

# Military

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Pittsburgh Steelers fan from western Pennsylvania.

"Tough love," said Harris, who was a lieutenant at the time. "He insisted I take my command qualifications test, and when I didn't do good, he had me take it again."

Harris, deputy director for expeditionary warfare for the Navy chief, said networking and relationships are critical. But he cautions that mentoring is a two-way street that hinges on what the recruits do with the help they

get. "You can't get lazy in this man and this woman's Navy," he said. "You have to keep learning to stay ahead."

Nonetheless, Blacks have come a long way since Truman, with the stroke of a pen, ordered the integration of the military. Before that, the Army had segregated Black units and the Navy had minority members assigned to particular, lower-level jobs.

His mandate was aided by the Korean War, when a shortage of soldiers forced

American commanders to begin integrating their units. Defense officials say the Pentagon is now colorblind, offering the same opportunities, promotions and jobs to all races.

Compared with the corporate world, the military appears to provide a bit more high-level opportunities. As of late 2007, just five of the Fortune 500 companies were headed by Black chief executives — or just 1 percent.

While the percentage of Black recruits has grown dur-

ing the past 60 years, it peaked at almost 26 percent in 1979.

That year, they represented nearly four in 10 of all Army recruits and almost three in 10 for the Marines, both all-time highs for the services that see the most battlefield combat.

The Air Force and Navy, meanwhile, peaked in later years, with Blacks accounting for roughly 20 percent of enlistees.

Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began, the per-

centage of Blacks coming into the Army has plunged from 22 percent to 13 percent. Also, the percentage of Blacks in the military overall has dipped in the past 10 years, from more than 20 percent to 17 percent today.

The decline has come in part because family members and other adults who influence young people have become less likely to recommend military service.

Still, Johnson points to positive indicators. Over the past decade, the percentage of Black officers has grown slightly, including the share of Black women at higher grades.

The military, Wilson said, has worked hard to create mentoring and outreach programs that identify and encourage minority officers. But, he said, the services have to do more marketing and recruiting.

"As long as there is one young kid out there who grows up wondering, 'Can I dream in America? Can I go to the very top?' The answer has to be, 'Yes, you can,'" said Powell. "And we have to make that dream a reality."

"It's hard to tell young people the sky's the limit when they look up and don't see anyone" who looks like them.

# Officer

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four officers to arrive at the address following a domestic disturbance call.

Irvine said that about 12:20 a.m., officers knocked on the front door of the apartment, verbally identified themselves as police and Wicks opened the door.

"At one point, the officers could not see Mr. Wicks' hand," she said. "They said, 'We need to see your hand.' At this point, Mr. Wicks suddenly raised a handgun."

Irvine said Ragan fired in self-defense, but did not know how many times he fired his weapon. Wicks, who was alone in the apartment, was taken to the hospital, where he died, police said.

However, that version was contradicted by sources close to the family.

"Kevin was a law-abiding citizen fearful for his safety," Ali said. "According to family and neighbors he heard

banging at his door and assumed someone was trying to break in. There was a comment in the AP story where an officer said we can't see your hands and he complied. But one of the officers seeing the gun immediately fired."

The gun was registered to Wicks, a 19-year employee of the U.S. Postal Service who was described by friends as a nice man who had no trouble with the police.

Ragan and Officer Roman Fernandez had previously

been placed on administrative leave after the May 11 shooting of Michael Byoune, 19, Larry White, also 19 and Chris Larkin, 21. Byoune died from his wounds. The three were in a car leaving a fast-food restaurant in Inglewood when police officers, responding to hearing gunshots, arrived on the scene. It was later discovered that neither Byoune, White or Larkin was armed.

"I'm horrified to think that two and half months after the Byoune tragedy the

same officer is back on the streets and involved in another questionable shooting," said attorney Carl Douglas, who has filed a \$25 million lawsuit on behalf of Byoune's family. "Inglewood officers seem to be exercising deadly force on far too many occasions. There were four officers present, but only one felt threatened enough to fire his weapon."

Olu Alemoru writes for the Los Angeles WAVE.

## Perini Building Company, Inc.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(S) (RFP) NO. 004-09 COMPETITIVE TRANSPORTATION SELECTION PROCESS

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is seeking proposals from qualified firms and organizations for proposals for projects to be funded under the New Freedom and Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant programs. These funds can be used to support projects for the following transportation purposes: Access to jobs for low-income individuals and new transportation services for people with disabilities.

Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 004-09 will be available beginning August 4, 2008, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Regional Transportation Commission's Administrative Building, First Floor Reception Desk. Requests for RFP packages may be submitted via facsimile at (702) 676-1588 or via e-mail to bilynsky@rtcnsnv.com, and should be directed to the attention of Lydia Bilynsky, Sr. Purchasing and Contracts Analyst

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 10:00 Pacific Time, Wednesday, August 13, 2008, Room 296, at the RTC, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106. Proposals must be received on or before September 23, 2008. Proposals must be time stamped no later than 3:00 p.m., Pacific Time, on the due date. Proposals time stamped at 3:01 p.m. or after on the due date will be returned unopened. Proposals must be sent to:

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada  
Attention: Lydia Bilynsky- Purchasing & Contracts  
600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89106

The successful respondent shall cooperate with the RTC in meeting its commitments and objectives with regard to ensuring non-discrimination in the award and administration of U.S. DOT assisted contracts and shall use its best efforts to ensure that barriers to participation of DBEs do not exist.

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### NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PREQUALIFICATION/ON-CALL SOLICITATION NOTICE

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is requesting Prequalification submittals from consulting firms and is also requesting submittals for the 2009-2010 On-Call Program. For the purpose of soliciting proposals in accordance with 23CFR172, entitled "Administration of Related Service Contracts", the NDOT maintains lists of responsible prequalified firms that possess the ability to successfully perform needed services.

Solicitation for Prequalification is an annual solicitation and has no cutoff date for submissions. The NDOT is always open to receipt of Prequalification statements from interested firms. **If you are currently prequalified, you MUST renew at this time. The current Prequalification period expires on December 31, 2008.**

Solicitation for the On-Call Program is a biennial solicitation and **DOES** have a cutoff time/date of **5:00 PM, Tuesday, September 30, 2008**. All submittals are required by this deadline. The "On-Call" Program is not meant to be interpreted as a promise of work. It is a program to facilitate the acquisition process should the need arise to use consultant services which fall within one of the designated disciplines.

If your firm is interested in offering its services for either the Prequalification or On-Call Program, please visit our website at [www.nevadadot.com](http://www.nevadadot.com) or contact Agreement Services at (775) 888-7070 or FAX (775) 888-7101 to obtain detailed information on submittal requirements and a list of the Prequalification and On-Call disciplines. All necessary forms for submittal can be found on the website. Please reference all communication regarding this notice with "2009-2010 Prequalification/On-Call"

Susan Martinovich, P.E., DIRECTOR  
Nevada Department of Transportation

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