



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – Apr. 6-12, 2021

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RESEARCH:

1. [Report: lack of military working dogs bred in the United States could be a national security risk](#)

(*WKTR 9 Apr 21*) ... Todd Corillo

A report from the Naval Postgraduate School is highlighting an ongoing problem for the U.S. military: a lack of military working dogs bred domestically.

2. [DHS Partners with DWX to Advance Homeland Security Solutions](#)

(*Homeland Security Today 9 Apr 21*)

Innovative technology development and acquisition have become increasingly competitive and fast moving. To keep pace with rapidly emerging technologies, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) is partnering with DEFENSEWERX (DWX), a nonprofit organization focused on cultivating ecosystems that enable the acceleration of innovative solutions to benefit the nation. This partnership will enable DHS S&T to leverage DWX's network of innovation hubs co-located with Department of Defense laboratories across the country and source ideas to explore and augment ongoing S&T activities spanning DHS mission areas... DWX, a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2012 and headquartered in Niceville, Florida, provides services in technology transfer, innovation and collaboration, prototyping, and workforce development/STEM outreach. DWX also serves as a PI for the Air Force Research Laboratory's Munitions Directorate, U.S. Special Operations Command Headquarters, Air University, Army Cyber Command, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and **Naval Postgraduate School**.

3. [DHS Enlists DefenseWerx for Homeland Security Innovation Campaign](#)

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LOCAL MONTEREY:

4. [Monterey officials to address anti-Asian sentiments, violence](#)

(*Monterey Herald 5 Apr 21*) ... Dennis Taylor

Elected officials in Monterey on Tuesday will open up a discussion of hate crimes and racism toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, culminating with a resolution denouncing violence against these groups, including the many Asian tourists who visit the Monterey Bay area... And with institutions such as the **Naval Postgraduate School** and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, student impact on the Monterey area should not be overlooked. China now contributes more students to the United States than any other country.

5. Naval Postgraduate School faces big budget cuts and possible reorganization.

(Monterey County Weekly 8 Apr 21) ... Pam Marino

A rising threat of China's naval presence and the U.S. Navy's determination to meet the challenge with a bigger, modernized fleet is in turn resulting in intense pressure on Naval installations across the country to cut costs, including at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. According to sources within NPS who provided the Weekly with emails and verbal accounts of virtual meetings, the school could be facing more than \$15 million in budget cuts for the 2022 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

FACULTY:

6. Ex-admirals detained in Turkey over statement on straits treaty [Audio Interview]

(eKathimerini 6 Apr 21)

Turkish authorities on Monday detained 10 former admirals after a group of more than 100 retired top navy officers issued a statement declaring their commitment to the 1936 Montreux Convention, an international treaty that regulates shipping through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits. The statement was issued amid a debate over whether Turkish President Erdogan would pull the country out of the convention. Government officials have tied the statement to Turkey's history of military coups.

Ryan Gingeras, a professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School** and an expert on Turkish, Balkan, and Middle East history, joins The Greek Current to analyze this latest development.

7. Is Combat-Induced Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Unique To Industrialized Warfare?

(Science Blog 7 Apr 21) ... University of Arizona

Thirty years ago, clinical psychiatrist Jonathan Shay drew attention to similarities between the trauma experienced by Greek warriors, as documented in the epic poem "The Iliad," and Vietnam veterans in America. Could the experience of war impact people in similar ways in vastly different cultural milieus?... "Distinguishing between these theories has been challenging because PTSD in combatants has been studied almost exclusively in large-scale industrialized societies," said Zefferman, who is a U.S. Air Force veteran and an assistant professor at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey. Zefferman was a postdoctoral researcher with the Institute of Human Origins at ASU at the time he began this project.

8. Taking Lessons from LTTE New Narco-Terrorism Network Takes Shape in South Asia

(In Depth News 9 Apr 21) ... Sugeeswara Senadhira

Indian security officials believe the interception of a Sri Lankan boat carrying 300 kilograms of heroin, five AK-47 guns and ammunition off the coast of Vizhinjam in Kerala in South India on March 25 points to a network of narco-terrorism with strong links to a group in Sri Lanka. The Indian officials told the Media the network of narco-terrorism has created sleeper cells in Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries, and exports drugs to foment trouble. They added that the drug income is then used to fund illegal activities, including extremist activities... That was the era in which the distinctions between organised crime and new terrorism, as distinguished from old terrorism in cause and effect, have increasingly become blurred. According to A P Wickramasekara, a Sri Lankan researcher at **Naval Postgraduate School** in California, referring to the convergence of TOC and new terrorism in Sri Lanka proposed three hypotheses.

9. Is the Turkish army at a watershed in terms of identity? – Expert [Video Interview]

(Ahval News 8 Apr 21)

The recent declaration by ex-admirals from the Turkish navy has shown that the army has been at a watershed in terms of identity, Professor Ryan Gingeras from the **Naval Postgraduate School** said in a podcast with Ahval editor-in-chief Yavuz Baydar.

10. TURKEY'S TALK SHOW NATIONALISTS

(War on the Rocks 8 Apr 21) ... Ryan Gingeras

Turn on Turkish television on any given night, and it is likely you will meet eyes with a former general or admiral. At first blush, their steady presence as commentators on talk shows, as well as on social media, appears unremarkable. With the Turkish armed forces deployed on a variety of fronts both at home and abroad, events appear to demand the interpretative aid of those with military experience. Watch enough programming and you discover, however, that the generals and admirals of Turkish television are by no means passive actors. Former military officers have emerged as a potent constituency in Turkey's fragmented partisan landscape. Via television and social media, many have sought to shape the tenor, and perhaps even the direction, of Turkish foreign policy... Ryan Gingeras is a professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School** and is an expert on Turkish, Balkan, and Middle East history. He is the author of five books, including most recently, *Eternal Dawn: Turkey in the Age of Atatürk*. His *Sorrowful Shores: Violence, Ethnicity, and the End of the Ottoman Empire* received short-list distinctions for the Rothschild Book Prize in Nationalism and Ethnic Studies and the British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize. The views expressed here are not those of the Naval Postgraduate School, the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, or any part of the U.S. government.

11. Why did an ex-admiral suggest Turkey buy an antique aircraft carrier, troubled Russian jets?

(Ahval News 9 Apr 21) ... Paul Iddon

Former Rear Admiral Cihat Yaycı recently suggested Turkey could procure an old Brazilian aircraft carrier set to be sold for scrap and buy Su-33 Flanker navy jets from Russia... "The suggestions are further evidence that Cihat Yaycı is ideologically committed to the idea of Turkey possessing a 'big fleet' irrespective of the drawbacks or consequences," Ryan Gingeras, an expert on Turkey and a professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, told Ahval. "Having carriers and expanding the fleet appear to be things that are, in and of themselves, innately of value."

12. Cyclones to bring more rain further south in future, say the weather experts

(ABC Weather 9 Apr 21) ... Kate Doyle

As a pack of tropical lows looms off the WA coast, the latest forecast is for the biggest, Tropical Cyclone Seroja, to continue south-west and turn towards the coast on Saturday... According to Michael Montgomery, professor of meteorology at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, as the heat content in the ocean goes up the amount of energy available to tropical cyclones increases.

ALUMNI:

13. Andy Zirkelbach named new Central Head Football Coach

(14 News 5 Apr 21) ... Bethany Miller

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (WFIE) -Tonight (April 5), the EVSC Board of School Trustees approved the appointment of long time EVSC football coach Andrew Zirkelbach as the head football coach at Central High School... Zirkelbach earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Evansville, a master's in engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, and a master's in secondary education from Oakland City University.

14. The Floyd Case May Change the Worldview of America

(Jacksonville Free Press 8 Apr 21) ... Reggie Blaunt

The George Floyd case is not just a case against officer Derek Chauvin, it's a case that could redefine how America is viewed across the globe. On May 25, 2020, Officer Derek Chauvin was recorded with his knee in the neck of a hand cuffed, face down George Floyd for over 9 minutes, while two other officers assisted in the restraint and one stood watch. Several bystanders including medical professionals were pleading with the officer to allow Floyd to breathe. The incident sent shock waves throughout the world. Paramedics arriving on the scene attempted to feel for a pulse in the unresponsive Floyd while Chauvin continued with his knee on Floyd's neck... Reginald Blount is a former city council candidate, retired military veteran, public policy analyst for the newly formed National Frontline (Jacksonville), and Adjunct Professor. He holds a master's degree in public policy and is a graduate of the **Naval Postgraduate School** SSDCO program.



15. Ron Bethmann Joins Signature Systems as Vice President of Operations & Engineering

(PR Newswire 8 Apr 21)

Texas-based Signature Systems, a global company that engineers, manufactures and distributes premium composite matting solutions for industrial, stadium, government and event applications, is pleased to announce Ron Bethmann has joined the executive team as Vice President of Operations and Engineering... Bethmann holds a Master of Science degree in Systems Technology from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, a Master of Science degree in Transportation Management from the University of Denver and a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy. Prior to Signature, Bethmann held the Vice President of Operations for Argo Consulting and held numerous leadership positions with CSX and the United States Navy.

