



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – Nov. 16-22, 2021

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CHIEF PINNING:

[Naval Postgraduate School Pins Three Sailors As Chief Petty Officers](#)

(NPS.edu 22 Nov 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tom Tonthat

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(CIMSEC 16 Nov 21) ... Scott Humr

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[NPS Marine Corps Student to Compete in National Judo Competition](#)

(NPS.edu 19 Nov 21) ... Javier Chagoya

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FACULTY:

[It's Time to Be Honest About Fossil Fuels' Role in Energy Transition](#)

(Foreign Policy 15 Nov 21) ... Brenda Shaffer

The global energy crisis has hit U.S. shores: Fuel prices are rising, and a global supply shortage of natural gas is driving up the cost of heat and electricity as winter approaches. The Biden administration, worried that rising energy prices could cost votes and kneecap its ability to implement policies, has begged OPEC to pump more oil and Russia to step up gas supplies to Europe. At the same time, the Republicans have no useful energy policy alternative on offer. The United States needs a fundamentally new energy policy that will deliver reliable energy supplies at affordable prices with low impact on the environment and climate... Brenda Shaffer is a faculty member at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**, a senior advisor for energy at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center.



[Assessing the Effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security, 20 Years After 9/11](#)

(Watson Institute 7 Nov 21) ... Erik J. Dahl

Of the 230 thwarted violent attacks in the U.S. classified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as terrorism, so-called “domestic” plots have significantly outnumbered plots from “foreign terrorist organizations” since 9/11... Erik J. Dahl is an associate professor of National Security Affairs, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

[New Book Offers Shortsighted History of the Long Jihad](#)

(Jewish News Syndicate 18 Nov 21) ... Andrew E. Harrod

(MeForum.org 18 Nov 21) ... Andrew E. Harrod

“Ninety percent of the stuff that gets written on global jihad is just junk” and “usually replete with ‘Islamophobia,’ ” stated **Naval Postgraduate School** professor Glenn E. Robinson during a Nov. 10 webinar on his new book, *Global Jihad: A Brief History*. Although unusually objective for Georgetown University’s Saudi-founded Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU), his presentation was nevertheless fundamentally flawed.

[Your Middle Autumn Book Recommendations for 2021](#)

(Washington Post 18 Nov 21) ... Daniel W. Drezner

The hard-working staff here at Spoiler Alerts is staring into the depths of the fall semester. There are lectures to write. Papers to grade. Papers to write. Presentations to craft. And all of this is occurring as it gets colder and darker with each passing day... Emily Meierding, “The Oil Wars Myth: Petroleum and the Causes of International Conflict.” It is a long-standing belief in world politics that countries possessing natural resources like oil are ripe for invasion because great powers will try to extract such resources. A professor at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, Meierding does the most thorough job of dismantling the classic oil wars myth. She catalogues a variety of possible energy-related conflict scenarios that have been posited — and then methodically explains why none of them are terribly realistic. Her book effectively demolishes decades of arguments made by pundits, radical critics and at least one U.S. president that states will choose to go to war over oil, that the second Gulf War was mostly about oil and that the United States should have “taken the oil” from Iraq.

ALUMNI:

[Charleston Co. Deputy Administrator Completes Homeland Security Leaders Program](#)

(Live 5 News 15 Nov 21) ... Patrick Phillips

The deputy county administrator from Charleston County has completed a 12-month homeland security leadership program.

Eric Watson completed the Executive Leaders Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security Thursday.

[Space Industry Veteran Zigmund Leszczynski Named CEO of United Space Structures](#)

(Space Ref 16 Nov 21)

Space industry veteran Zigmund Leszczynski has been appointed as chief executive officer of cislunar space technology company United Space Structures (USS), which is focused on opening the new frontier of space to humanity... Leszczynski graduated from the **Naval Postgraduate School** with a M.S. in Astronautical Engineering and the United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering.

[Fort Bragg's Special Forces, Psychological Operations, Civil Affairs induct honorary members](#)

(Fayetteville Observer 17 Nov 21) ... Rachael Riley

The Special Forces, Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs community named 20 new soldiers, civilians and veterans as distinguished and honorary members during induction ceremonies this month... He was assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion after attending **Naval Post Graduate School** in 1994.



6 Wild Facts About the Deadly Creator of SEAL Team Six

(SOFREP 20 Nov 21)

These days, Richard Marcinko is a business instructor, author, and motivational speaker. In his earlier years, “Demo Dick” was the United States’ premier counterterrorism operator. Marcinko enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1958 and eventually worked his way up to the rank of commander, graduated with degrees in international relations and political science, and earned 34 medals and citations, including a Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and four Bronze Stars. But that’s just his military resume... Marcinko joined the military at 18 but, surprisingly (to some), he didn’t first opt to join the Navy. His first stop was the Marine Corps, which rejected him outright because he did not graduate from high school. So Marcinko, who would leave as a Commander, enlisted in the Navy. He later became an officer after graduating from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, earning his commission in 1965.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

November 25: Thanksgiving Day (Federal Holiday)

December 6-10: [Navy Senior Leader Seminar \(NSLS\)](#)

December 9: [Women in Computing](#)

December 17: [Fall Quarter Graduation](#)



CHIEF PINNING:

Naval Postgraduate School Pins Three Sailors As Chief Petty Officers

(NPS.edu 22 Nov 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tom Tonthat

For many decades, the Chief Petty Officer has stood as a symbol for strength, discipline and knowledge amongst the Navy's enlisted ranks. The motto "Ask the Chief" has been ingrained in the minds of junior enlisted Sailors as a reminder to look to their chief for guidance. The selection to join this fellowship holds heavy significance and is a momentous career milestone.

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) held a hybrid chief petty officer (CPO) pinning ceremony for its three new chiefs, and the CPO selectees from the neighboring Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Monterey, inside King Auditorium, Nov. 19. The event was livestreamed for all who could not attend in person.

"This milestone represents the culmination of years of hard work and sacrifice, never ending workdays, extended deployments, and long separations from loved ones," said master of ceremonies Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Jason Noble, IWTC Operations Department Chief. "It is also a tribute to the unyielding support and understanding of spouses, friends and family. Without them, this day would not have been possible."

At NPS, Chief Navy Counselor Joshua Garnsey, Chief Yeoman Lao Kue, and Chief Electronics Technician (Navigation) Andrew Reagan shared a variety of feelings upon hearing that they had been selected as chiefs.

"I was very surprised," Reagan said about the moment he learned that he was selected for advancement. "I was prepared for either outcome, but did not want to get my hopes up. It took a few days to sink in, but I was very excited overall."

