

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, February 7, 2020

CULTURE

[CSMs could be screened the same way as battalion commanders](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 3 Feb 2020]

The Army is exploring how to test and screen its command sergeants major in ways that mirror the new [Battalion Commander Assessment Program](#), but it would be a few years before the potential changes were made. The new program, called BCAP, includes tests for cognitive skills that measure conscious intellectual effort, like memory and reasoning, as well as non-cognitive traits, such as integrity, interpersonal interaction and motivation.

[Marines Swap WWII-Era Test for One That Could Change Officer Assignments](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 31 Jan 2020]

The Marine Corps is no longer using a World War II-era General Classification Test new officers have been taking for decades. In its place is an aptitude test (the Criteria Cognitive Aptitude Test, or CCAT) millions of civilians take every year during the hiring process for major corporations.

[Calling all Marines: Corps on the hunt for cast of its next recruiting ad](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 31 Jan 2020]

The message is about “communicating belonging, resiliency, and teamwork through our ‘first chapter’ transformation story of Making Marines via recruit training,” [the administrative message](#) announcing the casting call said.

DISCRIMINATION

[Twin Cities refinery to pay \\$75K to settle dispute over worker needing service dog](#) [Paul Walsh, *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minn.), 5 Feb 2020]

A military veteran who was denied use of a service animal by her Twin Cities employer has won \$75,000 in a settlement brokered by state human rights officials.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Bayard Rustin, Gay Civil Rights Leader, Is Pardoned in California](#) [Jill Cowan, *The New York Times*, 5 Feb 2020]

The civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, whose legacy had been tarnished by a 1953 conviction under laws that targeted L.G.B.T.Q. people, was posthumously pardoned by Gov. Gavin Newsom of California on Tuesday...

DIVERSITY

[NASA’s record-setting Koch, crewmates safely back from space](#) [Vladimir Isachenkov, *AP*, 7 Feb 2020]

NASA astronaut Christina Koch, who spent nearly 11 months in orbit to set a record for the longest spaceflight by a woman, landed safely Thursday in Kazakhstan along with two International Space Station crewmates...

Koch, who grew up in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and now lives near the Gulf of Mexico in Galveston, Texas, with her husband, Bob, told The Associated Press last month that taking part in the first all-female spacewalk was the highlight of her mission.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Barnes & Noble cancels plan to put people of color on the covers of classic books after backlash](#)

[David Williams, CNN, 5 Feb 2020]

Barnes & Noble says it is canceling a Black History Month event at its flagship New York store and suspending plans to release a series of classic novels with new cover art featuring people of color.

[Deborah A. Batts, First Openly Gay Federal Judge, Dies at 72](#) [Katharine Q. Seelye and Benjamin

Weiser, *New York Times*, 5 Feb 2020]

Deborah A. Batts, the first openly gay judge to sit on the federal bench, who presided over prominent cases involving political corruption, terrorism and the Central Park Five civil case, died on Monday at her home in Manhattan. She was 72.

[Military families to address Congress about troubled DOD program for special needs children](#) [Rose

L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 4 Feb 2020]

Wednesday's hearing before the House Armed Services Committee will be the first time in more than a decade that House members will get an update on the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), and lawmakers aim to better understand the program, how it supports military families and how the Defense Department evaluates its effectiveness and efficiency, said Monica Matoush, the Democratic spokeswoman for the House committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Facial Recognition Moves into a New Front: Schools](#) [Davey Alba, *New York Times*, 6 Feb 2020]

A district in upstate New York has adopted the technology in the name of safety. Opponents cite privacy and bias concerns...

In December, the federal government released a study, one of the largest of its kind, that found that most commercial facial recognition systems exhibited bias, [falsely identifying African-American and Asian faces 10 to 100 times more than Caucasian faces](#). Another [federal study](#) found a [higher rate of mistaken matches among children](#).

MISCONDUCT

[New officer job assignment system will fight nepotism, Army leaders say](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 6 Feb 2020]

The Army already factored in the possibility of nepotism before it rolled out its new job assignment system for officers, three of the service's generals overseeing personnel matters said Thursday. They're confident the new market-style hiring system, dubbed "Assignment Interactive Module 2.0," will simultaneously cut down on the potential for nepotism in hiring decisions, while also helping the service to identify preferential treatment if or when it does occur.

RACISM

[Signs of white supremacy, extremism up again in poll of active-duty troops](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 6 Feb 2020]

More than one-third of all active-duty troops and more than half of minority service members say they have personally witnessed examples of white nationalism or ideological-driven racism within the ranks in recent months, according to the latest survey of active-duty Military Times readers.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Lawmaker Wants More Tools to Confront White Supremacy in the Military](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 6 Feb 2020]

Amid a recent [trend](#) in the military of service members being discovered with links to white supremacist or neo-Nazi ideology and activity, one lawmaker is pushing for the services to take a more interventionist stance, stepping in with action and education as problems emerge. Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Maryland, vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, submitted language in the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act requiring a question on routine command-climate surveys regarding troops' experience of these behaviors in their work environment. A version of his amendment did make it into the final policy bill, but the language was, to him, disappointingly watered down.

