

ALASKA POST

FREE

an edition of the
Fairbanks
Daily News-Miner

The Interior Military News Connection

Vol. 12, No. 9

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

March 19, 2021

Army announces release of Arctic Strategy

U.S. Army Public Affairs

The U.S. Army announced the release of its Arctic strategy March 16, "Regaining Arctic Dominance."

This strategy lays out how the Army will generate, train, organize and equip our forces to partner with Arctic allies and secure our national interests and maintain regional stability. The release of this strategy is timely, especially given

increasing levels of great power competitor activities in the Arctic region. Operating in the Arctic allows the Army to powerfully project our forces to enhance our ability to respond in competition, crisis and/or conflict.

The Arctic, a vital area containing many of our nation's natural resources and key shipping channels, is a platform for projecting global power and a possible avenue of attack in con-

flict. This enhanced Arctic capability will increase the Army's ability to operate in extreme cold-weather, mountainous and high-latitude environments and supports the DOD's Arctic Strategy, which was issued in June 2019.

"The Arctic is an opportunity to rapidly employ the speed, range and convergence of cutting-edge technologies being developed for Multi-Domain Operations to strengthen our deter-

rence capabilities in the region," said Gen. James McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army.

To regain the Army's Arctic dominance, the strategy communicates objectives and plans such as:

- The Army will establish a Multi-Domain enabled operational two-star headquarters with specially trained and equipped combat brigades to increase our cold-weather dominance.
- The Army will improve

the materiel readiness of Arctic-capable units to conduct extended operations in the Arctic region.

- The Army will improve individual and collective training of our forces to operate in the region as well as other mountainous and high-altitude environments.

- The Army will improve the quality of life for our Soldiers, civilians and families who live and work in installations and facilities in the Arctic region.

After challenging year, Army posts high marks in civilian employee survey

Joseph Lacdan Army News Service

In a year where the Army overcame numerous challenges, it also achieved its best overall ratings ever in the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, a top Army civilian personnel leader said Wednesday.

The service posted an employee engagement index rate of 72.7% in fiscal year 2020, up three percentage points from the previous year and saw its biggest increase in the leaders lead category, which at 62.7% marked a 3.5% increase from 2019. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management released the results in January after distributing the survey in the fall.

"When the numbers first started rolling out, I was extremely excited by the high response rate year over year, especially in this COVID year," said Todd Fore, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for civilian personnel. "But I really think what is key is the engagement of our leadership at all levels, because they really do care about the feedback that they are receiving."

The Army also had an increase in its global satisfaction index at 69%. The

category measures federal employees' overall satisfaction with their job, pay and organization. About 70% of Army civilians said that they would recommend their organization to others, up from 68% the previous year.

"Those are very, very, very good numbers across government [organizations], but exceptional in large organizations," Fore said. "I think it is incredible that we have such a high response rate across the department."

According to the survey, which OPM made available to full-time and part-time, permanent Army civilians, 45% of the Army's more than 184,000 employees participated in it.

Fore said that the Army has seen the employee engagement index increase in each of the past six years due to supervisors communicating more effectively with Army employees. The Army also published an employee engagement guide for supervisors and leaders and hosted listening sessions for civilian employees.

"Our employee engagement activities have enabled us to not only communicate to employees, but actually to hear what employees have to say,"



Robert Winchel, left, a managed care analyst at Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., receives a congratulatory elbow bump Oct. 1, 2020. Winchel was selected as the U.S. Army Medical Command's civilian of the year. The Army recently posted its highest overall scores on the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. The survey measures employees' perception of what makes a successful organization and whether their agencies and employers have those characteristics. (Photo by Christopher Larsen)

Fore said.

Communication methods revamped

In 2020, the Army evolved the way it communicates with its employees

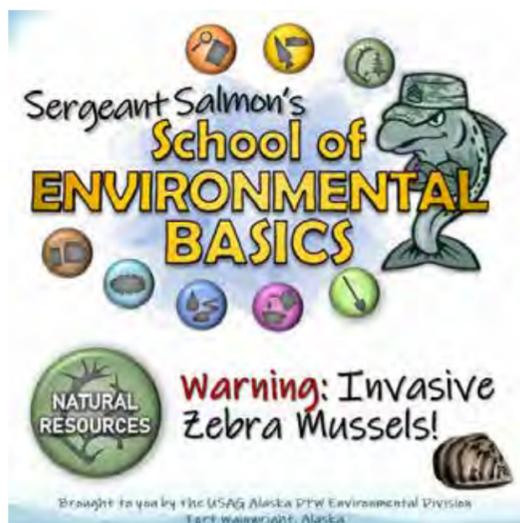
in large part because of the coronavirus pandemic. As the nation's largest military branch, communication had been an area where the Army struggled, Fore said.

But the ability to communicate has improved in recent years and the global pandemic opened the need

to make contact more effectively.

When the Army began stay-at-home orders in March 2020, leaders had to open more lines of communication including using virtual options as

See SURVEY on page 3



Watch out – A warning message from Sergeant Salmon

Zebra mussels are one of the most destructive invasive species found in the U.S.

They are nearly impossible to eradicate when released into lakes and ponds. Currently, control and management costs \$500 million annually in the U.S. They negatively impact lakes and ponds making them unsuitable for native fish and other organisms.

They will also clog pipes, destroy beaches and damage boats.

Zebra Mussels have not been found in Alaskan waters, but let's keep it that way!

What should I do if I purchased moss balls for my aquarium?

