

Where the Army goes so goes the Army Reserve

By Robert Martin 26 April 2019



Stephen Austin, Assistant Chief of Army Reserve, was the guest speaker at this year's USAR birthday celebration at the Army War College. Austin briefly talked about the history of the Army Reserve in Bliss Hall, April 25.

Army War College celebrates 111 years' contributions of U.S. Army Reserve

USAWC student Col. David Parker opened the ceremony today in Bliss Hall to celebrate 111 years of the USAR.

"The Army Reserve began in 1908 through the vision of Elihu Root and Emory Upton," said Parker. "Today we know the Army Reserve as an operational force, providing essential capability to the total force on an ongoing basis," he said.

Parker introduced guest speaker Stephen Austin, Assistant Chief of Army Reserve.

Austin briefly talked about the history of the Army Reserve and its force structure.

“We want [reservists] to be ready as possible, but not so ready that they have to sacrifice their families, jobs or careers,” said Austin. “It’s a balancing act for someone that can balance two jobs at one time. I have never lived that -- I have tremendous respect for that.”

“It is a relationship, it is a family, the active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard. Now we are celebrating a birthday of one of our family members. That is the Army Reserve,” Austin said.

Austin became the Assistant Chief of Army Reserve on October 4, 2015. He serves as the primary advisor to the Chief of Army Reserve within Headquarters, Department of the Army. Prior to assuming this position, he was the Chief Financial Officer and Director, Resource Management and Materiel for the Army Reserve. He served 27 years as active duty Army officer.

A veteran of the Civil War, Gen. Emory Upton analyzed the German Army on behalf of Gen. William T. Sherman; his insights on U.S. military history and arguments for necessary U.S. military innovations influenced Secretary of War Elihu Root, 1899-1905, in the “Root Reforms” which included reorganization of the Army and establishment of the U.S. Army War College, in 1901.