"It felt surreal," said Kue. "All my emotions that I have been holding inside for many years just fell off my shoulders. It was wonderful, especially knowing that two others of my fellow selectees made it with me."

"What I felt most initially was disbelief," said Garnsey. "Having been board eligible a few times, I had not expected to be called into the Chief of Staff's office and be congratulated. What I felt immediately after was excitement to call my stepmom and my dad and give them the news that they've been waiting a long time to hear. I think that was when it really hit me."

After leading, mentoring, and watching them grow and succeed as part of the NPS enlisted staff, the enlisted leadership at NPS acknowledged and welcomed Kue, Garnsey, and Reagan as one of their own.

"As with anyone that is selected for chief, it is because the Navy saw that they were the best and fully qualified to handle the demanding job of a chief petty officer and to be the future leaders that the Navy needs," said Chief Electrician's Mate John Manning, NPS' Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL).

"I was overjoyed," remarked Chief Electrician's Mate Brian Carpenter, a former NPS SEL. "I have watched these men grow personally and professionally these past three years and was praying that this would be the year the Navy rewards their efforts. To make all three of our eligible candidates a blessing and each are deserving due to their endless contributions to our NPS brand and family."

Though their Navy career paths differed, the new chiefs' increased responsibilities at NPS paved the final steps toward attaining their chief anchors.

"NPS absolutely played a major role in preparing me to become a chief petty officer," said Reagan. "I learned a great deal about professionalism, administration, and cultural awareness of the different specialty fields of the U.S. Navy."

During the chief pinning ceremony, Noble described the meaning of each element of the CPO emblem — a fouled anchor and chain with the letters "U.S.N." affixed on top — before family and mentors pinned each chief selectee. The anchor is a representation of the trials and tribulations that chiefs face daily, while the chain is a symbol of flexibility. The anchor could also be a reminder of the weight of responsibility that now falls on these new chiefs.

"Having taken over the role of leading chief petty officer for protocol and public affairs departments a little over a year ago, I felt that I got a small glimpse into the responsibility of a CPO," said Garnsey.



“The leadership at NPS saw my potential and trusted me, not only to man the gapped [Command Career Counselor] billet, but to improve processes and run the program.”

While the “U.S.N.” lettering on the CPO emblem officially stands for the United States Navy, tradition states that each letter has its own symbolism. “U” represents unity, reminding chiefs of cooperation and maintaining harmony and continuity of purpose and action. The chiefs already witnessed the command worked with them to bring out the best in each other.

“To me, [my chief selection] is a win for us and NPS,” said Kue. “I am glad to know that the Navy sees how much we put into our Sailors and command here at NPS. Every Sailor and the leadership here played a vital part in my selection. I thank each and every one of them for helping me grow personally and professionally.”

The “S” symbolizes service, which reminds chiefs of their service to the Navy and their fellow man.

“This is the product of 15½ years of hard work,” said Garnsey. “Not just my own, but the mentors and Sailors I’ve worked with whose lessons and guidance were given to me with no immediate benefit to themselves. I see this as my opportunity to take the cumulative knowledge and apply it to the next generation of future CPOs. I am ready for this next chapter of my career to begin. I’m excited for the challenges ahead of me, and I look forward to being a member of the elite Chief’s Mess!”

“N” stands for navigation, reminding chiefs to keep themselves on a true course so they can be in charge of their transactions with all mankind, especially their fellow chiefs. Veteran chiefs now entrust their leadership to the new chiefs, who will guide current and future shipmates through the mission while adhering to the mantra of “Navy Chief, Navy Pride.”

“I am truly blessed to have served with YNC Kue, NCC Garnsey, and ETVC Reagan and am proud to see them enter the hallowed halls of the Chief’s Mess,” said Carpenter. “As I commence my retirement, I am confident that these three chiefs will continue to make NPS great.”

[Naval Postgraduate School Pins Three Sailors As Chief Petty Officers - Naval Postgraduate School \(nps.edu\)](http://www.nps.edu)

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Adapting Naval Cultures for Advantage at Sea

(CIMSEC 16 Nov 21) ... Scott Humr

Eroding U.S. military advantage coupled with a deluge of advanced technologies flooding the strategic landscape have forced Sea Service leaders to seek the ever diminishing high ground of technological overmatch. Yet, the pursuit of bleeding-edge technologies only provides a fleeting reprieve from having to ascend the next high-tech promontory. While pursuing the latest technologies is necessary, it is not sufficient to keep American military heads above water for very long.

The U.S. military’s technological advantage has eroded rapidly.¹ While technology is always changing, it is changing at an accelerating pace.² A fourth and fifth offset will likely follow DoD’s third offset strategy in the not-too-distant future.³ These offsets, like those of the past, will increase the range and deadliness of American technologies. Yet, increasingly remote warfare will require equally important changes within Sea Service culture. Naval concepts such as Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO), Littoral Operations in a Contested Environment (LOCE), and “inside force” will require a naval culture characterized by highly innovative and resilient personnel.⁴ To chart this future, the Sea Services must disregard conventional habits, determine clear metrics for change, deepen educational opportunities, and develop a collective consciousness which unites disparate warfare areas.

Practices to Jettison

Practices accumulated over the past 25 years within the Sea Services will weigh down proposed warfighting concepts and threaten to capsize efforts for change. From organizational technology to



processes, these artifacts can lend clues towards understanding the current culture's values.⁵ Conversely, practices and equipment influence the conduct of warfare, which also shape culture.⁶ Understanding this reinforcing construct provides better insight into correctly diagnosing cultural values. Just as ancient mariners would jettison cargo to stabilize their ship caught in rough seas, the Sea Services must discard practices and behaviors that burden efforts to operate effectively in the future.

Navy and Marine Corps Force Design concepts require embracing warfighting practices that place personnel in spartan locations with minimal contact for extended periods of time.⁷ Therefore, servicemembers cannot expect the same creature comforts afforded over the last 20 years of operations in Southwest Asia. Frequent connectivity to family or streaming content over camp-wide Wi-Fi would offer opportunities for a technologically advanced adversary to sense and target such locations.⁸ Standard operating procedures that require regular reporting or unremitting requests for information exchange will require adaptation or elimination to limit exposure.

American habits for employing increasing amounts of technology over the last quarter century have also created a complexity burden that is difficult to sustain. For this reason, it has become quite normal to expect a bevy of contractors to buttress communication networks and software to support logistics and security.⁹ However, naval leadership should not count on this type of help in the future. Standard support personnel will have to become multiskilled to keep manpower requirements below an acceptable threshold.¹⁰ Parallel to how the Marine Corps is evaluating the consolidation of several infantry MOSs into a single "commando MOS,"¹¹ the Sea Services must look to do the same across support functions to achieve the efficiencies the Naval Services demand.