- Destroy the moss balls using one of the following methods:

- Submerge the moss ball in diluted chlorine bleach or undiluted white vinegar for at least 20 minutes.
- Freeze the moss ball in a plastic bag for at least 24 hours.
- Boil the moss ball for at least one minute.
- Place moss ball in a sealed plastic bag and place in the trash.
- Decontaminate your

aquarium and its contents using one of the following methods:

- Soak in hot water (at least 120 degrees F) for at least two minutes.
- Soak in salt water (1/2 cup salt per gallon of water) for at least 24 hours. Rinse thoroughly before setting up aquarium again.
- Soak in bleach solution for at least 10 minutes. Rinse thoroughly before

setting up aquarium again.

Learn more about zebra mussels in aquarium moss balls:

- Pet Product News: Invasive Zebra Mussels Found in Aquarium Moss Balls
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game Press Release
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fact Sheet

Thank you for keeping Alaskan water healthy!

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday



Flurries early. Partly sunny with a high near 14. Low near -15.

Saturday



Sunny with a high near 16. Low around -11.

Sunday



Sunny with a high near 18. Low around -8.

IN BRIEF

Family Ice Climb with YSF: March 20, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

10 - 18 year olds can enjoy an Ice Climbing Adventure with Youth Sports & Fitness! Snow jacket, snow pants, hat, gloves, snow boots, & face mask are required. Cost: \$70. Youth Sports & Fitness, Bldg 1045 Basement Call 353-7713, registration required

Nutrition Corner: Perks of coffee

Each morning, millions of people wake up with a cup of coffee. According to the Harvard School of Public Health, 54 percent of Americans age 18 or older drink coffee daily; spending over \$40 billion a year on coffee drinks.

It's a common consensus that coffee tastes great, but what other benefits might it

have?

Coffee has many potential health benefits for those who choose to drink it.

Preliminary studies suggest that coffee can decrease the risk of type 2 diabetes, while other studies indicate drinking coffee may reduce the risk of Parkinson's disease.

In the past, it was often believed that

coffee contributed to heart disease. However, more recent scientific studies have shown people who drank more coffee actually had a lower risk of heart disease than those who drank less.

Coffee may also be protective for the liver. According to a study from the University of Scranton, coffee is actually the number one

source of antioxidants in the American diet.

It is always important to keep several things in mind when reviewing information about food and health. For coffee specifically, health benefits are from the drink itself and not what is added to it.

The potential protective factors are likely reduced if high

amounts of cream, sugar or even non-dairy, oil-based cream — think of that bottle of French Vanilla “creamer” in the office fridge — is added. The average 16 ounce mocha has upwards of 300 calories with 15 grams of fat and 35 grams of sugar. Drinking these daily can easily lead to weight gain. Most people know that

weight gain is linked to many other diseases.

On the other hand, plain black coffee has less than five calories. To reap the benefits of coffee drinking, limit the cream and sugar. It is reassuring to know that the world's favorite drink just might have some health benefits after all.

Five decades of morale, fitness and resiliency building; ODR turns 50

Brittany Nelson

The U.S. Army's Outdoor Recreation program is celebrating 50 years of supporting Soldiers, civilians and their Families through morale building and the healthy lifestyle-oriented activities and services.

The first Outdoor Recreation, ODR, program was established in 1971 and since then, ODR has been providing programs and services around the world at Army installations.

ODR is a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program. FMWR is the G9 division of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

John O'Sullivan, the U.S. Army ODR program director, said ODR has been running successfully for five decades due to the benefits of the program.

“ODR's mission is to teach outdoor skills and leisure activities which improve overall



Fort Leonard Wood Outdoor Recreation patrons hone their new paddling technique skills during a community level canoe trip. (U.S. Army photo)

quality of life,” said O'Sullivan. “The fact that ODR has been maintained for 50 years, and continues to build, is a reason to celebrate. ODR has earned recognition through achieve-

ments.”

O'Sullivan said quality of life has been improved through ODR because it provides a different perspective for Soldiers.

“They can get away

from their normal environment, develop new skills and learn about lifetime leisure programs,” said O'Sullivan. “ODR gets them outside in the fresh air and gives them the opportunity to enjoy nature.”

In addition to outdoor activities, ODR facilities include parks and picnic areas, equipment checkout centers, RV campgrounds and cabins, marinas, stables, kennels, shooting and trap and skeet ranges, paintball fields and challenge courses.

ODR also provides introductory instruction and participation for camping, climbing, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, boating, ski and snowboarding, horseback riding, and many other activities.

O'Sullivan has been working with ODR for 33 years and has seen many great developments including the warrior adventure quest, WAQ.

WAQ is a train-

ing tool designed to introduce Soldiers to activities that serve as alternatives to aberrant behaviors often associated with accidents involving recently re-deployed Soldiers. This tool presents coping outlets to help Soldiers realize their own new level of normal after deployment.

“We run about 25,000 Soldiers through the program in a year,” said O'Sullivan. “The WAQ really emphasizes the epitome of ODR. It provides a method that helps with resiliency and provides an outlet for stress while being team oriented.”

Daniel Gasparino, recreation branch chief for IMCOM-Europe, started working with ODR in 1978.

“I was fortunate to be working with ODR at a time when it was growing, and I had an opportunity to influence its progression,” said Gasparino. “ODR took many different forms. Every garrison was doing something different and exciting

as new sports come about.”

Gasparino recalls when snowboarding was invented and they introduced it at their ODR program in Europe.

“My director saw snowboarding at an exposition and he brought us aboard,” said Gasparino. “We all thought, ‘You have got to be kidding me, this is like a skateboard on the mountains.’ It was a hit, though, and the next year we added it to our program.”

Gasparino said that one of the great things about ODR is getting to introduce these new sports and opportunities to Army communities in a safe and fun environment.

ODR programs offer various activities and services based on their locations.