16. THE LATEST ON CHINESE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS WITH LT COL DENNIS BLASKO [Audio Interview]

(SOFREP 9 Apr 21)

In this episode, SOFREP Senior Editor Steve Balestrieri joins Lt Col Dennis Blasko, USA, Ret. an expert on the Chinese Army and friend of SOFREP's... Lt Col Dennis Blasko, USA, Ret. is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He is the author of numerous articles and chapters on the Chinese military, including the book *The Chinese Army Today: Tradition and Transformation for the 21st Century*.

17. CSU alum Deanne Criswell nominated to head FEMA

(Collegian 9 Apr 21)

If she is confirmed by the senate, Criswell would become the first woman to head the agency since its inception in 1979... During her time at CSU, Criswell earned a Bachelor of Science in technology education and training. She then went on to receive a master's degree in public administration at the University of Colorado Denver and a master's in science in homeland security from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

18. USMC Ret., LTC William Marm Accepted into Bancroft Capital's Disabled Veteran Training Program

(Prince William Living 9 Apr 21)

Bancroft Capital, a certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) specializing in Institutional Brokerage and Capital Markets services, announced that it has accepted three impressive disabled military veteran candidates into its Veteran Training Program (VTP) for 2021, including USMC Ret., LTC William Marm of Manassas... Marm is joining Bancroft's VTP as a retired U.S. Army Green Beret with 20 years of service. Marm received a commission in the infantry from the United States Military Academy at West Point with the Class of 1999, successfully completed Special Forces training, and served in various leadership positions with deployments throughout Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Marm has a master's degree from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Defense Analysis, with a specialty in Terrorist Operations and Financing.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

April 13: [V-SGL with Vice Admiral Jon A. Hill: Missile Defense and Technology Warriors](#)

April 15: President's next "Ask me Anything" 1500 –1600

April 20-22: [Naval Research Working Group \(NRWG\) 21](#)

May 11-13: [18th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium](#)

May 14: [NPS Students' Big Idea Exchange 2021 \(BIX21\)](#)



RESEARCH:

Report: lack of military working dogs bred in the United States could be a national security risk

(WKTR 9 Apr 21) ... Todd Corillo

A report from the Naval Postgraduate School is highlighting an ongoing problem for the U.S. military: a lack of military working dogs bred domestically.

"Research and Analysis of the American Domestic Government Working Dog Industry," by Air Force Captain Jason Passarella and 1st Lieutenant Robert Paulo Ocampo, is part of the Acquisition Research Program at the Naval Postgraduate School and was published in December.

The authors cite a chronic shortage of domestically-bred military working dogs that has plagued the Defense Department and other federal agencies for more than 30 years. Figures show about 93% of current dogs across all U.S. government agencies were imported from Europe.

In the report, Ocampo and Passarella make the argument that the lack of domestically-bred dogs "creates increased supply chain risk and may threaten the ability of departments and agencies that utilize working dogs to maintain readiness if the supply from foreign markets is contested or interrupted for an extended period."

The report concludes that current challenges of doing business with the Defense Department is a key factor discouraging breeders from providing military working dogs to the government, and suggests several remedies, including the establishment of a government-subsidized dog breeding program and improving the government procurement process.

"Working dogs remain a vital and irreplaceable asset to national security," the authors summarize.

During a briefing last week, Pentagon Spokesman John Kirby was asked about the report and if military working dogs would be part of a supply chain survey.

"We all recognize the critical national security role, safety and security role that working dogs play. And I think there's very few agencies in the government who understand that better than the Department of Defense," Kirby said. "I don't have a specific announcement to make today about the degree to which the secretary's going to consider this. We certainly have seen that reporting and I suspect that we'll want to get more information before making any kind of policy decision about this.

"We absolutely fully understand the capabilities and never mind how much people obviously feel affection for dogs, but the actual security capabilities that these animals bring to the mission and we certainly will continue to take it seriously going forward," he added.

[Report: lack of military working dogs bred in the United States could be a national security risk \(wtkr.com\)](http://wtkr.com)

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DHS Partners with DWX to Advance Homeland Security Solutions

(Homeland Security Today 9 Apr 21)

Innovative technology development and acquisition have become increasingly competitive and fast moving. To keep pace with rapidly emerging technologies, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) is partnering with DEFENSEWERX (DWX), a nonprofit organization focused on cultivating ecosystems that enable the acceleration of innovative solutions to benefit the nation. This partnership will enable DHS S&T to leverage DWX's network of innovation hubs co-located with Department of Defense laboratories across the country and source ideas to explore and augment ongoing S&T activities spanning DHS mission areas.



DHS S&T's Office of Industry Partnerships (OIP) executed a new partnership intermediary agreement (PIA) with DWX. As a partnership intermediary (PI) – a state or local government or a nonprofit entity that is owned, funded, chartered, or operated in whole or in part by a state or local government – DWX will work closely with DHS S&T to conduct cooperative activities with small businesses and educational institutions.

The purpose of this PIA is to assist DHS S&T with its technology transfer and commercialization functions over five task areas that include assessing the current DHS S&T innovation ecosystem; establishing a pilot DHS Innovation Hub and determining how to develop an Innovation Hub system for DHS; and developing recommendations to support and integrate future DHS S&T innovation and technology transfer and commercialization activities to benefit DHS and the Homeland Security Enterprise. DHS S&T seeks to broaden collaboration and integration of existing programs, expand the organization's footprint into innovation communities, and increase opportunities to commercialize new technologies quickly to address DHS mission needs.

DWX, a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2012 and headquartered in Niceville, Florida, provides services in technology transfer, innovation and collaboration, prototyping, and workforce development/STEM outreach. DWX also serves as a PI for the Air Force Research Laboratory's Munitions Directorate, U.S. Special Operations Command Headquarters, Air University, Army Cyber Command, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[DHS Partners with DWX to Advance Homeland Security Solutions – Homeland Security Today \(hstoday.us\)](http://hstoday.us)

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DHS Enlists DefenseWerx for Homeland Security Innovation Campaign

(Executive Gov 12 Apr 21) ... Nichols Martin

The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology (DHS S&T) directorate will collaborate with the Niceville, Florida-based nonprofit DefenseWerx organization to establish an innovation hub that can support DHS' mission requirements.

S&T and DWX signed a partnership intermediary agreement to engage the small business community and the educational sector in efforts to develop, transition and commercialize technology across five task areas, the directorate said Friday.

The nonprofit will help review S&T's current innovation environment and recommend approaches to implement technology transfer and commercialization across the homeland security enterprise.

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[DHS Enlists DefenseWerx for Homeland Security Innovation Campaign \(executivegov.com\)](http://executivegov.com)

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LOCAL NEWS:

Monterey officials to address anti-Asian sentiments, violence

(Monterey Herald 5 Apr 21) ... Dennis Taylor

Elected officials in Monterey on Tuesday will open up a discussion of hate crimes and racism toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, culminating with a resolution denouncing violence against these groups, including the many Asian tourists who visit the Monterey Bay area.

The discussion will center around a resolution that will be introduced during Tuesday's City Council meeting by Councilman Tyller Williamson that illustrates the recent deadly violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as well as Monterey's troubled past of anti-Asian sentiment.



In addition to a moral imperative, an important reason to make Asian tourists and Asian American residents feel welcome is the contribution to the area economy from tourism and students, primarily from China.

From 2005 to 2015, Chinese tourism spending in the United States has increased eight-fold, and in 2015 contributed \$27 billion to the U.S. economy, according to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in its 2020 report to Congress.

And with institutions such as the **Naval Postgraduate School** and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, student impact on the Monterey area should not be overlooked. China now contributes more students to the United States than any other country.

Williamson's resolution includes a list of atrocities committed since the anti-Asian fervor began during the Trump administration. In the past year alone, more than 3,700 hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders residents were reported, the resolution notes. And 700 of those were in the San Francisco Bay Area.

They include a deadly attack on a nearly blind 84-year-old man in San Francisco and a February attack on a 64-year-old grandmother in broad daylight in downtown San Jose. These were all before six Asian women were gunned down in Atlanta in mid-March. There are hundreds of additional assaults that go unreported, according to a coalition of universities and nonprofit organizations.

According to 2019 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly 8% of Monterey's population are Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders.

"Racism and anti-(Asian American and Pacific Islander) sentiments have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and perpetuated by language used by former President Trump, who characterized this global pandemic as the 'Chinese virus,'" the resolution reads.

[Monterey officials to address anti-Asian sentiments, violence – Monterey Herald](#)

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Naval Postgraduate School faces big budget cuts and possible reorganization.