Operating in a distributed maritime environment requires a reinvigoration of the ability to thrive in austerity. The previous experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan have bred mindsets habituated to expect uninterrupted and timely logistics support. Future logistics operations will, however, need to be reconceived when support is contested in remote locations.¹² Where feasible, EABOs will need to become networks of lateral support to each other for greater responsiveness. Only by fostering a culture of radical self-sufficiency and diversifying logistics sustainment can the Sea Services realistically maintain distributed operations. Still, habits that continue to emphasize strict hierarchies of command and control with extensive approval chains will also need to evolve to support an agile network of EABOs.

In his book, *Command: The Twenty-First-Century General*, Anthony King aptly stated, "Existing command models, derived from the twentieth century, have become increasingly obsolete in the face of new global problems."¹³ Indeed, command models that prevent maneuver warfare from the sea must be transformed. Operations that once allowed for clear separation of duties between a Commander Amphibious Task Force (CATF) and Commander Landing Force (CLF) will not likely apply well in a future characterized by multi-domain operations (MDO).¹⁴ For example, the concept of "green in support of blue" in defense of the amphibious task force and "blue in support of green" once a preponderance of forces are ashore will become amorphous under EABO. Supporting and supported roles will become fluid and complex requiring quick decision making and authorities better suited for a single commander. To guide this change, the Sea Services should experiment with combining both CATF and CLF roles under Composite Warfare Commanders (CWC).

The CWC under the single battle concept would allow for seamless decision making and deconfliction within a battle space. Analogous to how Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) operated under the leadership of General Stanly McCrystal in Iraq, the Sea Services must push authority to CWCs to operate faster than the adversary.¹⁵ Multiple CWCs could operate under a single, but agile Commander Amphibious Force (CAF). The CAF would function as the officer in tactical command who organizes CWCs and subordinate warfare commanders.¹⁶ The CAF could also deconflict requirements for strategic and low-density assets within the area of operations.

In short, the Sea Services must forgo the previous separation between the CATF and CLF while adopting a more comprehensive and agile view of CWCs to support EABO, LOCE, and other MDO at sea. Such fundamental changes will require even greater naval integration than previously sought. However, greater integration must go beyond exchanging a few liaison officers and calling it a win. Rather, Sea Service leadership must develop meaningful measurements of naval integration which can radically strengthen our common culture.



Measuring Change: Integration by Subtraction

War is a human phenomenon and how a force fights can be viewed as an extension of its culture.¹⁷ Developing closer bonds amongst the Sea Services in the future will become significant towards developing this culture. The Sea Services must therefore cast off from the shores of Service parochialism to embrace even greater integration. To be sure, developing clear metrics for measuring unit integration and capturing feedback from personnel will help shape the naval culture to compete effectively.

The 2018 National Defense Strategy and derivative Sea Service guidance, such as the Tri-Service strategy, Advantage at Sea, are orienting efforts towards a future that necessitates greater Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard integration. A novel measurement for greater Navy and Marine Corps integration is the total number of commands eliminated—or addition by subtraction.¹⁸ For instance, Commander, Marine Forces Pacific could become the Deputy Commander of U.S. 7th Fleet. 7th Fleet could also create a standing Combined Task Force (CTF) composed of Navy and Marine personnel similar to 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade to oversee multiple Marine Littoral Regiments.¹⁹ Correspondingly, Commander, Marine Forces CENTCOM (MARCENT) could become the deputy Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet with headquarters in Tampa, FL. While this could reduce several Marine Commands to a two-star level it has the greater benefit of increasing naval integration and reducing staff manpower levels for both services.

Important feedback for measuring cultural change within the Sea Services will also come from deck-plate leadership. The Services need to implement 360-degree feedback for all leaders. Such multi-source feedback can provide the valuable information needed to improve naval leadership, and by extension—culture. 360-degree assessments accomplish this by helping to identify leadership blind spots and allow meaningful corrections to be made quickly. Waiting for the results of episodic command climate surveys are no longer sufficient. This comprehensive feedback process could help empower junior leaders with the necessary candor to improve command climate almost immediately. More importantly, it will foster greater lateral cooperation amongst peers over current models that incentivize peer competition.²⁰ 360-degree feedback will allow the Sea Services to continually take the proper depth soundings of their cultures by identifying the best leaders and to avoid running the Sea Service ship aground on the hidden reefs of toxic leadership.

Educating for Cultural Change

Any successful cultural transformation requires changes to how forces are educated and trained. While Advantage at Sea properly advocates for “collaborat[ing] with allies and partners to increase exchange opportunities, including education, shore-based tours, and operational billets,” further inspection of how education is delivered is required to increase educational reach across naval institutions.²¹ The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that significant amounts of work and education can be accomplished remotely across time zones and mediums. For example, uprooting families for a six-to-ten-month long school only to move them again is not only wasteful but in many cases is completely unnecessary. Asynchronous educational opportunities are also an attractive option to provide education to more personnel who otherwise would never benefit from it. These delivery methods have the added benefit of affording military families, such as spouses who have professional careers, greater stability by allowing them to stay in a location longer.²²

Equally important, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps should jointly develop a comprehensive composite warfare commander’s course which officers from both services could attend. As mentioned above, EABO and LOCE will blur the lines between the CATF and CLF, necessitating the need to envision operations more holistically. CWCs will undoubtedly need a wide-ranging appreciation of both Marine and Navy capabilities as well as Joint Force assets. Just as all naval aviators wear a breast insignia designating their specialty, CWC school graduates, including Marines, could one day adopt a new warfare insignia designating them as CWCs. Yet, warfare cultures with unique distinctions and histories can create headwinds that buffet our progress towards change. It will therefore be important for all leaders within the Sea Services to provide the comprehensive vision for how each servicemember plays a part in delivering warfighting capabilities at sea.



A Common Culture

Major organizational change can often run up against resistance.²³ Threats to relevancy in a future fight, budget cuts, or the evolution of roles can trigger a “survival instinct” where subcultures rally against or attempt to slow-roll changes.²⁴ Indeed, loss aversion bias and sunk costs are a well-documented phenomenon regularly used to maintain the status quo.²⁵ To avoid these pitfalls, it is important to fashion disparate warfare cultures into plank owners of a more integrated naval service culture.