“ODR takes advantage of the local environment and climate,” said Gasparino.

“In Germany and Europe there are the Alps for skiing and hiking. In the Mediterranean area you have the sea, lakes and rivers for water sports. Every aspect of the environment is your playground if you use it properly.”

To celebrate 50 years, local ODR programs will be holding events to showcase the opportunities available through their garrison. Patrons will be able to see the greater benefits to morale, comprehensive fitness, and overall well-being.

Events will adhere to safety guidelines, including applicable pandemic rules and restrictions.

An outdoor adventure photo sweepstakes will be held June 1 to Sept. 7 across Army MWR and ODR social media accounts.

MEDDAC Minute

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency: 911
24 Hour Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-874-2273 Opt. 1
Appointment Line: 361-4000
Behavioral Health: 361-6059
Benefits Advisor: 361-5656
Immunizations: 361-5456
Information Desk: 361-5172
Patient Advocate: 361-5291
Pharmacy Refills: 361-5803
MEDDAC-AK Website: www.bassett-wainwright.tricare.mil
MHS Patient Portal: <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/>
Health Net: www.tricare-west.com, 1-844-8676-9378

COVID Vaccination

All TRICARE beneficiaries over 18 who would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccine will soon have the opportunity. Bassett Army Community Hospital is expecting 1,000 doses of the vaccine in early March. Upon delivery, we will begin scheduling appointments online.

Patient Advocate

The Medical Department Activity – Alaska Patient Advocate acts on behalf of all patients and the commander to resolve problems and implement necessary corrections. Beneficiaries needing assis-

tance, or who have questions about the care received at MEDDAC-AK, can contact our Patient Advocate at 361-5291.

Town Hall

MEDDAC-AK will conduct a Facebook Live event Monday, March 1 at 6 p.m. to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine and answer questions from our beneficiaries.

Talk with a Registered Nurse

Think you should go the emergency room but aren't sure? Wondering if you need an appointment? A registered nurse is standing by 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help. Call the Nurse Advice Line for your immediate health care needs. The nurse can even book you an appointment if necessary. Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273).

Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet

The new year is a great time to check your medicine cabinets for expired prescription and over the counter medications. A MedSafe box, located inside the main entrance of Bassett ACH across from the information desk, is in place to securely receive your expired or no longer needed medications.



Contact your
COMPANY-level
AER Representative
 to find out more



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The Chaplain's Corner: Happiness

Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Turpin
U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Deputy Garrison Chaplain



Do you want to be happy? It is rare to find people that seem to be genuinely happy but who would object to being just a little bit happier, right now? The word itself seems to conjure up thoughts of childlike emotions, playfulness, positivity or just turning up the music and rolling down windows.

You may think people being a little irresponsible or a little naive about the reality of the world. As trite as happiness sounds, happiness, it could be argued, is a core driver for almost everything we do. It drives what we eat, how we work, the re-

lationships we pursue, how we do physical exercise, what we do on weekends, how we spend our evenings after work and just about every other decision we make.

So the questions must be asked, what makes us happy? I believe there are three fundamental pillars of happiness: pleasure, purpose and peace.

Pleasure is the simplest one to achieve. These are the small decisions we make on a daily basis because

they bring immediate pleasure to one of our 5 senses. We make these decisions based on our past experience and we try to repeat them or even enhance them. When something feels good, tastes good, smells good, sounds good or looks good we tend to return to these experiences because they give us feelings of pleasure.

The trouble with simple pleasure is it is always temporal or fleeting if it is not done in conjunction with purpose and peace.

Pleasure combined with purpose greatly enhances and broadens our happiness because now happiness is not tied to our senses. Happiness is also found in accomplishing hard things and sometimes even

painful things because the end is greater than the means.

Having purpose for what we do fills the gap between the fun pleasurable experiences that we try to squeeze in between our work and difficult situations. This is the person who has the plaque on the wall of their office that says, "The one who loves their job, never works a day." This person finds pleasure in doing purposeful things.

However, people can fill their lives with pleasurable experiences and purpose yet still be unhappy. Just take a quick look at Hollywood. It is full of people doing pleasurable things with a purpose, but there is little sustained happiness.

Why? Because they do not have the final

and most important key to happiness, Peace.

Peace with God, peace with other people and peace with yourself are the most crucial pillars to real sustained happiness! When we take time to reconcile our fears, regrets, sins and broken relationships we can experience new dimensions of sustainable happiness.

Happiness is not intrinsically bound to pleasurable experiences or even a grand purpose. True sustainable happiness can only be found when we move toward internal peace. Peace gives us the ability to experience sustainable happiness that can only be found when we have nothing to hide, nothing to fear and nothing to

regret when it comes to both the circumstances and people in your past, present and future. With peace as the foundation of our soul, the addition of purpose and pleasurable experiences are enhanced exponentially.

So, do you want to be happy? Look at the three pillars of happiness in your life, pleasure, purpose and peace. Peace is the most difficult but ultimately the foundation for true happiness.

You can begin right now. Make a list of the things that keep you up at night.

Bow your head and begin to talk with God about these burdens. Invite Him to begin the hard work deep in your soul and see where your journey leads.

Updates to SHARP expedited transfer policy to reinforce 'people first' efforts

Devon Suits
Army News Service

The Army plans to roll out new training in support of the expedited transfer policy that provides streamlined and necessary support to Soldiers and adult dependents who are victims of sexual assault.

Under the policy, sexual assault victims can request a move to a new unit or installation if their current environment is impacting their safety or emotional well-being or the command's ability to function, said Jill Londagin, director of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program.

Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy recently directed all senior commanders to complete additional expedited transfer training no later than March 31.