[Coast Guard officer-terror suspect sentenced for guns, drugs](#) [Michael Kunzelman, *AP*, 31 Jan 2020]

A Coast Guard lieutenant accused by prosecutors of being a domestic terrorist intent on committing politically motivated killings inspired by a far-right mass murderer was sentenced Friday to more than 13 years in prison for firearms and drug offenses.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Nearly 100 Years after Tulsa Massacre, City Plans to Search Cemetery for Victims](#) [Mihir Zaveri, *New York Times*, 5 Feb 2020]

Archaeologists plan to excavate part of a cemetery in Tulsa, Okla., to see if it holds the remains of black residents slaughtered by white mobs during a massacre in 1921. The mayor said Wednesday it was an "unprecedented" step to address one of the worst instances of racist violence in American history, an episode that for decades was rarely acknowledged in public by city leaders.

RELIGION

[Navy chaplain's "Lead like Jesus" message roils command staffs](#) [Carl Prine, *Navy Times*, 31 Jan 2020]

An emailed advertisement from the base chaplain urging commanders to "Lead Like Jesus" has irked dozens of senior leaders at Naval Station Newport and sparked a demand by the [Military Religious Freedom Foundation](#) to investigate the ad and punish those who sent it.

[Religious freedom group objects to talk urging Navy personnel to "lead like Jesus"](#) [AP, 31 Jan 2020]

An organization that advocates for the religious freedom of military members requested Friday that the commander of Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island investigate those responsible for promoting a discussion series that urges Navy personnel to "Lead like Jesus."

[REPRINT: [1](#), [2](#)]

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Senators request Pentagon briefing after report shows rise in sexual assaults at military academies](#)

[Caitlin M. Kenney, *Stars and Stripes*, 3 Feb 2020]

A bipartisan group of senators has requested a briefing from the Pentagon following the release of an annual report that showed an increase in sexual assaults at the military academies.

[Military Sexual Trauma Survivors Call on Presidential Candidates to Sign Reform Pledge](#) [Dorothy Mills-Gregg, *Military.com*, 31 Jan 2020]

Eleven of the 15 candidates running for president have signed onto Protect Our Defenders' [pledge](#) to eliminate chain-of-command prosecutorial authority in "non-military crimes like rape and murder."

[Sexual assault court-martial for Naval Academy midshipman postponed](#) [Selene San Felice, *The Capital Gazette*, 30 Jan 2020]

The trial of a Naval Academy midshipman charged with sexual assault and burglary has been postponed to May. Third Class Midshipman Nixon Keago was charged in October with sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, burglary and obstruction of justice for incidents at the Annapolis military school in February, September and October 2018 and in New York in May.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

SUICIDE

[Marine Corps Suicide Rate Declines, Navy Rate Rises in 2019](#) [Ben Werner, *USNI News*, 6 Feb 2020]

In 2019, 47 active-duty Marines committed suicide—11 fewer than in 2018—while the Navy reported 72 suicides, four more than a year earlier, according to preliminary totals from both services. The Marine Corps suicide rate for the calendar year 2019 was 25.3 per 100,000 active-duty Marines, a decrease from the rate of 30.7 per 100,000 active-duty Marines in 2018.

[Air Force deaths by suicide spiked by one-third in 2019](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 31 Jan 2020]

The Air Force on Friday said that 137 uniformed airmen—active duty, Guard and Reserve—and Air Force civilian employees died by suicide in calendar year 2019.

That represents roughly a 33 percent increase over the 103 deaths by suicide in the Air Force the previous year.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Army hopes quality-of-life improvements will reduce soldier suicides in Alaska](#) [Wyatt Olson, *Stars and Stripes*, 4 Feb 2020]

The Army has launched a series of improvements aimed at reducing the risk of suicide in Alaska after a spike in deaths that peaked last year, the service said Monday. The short and long-term initiatives — better access to behavioral health care, improved fitness facilities, healthier food options and blackout blinds to battle sleep issues — are an attempt to "enrich the morale and quality of life for troops and families" stationed with U.S. Army Alaska, an Army news release said.

VETERANS

[VA, DOD recommended PTSD therapies don't help many military patients, review finds](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military Times*, 4 Feb 2020]

The psychotherapy approaches [considered](#) by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense to be front-line treatments for military-related PTSD don't work for up to two-thirds of patients, a new [report](#) published in JAMA Insights finds.

[Commander of ill-fated Fitzgerald among veterans with PTSD helped by innovative writing and arts program](#) [Dylan Gresik, *Military Times*, 4 Feb 2020]

[Community Building Art Works \(CBAW\)](#) is the outgrowth of a successful "multi-hospital arts program" implemented at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, and Fort Belvoir, Virginia, under the tutelage of Seema Reza, chair and executive director. Reza, a poet, essayist and published author, sought to leverage art and writing to help heal the invisible wounds of war. CBAW hosts monthly and weekly writing workshops at military hospitals, online writing sessions and service member art exhibits and live performances, like Thursday night's gathering.

[Joe Vandever Sr., Navajo Code Talker, dies at 96](#) [Claire Colbert, *CNN*, 2 Feb 2020]

Joe Vandever Sr., a member of the top-secret Navajo Code Talker program that developed an unbreakable code language during World War II, has died, according to Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Hiroshima bomb photographer John McGlohon dies at 96](#) [Larry Penkava, *The Courier Tribune* (Asheboro, N.C.), 3 Feb 2020]

John McGlohon, retired Asheboro fire chief and city council member best known for taking a photo of the Hiroshima bomb, died Sunday, Feb. 2, at Randolph Hospice House. He was 96 years old.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

["Ready to help:" VA asks sick veterans from toxic "black goo" base to come forward](#) [Tara Kopp, *McClatchy Washington Bureau*, 5 Feb 2020]

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie acknowledged publicly Wednesday that service members who deployed to an Uzbekistan base used after the 9/11 attacks may have been exposed to toxic substances, asking for them to come forward to get help.

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