The Sea Services must develop a common culture characterized by a shared consciousness.²⁶ Drawing lessons from Team of Teams, future warfighting concepts must pair the best qualities of each warfare area to elicit the best outcomes.²⁷ For instance, General Stanley McCrystal was able to help create a cohesive environment for JSOC personnel, interagency organizations, military intelligence, and other disparate entities to collaborate effectively.²⁸ This allowed the various groups to not only adapt to changing intelligence faster, but also increased the operational tempo to out-cycle the enemy.²⁹ If the Sea Services are to achieve analogous efficiencies, they will require integrated training and formations that exist on a standing basis. For instance, it is rare for a typical Marine infantry unit to train with U.S. Navy sub-surface units. However, if Sea Service leadership expects units to cooperate on anti-submarine warfare (ASW), developing exercises and shared understanding for how such dissimilar units can create a symbiotic relationship is essential.³⁰ Except, such training comes at a cost. Sea Service leaders must also declare which training is no longer essential—something the services rarely do well. Warfare areas will adapt and work together when they are unfettered from non-essential training and given a credible vision for the future. It is therefore incumbent upon Sea Service leadership to clear paths for innovation at the lowest levels while also making it clear what requirements will be eliminated to create the time and space needed to meet these visions of operating together.

Hold fast...

Calling for significant changes within a culture while implementing new practices is not without its difficulties. Many may affirm that the current culture is sufficient for this new era and change may be more detrimental to the institution overall.³¹ Radical change can in fact disturb the standard processes that many have become accustomed to as they provide predictability and stability. Balancing exploitation and exploration are often areas that can come into conflict with each other when resources and time are scarce. Refining and altering processes are often needed to remain competitive. Organizations, however, can often become disillusioned and jaded by change, especially if leadership is constantly chasing and trying to shoehorn the latest technology fad into current practices. Yet, stagnation and comfortability also breed complacency within an organization. Hence, the value of good leadership in determining the right path is crucial in getting the organization to row in the same direction.

The rise of an adversarial China and Russia who violate norms of the international system demand the Sea Services pursue significant change to stem the tide of belligerent activities. Such behaviors in the South China Sea (SCS) by China, for instance, threaten the economic resources of surrounding countries through overfishing and causing catastrophic ecological damage to reefs through their dredging operations.³² Chinese construction of military outposts in the SCS not only violates the sovereignty of other nations, but also threatens freedom of navigation of all nations.³³ Additionally, Chinese Maritime Militia, or “little blue men,”³⁴ could become the equivalent of the “little green men” who helped conduct a *fait accompli* in Russia’s annexation of Crimea.³⁵

Unprofessional behavior by the Russian Navy further exacerbates tensions and places American front line leaders in precarious situations that could escalate into an unnecessary conflict.³⁶ Operating below the threshold of war has become the norm and therefore requires new approaches for where and how forces are postured to create credible deterrence. The Sea Services must pursue significant changes to develop a more integrated culture that is able to create new cost impositions for adversarial nations.³⁷

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the services can respond and change quickly. Additionally, Sea Service leaders such as the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H. Berger, have



demonstrated the ability to rapidly shape the future force without direct permissions from Congress.³⁸ Equal boldness is required to sunset bad habits and adopt better metrics to shape the culture of the naval force. Still, the Sea Services must conduct rigorous innovation and experimentation with new force design constructs and command relationships that will support efforts to outpace any enemy.³⁹ These achievements, however, will only be sustained by lashing the sails to the strong masts of the type of education that can meet the demands of a 21st century military.

The tsunami of technologies submerging the battlefields of the 21st century is unrelenting. Military technological advantages will ebb and flow. Regardless of the technology, if the culture is not prepared to use it to its advantage, much will be for naught. A truly integrated naval culture will catalyze decision cycles to attain a network of kill chains.⁴⁰ Culture is at the helm of this ship and it's the job of all Sea Service leaders to help steer it.

LtCol Scott Humr, USMC, is a student at the **Naval Postgraduate School** studying Information Sciences. He holds a Master's in Military Studies from the Marine Corps University and a Master's in Information Technology from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. His views are his own and do not necessarily represent the official views of the DoD or the government departments he is associated with.

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NPS Marine Corps Student to Compete in National Judo Competition

(NPS.edu 19 Nov 21) ... Javier Chagoya

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) electrical engineering student U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Ben Branson has been practicing judo since the age of four. After 23 years of demanding study and perfecting his craft, he'll be traveling to Irving, Texas to compete in the 2021 Team USA Judo National Presidents Cup Championships this weekend, Nov. 21.

It's been a little over a decade since Branson won gold in the 2010 U.S. Junior Open Judo Championships in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., prior to joining the Marine Corps.

With two separate deployments to Afghanistan since joining the service, there was little time for Branson to practice, or find others at his level of knowledge and performance to practice with. Getting back into competition has been a long journey.

When he arrived at NPS, he quickly became a member of a local dojo, studying under Sensei Eddie Nakao, a master with 40 years of teaching in the discipline of judo and other martial arts. The two have become respected colleagues, as Branson now assists in teaching youngsters and teens technique at the dojo. He also found an opportunity to jump back into high-level competition.

"I competed for the first time in four years in May 2020 in Reno, Nevada, at the Senior Nationals. I went 2-2," said Branson. "I'll be looking forward to getting some rematches in at this next tournament to the guys I lost to."

Branson's work ethic and commitment to the sport was instilled in him by his father who is also a judo sensei, and will actually meet Branson at the competition where they'll both compete in separate divisions.

"My father was a sensei growing up in Anderson, Indiana, and [judo] was very much a part of my life. Both of my parents were there to support me in all those matches, and I enjoyed traveling with the judo club and competing in tournaments with the family," he said.

Though quiet and unassuming, Branson applies an impressive level of focus, discipline and commitment to his many priorities ... family, the Marine Corps, graduate studies and the upcoming competition.

"I'll be ready," he says with conviction. "It's tough dividing time between family, master's degree and trying to get ready, but for me getting ready and pushing myself will make me a better father and a



better husband for my family. I want my kids to see how hard their dad pushes himself so they have an example of what hard work can do for them someday.”

Following the upcoming competition, Branson also has his sights on the next season of the Military World Games, which will be held in Germany in March 2022.

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FACULTY:

It's Time to Be Honest About Fossil Fuels' Role in Energy Transition

(Foreign Policy 15 Nov 21) ... Brenda Shaffer

The global energy crisis has hit U.S. shores: Fuel prices are rising, and a global supply shortage of natural gas is driving up the cost of heat and electricity as winter approaches. The Biden administration, worried that rising energy prices could cost votes and kneecap its ability to implement policies, has begged OPEC to pump more oil and Russia to step up gas supplies to Europe. At the same time, the Republicans have no useful energy policy alternative on offer. The United States needs a fundamentally new energy policy that will deliver reliable energy supplies at affordable prices with low impact on the environment and climate.