The secretary also mandated improved case management training for all SHARP personnel.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, SHARP officials will release the new training virtually in the coming weeks.

Guidance under the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act followed by



The Army plans to roll out new training in support of an expedited transfer policy that provides streamlined and necessary support to Soldiers and adult dependents who are victims of sexual assault. Under the policy, sexual assault victims can request a move to a new unit or installation if their current environment is impacting their safety or emotional well-being or the command's ability to function. (U.S. Army graphic by Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program)

a memorandum from the undersecretary of defense in early 2020 expanded the policy and provided additional guidance for victim support, Londagin said Thursday.

The move identified a critical list of responsibilities for all losing and gaining commanders and SHARP personnel to ensure that Soldiers and adult dependents have the best chance for success during their recovery process, Londagin added.

The Army also released an all Army activities message, or ALARACT, in Novem-

ber to provide additional SHARP program guidance related to the transfer policy, she said.

Information about the expedited transfer policy will soon be available to all Soldiers as part of the Army SHARP annual refresher training requirement, Londagin said.

Under the policy, sexual assault response coordinators must provide victims' advocacy support, facilitate appointments with behavioral health and medical professionals, and connect an individual with advocacy or

legal services. SARCs will also conduct a series of non-clinical safety assessments to ensure an individual's well-being throughout the process.

Brigade commanders are responsible for tracking all expedited transfers and have the authority to approve or disapprove a request, Londagin said.

Recent provisions to the 2021 NDAA amended the time for an expedited transfer decision from 72 hours to five calendar days, she added. This change offers victims more time to make a decision if they want

to request a transfer and gives SHARP personnel additional time to line up adequate support.

"All expedited transfers are reviewed on a case-by-case basis," Londagin said. "There are cases when a Soldier has a pending [Uniform Code of Military Justice], medical or administrative action that a command has to consider before they grant an expedited transfer request."

Londagin acknowledged the expedited transfer process could create a potential issue in low-density career fields or vacate a duty position critical to mission accomplishment.

However, she said the Army and SHARP program must continue to put people first by prioritizing the individual's needs over mission requirements.

Once an individual is approved for transfer, the losing brigade commander must ensure a proper handoff before transferring the individual to their gaining unit. The gain-

ing commander will receive information about the individual's condition, including a list of scheduled medical or behavioral health appointments, ongoing legal actions, and other personnel-related details if applicable.

Soldiers who want more information about the expedited transfer process can review ALARACT 95-2020 and Army Regulations 614-100 and 614-200 on the Army Publishing Directorate website. Personnel can also request information by contacting the Army Human Resources Command Service Center at 1-800-582-5552.

"People are the Army's top priority," Londagin said. "This policy reinforces the Army's commitment to eliminate sexual assault and sexual harassment from our formations. Acting on a Soldier's request for expedited transfer is an important component of a leader's response in supporting victims of sexual assault."

SURVEY

Continued from page 1

many of its Soldiers and civilians had to work from home or were separated from their units. To achieve mission requirements, supervisors have used virtual means such as online conferences and chat rooms to reach employees.

"I think we've really upped our game in communication," Fore said. "I believe that COVID has enabled us to talk to employees at a different level. And since we're all using various forms of technology, I think our communication and outreach for employees has actually improved."

Fore said the survey revealed the Army's strengths in managing its civilian workers and areas where it needs to improve. The Army looks to build up on its strong points: work-life balance, merit system principles, performance recognition, performance feedback, training and development, and job resources.

Fore said performance recognition has become an increasingly strong point as the Army has transitioned to giving performance-related awards throughout a work cycle instead of at the end.

Fore said the Army's Civilian Imple-

mentation Plan, or CIP, as well as the Army People Strategy, has had an impact on the service's civilian workforce in encouraging them to seek career advancement opportunities. The CIP is the Army's effort to augment and enhance the contributions of its civilian workforce by modernizing talent management policies and activities.

"We have really [improved] our outreach to our employees at the strategic level, as well as at their career-field level," Fore said. "We talk to them about where we are in our journey with career management, career training and development, as well as career opportunities."

Fore added that the opening of the Army

Civilian Career Management Activity, or ACCMA, in October has helped reach employees at the strategic level. ACCMA will help Army recruiting and retention attract qualified candidates to critical positions that have been challenging to fill.

The Army still has areas where it must continue to improve, Fore said, including in diversity and inclusion. Listening sessions are now being held at various installations as part of Project Inclusion, the service's plan to listen to the concerns of Army personnel to promote diversity and equal opportunities not only for Soldiers but also their civilian counterparts.

History Snapshot: Commander's Quarters 1948

Building 1048 was constructed as the Commander's Quarters and served as the residence of the commander of the Cold Weather Test Detachment. It was one of the first buildings completed at Ladd Field and its first resident was, then, Lt. Col. Dale V. Gaffney.

For the first two years of operation, Ladd Field was strictly a cold weather testing facility, but after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942, this was no longer the case. Following the attack, radio engineer Augie Hiebert picked up the news on a short wave radio and found Gaffney at home.

According to Hiebert in interviews years later, he asked Gaffney, "Did you know there was a war on, Dale?" To which Gaffney replied, "No, you've got to be kidding."

Hiebert invited Gaffney to the KFAR radio station on what is now Farmers Loop Road, they listened to the recording and immediately put Fairbanks on military alert. Hiebert went on to recall, "We went black that same night. [Gaffney] got on the air and told people what to do or what not to do and that's the way it started."



(Image courtesy of Candy Waugaman)

Army aggressively working to eliminate extremism, says chief diversity officer

Thomas Brading
Army News Service

As the Army continues efforts to improve diversity within its ranks, it is also reinforcing policies to eradicate extremist behaviors and activities.