(Monterey County Weekly 8 Apr 21) ... Pam Marino

A rising threat of China's naval presence and the U.S. Navy's determination to meet the challenge with a bigger, modernized fleet is in turn resulting in intense pressure on Naval installations across the country to cut costs, including at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. According to sources within NPS who provided the Weekly with emails and verbal accounts of virtual meetings, the school could be facing more than \$15 million in budget cuts for the 2022 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

It goes deeper, with NPS facing a potential reorganization to meet the Navy's shifting priorities, according to emails from NPS President Ann E. Rondeau to employees sent March 25 and 31. Rondeau, a retired vice admiral, said the school is being looked at by the Navy under new lenses "of cost and value and outcomes toward capability" and the school could be facing a 15-percent reduction in direct funding. NPS officials issued a written statement saying they could not comment until a budget request is submitted to Congress later this year.

A source who attended virtual meetings tells the Weekly that NPS officials said they are considering merging the Graduate School of Defense Management with the Graduate School of Information and Operational Sciences, resulting in the elimination of potentially as many as 60 tenured and untenured professors within the defense management school.

In emails, Rondeau called the Navy's overall shift "potentially tectonic as when [the] Navy began the transition from steam and diesel power to nuclear power. Frankly where we are in the strategic calculus of competition and conflict makes change toward new relevance an imperative," she said. Elsewhere she wrote, "failure to adjust to such transformations may jeopardize those activities' [like NPS] very existence" and asked staff to see the situation as a chance to lead and become stronger.



U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta, D-Carmel Valley, says he is not aware of specific cuts or layoffs being discussed at NPS but confirms the Navy's focus on investing in a bigger fleet is causing budgets to shrink and "unfortunately may be to the detriment of a couple of programs at NPS." Panetta serves on the House Committee on Armed Services and says he will work during the budget process to make sure the Pentagon is aware of the importance of NPS to the education of officers and senior enlisted personnel.

[Naval Postgraduate School faces big budget cuts and possible reorganization. | Local News | montereycountyweekly.com](#)

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FACULTY:

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[Ex-admirals detained in Turkey over statement on straits treaty | eKathimerini.com](#)

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Is Combat-Induced Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Unique To Industrialized Warfare?

(Science Blog 7 Apr 21) ... University of Arizona

Thirty years ago, clinical psychiatrist Jonathan Shay drew attention to similarities between the trauma experienced by Greek warriors, as documented in the epic poem "The Iliad," and Vietnam veterans in America. Could the experience of war impact people in similar ways in vastly different cultural milieus?

Research published this week by Arizona State University researcher Sarah Mathew and former ASU postdoctoral researcher Matthew Zefferman in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences shows that Turkana pastoralist warriors from Kenya also experience PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) symptoms, even though their lifestyles and combat experiences are markedly different from that of Western soldiers.

However, these pastoralists experience less of the PTSD symptoms associated with depression relative to American service members. This difference may be due to aspects of Turkana military organization and practice.

Combat stress is considered to be a major part of the human cost of industrialized warfare. It is estimated that 10% to 20% of American combat veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars suffer from PTSD.

The roots of PTSD are controversial. Some think that PTSD is largely a syndrome of military service members of industrialized societies who do not have social support systems typical in small-scale societies. Others expect it to be a universal phenomenon caused by adaptive responses to acute life-threatening events.



“Distinguishing between these theories has been challenging because PTSD in combatants has been studied almost exclusively in large-scale industrialized societies,” said Zefferman, who is a U.S. Air Force veteran and an assistant professor at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey. Zefferman was a postdoctoral researcher with the Institute of Human Origins at ASU at the time he began this project.

Zefferman spent six months interviewing warriors in a remote part of Kenya near the border of South Sudan, where Mathew has been running a field research site since 2007. Mathew is an associate professor at ASU in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change and a research affiliate of the Institute of Human Origins. She was awarded an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship in 2015 that allowed her to undertake this study.

Lethal interethnic cattle raiding, once common in several pastoralist societies, continues unabated in this part of Kenya, with semi-automatic rifles replacing spears starting in the late 1970s.

“The Turkana communities in this area see cattle raiding as integral to their livelihood — without going on raids, they cannot recover livestock they lost when they were attacked, and they would get pushed out of critical dry season pastures and water wells,” Mathew said.

Turkana in this area have a high degree of combat exposure with about half of adult male mortality due to combat. Twenty-eight percent of the 218 warriors interviewed for the study reported PTSD symptom severity scores that would qualify for a provisional PTSD diagnosis.

To delve further, they compared Turkana symptoms with those of treatment-seeking American combat veterans. They found that the Turkana, compared to American service members, have similarly high levels of symptoms that Zefferman and Mathew hypothesized facilitate learning from and reacting to future combat-related dangers. However, they have lower rates of depressive PTSD symptoms.

The researchers suggest that depressive symptoms have different evolutionary origins than other PTSD symptoms and may be related to moral injury — trauma from witnessing or participating in acts that violate one’s moral beliefs.

The researchers also believe that the lack of hierarchical coercive leadership in the Turkana helps them avoid morally questionable actions relative to members of militaries in industrial societies. Because combat is so pervasive in the Turkana, there is not as strong a separation between military and civilian life. The Turkana employ numerous rituals after killing in combat that may help relieve these symptoms.

To see if PTSD symptomology among the Turkana supported their proposition, they statistically modeled which aspects of Turkana combat experiences are associated with depressive (negative beliefs/feelings, low concentration, and irritability/aggression) versus “learning-and-reacting” (hypervigilance, nightmares, flashbacks) PTSD symptoms.

They found that predictors measuring exposure to the dangers of combat like being ambushed, shooting at or being shot by the enemy, hand-to-hand combat, and suffering bullet wounds were more strongly associated with learning-and-reacting than depressive symptoms of PTSD.

Conversely, predictors measuring exposure to combat-related moral violations like failing to save the life of another Turkana, seeing people get shot or die, killing an enemy, or being socially sanctioned for combat-related actions were more strongly associated with depressive than learning-and-reacting symptoms.

“The findings provide an evolutionarily and cross-culturally informed framework to further probe the origins and causes of moral injury and its connection to combat-related PTSD,” Zefferman said.

In 2018, sponsored by the ASU Center for Evolution and Medicine, the researchers co-organized a workshop with the center’s founding director, Randy Nesse. The workshop brought together anthropologists, clinical psychiatrists and evolutionary psychologists to ASU to discuss avenues for future interdisciplinary research.

“Establishing which aspects of PTSD are dependent on social and moral forces, and which will tend to be universal, can help focus clinical research on ways to prevent or treat combat stress,” Mathew said.

This research was published as “Combat stress in a small-scale society suggest divergent evolutionary roots for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms,” Matthew R. Zefferman and Sarah Mathew, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

[Is combat-induced post-traumatic stress disorder unique to industrialized warfare? - ScienceBlog.com](https://www.scienceblog.com)



Taking Lessons from LTTE New Narco-Terrorism Network Takes Shape in South Asia

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Indian security officials believe the interception of a Sri Lankan boat carrying 300 kilograms of heroin, five AK-47 guns and ammunition off the coast of Vizhinjam in Kerala in South India on March 25 points to a network of narco-terrorism with strong links to a group in Sri Lanka. The Indian officials told the Media the network of narco-terrorism has created sleeper cells in Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries, and exports drugs to foment trouble. They added that the drug income is then used to fund illegal activities, including extremist activities.

The Indian Coast Guard and the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) found heroin worth Rs 3,000 crores (LKR 720 million) stashed in the boat along with AK-47 rifles and 1,000 rounds of 9mm ammunition. "A number of incriminating documents were also seized from the occupants of the vessel," said the NCB, adding that six Sri Lankan nationals were arrested.

The investigations so far have revealed that an unknown vessel carried the heroin and arms consignment from Chabahar Port, Iran, and handed it over to the Sri Lankan fishing boat, Ravihansi, in the high seas near Lakshadweep. Ravihansi then attempted to traffic the consignment to Sri Lanka when the Indian authorities intercepted it. NCB officials said that earlier, Sri Lankan authorities, too, had seized drugs worth Rs 2.5 billion that had been smuggled from the Gwadar port.

Sri Lanka has become a vulnerable transshipment hub for Transnational Organised Crime (TOC) since the Tamil terrorist's commenced drug trafficking and money laundering in the 1980s. The LTTE smuggled drugs to raise money for arms and ammunition. However, after establishing links with Norway, Canada and few other Western countries the LTTE transferred its drug money into legitimate businesses in the West.

Organized crime and new terrorism

That was the era in which the distinctions between organised crime and new terrorism, as distinguished from old terrorism in cause and effect, have increasingly become blurred. According to A P Wickramasekara, a Sri Lankan researcher at **Naval Postgraduate School** in California, referring to the convergence of TOC and new terrorism in Sri Lanka proposed three hypotheses.

First, new terrorism often avails itself of the means and methods of organised crime. Second, increasing TOC and the existing ethnic and religious disharmony pose a national security risk in Sri Lanka, increasing its vulnerability to new terrorism. Third, a lack of national strategies have prevented Sri Lanka from harnessing the instruments of national power to the fullest effect.

