUSA's ILW Army Installations Symposium & Exposition
Kansas City Convention Center

May

AUSA 5th Region Meetings

June 13

Heart of America Army Birthday Celebration with guest of honor Gen. (Ret.) Barry R. McCaffrey

September

10th Anniversary of the Greater Kansas City Chapter with honored guest speaker Gen. (Ret.) Gordon Sullivan, AUSA President

October 5-7

AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC

KCAUSA Monthly Board Meeting

First Thursday of the month--specific times/locations are announced each month. All members are welcome.

More details on scheduled events are always available on the KCAUSA web site at www.kcausa.org.

KC-AUSA News

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AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization committed to supporting America's Army--Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees, and family members. AUSA represents Soldiers by providing a voice for all components of the Army; fostering public support of the Army's role in national security; and providing professional education and information programs.

Sullivan, from p1

we must have a defense establishment that is trained and ready to execute successful missions across the entire spectrum of expected engagements, from homeland security to large-scale conflict. The list of elements across this spectrum grows almost daily: cyber-terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, sleeper cells, existing nuclear club members, conventional forces and so on. *Our new leaders must focus on two challenges: the economy and the existing threats to our nation. This includes our two theater wars, Iraq and Afghanistan.*

The paradigm shift I mention is the existence of a new strategic triad to meet current wars and future threats. This new strategic paradigm is landpower: Army soldiers, marines and special operations forces. Recognition of such does not diminish the need to maintain the world's best Navy and Air Force. Today the fight—or prevention of the fight—is more of a joint effort than ever.

Today we have an Army of more than one million, including active, Guard and Reserve. *We have more than 130,000 troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan—active, Guard and Reserve. The mix of the three components in combat is significant, as the role of the citizen-soldier has gone from strategic reserve to operational reserve. Today, that operational reserve is committed. In theater, airmen and sailors supplement the ground forces. That alone speaks to the need for a larger landpower force—soldiers and marines. I worry, however, that because of campaign rhetoric and the state of the economy, we might face a reduction in strength and budget.*

A fall 2008 Wall Street Journal article—“Boots on the Ground or Weapons in the Sky?”—cited the dilemma the new administration will face regarding national defense policies and funding as “This-War-itis” versus “Next-War-itis.” There is ongoing internal debate over what kind of wars we should prepare to fight.

One faction favors buying state-

President Barack Obama dances with Sgt. Margaret H. Herrera while first lady Michelle Obama dances with Marine Corps Sgt. Elidio Guillen at the Commander-in-Chief's Ball at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2009. The ball honored America's servicemembers, families, the fallen and wounded warriors



Photo Courtesy www.army.mil

of-the-art weapons systems that would be useful in traditional conflict with a nation like Russia or China. They argue that it is far too soon to conclude that U.S. forces will never fight a conventional war again. They note that China has been dramatically expanding its military. They also note that Russia's recent invasion of Georgia showed that the United States might one day have to fight Moscow on behalf of American allies like Poland and Ukraine.

The other side believes the military should prepare for grinding insurgencies that closely resemble the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. They argue that the enthusiasm for advanced weapons systems is misplaced, contending that a battery of expensive weapons are useless in counterinsurgency conflicts like Iraq.

For the most part, soaring defense budgets since 9/11 have long kept Pentagon officials from having to settle the debate, providing plenty of money for each side's priorities. For 2009, the Pentagon's base budget is \$512 billion, which is up approximately 7 percent from 2008 and at a historic level. The Army's share is \$140 billion for its base budget. Last year, supplemental spending for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan added more than \$100 billion to the Pentagon's coffers for that budget year.

This is beginning to change, however, a casualty of the widening global financial crisis. With the economy slowing and the tab for the government's bailout of the private sector spiraling

higher, the two competing schools of thought each warn that making the wrong decisions now could imperil U.S. national security down the road. *The final decision will ultimately fall to the new administration, which will have to decide how to divvy up what may be a significantly smaller defense budget.*

The defense of our nation is a responsibility shared by the new administration, Congress and the citizenry. It is important that citizens stay informed and engaged. We must never lose sight of that—the factions, movements and nations that we fight today will eagerly exploit any weakness shown.