The battle against extremism is different from other challenges the Army encounters, said Col. Timothy Holman, the Army's chief diversity officer. Extremism can tear apart cohesive teams.

For the colonel, the fight against extremism is one he personally encountered. His aim is clear: do what he can to help open a path for future Army leaders and make the force as diverse as the nation it defends.

"My hope is to ensure better representation of our country among the senior ranks," he said.

As a child in Mississippi during the early 1960s, Holman, an African-American, witnessed the tail-end of an era plagued by racially-motivated murders based on skin color. People such as Emmett Till in 1955; Medgar Evers in 1963; Vernon Dahmer in 1966; and others whose names history may never know, were all killed in areas near Holman's hometown.

"Growing up in a little bitty segregated Mississippi town, it was not uncommon for people to call you derogatory terms, and nothing would

happen [to them]," he said. "It was a place where people said, 'hey, you can't come to this side of town after dark because of the color of your skin.'"

Clear-cut rules

The Army's policy bans all personnel from participating in extremist organizations and activities, Holman said. Organizations and activities in which personnel are prohibited from participating include those that advocate, among other things: racial intolerance or discrimination; use of force to deprive individuals of their constitutional rights; and advocating or teaching the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Prohibited actions in support of extremist organizations or activities include, but are not limited to, participating in a public demonstration or rally; attending a meeting or activity with knowledge that it involves an extremist cause; fundraising; and recruiting, training, or organizing members of extremist organizations.

In other words, extremism in any form has no place in the military, the colonel said.

Ideally, extremism would not exist anywhere, but Holman is very familiar with extremism after growing up in rural Mississippi during the civil rights movement.

For two decades, he endured unmistakable racism. He feared things others may take for granted, like walking through certain areas after certain hours.

When he raised his right hand and swore to defend the Constitution under the Army cloth, the young lieutenant encountered a culture shock. "How does [my past] go away when someone says, 'in the

Army, it doesn't work the way it does in Mississippi,'" he said.

"I had to learn [the Army's] value system," he continued. "What I endured in rural Mississippi is not acceptable in the Army. It was hard to turn that switch on."

As an engineer officer, there were many times Holman served as the only Black officer leading white Soldiers, who looked like the individuals who once oppressed him. "It was a culture shock," he said.

Over the years, the Army, as well as the nation, has made great strides with diversity, he said.

However, he continued, the Army must invest in teaching Soldiers that what they may have learned at their house, or the environment from which they came, may not comport with the Army values.

Army policies

In July, service leaders updated Army Regulation 600-20, or Army Command Policy, which prescribes policy prohibiting participation in extremist organizations and activities, specifically addressing cyber activities.

AR 600-20 clearly articulates that personnel are responsible for the content they publish on all personal and public internet domains to include social media sites, blogs, and other websites; and participation in internet sites sponsored by extremist organizations and activities is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service.

If individuals violate these rules they may be subject to criminal and administrative consequences, and Army personnel are urged to speak up if they notice these violations, Holman said.

Additionally, AR 381-12, the Threat Awareness and Reporting Program,

or TARP, describes indicators of extremist activity. TARP training, which is conducted by Army counterintelligence agents, is designed to ensure personnel understand and report, among other things, incidents and indicators of attempted or actual extremist activities directed against the Army and its personnel.

All Army personnel will receive TARP training within 30 days of assignment or employment to an organization and will undergo live environment TARP training at least annually.

The Army also created iSALUTE and iWATCH Army, which are programs designed to facilitate reporting suspicious behavior. iSALUTE is an Army counterintelligence reporting program that permits personnel to report threat incidents, extremist behavioral indicators, and other counterintelligence matters. iWATCH Army is an anti-terrorism awareness program that includes materials and resources to help families identify and report indicators of potential terrorist activity.

According to the Office of the Provost Marshal General, suspicious behavior or actions of a person, or group of people, should be reported. There are numerous means of reporting: the chain of command, local law enforcement, iSALUTE, and the Insider Threat Hub, among others. If the actions of the person or group are life threatening, call emergency responders and/or 911.

Steps in the right direction

As part of the Project Inclusion initiative, Army leaders initiated a listening tour, titled "Your Voice Matters," which

aims to cultivate a culture built on trust, Holman said.

During the listening tour, Army leaders take note of the concerns pertaining to "racism, diversity, equity, inclusion, extremism, quality of life, whatever Soldiers have on their minds," Holman said.

Project Inclusion, which began during the summer, is an effort to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion across the force while building cohesive teams. "This holistic effort will listen to Soldiers and Army civilians, and identify any practices that inadvertently discriminate," he said.

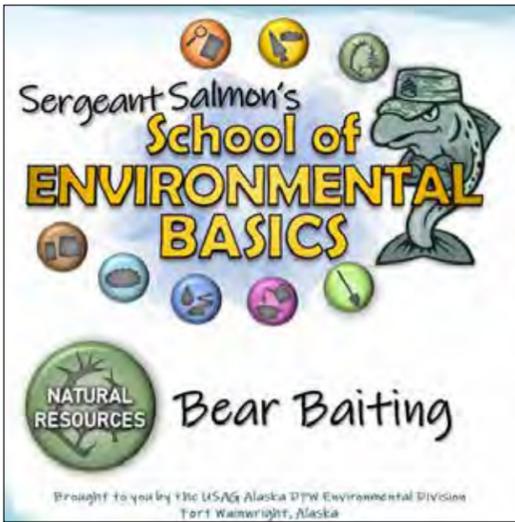
Extremism has frequently been a topic of discussion during the "Your Voice Matters" listening sessions, which are sometimes held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is a topic from which the diversity chief does not shy away.