A case study evaluates al Qaeda and the Abu Sayyaf Group as potential examples of a TOC-new terrorism nexus. The thesis statistically proves the increasing TOC trends and provides evidence on the emerging roots of Islamic radicalization that might lead to new terrorism, which could cause serious threats for the national security of Sri Lanka.

Dr Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee of the Indian Council of World Affairs pointed out that terrorism stands out to be a method of combat in which random or symbolic victims serve as instrumental targets of violence.

In his research paper, Narco-Terrorism and South Asia, he said Narco-terrorism could be defined as the "use of organised terror to secure control over a state by another state or organised criminal networks or by insurgents or by a combination of any or all of them to achieve fixed political, economic or social objectives based on organisational and financial empowerment through drug trafficking".

The involvement of the LTTE in narcotic transactions in the 1980s included bulk delivery of heroin and cannabis from producing areas in Asia via transit points to destinations in consuming countries, conveying relatively small consignments of heroin concealed in personal baggage from suppliers in Asian countries to intermediary contact persons in the Middle East, North Africa, South Africa and western countries, the operation of drug distribution networks dealing in consuming regions or countries and working as couriers between dealers and distributors.

Contraband trade between India and Sri Lanka

Contraband trade between India and Sri Lanka has, for long, been a lucrative commercial enterprise, controlled, for the most part, by gangs operating from both sides of Palk Strait. While Velvettiturai is considered to have served as the foremost centre of the smugglers from Sri Lanka, on the Indian side, Chennai, Tuticorin, Pattukotai, Rameshwaram, Tiruchendur, Ramnad, Nagapatnam, Cochin and a host of smaller localities inhabited by fishing communities have figured prominently among the smuggler bases and hideouts.

The experts say although terrorism is not a recent phenomenon and has been playing an important role in the world since the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, terrorism since the 1960s is the child of the war created by the imperialist powers. The current Islamic terrorism is by and large a byproduct of the conflicts initiated by Western powers to control countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Iran.

The Indian Coast Guard seizure of the drugs and arms consignment on March 25 was not the first such instance. Early March, there was another seizure. Indian security sources told Media that one Dubai-based smuggler was working for a multi-national drug smuggling racket, and the money from this has been used to create unrest, and fund extremism. They said the money was used for the 2019 Sri Lanka Easter bombings, fuelling the farmer protest in India. According to Rakesh Asthana, the Director-General of the NCB, this network has cells in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Dubai, and East Africa.

In January this year, M.M.M. Nawas, a Sri Lankan national was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau along with his compatriot Mohamed Afnas for alleged involvement in an international drug trafficking racket. They had travelled to Gulf nations on a fake Indian passport.

“Investigations are underway to determine the facts. Both were living in Chennai under assumed identities after they fled Sri Lanka,” a Customs official said. “Nawas is wanted for an attempt to murder the Sri Lankan narcotics control bureau's inspector, Rangajeeva, on May 9, 2017. He went underground thereafter,” the official added. Nawas is said to be a key associate of Kanjipani Imran, now lodged in jail.

The accused arranged vessels to transport drug consignments from the Gwadar port through maritime routes to transit points in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Payments were made through the 'hawala' channel via Dubai.

Imran worked with Sri Lankan underworld figure Makandure Madhush. Madhush was killed in a crossfire between the police and some drug peddlers in October last year. They had earlier operated from Dubai, where they were arrested in 2019 and extradited to Sri Lanka. "In the recent past, some point-men for drug smugglers in Sri Lanka have been found operating from Tamil Nadu," Indian security officials said, adding that a probe was underway to find out if Nawas had developed links with local criminal gangs for logistics support.

Last year, the drug enforcement agencies found that another Sri Lankan national, Angoda Lokka, a notorious drug trafficker and associate of Madhush, had been living in India since 2017. He died under mysterious circumstances in Coimbatore in July 2020. Lokka had fled Sri Lanka following an attack on a prison bus in February 2017, in which rival gang leader ‘Samayan’ was killed along with five other jail inmates and two prison officials. According to Indian NCB, the drug trafficking network involving Nawas has links in Afghanistan, Iran, the Maldives and Australia.

The Indian Coast Guard and NCB announced that there were 6 Sri Lankans in the boat ‘Ravihansi’ seized with heroin, five AK-47 guns and ammunition had on March 25, off the coast of Vizhinjam in Kerala. The suspects, LY Nandana, HKGB Dassppriya, AHS Gunasekara, SA Senarath, T Ranasingha and D Nissankawere remanded to judicial custody.

[Taking Lessons from LTTE New Narco-Terrorism Network Takes Shape in South Asia - IDN- InDepthNews | Analysis That Matters](#)

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Is the Turkish army at a watershed in terms of identity? – Expert [Video Interview]

(Ahval News 8 Apr 21)

The recent declaration by ex-admirals from the Turkish navy has shown that the army has been at a watershed in terms of identity, Professor Ryan Gingeras from the **Naval Postgraduate School** said in a podcast with Ahval editor-in-chief Yavuz Baydar.

Gingeras told Baydar that there were two important aspects in the recent declaration signed by 104 retired admirals, condemning discussions of Turkey possibly withdrawing from the Montreux Convention.

The admirals said the Montreux Convention was not negotiable and criticised the government for opening up the debate, Gingeras said. According to the declaration, the admirals see the convention that regulates warships' passage from Turkey's straits as a victory won by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the modern republic.

Another grievance the admirals declared was the Islamisation of the Turkish army, voiced over an active-service rear admiral's visit to the leader of an extreme Islamic sect.

Concerns over Islamisation are not new for the Turkish army, Gingeras said, and some retired members of the army have already adopted an Islamist political outlook. Moreover, he said, Turkish Minister of Defence Hulusi Akar promoted officer corps based on their political loyalty, rather than performance, during his term as chief of general staff between 2015 and 2018.

Many administrative issues within the army were previously under the jurisdiction of the military, Baydar said, however, they have since been transferred to the ministry of defence through amendments to military school bylaws.

There is no formal change in relations between NATO and Turkey, Gingeras said, however, "it is difficult to say anything about future relations".

According to Gingeras, two distinct tendencies are present within the Turkish army, one older than the other. The first is the more traditional one that has functioned as "a nation-building organisation" under the modern republic via conscription, while the second, more Islamically-conscious tendency now favours President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's government.

The extent to which such controversies radiate into the operational capacity of the army is yet to be known, the professor added, saying it was too early to say that the traditional identity of the army will change into a new one, Gingeras said.

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TURKEY'S TALK SHOW NATIONALISTS

(War on the Rocks 8 Apr 21) ... Ryan Gingeras

Turn on Turkish television on any given night, and it is likely you will meet eyes with a former general or admiral. At first blush, their steady presence as commentators on talk shows, as well as on social media, appears unremarkable. With the Turkish armed forces deployed on a variety of fronts both at home and abroad, events appear to demand the interpretative aid of those with military experience. Watch enough programming and you discover, however, that the generals and admirals of Turkish television are by no means passive actors. Former military officers have emerged as a potent constituency in Turkey's fragmented partisan landscape. Via television and social media, many have sought to shape the tenor, and perhaps even the direction, of Turkish foreign policy.

Following a period of high-profile civil-military tensions in Turkey, TV generals have played a dual role, simultaneously legitimizing President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and rehabilitating the army's standing in society. By celebrating the victories of Erdoğan's government, former high-ranking officers have sharpened the appeal of Ankara's muscular foreign policy. Their endorsement of Turkish interventions has lent legitimacy to the belief that the military, helped by the country's state-run defense industry, is leading a revolution that will transform Turkey into a regional powerhouse.



On Monday, however, the early morning arrest of 10 former admirals revealed that there are limits to how far media-savvy officers can press their influence. The government's harsh reaction came in response to an open letter about the Montreux Convention signed by dozens of retired admirals. The question now is what space will be left for those who prove willing to keep their commentary within acceptable bounds.

One cannot watch Turkish television today without seeing the deeply nationalist ethos that now pervades the country. In the last decade, issues of national belonging have been central to Turkey's foreign and domestic politics. As either prime minister or president, Erdoğan has used nationalism as a tool to maintain and expand his power. His Justice and Development Party (AKP) has followed his lead in embracing nationalist tropes as a part of the party's own identity. To some extent, the AKP's "blood and soil" posturing is indebted to the growing influence of its governing partner, the right-wing Nationalist Movement Party. Erdoğan's own rhetoric and behavior, such as his adoption of the "gray wolf" hand gesture, reflects his affection for the party's anti-Western, ethno-nationalist tilt.

But the AKP's hold over the state is not the only factor shaping Turkey's current political climate. Now more than ever, the country's popular culture is drenched with nationalist content. Historical dramas on television rank as perhaps the most visible expressions of contemporary nationalist trends. Shows like the Resurrection series offer an especially telling example of the country's reigning values and perceptions. The two-part series, which traces the rise of the Ottoman Empire's earliest founders, is an implicit homage to the country's rich military history and its past as a global power. Resurrection's narrative arc invites the viewer to ponder Turkey's history as a premonition of the country's rising fortunes — at least as Erdoğan would have it. Conversely, the show's antagonists, the Byzantines and the Crusaders, are easy stand-ins for Turkey's more contemporary rivals, chiefly Greece and the United States.