Any energy policy will have to start by considering several inconvenient but incontrovertible facts.

First, no matter how quickly the administration wants to raise the share of energy from renewable sources, U.S. energy security will require continued domestic oil and natural gas production for transportation, heating, industry, and electricity generation. Faced with the current energy crisis, the Biden administration is debating a new transition policy that recognizes fossil fuels will be necessary for the next decade or two. President Joe Biden's current transition strategy—as embodied in the Build Back Better program—is not enough to get what the United States and the world need to solve the energy crisis: the return of U.S. oil and gas production after plummeting during the COVID-19 pandemic and not recovering to its previous level since then. Capital will not return to the U.S. oil and gas patch if the administration's regulations limit production—nor if the administration continues to beat up on fossil fuel producers, leaving investors uncertain about the future of U.S. oil and gas. The administration's ongoing evaluation of planned fuel and crude pipelines, which could result in their cancellation, adds to the industry's concerns.

What's more, a group of leading Democrats in the U.S. Congress, led by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, has called for reinstating the ban on U.S. crude exports. If the ban were implemented, it would impede the return of investment in U.S. oil production even further. The current plan to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is an attempted quick fix that will not make a long-term dent in the oil price. While Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm blamed OPEC for high oil prices, the numbers are clear: It is U.S. oil production, not OPEC's, that is missing from the markets. For that, the Biden administration has itself to blame.

The failure of U.S. energy policy is not a partisan issue: Both deeply Republican Texas and ultra-progressive California have unreliable electricity.

Second, a smart U.S. energy policy should not be framed as a binary choice between renewables or fossil fuels. The current generation of renewables—hydropower, wind, and solar—cannot deliver electricity or heat without reliable baseload energy generation, most often from natural gas. Politicians, journalists, and other advocates of wind and solar are being dishonest when they say that a power system run on some percentage of renewable energy or the price of renewable energy is now competitive with that of fossil fuels. Those weather-dependent renewables can only run thanks to the backup power and grid stability provided by natural gas. That backup power system costs money and drives up costs even when it isn't running. Energy security policies should focus on the costs and stability of transmission of energy, not just production numbers.



Third, the current set of renewable energy sources cannot deliver the energy the United States needs due to their low energy output and efficiency, no matter how much money Washington throws at them. Instead of subsidizing consumption of the current generation of wind, solar, and other renewables, governments around the world should focus hard on developing new technologies and funding research and development.

Fourth, Washington should recognize that the failure of U.S. energy policy is not a partisan issue. Both deeply Republican Texas and ultra-progressive California have unreliable electricity, even though both states are among the richest areas of the world. Energy security is complicated and is not achieved by ideology, no matter which side of the political divide you're on. Unlike Texas's free market model, energy security requires government involvement or mandates in storage, redundancy, and backup. And California can't halt nuclear power and natural gas and still expect to keep the lights on. Both Biden and former President Donald Trump turned to OPEC to manage oil price trends. Neither president identified a new policy for the United States.

Fifth, Washington cannot adequately promote U.S. national security while abandoning the geopolitics of energy, which still hinges on oil and gas. Why should the United States as the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas call on OPEC and Russia to save the West during this energy crisis? Biden, however, has completely pulled back from engaging in energy geopolitics, aptly illustrated by the White House's "Interim National Security Strategic Guidance." In this document, nearly all mentions of energy are in the context of promoting "clean energy"—even though fossil fuels provide more than 80 percent of global energy consumption. A national security strategy that completely ignores the fuels on which every country in the world depends to keep its people alive and economy running is no viable strategy at all.

Finally, the administration's energy policies do little to avert climate change while damaging the environment. Supporters of Biden's energy policy say Americans must make economic sacrifices today in order to save the planet. Yet without today's other major emitters—China and India—on board, U.S. steps to address climate change are effectively meaningless. China's and Russia's lack of high-level participation at the recent United Nations climate summit and India's pushing the goal post to achieve net-zero emissions only in 2070 illustrate that there is no meaningful global commitment to change. The United States is making serious changes to its economy as part of its climate policy, while China, the world's largest carbon emitter, has made only unenforceable declarations to "make best efforts" to phase down (not out) coal consumption after 2030.

Europe has itself to blame for shortages and spiking prices, but Washington is copying many of its policies.

In virtually every country that has closed nuclear plants, clean electricity has been replaced with dirty power.

What's more, U.S. policies packaged as green aren't always green on closer look. Converting U.S. transportation to electricity, one of the key elements of Biden's plan, would likely not result in a significant net drop in emissions—not just because of the gas and coal used to produce electricity, but also from the higher emissions produced in manufacturing electric cars, especially their resource-intensive batteries. In addition, the current generation of renewable energy technologies is not only inefficient and resource-intensive to produce but also has significant environmental impact, not least from land use.

The outlines of a successful energy policy are clear. It would look at the real, all-in cost of each fuel and the full-cycle cost of green policies such as a shift to electric cars. It would refrain from beating up on domestic producers of oil and gas—which has only led to global shortages and price spikes benefiting Russia and OPEC. A successful energy policy requires diversification of energy sources and a focus on the complicated transmission of energy to homes and businesses. The current energy crisis is not just a fleeting global price rise but represents a systemic challenge that requires a fundamental new policy approach—one that abandons the culture wars over fossil fuels versus renewables and smartly employs both to lower emissions, maintain a modern lifestyle, and promote national security.

Brenda Shaffer is a faculty member at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**, a senior advisor for energy at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center.



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Assessing the Effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security, 20 Years After 9/11

(Watson Institute 7 Nov 21) ... Erik J. Dahl

Of the 230 thwarted violent attacks in the U.S. classified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as terrorism, so-called “domestic” plots have significantly outnumbered plots from “foreign terrorist organizations” since 9/11.

This report looks at thwarted plots from what the DHS classifies as “foreign terrorist organizations,” which the DHS defines as attacks carried out by or under the direction of foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) such as ISIS or al-Qaeda; “homegrown violent extremists,” or individuals who operate primarily within the United States and who are inspired by foreign terrorist organizations but are not acting at their direction; and “domestic terrorism,” a broad category that generally refers to terrorism that takes place primarily within the United States, is not inspired by a foreign terrorist group, and encompasses white supremacists.

Of the 230 unsuccessful attacks or plots in the U.S. since 9/11 documented in the report, 28 were directed by foreign terrorist organizations, 118 were committed by homegrown violent extremists inspired by such organizations, and 84 were committed by domestic terrorists.