"We have to [address] these issues, move toward diversity, and understand how people who might join the Army with extremist views are redirected," he said. "It's in line with what Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville said, 'people first.'"

Modernization is critical; however, the Army's people will operate the equipment and make it work, Holman said. If the psychological safety of a fighting force prevents it from being its best, then the mission will fail.

"When the chief of staff touts 'people first,' that is reflected in eradication of any extremism within the ranks," he said.

"Extremism will only limit or prohibit building the cohesive teams the Army needs. If that's the case, it doesn't matter how good your equipment is, if the soul of the force isn't operating at an optimal level."



Bear baiting on military lands

You can register a bear baiting station on Fort Wainwright's iSportman page (usartrak.isportsman.net) by visiting the bear baiting page and following these instructions:

1. Register your bear bait station

with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

2. Once registered with ADF&G, register for the U.S. Army Garrison Alaska bear baiting station by going to the USAG Alaska Bear Baiting Registration Form.

3. You will be required to provide accurate GPS coordinates, Recreational Access Permit card number and an ADFG Bear Bait Registration number.

4. Make sure you have a current RAP and a USAG Alaska Bear

Baiting 2021 permit before you go hunting!

Stay safe, and remember, Army training takes priority over recreation; the area you wish to bear bait in might be off limits to bear baiting or could be closed for training.

Researchers develop model to help track emerging worldwide events

U.S. Army DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory Public Affairs

An Army researcher partnered with university-based collaborators to develop an enhanced model to provide better clues for analysts who track new and emerging events around the world.

This research contributes to the growing range of natural language applications that support analysts overwhelmed with documents and other written materials, which will assist in detecting new and emerging events around the world and in connecting them to other reported patterns of activities by their locations and participants, said Dr. Clare Voss, researcher at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, known as DEVCOM, Army Research Laboratory.

Researchers published their peer-reviewed findings available via the ACL Anthology. In the paper, researchers said recurring instances of activity patterns captured in the graph schemas will provide clues or indicators to analysts who track ongoing geopolitical influence campaigns.

Automating the extraction of information about events that can be found in text documents, such as news stories, scientific articles, after-action reports, closed caption transcriptions of spoken broadcasts, or other types of natural language more generally, belongs to the application area called information extraction, Voss said.

Understanding events in these contexts requires knowledge in the form of higher-order structures called event schemas that encode frequently-recurring event sequences, ordered by temporal or causal relations or for narrative impact.

"Once instances of events have been extracted from a collection of texts, the next phase is to discern



Researchers develop model to help track emerging worldwide events. (Shutterstock)

how these instances may be related to each other, sometimes referred to as connecting the dots," Voss said.

This approach to information extraction leverages both the explicit knowledge from decades of established methods in natural language processing and explainable representations in linguistics, as well as the most recent neural network-based methods of discovering implicit or tacit information that may be automatically learnable by machine learning algorithms.

It is also a progression of work conducted under the Network Science Collaborative Technology Alliance, which concluded in 2019, and continues under the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Active Interpretation of Disparate Alternatives and Knowledge-Directed Artificial Intelligence Reasoning over Schemas programs.

The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign—lead on this paper, New York University, the Information Sciences Institute at the University of Southern California and the United States Naval Academy partnered with the Army's corporate research laboratory on this

research. "Event schemas can guide our understanding and ability to make predictions with respect to what might happen next," Voss said.

Previous schema induction methods have mostly ignored uncertainty, re-occurring events and multiple hypotheses, with limited attention to capture complex relations among events, other than temporal or causal relations, Voss said. Similarly, many existing approaches to automated event extraction have retained the overly simplistic assumption that individual events are atomic occurrences.

This research presents three unique contributions that take this research to the next level, she said.

First, it describes a novel framework for inducing semantically-based event graph schemas, each of which encodes rich event structures and event-to-event connections and is evaluated in terms of two new evaluation metrics for coverage and coherence.

"The coverage metric captures the proportion of event-to-event connections in the source text document that are actually represented in the graph schema," Voss said. "The coherence metric conveys the

probability of any two given events co-occurring within a given document."

Second, the paper introduces a form of language model, Path Language Model, to select frequently recurring and coherent event-to-event paths over which an event graph schema repository is constructed that is probabilistic and semantically coherent.

Finally, the research results presented show that features from the schema are effective in enhancing an end-to-end information extraction system.

For example, Voss said, consider the following sentence:

"Following the trail of Mohammed A. Salameh, the first suspect arrested in the bombing, investigators discovered a jumble of chemicals, chemistry implements and detonating materials..."

The researchers found that a state-of-the-art information extraction system will successfully extract an ARREST-JAIL event type for the verb arrested, but will fail to extract the INVESTIGATE-CRIME event type triggered by the verb of the sentence, discovered, and the verb's argument, Mohammed A. Salameh, of type DEFENDANT.

"Event graph sche-

timated," Voss said. "By augmenting the state-of-the-art [information extraction] system with features from an event graph schema that makes this connection, our approach can fix this missing error. In this paper, we report the results of conducting just such an extrinsic evaluation and show the effectiveness of the induced schema repository in enhancing downstream end-to-end IE tasks."

According to Voss, several challenges lie ahead for this research.

One will be developing an inventory of reliable clues to the presence of influence agendas in text. Once sufficient data can be annotated with consistency for such indicators, the next step will be to develop systems for automatically

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fort Wainwright Family & MWR

Weekly Events

March 20 - 27

20 Family Ice Climb with YSF
 March 20
 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 10 - 18 year olds can enjoy an Ice Climbing Adventure with Youth Sports & Fitness! Snow jacket, snow pants, hat, gloves, snow boots, & face mask are required. Cost: \$70.