For an American viewer of a certain age, aspects of Turkish television news and commentary are heavily reminiscent of cable television in the age of the Gulf War or the "Global War on Terror." On a regular basis, all-day news networks bombard audiences with dramatic footage of the country's armed forces in action. Special attention is paid to the specifications and capabilities of indigenously produced drones, ships, and other vehicles. Panel discussions often feature vibrant, oversized digital graphics outlining the movement of troops and the location of strategic towns or landmarks. Fluttering Turkish flags are a consistent, if not constant, presence on the screen. Like America's "video game wars" of 1991 and 2003, a boyish enthusiasm lies at the heart of the choreography and staging. It is not simply the fact that Turkish troops are on the march. They are advancing and winning with élan and precision.

These recent shifts in Turkey's nationalist culture cannot be divorced from the politicized nature of the Turkish media environment. Turkish voters still receive much of their news from Turkey's long-established state-run companies, TRT and Anadolu Agency. A handful of large conglomerates with strong ties to Erdoğan own the country's popular television stations and newspapers. Evidence of the government's guiding hand in news coverage appeared especially transparent with the resignation of Erdoğan's son-in-law, Berat Albayrak, as minister of finance in November 2020. Though he announced his departure on Instagram, neither the government's spokesmen, nor major media channels, directly confirmed Albayrak's resignation for over 24 hours. To this day, discussion of his whereabouts or criticism of his tenure as a government minister remains taboo.

Recent history makes the growing visibility of former officers in the media particularly ironic. Over a decade ago, prominent media voices played a critical role in the prosecution of high-ranking officers accused of attempting to overthrow the AKP government. Before the opening of the so-called Sledgehammer trials of 2010, fear, as well as a good amount of shared reverence, tended to keep the Turkish media from approaching the military too critically. The indictment of scores of generals and other officers on charges of sedition suddenly erased these constraints, leading many editors and pundits to condemn the military for its history of coup-plotting and political intervention. For a time, many in print media and television celebrated the convictions in the Sledgehammer investigations. The military, they said, had returned to its barracks at long last. The age of generals interfering in Turkish politics was over.



Erdoğan's break with his erstwhile ally Fethullah Gülen, culminating in Turkey's 2016 coup attempt, fundamentally altered the relationship between the media, the military, and the state. Among the earliest signs of this change came with the 2015 release of all of Sledgehammer's chief suspects on the grounds that they were victims in a plot staged by Gülen. Accusations that Gülenists had orchestrated the July 2016 putsch lent further credence to the claim that the military had been both falsely maligned and undermined from within. It was against this backdrop that Ankara undertook the first of three major armed incursions into northern Syria. Television and newspaper coverage of Operation Euphrates Shield in August 2016 previewed the blend of history, nationalist politics, and fantasy regularly seen on television today. More than a few commentators noted that Turkey's invasion of Syria occurred on the 500th anniversary of Marj Dabik, the battle that ultimately led to the Ottoman Empire's conquest of the Levant, Egypt, and western Arabia.

Turkey's subsequent interventions in Syria, Iraq, Azerbaijan, and Libya took place alongside the rising visibility of the country's defense industry. Since the United States imposed an arms embargo over the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, Turkish civilian and military leaders have long expressed interest in producing the country's own weaponry. It has been under Erdoğan, however, that Turkey has made the greatest strides in realizing this aspiration. Today, Ismail Demir, the head of the country's Presidency of Defense Industries, ranks among the most recognizable faces in the Turkish government. Despite its history as a relatively minor department within Turkey's Ministry of Defense, Demir's organization now commands broad public attention with the help of commercial and state media.

As a result, television programming, as well as newspapers and policy journals, often resemble infomercials dedicated to the technological capabilities of new Turkish weapons systems. One recent example was the launch of the country's first indigenously produced frigate, the TCG Istanbul. News networks offered generous coverage of the event, in some cases lasting well over an hour. In addition to ample discussion of the ship's capabilities and its future within the fleet, the launching ceremony featured an address by Erdoğan himself. In his remarks, he lauded the performance of the country's defense industry and foreshadowed the debut of hundreds of other domestically produced systems, including ships and aircraft. "Being strong in military, economic and diplomatic terms," he declared, "is, for us, a necessity rather than a preference."

It is in this environment that many former generals and admirals have found a natural home on television and other media. It is commonplace to find at least one former uniformed officer on talk shows such as *Teke Tek* (One-on-One) and *Tarafsız Bölge* (Neutral Zone) when discussing developments in Turkish foreign policy. Their contributions to such discussions often range beyond technical military issues. Collectively, retired officers are an affirmative presence on television, lending both support and enthusiasm for Ankara's more aggressive steps abroad.

A closer look at the former officers who frequently appear on television tells a more particular, revealing story. The vast majority may be described as possessing very specific nationalist credentials. Many of the more high-profile and outspoken generals and admirals are historically linked to the Fatherland Party, which is known for its hardline views on Western foreign policy and ethnic Turkish nationalism. The party's founder, Doğu Perinçek, was once one of Erdoğan's fierce critics. As recently as 2016, he accused Erdoğan of being an American stooge who hoped to establish himself as sultan over a weak and divided Turkey. Since then, Perinçek has grown more supportive of the president's handling of foreign policy. Though his party represents only a tiny sliver of the Turkish electorate, Perinçek's followers reportedly hold critical positions within the Turkish military — a status they allegedly earned on account of their die-hard opposition to the Gülen movement. The country's interventions into Syria, Libya, and Iraq, Perinçek claimed, have done much to counter the "imperialist" agenda of the United States and the West. He has praised Ankara's efforts to grow closer to Russia as a diplomatic partner. The purchase of the Russian-made S-400 missile system, he asserted, is "not simply a weapon, but a strategic preference," one to be used in concert with Russia against the United States, Israel, and Greece.



Among the more prominent generals to echo Perinçek's views is Erdoğan Karakuş, head of the Retired Officers Association. As a former lieutenant general and pilot in the Turkish Air Force, he has established himself as a regular contributor on network news shows. Karakuş often avails himself as a commentator on technical issues such as the use and effectiveness of drones. Yet, it is also clear that television producers value his presence because of his broader nationalist viewpoint. He has lauded Russia's intervention into Syria as a counterstroke against the United States and Israel's "greater Middle East project." America, Karakuş argues, has engaged in a "long shadow struggle" against Turkey, one that began with Washington's opposition to Turkey's invasion of Cyprus and continued through the July 2016 coup attempt.

Former officers such as Karakuş do not simply play the role of cheerleaders on television. Over the last few years, a select few have led efforts to lobby the Erdoğan government to advance the so-called Mavi Vatan, or Blue Homeland, strategy. Conceptually, Blue Homeland is a catch-all phrase to describe a maximalist position regarding Turkey's maritime interests in the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean. The concept was first spawned over a decade ago within the halls of the Turkish general staff. Its reputed father, Rear Adm. Cem Gürdeniz, then ranked as the navy's chief strategist. After his arrest and imprisonment as a result of the Sledgehammer trials, Gürdeniz reemerged within the Turkish press as a frequent contributor to the Fatherland Party's official newspaper, *Aydınlık*. Though vocally opposed to Erdoğan's Islamic conservatism, he has made a name for himself as a proponent of the government's plans to expand and modernize the Turkish fleet. His omnipresence in print, television, and social media, he maintains, is primarily bent toward raising public awareness of the navy's critical importance to national security. Historically, he argues, Turkey's investment in its army has come at the expense of the country's maritime interests and natural strengths. Thus Blue Homeland provides a strategy for Turkey's emergence as a premier power in the region and the world at large. Maps associated with his views have raised fierce objections in both Greece and Cyprus but Gürdeniz has rejected them out of hand. Like Perinçek, he contends that Athens, backed by Washington and Brussels, is engaged in a generational campaign to destroy Turkey or, at the very least, bring it to heel.

There are signs, however, that Erdoğan's government does not fully embrace all of Gürdeniz's ideas. Despite adopting much of his reasoning and rhetoric, official endorsements of maps associated with Blue Homeland are relatively scant. Many saw the forced retirement of the navy's second in command in May 2020 as an even more emphatic rejection of the Blue Homeland thesis. As one of Gürdeniz's closest protégés, Rear Adm. Cihat Yaycı achieved national attention as Blue Homeland's chief proponent within the Turkish government. Since his resignation, Gürdeniz and like-minded allies have speculated that Erdoğan might forfeit Turkey's maritime claims in the Mediterranean in order to improve relations with the United States and European Union. The possibility that the government could abandon Blue Homeland has deterred neither Gürdeniz nor Yaycı. In the year since his departure from the navy, Yaycı has quickly become a near permanent presence on television and social media. Both he and Gürdeniz have gained greater visibility as founders of maritime studies programs at two of Istanbul's major universities. Collectively, both men have used their media and academic standing for the singular purpose of driving public debate around Blue Homeland. Judging from the support both former admirals have received from other retired officers, these efforts, on the surface at least, seem to have had an impact.

