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**Subject:** APA Headlines: Suicide Leading Cause Of Death Of US Troops In Middle East, Pentagon Statistics Show  
**Date:** Friday, December 30, 2016 7:04:30 AM

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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

December 30, 2016

## Holiday Message

In observance of the federal New Year's Day holiday, we will not publish on Monday, January 2, 2017. Service will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. We wish our readers a safe and happy holiday.

## Leading The News

### Suicide Leading Cause Of Death Of US Troops In Middle East, Pentagon Statistics Show.

[USA Today](#) (12/29, Brook) reports newly released statistics from the Pentagon show that suicide is "the leading killer of US troops deployed to the Middle East to fight Islamic State militants." As of Dec. 27, 31 troops have died in Operation Inherent Resolve. Of those, 11 took their own lives, eight died in combat, seven died in accidents, and four died as a result of illness or injury. One other death is under investigation. Experts on military suicide say the reasons it is the leading cause of troop deaths "are complex and poorly understood," but they "likely include mental illnesses that enlistees brought with them to boot camp, post-traumatic stress, multiple combat deployments and heightened anxiety in a military at war for 16 years."

## Psychiatric News Alert



[Sleep Disturbance Found to Be Significantly Greater in Patients at High Risk for Psychosis](#)

[Study Suggests ADHD Medications May Reduce Risk for Subsequent, Concurrent Depression](#)

**New! APA Learning Center Course  
Management of Cardiometabolic Risk in the Psychiatric Patient**

This six-week course provides an interactive and in-depth understanding of strategies for managing common cardiometabolic risk factors seen in patients with mental illness, including hypertension, obesity, diabetes and tobacco use. [Learn more and register today!](#)



## Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

### Some Experts Believe It May Be Worthwhile Targeting The Tau Protein In Search For Alzheimer's Treatment.

The [NPR](#) (12/29, Stetka) "Shots" blog reports, "Solanezumab is just the latest casualty in a decades-long parade of disappointing dementia" medication clinical studies. Still, "the frustration brought by this particular failure could signal a shift in Alzheimer's research – a

shift away from targeting accumulations of so-called amyloid protein in the brain, long considered by many in the field to be the crux of Alzheimer's pathology." Some experts now believe it might be worthwhile targeting "the tau protein, which also accumulates in tangles inside the Alzheimer's-hindered brain." Other approaches to developing Alzheimer's treatments involve "treating the inflammation that occurs with dementia, as the immune system attempts to clear clustered amyloid."

## Psychiatry and Public Health

### Training Laypeople In Resource-Poor Settings To Deliver Mental Health Services May Boost Access To Psychological Services For Individuals In Need.

[Medscape](#) (12/29, Brooks) reports, "Training laypeople in resource-poor settings to deliver mental health services may be an effective way of boosting access to psychological services for individuals in need," researchers say. Among 573 adults "who screened positive for common mental disorders in Zimbabwe, a lay health worker-administered intervention led to improved symptoms at 6 months compared to enhanced usual care." The [findings](#) were published online Dec. 27 in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The author of an accompanying [editorial](#) "notes that randomized controlled trials (RCTs) conducted to date in many resource-poor settings have demonstrated the 'feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of task shifting from highly qualified health personnel to lay health workers.'"

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## APA in the News

### APA Calls 21st Century Cures Act's Reforms To Mental Health A "Huge Step Forward."

[MedPage Today](#) (12/29, Firth) reports that the 21st Century Cures Act, "the nearly 1,000-page healthcare spending bill which President Obama signed in mid-December, also aims to reform the nation's fragmented mental health system." About 13 million Americans "have a serious mental illness or substance use disorder, according to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), which [applauded the 21st Century Cures Act](#), calling its reforms to mental health a 'huge step forward.'"

### Using High-Quality Medical Management In Buprenorphine Maintenance Treatment Not Effective For All Patients, Review Finds.

[Healio](#) (12/29, Oldt) reports, "Using high-quality medical management in buprenorphine maintenance treatment may be effective for some patients, but not all," researchers found after reviewing "randomized controlled studies on the efficacy of adding a behavioral intervention to buprenorphine maintenance treatment." The review's [findings](#) were published online Dec. 16 in the American Journal of Psychiatry, a publication of the American Psychiatric Association.

## Other News

### Veteran With PTSD, Convicted Of Home Invasion, Discusses His Story.

The [New York Times Magazine](#) (12/28, Chivers) has a 17,000-word profile of Marine Corps veteran Sam Siatta, who served in Afghanistan and, according to the VA, "suffered from depression, alcohol dependency and PTSD." In 2014, he committed a home invasion in Normal, Illinois and was sentenced to prison. Writer C.J. Chivers talks with Siatta about his wartime experiences and how they led to his actions at home.

## Thursday's Lead Stories

- [Lower IQ May Be Associated With Past-Year Fear And Distress Disorders In Adolescents, Study Indicates.](#)
- [Lifetime Substance Use May Be Associated With Postpartum Mood Disorders, Small Study Suggests.](#)
- [Trump Considering Allowing Veterans To Opt Out Of Medical Care At VA Hospitals.](#)
- [Louisiana Unnecessarily Isolates, Segregates Many People With Mental Illnesses In Nursing Homes, DOJ Investigation Finds.](#)
- [Actress And Author Carrie Fisher Brought Subject Of BD Into Popular Culture.](#)
- [Total Sodium Accumulation In Gray Matter Of Patients With RRMS May Better Explain Their Cognitive Impairment Than Does Gray Matter Atrophy, Study Suggests.](#)

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