The data show that the threat from domestic terrorists who are not inspired by foreign terrorist organizations has increased sharply in the past two years, with 12 unsuccessful attacks and plots in 2019, and 13 in 2020—including such high-profile plots as the attempt to kidnap the governor of Michigan, and threats against other public figures such as the mayor of Wichita, Kansas, and New York Senator Chuck Schumer.

The vast majority of these unsuccessful attacks had been prevented through the use of traditional law enforcement tools – evidence that suggests that it is policing in the U.S. rather than war abroad that is protecting U.S. residents from violent attacks.

The report argues that the DHS’s slowness in responding to the changing nature of the terrorist threat, and its lack of focus on domestic terrorism, helped create the environment that has produced numerous deadly attacks in recent years, including the assault on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Erik J. Dahl is an associate professor of National Security Affairs, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

Read full paper below.

[Assessing DHS Dahl Costs of War.pdf \(brown.edu\)](#)

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New Book Offers Shortsighted History of the Long Jihad

(Jewish News Syndicate 18 Nov 21) ... Andrew E. Harrod

(MeForum.org 18 Nov 21) ... Andrew E. Harrod

“Ninety percent of the stuff that gets written on global jihad is just junk” and “usually replete with ‘Islamophobia,’ ” stated **Naval Postgraduate School** professor Glenn E. Robinson during a Nov. 10 webinar on his new book, *Global Jihad: A Brief History*. Although unusually objective for Georgetown University’s Saudi-founded Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU), his presentation was nevertheless fundamentally flawed.

Moderating the webinar, ACMCU professor Jonathan Voll noted longstanding failures to appreciate Islam’s political influence. He said when he was a graduate student “in the 1960s, if somebody would have said you are going to be leading, moderating a book discussion on the global jihad ... in the 21st

century, everybody would have simply laughed.” At the time, such influential scholars as Peter Berger were predicting an increasingly secularized world.

Robinson said he “wanted to write a book that could analyze this topic in a serious scholarly way, but without resorting to these sort of ‘Islamophobic’ tropes” that he did not identify. Unnamed books were “not the type of stuff that I would ever want to assign in the classroom” for his military officer students. Such a statement implies an aversion to historiography he deems overly critical of Islam, an error that could lead to deadly misjudgments by his students in assessing future threats.

Although comparisons of Islam with totalitarian movements like communism and Nazism are commonplace, Robinson claimed to observe a “tendency ... to treat anything in the Muslim world as sui generis” as a “form of Orientalism.” As a “comparativist, the last thing that occurs in my tradition is to just say that it is unique,” he stated; “that’s almost always wrong.”

Robinson’s slideshow elaborated his comparisons. Global jihad is “marked by nihilistic violence and apocalyptic ideologies—and is thus not sui generis, but is comparable to other, religious and non-religious, forms of extreme political violence,” read one slide. Another compared the Communist “Khmer Rouge in Cambodia,” jihadists from “Boko Haram in Nigeria” and Nazi “Brownshirts in Germany.”

Given these analogies from modern history, Robinson correspondingly asserted that the “rise of Islamism or ‘political Islam’ ” is “very much a 20th-century phenomenon.” This is “very much linked with the rise of the mass societies,” he added. Yet past speakers at ACMCU events, including University of Toledo Islamic-studies professor Ovamir Anjum, have noted that precisely the concept of “Islamism” is of recent origin in the Islamic faith that historically has not distinguished between piety and politics.

Robinson himself suggested that jihadist violence is more a question of modern practical tactics, and not historic principles, among Islamists such as the Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928. “As a general principle, political Islam groups, like the Muslim Brotherhood, have tended not to emphasize violence. I don’t want to say they are peaceniks,” but rather saw violence “as a tactic that becomes necessary from time to time,” he said. By contrast, “for the jihadis, violence is a cornerstone,” an ideology that arose “in large measure because of the failure of Islamism to create significant differences” in the political realm.

Chronologically, the “laying of the intellectual architecture of jihadism” occurred in the 1960s and early 1970s, argued Robinson. “We are not talking about the traditional jihad dating back to the dawn of time,” he claimed. How modern jihadists deviate from Islamic orthodoxy remained unexplained.

Recurrence in Robinson’s slides of the word “innovations” highlighted the problematic foundation of his theories. For example, he described the “Palestinian-Jordanian” Abdullah Azzam, who died in 1989, as the “godfather of global jihad” and the “most prolific ideologue of the Afghan jihad.” Azzam was “one of the few ideologues of global jihad that actually has a serious religious credential” from Al-Azhar University, Robinson stated, an indirect reference to the common claim that jihadists have no scholarly training in Islam.

A slide labeled “Azzam’s Ideological Innovations” stated that the “First obligation after faith is the defense of Muslim lands.” Yet, as noted by Michael Scheuer, the former head of the CIA’s unit charged with hunting Al-Qaeda jihadist Osama bin Laden, this is traditional Islamic doctrine. Unsurprisingly, Bin Laden, who never claimed any theological pedigree, remained faithful to his mentor Azzam.

Another slide listed “Ideological Innovations under ISIS” (the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) as including “State Building to Banish Apostasy.” Given prohibitions against apostasy and blasphemy throughout Islamic history, however, Robinson’s claim is peculiar. He added that in ISIS recruitment efforts “things that would be abhorrent to the vast majority of Muslims are targeted for these young men.” But common human decency among Muslims notwithstanding, practices such as ISIS sex slavery have a solid Islamic doctrinal basis.

Islamic doctrine’s historic nature hints at why Robinson is pessimistic about Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs. Responding to a question by ACMCU founder John Esposito, Robinson said, “There have been a lot of things that haven’t worked very well.” “The reeducation programs that the Saudis have done, for example, and others, they may have done a little bit of good, probably not a whole lot,” he noted in reference to the persistent failure of jihadist deradicalization programs.



Robinson ended by discussing the “\$64,000-dollar question” in current crises in Afghanistan. Has the Taliban “learned that within the Westphalian rules, it can do almost anything it wants inside of its own country without risking its survival as a regime as long as it doesn’t do one thing,” he queried. Namely, the Taliban cannot host fellow jihadists who will emulate Al-Qaeda’s attacks on the wider world.

Dubiously, Robinson relied upon the Taliban’s rationality to predict that it will not “cross that redline again.” Nonetheless, a resurgent Taliban provided context for his admonition “to right-size the threat. Don’t exaggerate,” as after 9/11. Perhaps “today we are just forgetting about it” with an American “pivot to Asia,” he worried.

Robinson is correct to worry about jihadist threats, as they are not recent “innovations” but actions grounded in Islamic canons. As his own review of history indicated, modern jihadist movements reflect a tactical response to the longstanding Sharia supremacist desires of Islamists. Unfortunately, his at times ahistorical approach can leave military leaders ill-equipped to accurately assess future national security threats.