An open letter circulated by nationalist news outlets on April 2 appears to have upended whatever long-term plans Gürdeniz and other retired officials had. The letter, signed by 104 former admirals, railed against pro-government pundits who demanded the annulment of the Montreux Convention. This 1934 treaty, which regulates the passage of merchant vessels and warships through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits, is heralded as a signature achievement of Turkey's founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. If the government was to abrogate the treaty, the signers declared, Turkey would be undermining both its national security and its debt to Atatürk. A slew of government officials has since condemned the letter as an attempted coup against the Erdoğan administration, and 14 former admirals have been taken into custody. Among them is Cem Gürdeniz, who is now being investigated for "agreeing to commit crimes against state security and constitutional order."



Speculation is rife in the Turkish press regarding the genuine intentions of the letter's authors and the significance of the government's crackdown. Even though Erdoğan has stated he has no intention of nullifying the Montreux Convention, he accused the admirals of "hinting at a coup" and suggested that the country's main opposition parties are in league with the signatories. The AKP's opponents have speculated that other issues may have inspired the publication of the letter, such as concerns over freedom of speech or fears over the growing influence of conservative Muslims in the military's upper ranks. At the very least, the admirals are getting the same treatment as other groups, whether academics or union leaders, who organized similar public petitions. Whatever awaits Gürdeniz and others in government custody, other retired officers appear eager to steer clear of the current scandal. It took three days for Cihat Yaycı to issue a brief statement, via a late-night text to a talk show, that he has no interest in "interfering in domestic politics." Erdoğan Karakuş has remained quiet, although his Retired Officers Association denied a report by the Ministry of Defense that it denounced the open letter.

These recent events are a reminder not to overstate the significance of so many admirals and generals appearing on television. At various points left-wing academics, Kurdish nationalists, and Sufi mystics have made common cause with the AKP administration. Erdoğan, by contrast, has shown little in the way of personal loyalty to allies outside the AKP camp. It may be, as one observer has suggested, that ultranationalists like Gürdeniz are simply the latest in a long list of soon discarded enablers. An even greater source of uncertainty is whether former officers, particularly those aligned with the Fatherland Party, actually reflect the feelings of senior leaders still within the ranks. The officer corps has long constituted a "black box" that has resisted close inspection. Events since 2016 have made any evaluation of the internal politics within the armed forces even more difficult. Hulusi Akar, Erdoğan's minister of defense, reputedly runs the military with a suspicious eye. He has reportedly forced the retirement of several officers, including Yaycı, who drew too much public praise or media attention. Changes in the military education system, as well as new standards for promotion, also increase the possibility that older officers, such as Karakuş, no longer reflect current attitudes in the ranks.

Jingoism is now a critical part of the zeitgeist in Turkey, driving both policymakers and prospective voters. Ankara has shown an ability to modulate its behavior. However, there is reason to believe that Erdoğan is not through with escalatory action in Syria, Iraq, or the eastern Mediterranean. The steady chorus of support former officers have provided has normalized, if not encouraged, his government's more aggressive tendencies. As the voices of former officers and others grow louder, the Turkish military may come to constitute a hammer looking for even more nails.

The visibility of former officers on mass media is also symptomatic of the surging influence of the defense establishment within the country. It is entirely possible that Turkey has seen its last officer's coup. Recent events suggest, however, that the military continues to wield influence over the country's future. Outspoken retired generals and admirals reflect only one faction with a vested stake in the militarization of Turkish policy. Academics and current and former intelligence officials, as well as defense industry leaders, also comprise segments of Turkey's emerging "military-industrial-media complex."

In this regard, Turkey may be opening a new chapter in its long, troubled history of civil-military relations. Instead of seizing TV stations by force, Turkish officers have been invited into them en masse, potentially giving the military new opportunities to influence politics in more subtle ways. If they keep their commentary confined to cheerleading government policies, Erdoğan stands to benefit from their new activism. But he clearly seems concerned that they might not be content with playing a supporting role.

Ryan Gingeras is a professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School** and is an expert on Turkish, Balkan, and Middle East history. He is the author of five books, including most recently, *Eternal Dawn: Turkey in the Age of Atatürk*. His *Sorrowful Shores: Violence, Ethnicity, and the End of the Ottoman Empire* received short-list distinctions for the Rothschild Book Prize in Nationalism and Ethnic Studies and the British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize. The views expressed here are not those of the Naval Postgraduate School, the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, or any part of the U.S. government.

[Turkey's Talk Show Nationalists - War on the Rocks](#)



Why did an ex-admiral suggest Turkey buy an antique aircraft carrier, troubled Russian jets?

(*Ahval News 9 Apr 21*) ... Paul Iddon

Former Rear Admiral Cihat Yaycı recently suggested Turkey could procure an old Brazilian aircraft carrier set to be sold for scrap and buy Su-33 Flanker navy jets from Russia.

The NAE São Paulo was formerly the flagship of the Brazilian Navy, which acquired it from France in 2000. During its service, it was the oldest active aircraft carrier in the world, suffering many mechanical problems and spending less than a year in total at sea. The carrier previously served as the Foch in the French Navy having been commissioned in the early 1960s. The Brazilians, finding the carrier increasingly difficult to adequately maintain, finally concluded it was more feasible to scrap it than sink millions into maintaining, repairing, and upgrading it. Brazil sold it for scrap in Aliğa, Izmir for under \$2 million.

Yaycı saw an opportunity. He suggested that Turkey could buy the troubled old vessel for its own use.

However, is it even remotely possible for Ankara, which will soon launch its brand-new flagship, the TCG Anadolu amphibious assault ship, to spend the vast sums required to keep such a maintenance-heavy vessel operational or even serviceable?

“The suggestions are further evidence that Cihat Yaycı is ideologically committed to the idea of Turkey possessing a ‘big fleet’ irrespective of the drawbacks or consequences,” Ryan Gingeras, an expert on Turkey and a professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, told *Ahval*. “Having carriers and expanding the fleet appear to be things that are, in and of themselves, innately of value.”

“It is, however, entirely unclear if anyone in Ankara will heed (Yaycı’s) advice,” Gingeras said.

By all indications, it won’t. İsmail Demir of Turkey’s Presidency of Defence Industries (SSB) outright dismissed the feasibility of the idea.

Yaycı, often described as a “Eurasianist” for advocating that Turkey should further distance itself from NATO in favour of closer ties with Russia, and perhaps best known for arranging the Turkish-Libyan maritime deal in 2019, also suggested Turkey could look into buying Russian Su-33 Flanker naval jets for the vintage carrier.

“I have brought up a proposal for the aircraft carrier purchased to be dismantled from Brazil,” *Sputnik Turkey* quoted Yaycı as saying. “I think it would be useful to carefully examine the Russian origin Sukhoi Su-33 Flanker as an aircraft alternative that we can use with the ship. The unit cost of this aircraft is also reasonable.”

Russia uses the Su-33 on its navy’s sole aircraft carrier, the deeply troubled Admiral Kuznetsov, but has never exported the fighter. It only built two dozen, which have already been in service for over two decades and proven unreliable and accident-prone. Russia’s only other carrier fighter, the MiG-29K, was exported to India. Over the past year, however, New Delhi has seemingly come to regret the purchase following a spate of deadly accidents.

“In general, the Su-33 just isn’t a reliable aircraft, and I find the whole suggestion to be farcical,” Aaron Stein, Research Director at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, told *Ahval*.

Even if Turkey were to use the São Paulo carrier and second-hand Russian Su-33s solely for training purposes, that too would be of limited to zero value considering the design of the ship and the type of fighter jet.

The Anadolu can carry helicopters and fighter aircraft with short take-off vertical-landing (STOVL) capabilities. The Su-33, on the other hand, is designed for operating from carriers with short take-off but arrested recovery/barrier arrested recovery (STOBAR) systems, which the Anadolu will not have.

The next-generation F-35B is essentially the only STOVL fighter on the market, with the far older AV-8B Harrier being gradually phased out. Turkey cannot buy the F-35B having been suspended from the joint strike fighter programme by the United States following its contentious purchase of Russian S-400 air defence missiles.

Turkey had previously sought second-hand Harriers from the United States as a stopgap option for the Anadolu until it could procure F-35Bs. And Yaycı recently revived the idea in the aftermath of the S-400 crisis. However, production of the iconic jump-jets ended in 2003. Outside the U.S. Marine Corps, which uses them for training, only Spain and Italy operate Harrier fighters in their navies today. The latter is presently replacing them with F-35Bs.

Even buying second-hand Italian Harriers would likely prove difficult for Ankara.

“I would imagine that the current state of U.S.-Turkish relations would no doubt frustrate any such plans on Turkey’s part, even with regards to ex-Italian jets, which would also likely be subject, at least in part, to U.S. export restrictions,” military analyst Joseph Trevithick of The War Zone told Ahval.