When they conducted a joint press conference at the AUSA Annual Meeting in October, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and Secretary of the Army Pete Geren raised some basic questions that need to be answered: What does our nation want the Army to do? What is the proper role of the Guard and Reserve? What will be our access to the Guard and Reserve? What's the role of contractors? What are we willing to pay for this Army?

Today we need an Army of 700,000 for our active forces, a share of the DoD budget of at least 28 percent (vice the traditional 24 percent), and a defense budget equal to 4 percent of our gross domestic product. This is not extravagant—it is a necessity if we are to continue to remain strong to fight and win our nation's wars, today and tomorrow.

Year, from p1

the second annual Operation Soldier Assist project with the KC Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) and sent a delegation to the AUSA National Meeting and Symposium.

In November chapter members participated in Retiree Activity Day at Fort Leavenworth; attended Veteran's Day Ceremonies and presentations; and participated in the Kansas City Chiefs Military Appreciation Day; and supported a Fall Veteran's Stand Down in the city.

In December, the chapter conducted a general membership meeting focused around the Army-Navy football game; supported toy drives for Christmas;

assisted a corporate member in providing gifts for the families of two deployed Soldiers over Christmas; participated in a HOOAH (Helping Our Own at Home) strategy meeting with the Henry Leavenworth Chapter of AUSA; and provided representation at the special chapter chartering and officer induction ceremony of the new Northeast Kansas Chapter of Gold Star Mothers.

One could say that's a lengthy list by any measure. The key to achieving success in these activities is the strength of chapter member volunteers.

"I guarantee you that most of the events we conducted or participated in last year were a direct result of the hard work of two people-- Diane

Boeger, our executive VP and Mike Neer, our immediate past president," said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mark Wiggins, VP Communications. "Certainly many of us were always involved, but it's very apparent to all of us that Diane is the quintessential energizer bunny when it comes to organizing and executing Chapter activities in support of Soldiers...and let it not go unsaid, our Army Birthday Celebrations are literally 'birthed' by Mike Neer."

KCAUSA has already begun detailed planning for the major events in 2009. Contact Mike Neer to support planning for the Army Birthday Celebration that is scheduled for Saturday, June 13 (The Army Birthday is June 14.).



Clockwise from top, right:

- 2LT Mundie, left, representing the youngest Soldiers present, along with the oldest, Col. Shockey, right, assist the senior officers with the cake cutting at the 2008 Army Birthday Celebration in Kansas City.
- Soldiers from Fort Leavenworth along with Soldiers from Fort Riley, Kan. in period uniforms participate in the ceremonial removal of the Fallen Soldier Table during the Army Birthday Celebration.
- Guests enjoy dancing at the Army Birthday Celebration.
- KCAUSA President Rick Katz gets a photo with Gen. (Ret.) Eric K. Shinseki, former Army Chief of Staff, the guest speaker at the 2008 Army Birthday celebrations. In the center photo, Gen. Shinseki delivers remarks during the formal portion of the evening. The 2009 event will feature Gen. (Ret.) Barry McCaffrey as the guest speaker.

Photos by Mark H. Wiggins



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Mike Symanski delivers remarks at the February 2008 Corporate Appreciation Reception at the Truman Library and Museum.

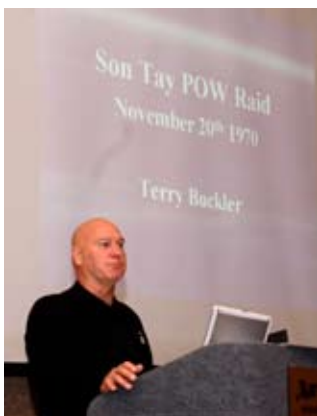
Col. (Ret.) Bob Maggio, KCAUSA Chief Financial Officer, sports his "Beat Navy" pin at the general membership meeting and Army-Navy game party in December 2008.