Youth Sports & Fitness, Bldg 1045 Basement
 Call 353-7713, registration required

20 B.O.S.S. Ice Climb
 Registration deadline: March 20
 Event date: March 27, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Join us for a fun day of frozen waterfall climbing in the Denali Area! All skill levels are welcome. This is a great trip for those that want to give ice climbing a go! Originally \$70/person, now \$35 with BOSS.

B.O.S.S., Bldg 1045 Top Floor
 Call 353-7648/353-4145, registration required

22 Lil' ballers with YSF
 March 22 - 24
 5 - 5:45 p.m.
 3 - 4 year olds join Youth Sports for this Basketball Camp! *Face coverings and physical required to register. Camp located at the Youth Center. Cost: \$25 per child.

Youth Sports & Fitness, Bldg 1045 Basement
 Call 353-7713, registration required

27 UFC
 March 27
 Doors open at 3 p.m.
 Watch all of the big ticket UFC fights at the Warrior Zone! Reserving your space is strongly encouraged due to capacity limitations. Must be 18+ to enter.

Warrior Zone, Bldg 3205
 Call 353-1087, reservation encouraged

27 White Mountain Snowmachine Trip
 Registration deadline: March 27
 Event date: April 3, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Explore the White Mountains with ODR by snowmachine! This day trip is a great way to cross off your #AlaskanBucketList. *Snowmachine certification required.

Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg 4050
 Call 361-6349/361-6350, registration required

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ARMY'S WORLD WAR II HEROES

March 19, 2021

Upcoming Army budget to continue focus on modernization

Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

As the Army crafts its next budget, its chief of staff said Wednesday he will ensure every dollar counts as the service pushes ahead with its modernization efforts.

The Army is currently pursuing over 30 signature modernization systems under its updated acquisition process that aims to cut timelines and eliminate wasteful spending.

“If we’re going to field a system, its success ... is getting it in the hands of Soldiers,” said Gen. James C. McConville during a virtual discussion hosted by the Heritage Foundation. “And we must do that and we must transform the Army now.”

McConville said the Army has moved to a 21st century acquisition process that is starting to field systems in three to five years compared to past systems that took about 15 years.

“We are aggressively moving out and getting after these systems,” he said. “And what we have to show is that every dollar that Congress gives us, we’re going to use it appropriately.”

Early last year, the Army showed its commitment to saving funds when it canceled the original solicitation for the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle. It later released a new one in December to better assist industry with a list of basic characteristics for the vehicle that will transform the way infantry Soldiers and maneuver formations fight on the battlefield.

“We stepped back and we came out with the characteristics that we’re looking for in the system,” McConville said.

Under the current acquisition process, the Army works closer with industry partners by initially providing them



An Extended Range Cannon Artillery is tested at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, Nov. 18, 2018. The system is part of the Army's long-range precision fires portfolio. Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville said that the upcoming budget will continue to focus on modernization efforts, such as long-range precision fires, during a virtual discussion hosted by the Heritage Foundation Feb. 17, 2021. (Lance Cpl. Katherine Cottingham)

characteristics, not requirements, which allow them to be more innovative. Prototypes are then quickly delivered to Soldiers, who work with industry and others to finalize the requirements.

Army senior leaders have also routinely conducted “night court” budget reviews to realign billions of dollars to support modernization programs. During the budget review for fiscal year 2021, at least \$10 billion was realigned while 80 legacy programs were eliminated.

“I am pleased where we’re going,” McConville said. “We know that there may be some tough decisions, but we’re prepared to make those decisions as we move forward.”

He also advised industry that if their programs are not on cost, performance or schedule, they could be the next ones to be cut.

“We’re asking everyone to realize the importance of fielding those systems and meeting the requirements that they said

they can do,” he said.

Great power competition

The reason for the urgency is that the U.S. is presently in an era of great power competition with China and Russia, McConville said.

“They are modernizing their forces and I believe that the way we keep the peace, which is what everybody wants, is through strength,” he said.

As he studied military history throughout his career, the general said he noticed that when a military is not strong, other countries may decide to take advantage.

“That’s when you end up in wars and that’s when you end up having challenges in first battles,” he said. “We never want that to happen.”

Modern, improved systems can provide that deterrence. The general said the future Army should have more range and speed over an adversary, whether that’s new combat vehicles, aircraft or long-range

precision fires. “We’re going to be able to reach out and

touch those who wish us harm, if required, in a way we’ve never

done before,” he said.

Project Convergence, which is headed by Army Futures Command, could also enhance the speed of tying sensors with artificial intelligence to inform the right shooters to hit an enemy target.

The project’s first “campaign of learning” was held last year at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona. A second iteration is expected at Yuma again later this year to continue developing the Defense Department’s Joint All-Domain Command and Control concept that connects sensors and shooters from all services.

“This is what it’s all about,” McConville said. “It ties the whole joint force together, and we can quickly move data from one system or sensor to another system and make sure we have the right shooter that can quickly engage targets.”

USAG ALASKA INSTALLATION SAFETY OFFICE

SAFETY ALERT

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Yamaha Recalls Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles Due to Crash and Injury Hazards (Recall Alert)

2021 Yamaha Wolverine RMAX4 1000 (Model XF10WPAM)
2021 Yamaha Wolverine RMAX4 1000 LE (Model YXF10WPLM)
2021 Yamaha Wolverine RMAX4 1000 XT-R (Model YXF10WPZM)

Name of product: Model Year 2021 Wolverine RMAX4 1000 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles (ROVs)
Hazard: The vehicles’ rear shock absorber mounts can break, posing crash and injury hazards.
Remedy: Repair
Recall date: February 11, 2021
Units: About 820

Consumer Contact:
Yamaha at 800-962-7926 anytime or online at <https://yamaha-motor.com/> and click on “CPSC Recall Alerts” for more information. In addition, check your vehicle identification number “VIN” on Yamaha’s “Product Safety Recalls” page to see if your vehicle is included in any recalls.