“I would point to Israel’s relatively recent attempt to sell F-16s to Croatia as an example of the kind of leverage the U.S. government can exert even on prospective sales in which it is not directly involved,” he said.

Furthermore, Turkey’s attempted sale of domestically-built T129 ATAK attack helicopters to Pakistan has been repeatedly blocked by the United States. The helicopters are powered by a U.S.-built engine, which means any sale to a third country requires U.S. export licenses.

“The Harrier also has U.S. components, so it has export provisions that could complicate any transfer,” Stein said.

“Ankara’s best option - and the one that I expect them to pursue - is to convert drones to fly off a carrier,” he added.

Turkey faces significant challenges to reach that goal. However, as Stein pointed out, it probably is achievable and would bring significant benefits. Building naval drones that can efficiently operate from the Anadolu would solve many of Ankara’s “procurement issues and give it a strike and surveillance capability for certain situations”, he said.

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Cyclones to bring more rain further south in future, say the weather experts

(ABC Weather 9 Apr 21) ... Kate Doyle

As a pack of tropical lows looms off the WA coast, the latest forecast is for the biggest, Tropical Cyclone Seroja, to continue south-west and turn towards the coast on Saturday.

Key points:

- Tropical Cyclone Seroja is expected to interact with another tropical low before heading south and crossing the coast late this weekend
- The passage of these systems is late but still within the traditional cyclone season
- The number of cyclones is expected to decline as the climate warms but they are expected to move further south and become more intense

According to Andrew Burton, manager of tropical cyclones at the Bureau of Meteorology, the system is likely to impact as a category two as early as Sunday afternoon, but more likely overnight Sunday into Monday.

Cyclones are notoriously prone to change so please keep up to date with the warnings over the weekend.

"The important thing for some will be that this system will also take a period of severe weather, right through the Wheatbelt and down towards the Southern Goldfields," Mr Burton warned.

It might feel like there is a lot going on at the moment but according to Mr Burton cyclones often hunt in packs.

"Often you have a period where there's nothing around and then you have two or three tropical lows and that's exactly what we have at the moment, three tropical lows."

But it's quite rare to see three so close together.

"It's very rare to see two of them interacting as closely as we have Seroja and another tropical low interacting at the moment," he said.

However this particular atmospheric quirk can't be attributed to climate change, according to Mr Burton.

"We couldn't say that climate change was involved in creating this scenario," he said.

"Climate change is actually expected to lead to fewer cyclones overall but we won't see any less of the ones that really matter, the really severe cyclones," according to Mr Burton.

Despite current events, the number of tropical cyclones has been going down over the past few decades.

But that doesn't necessarily mean the impacts from tropical cyclones will be less in the future. When it comes to climate change and cyclones it's complicated.

Cyclone intensity forecast to increase ... a little

Tropical cyclones, also known as hurricanes and typhoons — all the same meteorological phenomena — feed off the energy of the ocean.

According to Michael Montgomery, professor of meteorology at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, as the heat content in the ocean goes up the amount of energy available to tropical cyclones increases.

"Physical reasoning suggests the intensity is going to go up a little bit," Dr Montgomery said.

"But will it go up dramatically? The answer is no."

The top end intensity of storms is only expected to increase a little in terms of wind speeds but the proportion of severe storms is expected to go up.

Whether or not this is happening already is up for debate.

"I think the emerging consensus among many of the leading experts in the US and Australia is that right now we're not able to compellingly disentangle or separate the natural variability in the number of intense storms from the human-induced climate change signal," Dr Montgomery said.

But they are more confident about the future.

"There are still uncertainties in these model predictions, but I don't think there's a lot of debate as to whether or not the intensity of storms will go up a little bit. I think that's pretty clear," he said.

Sea level and rainfall intensity set to increase

The current category system for tropical cyclones is based upon wind speed but that is not the only hazard with a cyclone.

Cindy Bruyere, director of the Capabilities Centre for Weather and Climate Extremes Division of NCAR in the US, said on top of upping the proportion of major storms, increased sea surface temperatures would also lead to storms spending more time over land with increased precipitation.

We don't have to think too far back for an example.

Cyclone Debbie in 2017 brought isolated 24-hour rainfall totals of more than 600mm on the Gold Coast hinterland, well away from its initial landfall in the Whitsundays.

According to Dr Bruyere, the warm waters were a driving factor of why Cyclone Debbie was so destructive after its initial impact.

"It wasn't necessarily a significantly stronger storm but it rained a lot and it rained much further inland, and away from the area where the storm made landfall, than typical," she said.

"I think the storms of the future are going to spend significantly more time over very warm water and therefore going to have that same signal of being long over land."

The atmosphere's capacity to hold water also increases by around 7 per cent with every degree the world warms, leading to more intense heavy rainfall.

On top of all that, rising sea levels will also lead to increased inundation from storm surge and flooding.

Cyclones moving south

Observations have shown both where cyclones form as well as where they reach their maximum intensity has been moving away from the equator in recent decades.

One theory is that as the world warms it is causing the Hadley Circulation, one of the major global atmospheric circulations that transports air and energy from the equator towards the poles, to expand effectively pushing cyclones away from the equator.

Dr Montgomery says that if cyclones move south and the intensity of storms goes up a little as well as the duration increasing then a tropical cyclone's ability to impact the Australian population in southern Australia will go up.

"So that makes the southern part of Australia a little bit more prone to hurricane hazards than they are even presently," he warned.

One of the areas of concern in Australia is south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales, where the population density is much higher than the equivalent regions on the west coast.

Compared to the tropics, Dr Bruyere says both the high-density population as well as lower building codes mean there are a lot of people and a lot of less resilient property that could be damaged in south-east Queensland.

"I think one of the things that people should be planning for is potentially changing the building codes in the south to be more consistent to what is in the north," she said.

"So that we have building stock in the south that would resist these storms when they do make landfall further south."

Late season cyclones

But according to Mr Burton, it's not unusual for cyclones like Seroja to come this far south this time of year.

"That's because, as well as the patterns in the atmosphere shifting and encouraging them to travel further south before they turn into the coast, we also have the very warm sea surface temperatures," he said.

"We've spent all season warming up the ocean off the west coast so there are some very warm sea surface temperatures there to help feed the cyclone as it's coming further south and stop it from weakening."

So if you are on the west coast prepare for some rare weather.

Keep up to date with warnings on the ABC Emergency website, Facebook or radio and remember to heed the advice of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Bureau of Meteorology.

[Cyclones to bring more rain further south in future, say the weather experts - ABC News](#)

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ALUMNI:

Andy Zirkelbach named new Central Head Football Coach

(14 News 5 Apr 21) ... Bethany Miller

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (WFIE) -Tonight (April 5), the EVSC Board of School Trustees approved the appointment of long time EVSC football coach Andrew Zirkelbach as the head football coach at Central High School.



Zirkelbach was most recently the defensive coordinator at Reitz High School and a defensive coordinator and assistant coach at Central prior to that. As assistant coach at Central, Zirkelbach helped lead Central to three sectional championships in 2011, 2017 and 2018. As the Bear's defensive coordinator, he led the team to the school's first ever regional and semi-state championship, and state final appearance in 2018. Prior to serving at Central, Zirkelbach served as the head football coach at Princeton High School from 2006 - 2009.

"It's exciting that this appointment is a current EVSC employee with over a decade of experience within our school district," said Andy Owen, EVSC director of athletics. "Being able to retain current EVSC employees' talents and dedication will have a tremendous impact on our schools, athletic programs and community. Andrew is an energetic and engaging coach who comes highly recommended. He also has the passion, knowledge and energy to continue to build upon the remarkable success within the Central football program."

Zirkelbach earned a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from the University of Evansville, a master's in engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, and a master's in secondary education from Oakland City University.

[Andy Zirkelbach named new Central Head Football Coach \(14news.com\)](#)

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The Floyd Case May Change the Worldview of America

(Jacksonville Free Press 8 Apr 21) ... Reggie Blaunt

The George Floyd case is not just a case against officer Derek Chauvin, it's a case that could redefine how America is viewed across the globe. On May 25, 2020, Officer Derek Chauvin was recorded with his knee in the neck of a hand cuffed, face down George Floyd for over 9 minutes, while two other officers assisted in the restraint and one stood watch. Several bystanders including medical professionals were pleading with the officer to allow Floyd to breathe. The incident sent shock waves throughout the world. Paramedics arriving on the scene attempted to feel for a pulse in the unresponsive Floyd while Chauvin continued with his knee on Floyd's neck.

America is not immune to police misconduct. Since the Rodney King videotaped beating in 1991, the camcorder, now the (Cell Phone) has been critical in showing questionable police tactics throughout the country. There has been outcry from black communities for decades that this is normal behavior by police when dealing with minority suspects. But video recordings have somewhat leveled the playing field of evidence. It would appear that police and their legal teams have adjusted to recorded evidence by demonizing the victim's credibility with the common explanations that drug were in their system, giving them unusual superhuman strength, or the police feared for their life, thus causing further police aggression to control or kill the suspect.