[New book offers shortsighted history of the long jihad | JNS.org](#)

[New Book Offers Short-Sighted History of the Long Jihad :: Campus Watch \(meforum.org\)](#)

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Your Middle Autumn Book Recommendations For 2021

(Washington Post 18 Nov 21) ... Daniel W. Drezner

The hard-working staff here at Spoiler Alerts is staring into the depths of the fall semester. There are lectures to write. Papers to grade. Papers to write. Presentations to craft. And all of this is occurring as it gets colder and darker with each passing day.

In other words, this is the time of year when my shoulders begin to hunch and my demeanor begins to close off. And I suspect I am hardly alone in that sentiment.

You know what cheers me up? Reading some international relations books! Sure, that might not be everyone’s cup of tea, but if you’re reading this column you are firmly aware of my brand and I’m sticking with it! And Hanukkah is only 10 days away! So here are four books I will suggest are worth reading if you are also interested in international politics:

Jeff Colgan, “Partial Hegemony: Oil Politics and International Order.” There are so many hot takes on the state of global order and the possible power transition between China and the United States that my eyes start to glaze over whenever I see a new one. So it is to Colgan’s credit that his take on this question is sufficiently fresh as to hold my attention. “Partial Hegemony” is ostensibly about the specifics of international energy politics, but the conceptual ambition of the book is far grander than that. Colgan, a professor at Brown University, wants scholars and practitioners to stop thinking of international order as a single entity but rather as a collection of subsystems with varying degrees of stability and utility. It is a provocative read that goes beyond energy politics to encompass climate change, arms control and the very way that we should study global order.

Emily Meierding, “The Oil Wars Myth: Petroleum and the Causes of International Conflict.” It is a long-standing belief in world politics that countries possessing natural resources like oil are ripe for invasion because great powers will try to extract such resources. A professor at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, Meierding does the most thorough job of dismantling the classic oil wars myth. She catalogues a variety of possible energy-related conflict scenarios that have been posited — and then methodically explains why none of them are terribly realistic. Her book effectively demolishes decades of arguments made by pundits, radical critics and at least one U.S. president that states will choose to go to war over oil, that the second Gulf War was mostly about oil and that the United States should have “taken the oil” from Iraq.

[Your middle autumn book recommendations for 2021 - The Washington Post](#)

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ALUMNI:

Charleston Co. deputy administrator completes homeland security leaders program

(Live 5 News 15 Nov 21) ... Patrick Phillips

The deputy county administrator from Charleston County has completed a 12-month homeland security leadership program.

Eric Watson completed the Executive Leaders Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security Thursday.

In his Charleston County role, Watson led and developed the county's first public safety directorate and manages oversight over Charleston County Emergency Medical Services, Charleston County Emergency Management, Search and Rescue, Charleston County Consolidated 911 Dispatch Center, Awendaw-McClellanville Rural Fire District, and Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

He also serves as a public safety liaison between Charleston County government and local, state, federal law enforcement, and rural fire agencies.

During the year-long program, Watson collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy, and organizational design challenges.

Participants in the program include professionals in emergency management, education, law enforcement, fire service, homeland security, public health, the private sector, and city and county governments.

Eric is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Management. Currently, he is working on his Master's Degree in Executive Management and Criminal Justice Leadership at Walden University.

Before his current role, Watson served as chief deputy for the Charleston County Sheriff's Office.

[Charleston Co. deputy administrator completes homeland security leaders program \(live5news.com\)](https://www.live5news.com)

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Space Industry Veteran Zigmond Leszczynski Named CEO of United Space Structures

(Space Ref 16 Nov 21)

Space industry veteran Zigmond Leszczynski has been appointed as chief executive officer of cislunar space technology company United Space Structures (USS), which is focused on opening the new frontier of space to humanity.

USS seeks to be the leader in the cislunar ecosystem for space logistics and lunar infrastructure, with the intent of establishing economic activities and habitation on the Moon. Cislunar space, the region between Earth and the Moon, is the ideal environment for proving the systems required for eventual human exploration of Mars.

"Zig has significant executive and technical experience to lead our initiatives for developing the technologies and ecosystems needed for people to live, and thrive, on the Moon," says Rhonda Stevenson, chairman of the board. "His track record managing critical AI and analytics projects with NASA, NOAA, DARPA, and Space Force bodes well for the success of our company. He has a career of leading organizations that have revolutionized and advanced the space field."

Leszczynski, a co-founder and USS board member, is a veteran space industry executive, entrepreneur, and space domain expert. Before joining USS, he initiated and led the Artificial Intelligence (AI), Analytics, and Innovation Department at The Aerospace Corporation for six years as its director. There, he led groundbreaking work on the applications of AI in the space domain, which generated new revenue and seminal research.



Prior to his role at Aerospace, Leszczynski served as deputy executive director for the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority. His leadership was critical in establishing the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport as a major launch facility on the East Coast, launching NASA Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environmental Explorer (LADEE) to the Moon, and overseeing resupply missions to the International Space Station.

Leszczynski retired from the Navy as a commander with 21 years of honorable service as a naval flight officer and navy space cadre expert. While serving, he initiated and led the Naval Space Campaign for more than 10 years, delivering cutting-edge space capabilities at the tactical edge. He deployed and served in several senior positions, including space operations officer for two carrier strike groups, space advisor for two major commands, and deputy director of Space Forces. As a mission commander in the S-3B Viking aircraft, he logged more than 1,000 hours, with 440 aircraft carrier arrested landings and 40 combat missions.

Leszczynski has served as a mentor for several startup companies in the AI and space fields. He has served on the board of directors for the American Astronautical Society. He is also an associate fellow in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, where he has served on the Intelligent Systems Technical Committee.

Leszczynski graduated from the **Naval Postgraduate School** with a M.S. in Astronautical Engineering and the United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering.

[Space Industry Veteran Zigmund Leszczynski Named CEO of United Space Structures \(spaceref.com\)](http://spaceref.com)

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Emergency Manager Troy Lutrick Completes Executive Leaders Program At Naval Postgraduate School In City Of Scottsdale

(Patch 17 Nov 21)

Troy Lutrick, Emergency Manager for the city of Scottsdale, completed the Executive Leaders Program (ELP) at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) on Nov. 11.

Lutrick oversees citywide emergency management programs planning and development including leading the City COVID-19 Incident Management Team, leading the critical infrastructure vulnerability taskforce, all-hazards incident management team development, and leading the Emergency Operations Center, plus various other assignments.