Below, Bruce Boeger, Mike Neer, Diane Boeger, Rick Katz, Mark Wiggins and June Neer take a group photo during the Army-Navy game.



Capt. (Ret.) Gary Welch, right, and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Mike Symanski chew the fat during the Army-Navy game in December. Below, Diane Boeger presents a corporate member with an appreciation certificate.



Left, Terry Buckler, the youngest member of the raid on the Son Tay prison camp in North Vietnam provides KCAUSA members and guests with a presentation in September on his experiences in the training, preparation and execution of the 1970 raid to rescue our prisoners of war.

2008 Veterans Day

By Diane Boeger
Executive Vice President



Photos by Mark H. Wiggins



Staff Sgt. Sean Resare, right, and Sgt. Javier Centonzio take a photo with the daughter of their fallen buddy Sgt. Jesse Davila near the memorial stone they had placed at the Liberty Memorial in his honor.

The 90th Anniversary of Armistice Day was commemorated at a special ceremony at the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 11, 2008. The master of ceremonies was Steve Van Buskirk of the National Headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Guests enjoyed songs performed by the American Legion Band to begin the ceremony. Many guests of honor included Reverend Scott Borderud from Fort Leavenworth and Missouri Congressman Emanuel Clever. Walter Barga, Missouri poet Laureate beautifully read "In Flanders Fields." Dr. Steven Trout of Fort Hays State University gave a very interesting talk entitled "No Longer Forgotten: America's First World War." A very moving part of the Ceremony was the placing and removal of the POW/MIA Chair Cover by special guest of honor Robert Rice, WWII Veteran, the Sole Survivor of the USS Gloucester.

This ceremony was specifically unique and special to KCAUSA because this is the first year money was raised in conjunction with our Operation Soldier Assist Project to help buy a memorial stone to be placed in the Walk of Honor which was also commemorated on this day. This memorial stone was purchased and placed for Sgt. Jesse Davila, a Kansas Army National Guardsman who was killed in action by an IED explosion in February 2006. Riding in the same vehicle in which Sgt. Davila was killed was Staff Sgt. Sean Resare, this year's Operation Soldier Assist Project 2008 Recipient.

KCAUSA attendees at this event included Diane Boeger, Executive Vice-President, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mark Wiggins, Vice-President of Public Affairs & Communications, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Mike Symanski, Vice-President of Guard & Reserve Affairs, Capt. Adam Symanski, son of Mike Symanski, Staff Sgt. Sean Resare with special friends and family, and Sgt. Javier Centonzio, who spearheaded the organization of the Memorial Stone Project.

Our 'B & B'

By Lt. Gen. Robert H. Forman, U.S. Army, Ret.
Chairman-KCAUSA Board of Advisors

No our "B and B" is not bed and breakfast, rather it is "Books and Bucks." That is what our cadet support program is about. We are collecting books for donation to cadet libraries, and dollars to support cadet memberships in AUSA.

The result thus far is we have collected about 200 good books and about \$500.

We have furnished about 260 memberships at six universities at a cost of \$3,600 to your chapter. We need to collect about \$3000 more, so any and all donations are very welcome. This is a superb program

that needs your help.

In the past you have heard me say many times that our young men and women are joining ROTC at a very high rate.--Our nation is at war, and they are responding just as we would hope and expect. Our "B&B" program is our opportunity to start the cadets' affiliation with their professional organization, AUSA. They will receive their individual copy of the *Army Magazine* as well as many of the other very fine AUSA publications and professional benefits.

Send a check to the chapter (cadet program) and if you have some



appropriate books you would like to donate (and probably make your spouse very happy) just call us and we will arrange a pick up.

Greater KC Chapter of AUSA—Corporate Members

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Advertising opportunities available to KCAUSA corporate members

The Greater Kansas City Chapter of AUSA is now offering general advertising opportunities for corporate members on the Chapter web site. Rates are very low, starting at \$200 for a "run of site" for one month. Space is limited, so contact Mark Wiggins at mark.wiggins@kcausa.org for more details.

Other opportunities to promote your business come as a result of specific sponsorship of chapter events. Any breakfast event or chapter gathering with a printed program and other materials represents an opportunity to both support your chapter and generate some awareness about your business.

Our biggest opportunity in 2009 will again be the Army Birthday ad we will run in the *Kansas City Star*, the *Leavenworth Times* and the *Leavenworth Lamp* in recognition of the Army Birthday, June 14. By all accounts, the 2008 ad was a big success in educating the greater Kansas City community and providing corporate sponsors with great visibility. For more info about the Army Birthday ad, contact Mike Neer- mneer@kc.rr.com.

News Notes

KCAUSA continues support of Veterans Stand Down

By Capt. Gary Welch, U.S. Army, Ret.
KCAUSA Board of Directors

Last June, the greater Kansas City Chapter of AUSA participated in the semi-annual homeless veterans standown for nations veterans residing in the area. Some six hundred men and women received shirts, pants, socks, shoes, blankets, overcoat, underwear and toilet articles.

In addition to their duffle stuffed with brand new clothing, medical, dental, legal, job corps, hair cuts, showers, aids counseling, and a terrific noon meal was made available to our

Disney Parks offer military free, multi-day admissions to Theme Parks in 2009

With the “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute” offer, active and retired U.S. military personnel, including active and retired members of the United States Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reservists, can enjoy complimentary, multi-day admission into Disney’s U.S. theme parks, great rates at select Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort hotels, and additional special ticket offers for family members and friends.

For information regarding “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute” at the Disneyland Resort in Southern California, or to make reservations, military personnel may call 714/956-6424.

For information on the “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute” offer at Walt Disney World Resort or the Disneyland Resort in Florida, or to make reservations, active and retired U.S. Military personnel may call the ITT office on their base. Information about “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute” offer at Walt Disney World Resort is also available at www.disneyworld.com/military.

homeless heroes. Also for those that wanted religious counseling, it too was made available.

As usual many KCAUSA members along with their family members volunteered to assist.--No less than 18 chapter volunteers participated in this wonderful two day event. The beginning of the week was rainy and cold, but as the time drew near, our “weather man” believed in our cause and provided clear and warm days.

KCAUSA will continue to support Veterans Stand Down in 2009.--Stay tuned for dates to volunteer.

New commissary opens in KC

The Richards-Gebaur Commissary opened Jan. 27. Located just south of Grandview, Mo., the store’s address is 15615 Kensington Drive, Kansas City, Mo.

Store hours are Sunday, 11 a.m. -5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The store is closed Mondays.

New Gold Star Mothers raise funds for veteran’s memorial

The Northeast Kansas Chapter of Gold Star Mothers in Leavenworth, Kansas are having a large Indoor Sale that will raise funds for the Veteran’s Memorial they are planning to build.

The sale will take place at the American Legion Post #23 on Saturday February 21st, 2009 from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

Kansas veterans hunt and fish for free

Legal Kansas residents who have been separated from the armed services under honorable conditions and have a disability certified by the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs with a disability rating of 30 percent or more may apply for free 2009 hunting and fishing licenses in the State of Kansas.

The free licenses are also available to active members of the Kansas National Guard.

Visit the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks’ website at <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us> to submit an application.

Save the Date! Army Birthday Celebration 2009

The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Association of the United States Army requests the pleasure of your company at the Celebration of the United States Army’s 234th Birthday. This year’s guest of honor is Gen. Barry McCaffrey, U.S. Army, Retired.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, 5:30 p.m., June 13, at the Westin Crown Center, One East Pershing Road Kansas City, Missouri.

Dress for the evening is formal: military mess/dress uniform, tuxedo, Class A uniform, or business suit.

Please RSVP before June 2, 2009 to KCAUSA. Mike Neer is once again our program lead on this great event.



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