The US Supreme courts 1985 decision that the perception by a police officer to use deadly force is squarely in the hands of that officer. This has proven problematic in the use deadly force and has further complicated any reasonable means of justice for victims and their families by police actions.

An exoneration of Derek Chauvin could have worldwide implications as America may be viewed as a nation of unjust laws and rules of engagement stacked heavily against its citizens, especially people of color. A guilty verdict may be justified for Floyd's death, but will not erase what the world saw on that May 25th evening, as a defenseless George Floyd died in real time at the hands of law enforcement.

Reginald Blount is a former city council candidate, retired military veteran, public policy analyst for the newly formed National Frontline (Jacksonville), and Adjunct Professor. He holds a master's degree in public policy and is a graduate of the **Naval Postgraduate School SSDCO** program.

[The Floyd Case May Change The Worldview of America – Free Press of Jacksonville \(jacksonvillefreepress.com\)](#)

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Ron Bethmann Joins Signature Systems as Vice President of Operations & Engineering

(PR Newswire 8 Apr 21)

Texas-based Signature Systems, a global company that engineers, manufactures and distributes premium composite matting solutions for industrial, stadium, government and event applications, is pleased to announce Ron Bethmann has joined the executive team as Vice President of Operations and Engineering.

In his new role, Bethmann will be responsible for the operations and engineering team. "Having someone with Ron's experience and expertise join our leadership team is exciting," said Jeff Condino, President of Signature Systems. "We're confident he'll leverage his extensive background in operations, engineering, logistics, continuous improvement and strategy to continue Signature's journey to being a world class manufacturer."

Bethmann holds a Master of Science degree in Systems Technology from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, a Master of Science degree in Transportation Management from the University of Denver and a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy. Prior to Signature, Bethmann held the Vice President of Operations for Argo Consulting and held numerous leadership positions with CSX and the United States Navy.

Ron Bethmann said, "I'm excited to join the team of professionals at Signature Systems. We have strong executive leadership and great employees working together as a team committed to the continuous improvement of every aspect of our business and our customers. The Signature Systems' team is on the journey to World Class and I'm proud to be a member of the team."

[Ron Bethmann Joins Signature Systems as Vice President of Operations & Engineering \(prnewswire.com\)](https://prnewswire.com)

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THE LATEST ON CHINESE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS WITH LT COL DENNIS BLASKO [Audio Interview]

(SOFREP 9 Apr 21)

In this episode, SOFREP Senior Editor Steve Balestrieri joins Lt Col Dennis Blasko, USA, Ret. an expert on the Chinese Army and friend of SOFREP's.

Lt Col Dennis Blasko, USA, Ret. served 23 years in military intelligence and as a Foreign Area officer. He was stationed in infantry units in Germany, Italy, and Korea and at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington. From 1992 to 1996 he was an Army attaché in Beijing and Hong Kong.

Lt Col Dennis Blasko, USA, Ret. is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He is the author of numerous articles and chapters on the Chinese military, including the book *The Chinese Army Today: Tradition and Transformation for the 21st Century*.

Join us as we discuss emerging trends in the People's Liberation Army on this episode of SOFREP Radio with Steve Balestrieri.

[Episode 560: The Latest on Chinese Military Developments With Lt Col Dennis Blasko | SOFREP Radio](#)

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CSU alum Deanne Criswell nominated to head FEMA

(Collegian 9 Apr 21)

If she is confirmed by the senate, Criswell would become the first woman to head the agency since its inception in 1979.



“I am incredibly honored to be nominated to be the next FEMA administrator,” Criswell tweeted shortly after Biden announced her nomination. “I look forward to serving all Americans in this role.”

FEMA is a large agency, employing over 20,000 people, and overseeing all federal disaster response. Before it was absorbed into the United States Department of Homeland Security, it was even elevated to the presidential cabinet for a short period of time.

During her time at CSU, Criswell earned a Bachelor of Science in technology education and training. She then went on to receive a master’s degree in public administration at the University of Colorado Denver and a Master in Science in homeland security from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

Criswell served in the Colorado Air National Guard for 21 years. During that time, Criswell mostly worked as a firefighter and also served as the emergency manager for Aurora for six years.

During her time at FEMA, Criswell oversaw the federal responses to flooding, hurricanes and wildfires in multiple states. Criswell has also been deployed to Qatar, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Criswell spent two years working for the Cadmus Group, a private consulting firm with specialties in many different areas, including national security, cybersecurity and emergency management.

More recently, Criswell has led New York City Emergency Management as commissioner since 2019 and has overseen much of the city’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Criswell’s confirmation hearing took place on March 25 in front of the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. During her confirmation hearing, Criswell was introduced by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

“Criswell is the leader FEMA needs at the helm,” Gillibrand said. “If confirmed, she will bring a wealth of firsthand knowledge and experience to the role that will lead FEMA and our country better prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead.”

The confirmation hearing featured questions from several senators, including Sens. Josh Hawley, Rick Scott, Alex Padilla, Rob Portman and Kyrsten Sinema. The hearing also covered a variety of topics, from reopening schools to droughts to the national stockpile of vaccines.

One particular part of the confirmation hearing was about FEMA’s preparation for climate change and its effects on disaster frequency.

“What would you do to ensure that the entire country, from the federal government to state and local partners, are actively considering climate change in their disaster planning?” Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan asked.

Criswell responded, “The time is now to make sure that we are making investments for the future risks and looking out five, ten years to try to reduce that risk as much as possible.”

Another part of the confirmation hearing revolved around COVID-19 vaccinations and the challenges in convincing citizens to get vaccinated.

“Vaccine hesitancy is a concern and we have experienced that in New York City,” Criswell said. “What I have discovered throughout this rollout so far is that the best way to do that is to provide trusted messengers, and we need to have the communities that are hesitant receive information from those that they trust.”

[CSU alum Deanne Criswell nominated to head FEMA – The Rocky Mountain Collegian](#)

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USMC Ret., LTC William Marm Accepted into Bancroft Capital’s Disabled Veteran Training Program

(Prince William Living 9 Apr 21)

Bancroft Capital, a certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) specializing in Institutional Brokerage and Capital Markets services, announced that it has accepted three impressive disabled military veteran candidates into its Veteran Training Program (VTP) for 2021, including USMC Ret., LTC William Marm of Manassas.



Launched and fully funded by Bancroft Capital in 2019, the VTP puts disabled veterans and first responders in a position to develop a skill set capable of supporting a new career as Institutional Traders and Investment Bankers. Bancroft aims to offer paid opportunities to up to four candidates each year. Candidate training includes a rotation among the five business units Bancroft operates and an introduction to back office and operations functions, sales trading and compliance while participating in the VTP.

The VTP accepts a new class of candidates every year who, through their own hard work and diligence, have the opportunity to rewrite their futures as they develop skill sets that last through not one job, but for the life of a career.

In order to qualify for the VTP, which is funded by Bancroft Capital's for-profit income, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Military applicants must have 180 consecutive days of service;
- Military applicants must have a discharge from the military that is honorable or other than dishonorable;
- Military applicants for the program should have a disability rating from the Department of Veteran Affairs;
- First responder applicants should have a Service-Connected Disability and be considered under the Regulation 32 Disability standard;
- First Responder applicants should be considered 'permanently and totally disabled.'

"The Bancroft ethos is to 'do well while doing good', that we would use the prosperity of our industry to touch the lives of others," said Bancroft Founder & CEO Cauldon D. Quinn, a disabled veteran himself. "It is our privilege to welcome three exceptional candidates into our program. We look forward to partnering with them as we provide the opportunity and they provide the effort required for a successful career in institutional finance."

This year's cohort will receive educational support and training as they embark on careers in the financial industry. Accommodating for the challenges of an ongoing COVID pandemic, Marm will co-op between a home office and Bancroft Headquarters.

Marm is joining Bancroft's VTP as a retired U.S. Army Green Beret with 20 years of service. Marm received a commission in the infantry from the United States Military Academy at West Point with the Class of 1999, successfully completed Special Forces training, and served in various leadership positions with deployments throughout Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Marm has a master's degree from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Defense Analysis, with a specialty in Terrorist Operations and Financing.

"I am excited to learn, grow and benefit from the training and mentoring provided by Bancroft professionals, and be positioned to make a difference in this business environment," said Marm.

Bancroft's VTP has a three-pronged approach:

Begin working with veterans early, in the recovery hospitals before they transition fully into civilian life;

Facilitate effective training through an on-the-job training regimen; and

- Integrate academic achievement through partnerships with Villanova University and DeSales University. All VTP candidates have access to business school classes, four-year degree programs, and if they meet the criteria, direct acceptance into an executive MBA program without the prerequisite of a four-year degree.

[USMC Ret., LTC William Marm Accepted into Bancroft Capital's Disabled Veteran Training Program | Prince William Living](#)

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