He earned a bachelor's of Arts in Public Administration from Ottawa University, a master's of Science in Fire Executive Leadership and Disaster Preparedness from Grand Canyon University, and is a Certified Public Manager from ASU, a Certified Emergency Manager, and is a graduate of the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy from FEMA. Troy also has maintained his National Registry Paramedic certification since 1993.

During the 12-month program, Lutrick collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy, and organizational design challenges.

"The ELP program is one of the most prolific learning opportunities that I have had the pleasure to participate in," said Lutrick.

The NPS-CHDS ELP participants represent a snapshot of the homeland security enterprise, including professionals from the fields of emergency management, education, law enforcement, fire service, homeland security, public health, private sector, and city/county government.

Located at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), CHDS is the nation's homeland security educator. CHDS is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Preparedness Directorate, within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For information, visit www.chds.us.



[Space Industry Veteran Zigmund Leszczynski Named CEO of United Space Structures \(spaceref.com\)](#)

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Fort Bragg's Special Forces, Psychological Operations, Civil Affairs induct honorary members

(Fayetteville Observer 17 Nov 21) ... Rachael Riley

The Special Forces, Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs community named 20 new soldiers, civilians and veterans as distinguished and honorary members during induction ceremonies this month.

The inductees have built the organization through military and civilian endeavors from conflicts in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Somalia, Desert Storm, Grenada, Panama and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, said Maj. Gen. Patrick Roberson, commander of Fort Bragg's U.S John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

"They are pillars of our organization because they helped really develop our organization and adopt these structures, training and every aspect in making this organization great," Roberson said.

The inductees are committed to improving opportunities for men and women in uniform, through "their selfless actions over the years to promote the warfighting ethos and unwavering sense of pride and selfless service," Col. Charles Burnett, deputy commander of the JFK Special Warfare Center and School said.

Retired Col. James Wolff commissioned as a military police officer in 1987 and served as a platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He was assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion after attending **Naval Post Graduate School** in 1994.

Wolff served as a civil affairs team leader, company operations officer, delta company commander and battalion executive officer, before serving on the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Enduring Iraqi Freedom.

He deployed to Iraq as chief of operations for the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance Southern Region and served as chief of civil administration for the Coalition Provisional Authority South-Central Region.

Wolff returned to Fort Bragg to command the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion from June 2004 to June 2005, followed by becoming the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade's deputy commanding officer and commanding the brigade from June 2010 to June 2012.

He also had assignments with the U.S. Special Operations Command with duty as the operations officer in the Office of Military Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development.

Wolff was commandant for the Civil Affairs Regiment in 2014 and was the U.S. Army Special Operations Command's chief of staff for strategy and plans the same year.

He also served as a senior advisor for the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service from February 2016 to March 2017.

[Special Forces and other Fort Bragg units induct honorees \(fayobserver.com\)](#)

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6 Wild Facts About the Deadly Creator of SEAL Team Six

(SOFREP 20 Nov 21)

These days, Richard Marcinko is a business instructor, author, and motivational speaker. In his earlier years, "Demo Dick" was the United States' premier counterterrorism operator. Marcinko enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1958 and eventually worked his way up to the rank of commander, graduated with degrees



in international relations and political science, and earned 34 medals and citations, including a Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and four Bronze Stars. But that's just his military resume.

Even among the ranks of American special operators, Marcinko, his record, and his reputation are all exceptional — and it's easy to see why. At 77, he is still training business executives as well as U.S. and foreign hostage rescue teams. He even worked as a consultant on the FOX television show 24. His memoir, *Rogue Warrior*, is a New York Times bestseller.

"I'm good at war," Marcinko once told *People Magazine*. "Even in Vietnam, the system kept me from hunting and killing as many of the enemy as I would have liked."

1) North Vietnam Had a Bounty on His Head

As a platoon leader in Vietnam, Marcinko and his SEALs were so successful, the North Vietnamese Army took notice. His assault on Ilo Ilo Island was called the most successful SEAL operation in the Mekong Delta. During his second tour, Marcinko and SEAL Team Two teamed up with Army Special Forces during the Tet Offensive at Chau Doc. The SEALs rescued hospital personnel caught in the crossfire as an all-out urban brawl raged around them.

Because of Marcinko's daring and success, the NVA placed a 50,000 piastre bounty on his head, payable to anyone who could prove they killed the SEAL leader. Obviously, they never paid out that bounty.

2) He Was Rejected by the Marine Corps

Marcinko joined the military at 18 but, surprisingly (to some), he didn't first opt to join the Navy. His first stop was the Marine Corps, which rejected him outright because he did not graduate from high school. So Marcinko, who would leave as a Commander, enlisted in the Navy. He later became an officer after graduating from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, earning his commission in 1965.

3) He Designed the Navy's Counterterrorism Operation

You know you've made it when they make a video game about your life story.

After the tragic failure of Operation Eagle Claw, the U.S. attempt to free hostages being held by students in Iran, the U.S. Navy and its special operations structure decided that they needed an overhaul. Richard Marcinko was one of those who helped design the new system. His answer was the creation of SEAL Team Six.

4) He Numbered His SEAL Team 'Six' to Fool the Russians

When he was creating the newest SEAL Team, the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in the Cold War — and spies were everywhere. Not trusting that anyone would keep the creation of his new unit a secret, he numbered it SEAL Team Six in order to fool the KGB into believing there were three more SEAL Teams they didn't know about.

5) His Job Was to Infiltrate Bases — American bases

The Navy needed to know where their operational sensitivities were — where they were weakest. Even in the areas where security was thought tightest, the Navy was desperate to know if they could be infiltrated. So, Vice Admiral James Lyons tasked Marcinko to create another unit.

Richard Marcinko created Naval Security Coordination Team OP-06D, also known as Red Cell, a unit of 13 men. Twelve came from SEAL Team Six and the other from Marine Force Recon. They were to break into secure areas, nuclear submarines, Navy ships, and even Air Force One. Red Cell was able to infiltrate and leave without any notice. The reason? Military personnel on duty were replaced by civilian contractor security guards.

Just like the A-Team, except real. And Marcinko is in command. And he's the only one. And he killed a lot more people. (NBC Universal Television)



6) He Spent 15 Months in Jail

Toward the end of his career, he was embroiled in what the Navy termed a “kickback scandal,” alleging that Richard Marcinko conspired with an Arizona arms dealer to receive \$100,000 for securing a government contract for hand grenades. Marcinko maintained that this charge was the result of a witch hunt, blowback for exposing so many vulnerabilities and embarrassing the Navy’s highest-ranking officers. He served 15 months of a 21-month sentence.

[6 Wild Facts About the Deadly Creator of SEAL Team Six | SOFREP](#)

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