Recall Details
Description: This recall involves model year 2021 Wolverine 1000 RMAX4 recreational off-highway vehicles. The side-by-side vehicles were sold in blue, green and gray. The model name is shown on the side of the vehicle. The Vehicle Identification Number can be found on the frame at the left rear. The model number is located near the front left corner of driver’s seat.
Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled ROVs and contact an authorized Yamaha dealer to schedule a free repair. Yamaha is contacting all registered owners directly.
Incidents/injuries: Yamaha has received one report of the rear shock absorber breaking loose. No injuries have been reported.
Sold At: Yamaha dealers nationwide from October 2020 through December 2020 for between \$21,300 and \$25,300.
Importer(s): Yamaha Motor Corporation U.S.A., of Cypress, Calif.
Manufacturer In: Japan
Recall number: 21-720

For more information contact the Installation Safety Office 353-7085/7083/7087 or visit

United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
<https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls>

USAG ALASKA INSTALLATION SAFETY OFFICE

SAFETY ALERT

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

KTM and Husqvarna Motorcycles Recall Closed Course Competition Motorcycles Due to Crash Hazard (Recall Alert)

Recalled 2021 KTM SX-E 5 motorcycle Recalled 2021 Husqvarna EE-5 motorcycle

Name of product: KTM SX-E 5 and Husqvarna EE-5 Motorcycles
Hazard: Water can get into the battery causing a short circuit, posing a crash hazard.
Remedy: Repair
Recall date: March 11, 2021
Units: About 300

Consumer Contact:
KTM and Husqvarna Motorcycles North America toll-free at 888-985-6090 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at <https://www.ktm.com/us/> or <http://www.husqvarna-motorcycles.com> and click on Service Information, then select Service Check for more information.

Recall Details
Description: This recall involves model year 2021 KTM SX-E 5 and Husqvarna EE-5 closed course/competition mini-motorcycles with an electric motor. The KTM off-road motorcycles are orange with white and blue with the KTM logo on both sides of the shrouds. The Husqvarna motorcycles are white, blue and yellow with the Husqvarna logo on both sides of the shrouds. The recalled motorcycles have the letter M in the 10th position of the vehicle identification number (VIN). The VIN number is located on the right side of the steering head.
Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop riding the recalled motorcycles and contact an authorized KTM or Husqvarna Motorcycles dealer, respective of their motorcycle brand, to schedule a free repair. KTM and Husqvarna Motorcycles are contacting all known purchasers directly.
Incidents/injuries: No incidents or injuries have been reported.
Sold At: KTM and Husqvarna Motorcycles authorized dealers nationwide from June 2020 through September 2020 for between \$5,100 and \$5,200.
Manufacturer(s): KTM AG, of Austria
Distributor(s): KTM North America Inc., of Amherst, Ohio
Manufacturer In: Austria
Recall number: 21-727

For more information contact the Installation Safety Office 353-7085/7083/7087 or visit

United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
<https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls>

USAG ALASKA INSTALLATION SAFETY OFFICE

SAFETY ALERT

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Polaris Recalls Ranger Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles and ProXD Utility Vehicles Due to Crash Hazard (Recall Alert)

Name of product: Model Year 2020-2021 RANGER 1000, RANGER CREW 1000, RANGER XP 1000, and RANGER CREW XP 1000 and Model Year 2020 ProXD 2000G, ProXD 2000G H, ProXD 4000G, and ProXD 4000G H
Hazard: The throttle pedal can return to the idle position more slowly than anticipated once the pedal is released or stick in the depressed position, posing a crash hazard.
Remedy: Repair
Recall date: March 4, 2021
Units: About 15,800 (In addition, 711 units were sold in Canada)

Consumer Contact:
Polaris at 800-765-2747 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or online at www.polaris.com and click on “Off Road Safety Recalls” or <https://www.polaris.com/en-us/off-road-recalls/> to check your vehicle identification number “VIN” or go to “Product Safety Recalls” page to see if your vehicle is included in any recalls or online at <https://www.polaris.com/en-us/recalls/off-road/>.

Recall Details
Description: This recall involves Model Year 2020-2021 RANGER 1000, RANGER CREW 1000, RANGER XP 1000, and RANGER CREW XP 1000 recreational off-highway vehicles and Model Year 2020 ProXD 2000G, ProXD 2000G H, ProXD 4000G, and ProXD 4000G H off-road utility vehicles. The vehicles were sold in the following colors: black, blue, burgundy, camo, gray, green, orange, red, sand, tan, titanium, and white. The RANGER vehicles have three or six seats and the ProXD vehicles have two or four seats. The RANGER and ProXD vehicles have “POLARIS” stamped on the front grille. The model number and VIN are printed on a portion of the left rear frame (on the driver’s side of the vehicle) under the cargo box.
Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled vehicles and contact a Polaris dealer to schedule a free repair. Polaris is notifying all dealers and contacting registered owners directly.
Incidents/injuries: The firm has received 52 reports of throttle pedals returning to the idle position slowly or sticking, including six reports of vehicle crashes resulting in minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.
Sold At: Polaris dealers nationwide from April 2020 through January 2021 for between \$13,000 and \$31,000.
Manufacturer(s): Polaris Inc., of Medina, Minn.
Manufacturer In: United States and Mexico
Recall number: 21-724

For more information contact the Installation Safety Office 353-7085/7083/7087 or visit

United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
<https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls>