

DEOMI News Highlights

DEOMI News Highlights is a weekly compilation of published items and commentary with a focus on equal opportunity, equal employment opportunity, diversity, culture, and human relations issues. DEOMI News Highlights is also a management tool intended to serve the informational needs of equity professionals and senior DOD officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs, and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

Here's what you need to know about the biggest update to UCMJ in decades [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 15 January 2019]

- In 2016, Congress passed a new [Military Justice Act](#), calling for a review and reorganization of the [Uniform Code of Military Justice](#), the set of [rules and regulations](#) that dictate criminal offenses for service members and how they are adjudicated.
- Among the changes are new definitions for adultery and [intimate partner violence](#), and a specific law against sexual relationships between instructors and trainees.
- The revamped system went live on Jan. 1, the first update to the [UCMJ](#) since 1984, and, according to officials, the biggest set of changes since the code was enacted after World War II.

[Here's what you need to know about the biggest update to UCMJ in decades](#)

Judge bars citizenship question from 2020 census [Larry Neumeister, *The Associated Press*, 15 January 2019]

- A federal judge blocked the Trump administration Tuesday from asking about citizenship status on the 2020 census, the first major ruling in cases contending officials ramrodded the question through for Republican political purposes to intentionally undercount immigrants.
- In a 277-page decision that won't be the final word on the issue, Judge Jesse M. Furman ruled that while such a question would be constitutional, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross acted in an "arbitrary and capricious" manner and violated the law.
- The ruling came in cases in which 18 states, the District of Columbia, 15 big cities or counties, and immigrants' rights groups argued that the Commerce Department, which designs the census, failed to properly analyze the effect that the question would have on households with immigrants.

[Judge bars citizenship question from 2020 census](#)

Pentagon developing plan to scrutinize recruits with green cards and other foreign ties, memos show [Dan Lamothe, *The Washington Post*, 16 January 2019]

- The Pentagon, citing terrorism and espionage fears, is developing a plan to scrutinize prospective recruits with foreign ties, including some U.S. citizens, after a related effort targeting thousands of green-card holders was blocked by a federal judge last year.
- The new policy, still in development, will be distributed to the military services by no later than Feb. 15, according to two Defense Department officials and several department memos obtained by The Washington Post. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity.
- The new vetting is likely to screen thousands of recruits per year who have what the Pentagon considers "foreign nexus" risks, including some Americans who marry a foreign spouse or who have family members with dual citizenship, the memos said. Anyone identified for the screening would not be allowed to attend recruit training until they are cleared, a process that could take days for some but drag on much longer for others.

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Culture

Historic South Side Chicago Montford Point Marine chapter faces closure in funding crisis

By Todd South

Marine Corps Times, January 13, 2019



Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Ronald L. Green shakes hands with George G. Cranberry Jr., a Montford Point Marine, during Marine Week Detroit, Sept. 9, 2017. (Lance Cpl. Danny Gonzalez/Marine Corps)

In 1965, a group Marine veterans met in Philadelphia to share memories of a unique experience that had made history.

They were among the first black men to become Marines at a place called [Montford Point, North Carolina](#), on Camp Lejeune. Many had served their time in the Corps and left the service after World War II ended. The segregated boot camp remained until 1949 and training was integrated.

Decades later, in 1965 the first [Montford Point Marines](#) chapter was established in Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Marine Corps.

The next year, the second chapter made its home on the [South Side of Chicago](#), Illinois — called by some the capital of black America.

But after more than half a century of being the home to those [first black Marines](#) who settled in Chicago after the war, the chapter faces a looming deadline to raise \$75,000 to pay back taxes or face closure.

Edwin J. Fizer, 93, had wanted to fly, so he went to the Army Air Corps office. With some choice words they told him to leave. He then heard that the Marines had opened to recruiting black men for the war effort.

A few months shy of his 17th birthday he enlisted and the New Orleans native soon found himself at a desolate section of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, called Montford Point.

“The DIs (drill instructors), they didn’t want us in the Marine Corps, so they told us they would make us wish we had never signed up and beg to get out,” Fizer said. “All that did was harden our resolve.”

Soon after basic training and gunnery training he shipped off for the Pacific theater with the 51st Defense Battalion, one of two all-black Marine battalions.

He saw duty in the Marshall Islands, Guam, Tinian and Okinawa before Japan surrendered. He left the Corps but his service and the friends he made were something he wouldn’t leave behind.

After school he landed in Chicago and later became one of the early Montford Point chapter No. 2 members. The member roster grew to more than 200 within a few years.

It was a place of refuge for black veterans who felt they didn’t belong at some of the larger organizations at the time such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion.

They kept their focus on returning black Vietnam veterans in the Chicago community and on helping downtrodden folks who weren’t veterans with school scholarships, a food pantry and other ways of giving back, he said.

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2019/01/13/historic-south-side-chicago-montford-point-marine-chapter-faces-closure-in-funding-crisis/>

In recent years, through its scholarship program, it has given \$40,000 to students, the Christmas basket provided \$50,000 for veterans and needy families, a back to school program provided over 1,000 book bags. It has provided more than \$50,000 at veterans' bingo at the local VA hospital.

Chapter President Sharon Stokes-Perry hadn't even heard of the Montford Point Marines when she enlisted in the Marines in 1985. She didn't hear of them at all through her 10 years in service, even though she had training at Camp Johnson, the former site of Montford Point.

She wasn't even taught that the renamed camp got its name from Sgt. Maj. Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, a legend in Marine circles. Johnson was one of the first black drill instructors in the Corps, training many of the second wave of recruits to hit Montford Point during World War II.

Johnson served six years in the Army and 10 years in the Navy before moving to the Marines when they finally opened their ranks to black. He would serve 17 years in the Corps.

He also led black Marines on dozens of combat patrols on Guam while serving with the 52nd Defense Battalion.

It wasn't until after she left the Marines when Stokes-Perry was invited to a Marine Corps Birthday Ball celebration at the Chicago chapter that she learned more of the story of the Montford Point history and the chapter.

That was around 2006. Back then, she joked, the members were young. Many of the original crew were in their 80s. Total membership though has dwindled down to about 35 she said.

But that's not isolated to this organization. Both veterans and civic organizations that once saw robust rolls have steadily declined in memberships and chapters for decades, beginning in the 1970s and escalating in the past two decades.

Now they have a dozen Montford Pointers ranging in age from ages 91 to 97. Six are still very active in the chapter, despite their age, she said.

Losing the chapter would not only hit the immediate area's charitable needs, but it would ripple into what the chapter gives in its members' legacy.

"I think the community loses a whole group of role models. I believe they lose the opportunity to interact with living history," Stokes-Perry said. "These gentlemen have worked so hard, gave so much and asked for so little that it would be a shame for them to lose a place to gather together."

Even members who've moved away from Chicago stay involved, she said.

Ted Peters, 95, remembered hearing on the radio that the Marines were accepting black recruits. He was 19 years old in 1943 and decided that was the outfit for him.

The Mississippi native joined up and learned the intricacies of anti-aircraft guns did his hitch.

When his troopship returned home from the Pacific he and his fellow Marines thought things might be different. But, they had not.

"They introduced us right back to segregation right quick," he remembers.

Like Fizer, he found a wife, work and a life in Chicago. He also found the Montford Point chapter shortly after it started.

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2019/01/13/historic-south-side-chicago-montford-point-marine-chapter-faces-closure-in-funding-crisis/>

He and other veterans had gotten together to swap stories and catch up. An estimated 20,000 black Marines were trained at Montford Point during the war. It made for a small community within a small community and seemed as though everyone knew each other or knew another Montford Pointer, he said.

A few years ago, he moved back to Mississippi to be with his sister but he still checks in the chapter and remains a member. It's a must visit part of any trip back to Chicago.

The days of hundreds of members flocking to the center are over for the original Montford Pointers.

"We're getting to be an endangered species, really," Peters said.

But the hope is that younger veterans and newly returning veterans, Marines or other service branches, will continue the legacy, Stokes-Perry said.

The back taxes were not ignored, dwindling memberships and a facility in bad need of repairs have reduced their methods for bringing in revenue.

In its heyday, the chapter held banquets, allowed other organizations to use the facilities, often without charging.

There's hope that there might be some generosity from those organizations now, when the chapter needs it.

A recent article and editorial in the Chicago Sun-Times has sparked some local help, they've raised nearly \$25,000 in the past few weeks in a [GoFundMe](#) online fundraising campaign.

And Stokes-Perry said a local veteran picked up 50 applications and promised to find 50 new members.

They're also reaching out to other Montford Point chapters across the country, Stokes-Perry estimates there are more than 30, to see what help they might provide.

But beyond the tax bills there are needed repairs. Those are estimated to be near \$200,000. So, fundraising won't stop if they meet their May 31 deadline.

Though the challenge is a difficult one, Stokes-Perry and her members see it as one worth taking on.

"We've got some big dreams we just have not had an opportunity to express those dream," she said.

"We're broke but we're not broken. We have a fighting spirit."

Technology brings images of Holocaust survivors to life

By Jamie Stengle

The Associated Press, January 12, 2019



This August 2018 photo shows Holocaust survivor Max Glauben sitting in an interactive green screen room while filming a piece for the Dallas Holocaust Museum in Dallas. Glauben will be the latest to have his story recorded in such a way that generations to come will be able to ask his image questions. Glauben, who turns 91 on Monday, had lost his mother, father and brother at the hands of the Nazis when U.S. troops rescued him while he was on a death march. (McGuire Boles/Dallas Holocaust Museum via AP)

DALLAS (AP) — Max Glauben was 17 and had already lost his mother, father and brother at the hands of the Nazis when U.S. troops rescued him while he was on a death march from one German concentration camp to another.

The recollections of the Dallas resident who as a Jew in Poland survived the Warsaw Ghetto and Nazi concentration camps are now being preserved in a way that will allow generations to come to ask his image questions. Glauben, who turns 91 on Monday, is the latest Holocaust survivor recorded in such a way by the [University of Southern California Shoah Foundation](#). The Los Angeles-based foundation has recorded 18 interactive testimonies with Holocaust survivors over the last several years, and executive director Stephen Smith says they're in a "race against time" as they work to add more, seeking both a diversity in experiences and testimonies in a variety of languages.

"I thought that my knowledge could cure the hatred and the bigotry and the killings in this world if somebody can listen to my story, my testimony, and be educated even after I'm gone," Glauben said.

Smith says that while the foundation founded in 1994 by film director Steven Spielberg has about 55,000 audiovisual testimonies about genocides in dozens of languages — the majority from the Holocaust — the interactive technology stands out for allowing museumgoers to have a dialogue with survivors.

"It's your questions that are being answered," Smith said, adding that the replies, especially on weighty issues like forgiveness can be especially poignant. He says, "You actually see sometimes them struggling to know what to answer."

So far, the foundation has Holocaust survivors speaking in English, Hebrew and Spanish, and the group hopes to get people speaking in even more languages.

"It's so powerful when it's in your mother tongue and you're looking the person in the eye and you are hearing nuanced language coming back that's your own language," Smith said.

For more than a year now, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center has [featured the survivors' images in a special theater](#). Museum CEO Susan Abrams says that when visitors [interact with the images](#), the impact is often obvious: "People get teary; people laugh."

"Our audience comes to feel that they know these survivors somewhat intimately because they're having small group conversation, and in that moment, pretty much everything else fades away," Abrams said.

The Illinois museum is one of four currently featuring the images. Other museums are in [Houston](#), [Indiana](#) and [New York](#). The Holocaust museum in Dallas will start showing them starting in September, after it opens in a new location and with a new name — the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.

<https://www.apnews.com/9fcf828b8d454169b7e8ea8819ddbaed>

The Dallas museum currently brings in survivors to talk to students and has found that's often the most meaningful part of their visit, according to President and CEO Mary Pat Higgins. This technology ensures that can continue, she said.

"Our survivors are aging, and so in 20 years we won't have any survivors who are still able to do that themselves," she said.

Smith said the images can appear on a flat screen or be projected in a way that appears to be three-dimensional. Like Illinois, Dallas is building a special theater so the image will appear three-dimensional on a stage.

Smith said the technology involved is simpler than many people think.

"It's actually video that responds to human voice commands," he said. "And all that's happening is rather than you watching a linear testimony, all the bits of the testimony are broken up, and then when you ask it a question it finds that piece of video and plays it for you."

JT Buzanga, assistant curator at the Holocaust Museum Houston, said the uniqueness of the interactive testimonies gives visitors a reason to return.

"It's something that makes the connection that people want to remember and want to come back," Buzanga said.

Glauben, who has made it his mission to tell people about the Holocaust, helped found the Dallas museum. He says that after he lost his family, he told himself he would "do anything possible to educate the people and let them know what kind of tragedy this was."

Diversity

Female Marine officer graduates from Scout Sniper Unit Leaders Course

By Shawn Snow

Marine Corps Times, January 12, 2019



A Marine with 1st Marine Division, 7th Marine Regiment participates in stalking training aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 27, 2015. The training was the last event during Division School's 6-week-long Pre-Scout Sniper Course. (Photo by LCpl. Danielle Rodrigues/Released)

A female Marine officer has graduated from the Scout Sniper Unit Leaders Course and is on track to become a future recon or sniper platoon commander.

The female lieutenant graduated from the arduous and physically demanding [Infantry Officer Course](#) only in summer 2018; only the second woman to accomplish the feat so far.

She is slated as a ground intelligence officer, which generally is considered a track route for future reconnaissance or sniper platoon commanders.

Marine Corps Training and Education Command confirmed to Marine Corps Times that the lieutenant graduated from the Scout Sniper Unit Leaders Course, held at Quantico, Virginia, in July.

It's another sign of progress as women continue to integrate in previously closed combat related job fields.

The three-week sniper leaders course prepares junior officers and noncommissioned officers in the employment of [Marine snipers](#).

The training includes tactical decision-making, orders development, counterinsurgency operations and familiarization with weapons and optics. The course culminates with a field exercise where the candidates conduct a sniper control center.

The course is not an equivalent to the grueling 79-day basic scout sniper course where Marines earn the 0317-scout sniper job field.

However, the female Marine lieutenant is on track to become the first female 0203 ground intelligence officer.

The ground intel officer field is seen as a pathway to becoming a recon or sniper platoon commander.

Her graduation from the sniper leaders course puts her one step closer to commanding sniper or recon Marines on the battlefield.

How ‘traditional masculinity’ hurts the men who believe in it most [OPINION]

By Monica Hesse

The Washington Post, January 13, 2019



New American Psychological Association guidelines suggest that certain masculine behaviors can harm everyone — including men. (Illustration by Kathleen Brooks/The Washington Post/iStock)

My grandfather is traditionally masculine in most senses of the word: He was a soldier, then a bait-shop owner, then a garbage collector; he rose before dawn most days of his life and I never heard him complain about it. He raised six good kids, he tells funny one-liners, he’s an expert fisherman. He once refused over-the-counter pain meds even while at death’s door.

I’ve been thinking about him lately, for reasons I’ll get to in a bit.

More than a decade ago, the American Psychological Association released a set of guidelines for treating women and girls: a document that addressed sexual violence and pay inequality, discussed how women disproportionately suffer from eating disorders and anxiety, and advised clinicians with female clients on how to be more sensitive and more effective. The APA has also, over the years, released guidelines for treating older folks, and racial and ethnic minorities, and members of the LGBT community.

What the largest psychological organization in the United States had never done was release guidelines for treating men.

Men were already perceived as the default, unneeding of individuated study. “Unless you’re in a men’s group, you’re probably not regularly reflecting on what it means to be male,” says Matt Englar-Carlson, who directs the Center for Boys and Men at California State University at Fullerton. “You’re probably just enacting it.”

Psychologists want to change that, though, and last week marked the release of the APA’s inaugural [Guidelines for Psychological Practice With Boys and Men](#) — developed over 13 years and using four decades of research. Men are 3.5 times more likely to die by suicide than women, for example. They have more academic challenges and receive harsher punishments in school settings. They’re the victims of 77 percent of homicides (and they commit 90 percent of them).

One cause for this consortium of maladies, the guidelines suggested? “Traditional masculinity” itself — the term refers to a Western concept of manliness that relies — and sometimes over-relies — on stoicism, dominance, aggression and competitiveness.

“Everybody has beliefs about how men should behave,” says Ronald Levant, who was the APA president when the guidelines were initially conceived, and who has worked on them ever since. “We found incredible evidence that the extent to which men strongly endorse those beliefs, it’s strongly associated with negative outcomes.” The more men cling to rigid views of masculinity, the more likely they are to be depressed, or disdainful, or lonely.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/how-traditional-masculinity-hurts-the-men-who-believe-in-it-most/2019/01/12/22d2518a-14fd-11e9-90a8-136fa44b80ba_story.html

The guidelines are saying some men are sick, in other words. But are they saying some men are sick, like, we need to gently care for them with aspirin and a thermometer? Or are they saying some men are *sick*, like, we need to put them in Hannibal Lecter masks and keep them away from everyone else?

Levant was shocked this past week by how many people responded as if the guidelines were suggesting the latter — people who read the 30-page document as an indictment not of rigid, traditional masculinity but of *all* masculinity, and of men themselves.

Fox News host Laura Ingraham accused the APA of conflating masculinity with “Harvey Weinstein”-like behaviors.

In the conservative National Review magazine, writer David French [also critiqued](#) the study: “It is interesting that in a world that otherwise teaches boys and girls to ‘be yourself,’ that rule often applies to everyone but the ‘traditional’ male who has traditional male impulses and characteristics. Then, they’re a problem. Then, they’re often deemed toxic.”

I covered a [men’s rights activist conference](#) a few years ago: Several dozen men — white men, mostly — had flown to a Detroit suburb to talk about how they felt men were under attack. Worse, they said, nobody was paying attention to their suffering.

Some of the men were, as we’d say, “toxic,” (one kept telling me to make him a sandwich, then saying he was joking, then telling me again — *ham and cheese on wheat, b----*). But a lot of them were just sad. They talked about male suicide rates, male depression, male isolation. They talked, in other words, about a lot of the information included in the new APA guidelines. They were desperate, begging, for someone to pay attention and find a solution.

Most of them, however, were sure the correct solution would have something to do with fixing *women*. As soon as women would stop taking their jobs, they wouldn’t be depressed anymore. As soon as women would stop categorizing sexual attention as harassment, they wouldn’t be lonely anymore.

These able-bodied straight [white men](#) were, as a group, the most privileged class in America — the Founding Fathers demographic — but they were convinced they were oppressed.

While reading the APA guidelines this week, I thought a lot about those men in Detroit. I thought about how it’s possible to be crushed by something you built, how it’s possible to invent a game that exhausts you to play.

What’s difficult about the APA’s guidelines is that they ask us to wrestle with a complicated idea: that in a society in which gender roles have historically been rigid — and that rigidity has placed the lion’s share of power in the hands of one of the genders — it’s possible for the rulers to be harmed right along with the ruled. But that’s what bad systems do. They mess up everyone.

I thought about how hard it would be to accept that healing yourself might mean letting go of the very things you believed defined who you were.

Englar-Carlson, the California professor, worked on the APA guidelines for several years. When I talked to him, he kept repeating this point: He didn’t believe that men were bad, or even that many forms of masculinity were.

“A lot of men have the expectation that they need to be stoic, and independent, and take care of things on their own — and those can all be quite helpful tools,” Englar-Carlson says.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/how-traditional-masculinity-hurts-the-men-who-believe-in-it-most/2019/01/12/22d2518a-14fd-11e9-90a8-136fa44b80ba_story.html

The trouble comes, though, when those are the only tools men believe they have: when they need help and are afraid to ask for it, when they're experiencing emotions they can't even name, much less express. And when they blame themselves for being unable to make those insufficient tools work, and the result is to lash out — or lash in — in violence.

“The guidelines are about, how do we help men live healthier lives?” he says. “How do we help men live lives that aren't trapped in straitjackets of gender expectations?”

All week long, he said, he'd been getting emails accusing him of “not liking” traditional men. He told me he wanted to write back, “I do like them! That's why I don't want them to suffer!”

I told him about my grandfather. How much I loved and respected him. How most everyone who met him respected him. How our family stories centered on him being a good provider and a good man. But also — how I couldn't remember anyone asking my grandfather how he *felt* about that. Whether he would have preferred a different life. Whether he had ever felt trapped in the one he had.

I told Englar-Carlson that I wanted everyone in the world to be like my grandfather. But I also wanted everyone to know they have the option not to be.

Monica Hesse is a columnist writing about gender and its impact on society. For more visit wapo.st/hesse.

Meet the first female test pilot to fly the F-35

By Stephen Losey

Air Force Times, January 11, 2019



Maj. Rachael Winiecki, the first female test pilot of the F-35, and Airman 1st Class Heather Rice, a crew chief with the 412th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, are shown immediately after Winiecki landed after her first test mission flight in the advanced fighter. (Kenji Thuloweit/Air Force)

An officer at Edwards Air Force Base in California last month became the first female test pilot to [fly an F-35](#).

Maj. Rachael Winiecki, a [developmental test pilot](#) for the 461st Flight Test Squadron, flew her first test flight in the Air Force's [most advanced fighter jet](#) Dec. 14, according to an Air Force release.

Winiecki will also be part of the 461st's team that oversees developmental testing of all F-35 variants.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to become part of the diverse team at the 461st," Winiecki said. "While there may only be a few individuals in these photos [of the test flight], there are countless dedicated personnel working hard to ensure we execute safe, secure, effective and efficient flight tests."

Winiecki was previously an A-10 pilot, who flew Warthogs in deployments to Southwest Asia, Eastern Europe and the Pacific theater, the release said. She became an F-16 test pilot and was assigned to the 416th Flight Test Squadron after graduating from test pilot school at Edwards.

Lt. Col. Tucker Hamilton, commander of the 461st, said her A-10 experience and exceptional flying ability led to her being chosen to test-fly the F-35.

Winiecki said she is able to use her experience conducting A-10 mission sets such as close-air support, combat search-and-rescue, and forward air controller while testing the F-35. This makes sure that the fighter's air-to-ground capabilities also get tested, and not just air-to-air.

"I really do appreciate the perspective that I can bring coming from the A-10 and the F-16 to hopefully bring some influence from that perspective," Winiecki said. "As testers, the contacts we have back in the combat Air Force are valuable. We can reach out to our networks to solicit feedback, solicit information on how we could and should accomplish our mission sets in the future."

"That's really where we can open doors," she continued. "I can reach back to my friends and contacts in my previous community just like other test pilots here."

Winiecki also reflected on the women who came before her, and helped pave the way for her historic flight. Lt. Col. Christine Mau, for example, was the first woman to fly an F-35 in a May 2015 flight at pilot training school at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

"I am grateful for the women who have broken barriers previously," Winiecki said. "They built the path. I look forward to the day when sorties like this are a regular occurrence."

Women and minority veterans are thriving in the civilian workforce

By Natalie Gross

Military Times, January 11, 2019



A military background boosted the civilian job prospects for women and racial minorities that have historically had a harder time finding work, the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics data show. (Jacob Sippel/Navy).

Women veterans were employed at higher rates than their male counterparts in 2018, federal data show.

And it's not just women. A military background also boosted the civilian job prospects for racial minorities that have historically had a harder time finding work.

Bureau of Labor Statistics figures show the [annual unemployment rate](#) for women veterans was 3 percent last year — the lowest unemployment rate on record for this group in the 21st century — while male veterans had an unemployment rate of 3.5 percent.

Among post-9/11 veterans in particular, women again outshined men with a 3.5 percent unemployment rate, compared to 3.9.

Breakdowns by race and ethnicity showed similar trends. White, black and Hispanic or Latina women who have served in the military since Sept. 11, 2001 all had lower unemployment rates than men of those races who did the same. The biggest gap was between black women, with a 3.6 percent unemployment rate, and black men, at 6 percent.

The only exception was among Asian post-9/11 veterans, where men had an unemployment rate of 3.3 percent, and Asian women were unemployed at a higher rate of 7.4 percent.

Anna Crenshaw, acting director of VA's Center for Women Veterans, said women veterans are continuing to demonstrate their value to the country's workforce.

"VA is proud to deliver Veterans tools like education benefits and transitional assistance for sustainable employment in the civilian workforce," she said.

White veterans of both genders had a 3.3 percent unemployment rate, on par with white nonveterans.

Military experience seemed to give an advantage to black, Hispanic and Asian veterans. The gap between black veterans and nonveterans, driven by the lower unemployment rate of black women veterans, was more than 2 percent.

Robert Lerman, a labor economist at the Urban Institute, said it makes sense that veteran status reduced disadvantages in the job market that women and minorities have typically experienced.

"I would say the typical black veteran is presumably a lot more work-ready than the typical black nonveteran. I mean, just to be able to get into the Army kind of requires some things. Not really that surprising that the veterans are [a] more select population," he said.

The labor force data is based on responses to the Current Population Survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, which captures an employment rate based on the population of people in the workforce, who either have a part-time or full-time job or are currently looking for one.

<https://rebootcamp.militarytimes.com/news/employment/2019/01/11/women-and-minority-veterans-are-thriving-in-the-civilian-workforce/>

Veterans were employed at higher rates than nonveterans, though civilians who have not served in the military are doing slightly better in the 25-to-34 and 35-to-44 age brackets, which comprise a large portion of the youngest generation of veterans.

Advocates for veteran employment have warned against putting too much stock in the federal labor force statistics, which, they say, don't paint a complete picture of how veterans are doing in the workforce. The statistics don't track other measures of employment success, such as salary or job retention rates. The data also includes people who are employed part-time, so advocates maintain there's more work to be done before declaring victory on the declining unemployment rate.

Women veterans, especially, face significant challenges in the civilian workforce, said Kiersten Downs, an Air Force veteran and qualitative researcher for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

She said women veterans often struggle with underemployment — jobs that don't match their skill level — and imposter syndrome, or feeling a constant need to prove that they're good enough. And many times, the same leadership qualities that are valued in their male counterparts can actually hurt women veterans with employers who aren't used to direct communication.

“I think when women exhibit leadership skills that are thought to be traditionally masculine, it can be misunderstood,” Downs said. “We have attitudes and behaviors and leadership qualities that work for us when we're in the military. When we leave the military, oftentimes, we face a bias — a gender bias, much like women who are in leadership positions in the general population, but I almost think that it's magnified.”

As a result, many women veterans have to renegotiate their identity and change how they think about themselves as women after the military, she said.

Miscellaneous

All-minimum scores won't cut it for new Marine fitness tests

By Martin Egnash

Stars and Stripes, January 10, 2019



A Marine with Marine Forces Reserve conducts a fireman carry during the maneuver under fire portion of the combat fitness test at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans, Dec. 21, 2018. (Andy O. Martinez/U.S. Marine Corps)

Marines will need to start preparing for more challenging fitness tests after the Corps announced changes to its physical fitness and combat fitness tests beginning this month.

Late last year, a Marine Corps administrative message outlined several major changes to the fitness tests that Marines are required to complete annually and which partly determine their promotions. Some may find the new tests harder to ace, while others may struggle to just pass.

“We’ve increased the standards,” said Col. Stephen Armes, director of the Corps’ Force Fitness Division, in a statement. “Although scores may dip a little, Marines will respond to the challenge to get their numbers back up.”

Among the changes are higher minimum scores, less rest time and, for female Marines, higher minimum and maximum pullups.

“This announcement is part of a larger, on-going institutional effort to modernize the force and help Marines become more combat credible in lethality and readiness,” Marine spokeswoman Jessica Hanley said in an email.

The changes take effect with this year’s physical fitness test, or PFT, which Marines will begin taking as early as this month. They will affect the combat fitness test, or CFT, this summer, when Marines begin taking that assessment.

Events for the annual PFT are running, crunches and pullups, while events for the CFT are sprinting, lifting ammunition cans and maneuvering through an obstacle course.

Getting a minimum score in each event will no longer be enough to pass either test. Marines aged 17-26 — the vast majority in service — will need to exceed the minimum score in at least one event to get the required 150 minimum points to pass, up from 135.

They also will have to make do with less rest time between events in the CFT. They’ll get three minutes between events instead of five, a change Marine Corps officials say is meant to cut the time it takes to complete the test and make it more challenging.

Female Marines in most age groups will also see increases in the minimum and maximum pullup repetitions needed either to pass or ace the PFT.

For women 21 and older, one, two or three more pullups will be required to meet the new minimums, depending on age, while the number needed to achieve a max score will go up by two for most age brackets.

“The data has been evaluated over the last two years, and females continue to increase in their pull up propensity and average number of pull up repetitions,” the Marine Corps said in a statement.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/all-minimum-scores-won-t-cut-it-for-new-marine-fitness-tests-1.563792>

The biggest increase will be for women aged 26 to 30 who will have to do a total of four pullups to meet the new minimum and 12 to max out.

The service will also be training more force fitness instructors — Marines who specialize in physical training — and sending them around the fleet. They will assist commanders in increasing their unit fitness levels and helping prepare Marines for the PFT and CFT changes.

“Every aspect of our general fitness testing has been re-evaluated and looked at and the ultimate aim is to make it as challenging as possible for Marines, but still test their overall fitness,” Armes said. “It’s going to make the Marines more lethal and ready for combat.”

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Judge bars citizenship question from 2020 census

By Larry Neumeister

The Associated Press, January 15, 2019

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge blocked the Trump administration Tuesday from asking about citizenship status on the 2020 census, the first major ruling in cases contending officials ramrodded the question through for Republican political purposes to intentionally undercount immigrants.

In a 277-page decision that won't be the final word on the issue, Judge Jesse M. Furman ruled that while such a question would be constitutional, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross acted in an "arbitrary and capricious" manner and violated the law.

"He failed to consider several important aspects of the problem; alternately ignored, cherry-picked, or badly misconstrued the evidence in the record before him; acted irrationally both in light of that evidence and his own stated decisional criteria; and failed to justify significant departures from past policies and practices," Furman wrote in a decision that squarely laid the blame on Ross.

Ross' explanations for his decision were "unsupported by, or even counter to, the evidence before the agency," the judge said.

Among other things, the judge said, Ross didn't follow a law requiring Congress be given three years' notice of plans to add a citizenship question to the census.

"We are disappointed and are still reviewing the ruling," Justice Department spokeswoman Kelly Laco said in a statement. Ross has said the move was not politically motivated.

The ruling came in cases in which 18 states, the District of Columbia, 15 big cities or counties, and immigrants' rights groups argued that the Commerce Department, which designs the census, failed to properly analyze the effect that the question would have on households with immigrants.

Furman, citing Census Bureau estimates, concluded the citizenship question would depress responses in households with noncitizens by at least 5.8 percent and likely more.

Thus, he said, several states would lose at least one congressional seat based on 2020 census data. Furman said Texas, Arizona, Florida and plaintiffs New York and Illinois face a substantial risk of a seat loss. He said Colorado will suffer a census undercount of at least 0.7 percent.

Adding the question would cause New York, New Jersey, California, Texas, Florida, Nevada, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Washington, Oregon, New Mexico and the District of Columbia to lose funding too, he said.

Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Rhode Island and Minnesota would also suffer, Furman added.

A trial on a separate suit on the same issue, filed by the state of California, is under way in San Francisco. The U.S. Supreme Court is poised to hear evidentiary-related legal issues surrounding the New York case on Feb. 19.

In the New York case, the plaintiffs accused the administration of President Donald Trump of adding the question to intentionally discourage immigrants from participating, potentially leading to a population undercount — and possibly fewer seats in Congress — in places that tend to vote Democratic.

Even people in the U.S. legally, they said, might dodge the census questionnaire out of fears they could be targeted by the administration.

The Justice Department argued Ross had no such motive.

<https://www.apnews.com/c39334f65f99465582b49489c5077781>

Ross' decision to reinstate a citizenship question for the first time since 1950 was reasonable because the government has asked a citizenship question for most of the past 200 years, Laco said.

When Ross announced the plan in March, he said the question was necessary to help the government enforce the Voting Rights Act, a 1965 law meant to protect political representation of minority groups.

Furman, appointed to the bench by former President Barack Obama, said Ross' rationale concealed his true reason, which remains unknown.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, whose office was among those litigating the lawsuits, called the decision a win for "Americans who believe in a fair and accurate count of the residents of our nation."

In Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, a Democrat, said "attempting to frighten immigrant communities into not responding was a clear and deliberate effort to depress the count in states like Massachusetts."

Ross said politics played no role in the decision, initially testifying under oath that he hadn't spoken to anyone in the White House on the subject.

Later, however, Justice Department lawyers submitted papers saying Ross remembered speaking in spring 2017 about it with former senior White House adviser Steve Bannon and then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

The Supreme Court blocked Ross from being deposed, but let a trial proceed over the objections of Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch.

The constitutionally mandated census is supposed to count all people living in the U.S., including noncitizens and immigrants living in the country illegally.

The administration faces an early summer deadline for finalizing questions so questionnaires can be printed.

Associated Press Writers Bob Salsberg in Boston and Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report.

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SEE ALSO:

[Court Blocks Trump Administration From Asking About Citizenship in Census](#) [*The New York Times*, 2019-01-15]

[Judge Orders Trump Administration To Remove 2020 Census Citizenship Question](#) [*NPR*, 2019-01-15]

[Judge strikes down Trump administration's plan to add a citizenship question to 2020 Census](#) [*USA TODAY*, 2019-01-15]

[Trump Plan to Put Citizenship Question on 2020 Census Blocked by Court](#) [*Fortune*, 2019-01-15]

He helped U.S. troops and fled Afghanistan. CBP detained him in Houston, an advocacy group said.

By Alex Horton

The Washington Post, January 12, 2019



U.S. troops patrol in Afghanistan. (Omar Sobhani/Reuters)

KABUL — A former interpreter for U.S. troops in Afghanistan was detained Friday after arriving at a Houston airport with his family and was threatened with deportation back to Kabul, a legal service advocacy group said, a move that could jeopardize his life.

Mohasif Motawakil, 48, was detained by Customs and Border Protection. The agency allowed his wife and five children to be released at 10 p.m. Friday following pressure from lawmakers, said

William Fitzgerald, a spokesman for the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services. An attorney for RAICES is representing the Afghan man.

Motawakil served as an interpreter for U.S. troops from 2012 to 2013 and later as a U.S. contractor, Fitzgerald said. He and his family likely had been granted special visas allotted for Afghans and Iraqis who supported U.S. war efforts and who are endangered because of their work, usually by the Taliban and other militants who consider them traitors and prize their capture. The process of obtaining special immigrant visas takes years for many applicants, who must get letters of support from U.S. officials vouching for them [and must demonstrate](#) that their lives have been imperiled.

Someone, possibly in the family, opened sealed medical records, prompting CBP to detain the family over concerns that the records could have been “faked,” Fitzgerald told The Washington Post. “Then [CBP] said they would be deported,” he said, adding that the family is “confused and traumatized” over the ordeal.

CBP said the family was detained after a routine inspection but, citing privacy laws, declined to provide more details.

“The father remains detained and his wife and children were allowed into the U.S. pending the outcome of his proceedings,” the agency said in a statement Saturday.

A State Department [information page](#) instructs immigrants not to open their sealed document packet, but it does not suggest why or warn immigrants about potential consequences. It was not clear why or how the packet was opened.

The State Department referred questions to CBP and declined to comment, citing the government shutdown. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul did not return a request for comment.

An attorney for RAICES has not been able to meet with Motawakil, Fitzgerald said.

“How unjust that this Afghan family, who helped our military, is in same airport as counsel — & yet have been walled off from one another,” Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-Tex.) [said](#) on Twitter.

Doggett made calls to CBP, and Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee and Al Green, both Texas Democrats, went to the airport in support of Motawakil, Fitzgerald said.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/01/12/he-helped-us-troops-fled-afghanistan-cbp-detained-him-houston-an-advocacy-group-said/>

Thousands of Afghans and their families have received special immigrant visas and resettled in the United States since 2009, when the program began. There were 2,410 principal applicants who arrived with family members in 2018 — a 50 percent decline compared with the previous year.

The number of visa approvals fell by 60 percent in 2018 compared with the previous year, according to State Department data.

No One Left Behind, an advocacy group for [former interpreters](#), has said heightened vetting measures by the Trump administration are to blame. Waiting years for approval places immigrants in “severely dangerous situations,” said Kirt Lewis, the group’s director of programs.

About 19,000 Afghan principal applicants are in some part of the vetting process for the visas, according to the State Department. They are waiting as a resurgent Taliban controls swaths of Afghanistan, prompting former interpreters to go into hiding.

Motawakil’s family members were taken in for the night by the Afghan Cultural Center in Houston, though their fate in the United States, along with that of Motawakil, has yet to be determined, Fitzgerald said.

“The Afghan SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) program offers protection to people who served faithfully along U.S. government personnel and who are in danger because of that service,” said Betsy Fisher, the policy director for the International Refugee Assistance Project. “Surely the U.S. government can resolve a trivial issue with an opened envelope to protect someone who faces persecution as a U.S. wartime partner.”

SEE ALSO:

[Former interpreter for US troops in Afghanistan detained by CBP, threatened with deportation](#) [*The Hill*, 2019-01-12]

ICE tried to deport a U.S.-born Marine, and his mom wants to know why

By Niraj Warikoo

Detroit Free Press, January 17, 2019



Jilmar Ramos-Gomez was a lance corporal in the Marines and received awards for service in Afghanistan. (Photo: Michigan ACLU)

Jilmar Ramos-Gomez was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, joining the U.S. Marines after high school and becoming a decorated veteran who served in Afghanistan.

But despite his service — and despite being a U.S. citizen — Ramos-Gomez was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials for deportation after he was arrested on trespassing charges, said immigration attorneys. ICE and county officials had confused Ramos-Gomez, 27, with being an immigrant even though he had his U.S. passport and other ID on him at the time of his arrest.

Last month, after Ramos-Gomez was released on bond, ICE officials transported him from Kent County jail to an immigrant detention center in Calhoun County. He was set to be deported, until his mother contacted an attorney to rescue him from jail.

The detention has outraged his family and civil rights attorneys, who say it's an example of how immigration and county officials have become overzealous in immigration enforcement. They also say it's an example of racial profiling of Latinos by immigration officials and police.

Advocates with the American Civil Liberties Union and Michigan Immigrant Rights Center sent a letter Wednesday to Kent County officials asking for documents and information about what exactly happened to the veteran Marine.

"I don't feel good about what they did to my son," Maria Gomez-Velaquez, his mother, told the Detroit Free Press during a phone interview. "They were not listening to my son even though he had ID on him. It's not right. My son is from here, he's born here, a United States citizen. He served in the Marines, the military, but they don't care what my son did for his country."

Officials with ICE, Kent County Sheriff's Office and Calhoun County Sheriff's Office could not be reached for comment on Wednesday.

Kent County Undersheriff Chuck DeWitt told the Associated Press that ICE had contacted the agency to hold Ramos-Gomez. "Once he was released from our custody, he was under the domain of ICE. Where they take him is their process," DeWitt said. "Our procedures were followed."

Former Marine has PTSD, episodes

Ramos-Gomez served in Afghanistan from 2011 to 2014 as a tank crewman and lance corporal. He was awarded a global war on terrorism service medal, national defense service medal, an Afghanistan campaign medal and a combat action ribbon, among other awards, said the ACLU.

"But when he returned home, he was a shell of his former self, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after what he had seen," according to an ACLU letter to Kent County officials. "His family reports that he is focused on returning for his Marine brothers in Afghanistan."

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2019/01/17/ice-tried-deport-marine-born-u-s-and-mom-wants-answers/2609824002/>

Ramos-Gomez developed some symptoms of PTSD after his service in Afghanistan and has "episodes where he disappears and when he is found again, he often has no recollection of where he has been," the letter stated.



Maria Gomez speaks to the media at the office of attorney Richard Kessler in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019. Gomez's son, Jilmar Ramos-Gomez, a U.S.-born Marine veteran was held for three days for possible deportation after pleading guilty to a disturbance at a western Michigan hospital. (Neil Blake/The Grand Rapids Press via AP)

On Nov. 21, he was arrested after "apparently damaging a fire alarm at Spectrum Health (in Grand Rapids) and trespassing on the heliport," said the letter. "The police report shows that Mr. Ramos-Gomez had his passport on him when he was arrested."

He pleaded guilty to trespassing and on Dec. 14, a judge ordered him to be released on a personal bond. His mother, an immigrant from Guatemala, then went to pick him up from the jail.

When she arrived, she was told that ICE had put him on a bus to the immigrant detention center in Calhoun County in Battle Creek, more than an hour away.

The mother told them they made a mistake, that her son was a U.S. citizen who had lived in the U.S. his entire life. But moments later, she saw the immigration bus in the parking lot, leaving for Battle Creek with her son inside.

"I felt like I was ready to have a heart attack," said Gomez-Velaquez. "I saw my son going in an immigration van and I don't believe it. I thought it's a joke."

She then contacted an attorney, but since it was a Friday, her son was held there over the weekend.

On Monday, the attorney showed up and convinced them to release Ramos-Gomez after saying he had documents that clearly showed he was a U.S. citizen.

Why detain a U.S. citizen?

Ramos-Gomez's mother wants answers. "What did they do to my son?" she said.

Ramos-Gomez is currently staying at a hospital recuperating from PTSD issues, which his attorneys worry may have been made worse by his experience being detained by immigration officials.

"It is appalling that ICE would be so sloppy and callous and careless that they would target a U.S. citizen, a combat veteran who served his country and try to deport him from the very country he is serving," said Miriam Aukerman, a senior attorney at the ACLU of Michigan. "It is absolutely outrageous."

Hillary Scholten, an attorney with Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, said this case illustrates problems with what is known as the immigration detainers, in which ICE requests that local jails hold inmates beyond their release date if they are immigrants who officials want to detain and deport.

Immigrant advocates say that system is unconstitutional and leads to abuses. In Wayne County, the sheriff ended the detainer system in 2017 after concerns were raised by civil rights activists.

Aukerman said local "jails should not volunteer resources to work with a deportation machinery that is sloppy, overzealous and makes mistakes with frightening frequency."

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2019/01/17/ice-tried-deport-marine-born-u-s-and-mom-wants-answers/2609824002/>

In the case of Ramos-Gomez, "he was supposed to be released, but Kent County held him for ICE," said Scholten.

Scholten said that county officials in Kent say that they are merely doing what ICE asked of them, but she said it's unclear how ICE arrived at the conclusion that Ramos-Gomez was an immigrant who should be detained. Who gave the information to ICE? she asked. Or, she said, did ICE confuse him with another person?

According to a report last year in the Los Angeles Times, the problem of ICE detaining U.S. citizens is widespread, with ICE "agents repeatedly targeting U.S. citizens for deportation by mistake, making wrongful arrests based on incomplete government records, bad data and lax investigations."

This case also highlights the issue of Latinos who are U.S. citizens being profiled.

"It's fair to say it would be extremely unlikely that a Caucasian detainee would end up in immigration proceedings" like Gomez-Ramos, who is Latino, did, Aukerman said.

While the mother of Gomez-Ramos is an immigrant from Guatemala, it's unclear what country ICE wanted to deport Ramos-Gomez to.

The ACLU's letter asks Kent County to provide an explanation of what happened to Gomez-Ramos at its next County Commission meeting on Jan. 24.

"Ramos-Gomez, his family, and the public all deserve to know how and why the Sheriff's Department delivered Mr. Ramos-Gomez to ICE," the letter reads.

"Kent County is definitely very much at fault," Scholten said. "They can't just blindly follow what ICE asks them to do."

SEE ALSO:

[ACLU: Government Mistakenly Wanted to Deport US Veteran](#) [*The Associated Press*, 2019-01-16]

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2019/01/16/pentagon-developing-plan-scrutinize-recruits-with-green-cards-other-foreign-ties-memos-show>

Pentagon developing plan to scrutinize recruits with green cards and other foreign ties, memos show

The initiative would probably target thousands of people per year, including some U.S. citizens.

By Dan Lamothe

The Washington Post, January 16, 2019



The Navy's participants in a 2015 naturalization ceremony recite the Pledge of Allegiance. (Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Timothy D. Hale/U.S. Navy) (Timothy D. Hale/ Navy)

The Pentagon, citing terrorism and espionage fears, is developing a plan to scrutinize prospective recruits with foreign ties, including some U.S. citizens, after a related effort targeting thousands of green-card holders was blocked by a federal judge last year.

The new policy, still in development, will be distributed to the military services by no later than Feb. 15, according to two Defense

Department officials and several department memos obtained by The Washington Post. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity.

The new vetting is likely to screen thousands of recruits per year who have what the Pentagon considers "foreign nexus" risks, including some Americans who marry a foreign spouse or who have family members with dual citizenship, the memos said. Anyone identified for the screening would not be allowed to attend recruit training until they are cleared, a process that could take days for some but drag on much longer for others.

One draft document, labeled "predecisional," has circulated in recent weeks among senior officials and others who oversee recruiting. It is attributed to Joseph D. Kernan, the undersecretary of defense for intelligence, and James N. Stewart, who performs the duties of undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, a post President Trump has left without a permanent political appointee since Robert Wilkie left it to run the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"One primary concern associated with qualifying for these positions relates to the potential counterintelligence or terrorism risks," the memo says. ". . . The Department must implement expanded foreign vetting and screening protocols to identify and mitigate the foreign nexus risks."

Defense officials declined to comment on the memos, saying the new policy is undergoing legal reviews and that some changes could be made.

The documents show the Pentagon to be grappling with the dual challenge of thoroughly screening prospective recruits for potential security threats and finding enough men and women willing to join the military. The armed forces have long sought green-card holders as recruits, marketing such jobs as a chance to attain U.S. citizenship.

The initiative comes as the Trump administration continues to take unprecedented steps to curb immigration to the United States. Many of its efforts have been halted by federal courts, including the president's [efforts to bar Central Americans from seeking asylum](#) in the United States, end a deferred-

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2019/01/16/pentagon-developing-plan-scrutinize-recruits-with-green-cards-other-foreign-ties-memos-show>

action program for young, undocumented immigrants and withhold funds from “sanctuary cities” that refuse to cooperate with certain immigration enforcement efforts.

Among the people who could be targets of the foreign-nexus screening are people who have foreign contacts, foreign citizenship, dual citizenship, a birthplace outside the United States if born to foreign parents, family members who are not U.S. citizens, and immediate family members who have dual citizenship, according to one of the memos.

Other factors that could require such screening include possessing a non-U.S. passport, having financial interests abroad, residing outside the United States for more than three of the previous 10 years and living in the country for less than the last five consecutive years unless the circumstances involved work related to the U.S. government.

A Dec. 21 memo prepared by Stephanie P. Miller, who oversees recruitment policy for the Pentagon, says the Defense Department recognized gaps associated with its screening of individuals with foreign ties “since the receipt of specific reporting beginning of 2016,” though the memo does not specify what that information covers. But the concern stretches to some American citizens, too, she argued.

“DoD recognizes that some U.S. citizens pose a similar risk by virtue of their foreign associations, foreign travel, marriage to a foreign spouse, or dual citizenship,” she wrote. “It is imperative to treat the risk related to a foreign nexus in a similar fashion for any recruit or Service member, regardless of citizenship.”

The Pentagon is preparing the new policy after Kernan’s office and the Army combined in the summer of 2018 to screen green-card holders already in the military through a new process that relies on dozens of existing intelligence databases, one Defense Department memo said. The screening detected more derogatory information about the service members in less time than traditional background checks managed by the Office of Personnel Management, the memo said.

The memo promised that the new process — called foreign nexus screening and vetting, or FNSV — “can be completed in a matter of days or, depending on the analysis required for detected anomalies, in a few weeks, as compared to the months and years” required under traditional background checks. The new screening process, the memo said, “can process up to 1,600 cases per day.”

Historically, about 70 percent of all recruits with green cards are processed quickly, defense officials said in the memo. Under the new policy, the other 30 percent would still be withheld from recruit training until their screening has been completed, but the process would in theory be faster.

The new screening process still faces a major hurdle: another court injunction.

In November, Judge Jon S. Tigar of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruled that it was unreasonable for the Pentagon to require all green-card holders to undergo a full background check and receive a favorable determination in a security review. He issued a preliminary injunction, forcing the Pentagon to begin shipping a backlog of thousands of green-card holders to recruit training.

The Defense Department has continued to fight the case in court. Miller argued in a Dec. 14 declaration that if the court does not stay its order, “the harm to the military and national security could be significant and irreparable.”

“Foreign nationals, including those with [green-card] status, raise unique counterintelligence and counterterrorism concerns because of the heightened susceptibility to influence by foreign governments and organizations and because of the difficulty in verifying information about them that is maintained overseas,” Miller’s declaration said.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2019/01/16/pentagon-developing-plan-scrutinize-recruits-with-green-cards-other-foreign-ties-memos-show>

The injunction has not been lifted, but the Defense Department memo from Kernan and Stewart said the Pentagon is preparing to put in place its new policy within 30 days of the court's approving it. It is unclear whether the court will do so.

Separately, the Pentagon faces litigation after ending in 2017 another program known as Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest, or MAVNI. It promised expedited citizenship to immigrants the Army recruited to take hard-to-fill language and medical jobs, but was ended as defense officials cited security concerns.

More than 10,400 immigrants entered the military through the MAVNI program. Last year, the Army sought to force out some soldiers recruited this way while citing security concerns. The service paused that process after several lawsuits were filed.

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SEE ALSO:

[Pentagon crafting plan to scrutinize potential military recruits with foreign ties, green cards: report](#) [*The Washington Post*, 2019-01-16]

Report: Pregnant spouses of deployed service members at higher risk of depression

By Natalie Gross

Military Times, January 15, 2019



The fear and anxiety associated with deployment can exacerbate the normal stresses of military life and lead to depression in pregnant military spouses, a new study shows. (Getty Images)

Pregnant military spouses whose partners are deployed are at a higher risk for developing postpartum depression and mental health issues during pregnancy, according to a [new report](#) in the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

On top of the “relatively unique circumstances” military families encounter, including frequent forced moves away from family and friends, researchers write that the fear and anxiety of a deployment are linked to increased depression during the perinatal period, defined in the study as the time between conception and one year after giving birth.

The report by researchers at the Anglia Ruskin University Veterans and Families Institute in the U.K. evaluated 13 U.S. studies on women whose spouses served across all five branches of the military.

One particular [study](#) the researchers looked at focused specifically on 397 Army spouses at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. About 16 percent of women whose partners were deployed during their entire pregnancy struggled with postpartum depression, compared to 6 percent of women whose partners were not deployed. Those women were also more likely to give birth before they reached full term, a risk of anxiety and stress during pregnancy, researchers write.

The [American Pregnancy Association](#) defines depression during pregnancy as a mood disorder, or biological illness that involves changes in brain chemistry, similar to clinical depression. Hormone changes, exacerbated by difficult life situations, can cause expectant mothers to be depressed.

Left untreated, this can lead to poor nutrition, suicidal and other negative behaviors, which can cause premature birth and developmental problems.

In analyzing the American studies, the Veterans and Families Institute researchers found that in addition to depression, deployment also increased the pregnant spouse’s chances of anxiety, sleep disorders and adjustment disorders.

“The evidence suggests that social support is an important protective factor for military spouses during the perinatal period,” they write. “Support tailored to the needs of military spouses rather than generic perinatal support may be advantageous.”

SecNav: Navy Is Climbing Out of 'Readiness Hole'

By Patricia Kime

Military.com, January 17, 2019



U.S. Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer testifies during a hearing before Senate Armed Services Committee September 19, 2017 on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. (Alex Wong/Getty Images)

The Navy has made great strides in restoring readiness, laying a foundation to increase lethality, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer said Wednesday.

Describing the service's "readiness hole" as so large that it stunned him when he discovered its scope after becoming secretary in 2017, Spencer said the surface Navy has taken major steps to improve training, staffing, education and maintenance.

"The spirit of 'doing more with less' produced unintended but yet completely unacceptable consequences," [he said at the Surface Navy Association's annual symposium in Arlington, Virginia](#). "We have committed ourselves to instilling readiness and lethality across the force."

The Navy last January established a [Readiness Reform and Oversight Council](#) to continue an overhaul of surface warfare following the collisions of the guided missile destroyer [USS Fitzgerald](#) and the guided missile destroyer [USS John McCain](#) with merchant vessels in 2017.

The council was tasked to make reform recommendations and monitor their implementation.

Spencer credited the group's 111 recommendations -- 82 of which have already been implemented, he said -- as leading the surface Navy toward becoming a safer, healthier force.

Having a two-year budget plan, introduced in early 2018, that gave the military services a reprieve from budget spending limits, has contributed significantly, he added.

Now, the naval services must concentrate on lethality and long-term strength.

"The naval services are well underway to becoming strong yet again," he said.

Spencer said several recommendations being introduced fleet-wide are contributing to creating a "culture of excellence."

They include the [concept of "mission command,"](#) which allows commanding officers to make decisions at the ship's level about what works best for the crew to guarantee operational excellence.

He pointed to implementing a reformed uniform readiness and certification process that has helped ensure that ships are certified before they deploy.

And he cited changes to tour lengths and manning styles, to include addressing fatigue, that ensure that personnel are effective on the job.

"These are a few of the changes that are underway as we move from immediate safety fixes, to effective operations, to the ultimate goal of enhancing our culture of operational excellence," Spencer said.

He urged the Navy to be smart with the money it has received in the past year and asked all sailors, from the deckplate to flag, to strive for excellence, "constantly challenging the assumptions to increase readiness and increase lethality."

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/01/17/secnav-navy-climbing-out-readiness-hole.html>

Still, he said, the rate of change must increase. He said the Navy does not have time for "business as usual."

"We have a dangerous world out there. ... It's up to us to ensure our surface warriors have the training, have that equipment and the leadership they need to confront the dangers of this ever-changing world," Spencer said.

-- *Patricia Kime can be reached at patricia.kime@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter @patriciakime.*

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SEE ALSO:

[SECNAV to the Navy: You got the money so fix yourselves. Fast.](#) [*Navy Times*, 2019-01-17]

VA eyeing new partnership with states to help prevent veterans suicide

By Leo Shane III

Military Times, January 16, 2019



Veterans Affairs officials launched their "Be There" campaign to combat veterans suicide in September 2016. The department is planning a new partnership with at least seven states in coming weeks to further expand outreach to veterans in crisis. (Courtesy of VA)

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs officials in coming weeks will roll out new partnerships with at least seven states to focus attention and resources on [preventing veterans suicide](#), re-upping a successful tool from their earlier [campaigns to end veterans homelessness](#).

[Dr. Keita Franklin](#), director of VA’s office of suicide prevention, said Tuesday during a congressional staff briefing on the topic that department officials will be announcing a new “governor’s challenge” to expand ongoing prevention programs to audiences outside the veterans community.

“VA must lead on this, and it’s our responsibility to prevent veterans suicide,” she said. “But when I can have a partner take our training, have them pass out our crisis number, develop peer mentoring models in workplaces, if I can help them make sure veterans have access to health care, that’s when we know we’re doing the work.”

“We’re shifting from a model that says ‘let’s sit in our hospitals and wait for people to come to us’ and take it to them.”

About 20 veterans a day nationwide commit suicide, a figure that has remained largely unchanged in recent years. Of that number, about 14 will have had little or no contact with VA health services.

For the last year, VA officials have been using a “mayor’s challenge” model to work with 27 large cities on ways to better share VA crisis resources, train employees in suicide awareness and intervention, and coordinate existing support programs with national ones.

The move followed similar outreach activities surrounding veterans homelessness. Advocates have praised the approach as a way to include communities in efforts to help veterans, creating more meaningful connections at a local level.



The Veteran's Crisis Line — available to veterans, troops and their families — operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (Zachary Hada/Air Force)

“We know that integration of care is vital, not only within health systems, but within entire communities, to address challenges like suicide in the veteran population,” said Heather O’Beirne Kelly, director of military and veterans health policy at the American Psychological Association.

“VA was instrumental in addressing veteran homelessness through a similar mayoral challenge, and we’ve seen success in other arenas. The Memphis police department’s crisis intervention team, for example,

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2019/01/16/va-eyeing-new-partnership-with-states-to-help-prevent-veterans-suicide/>

works with the VA medical center to ensure that veterans who come into contact with the criminal justice system get appropriate diversion and wraparound care.”

Franklin said the “mayor’s challenge” will not expand to statewide offices in an initial set of state partners: Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, Texas and Virginia.

“The key is to work on a local plan,” she said. “Who are the local influencers? What are your measures of effectiveness over time?”

Work will also be coordinated with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Richard McKeon, chief of suicide prevention efforts at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, said many veterans in distress may first reach out to local hospitals or doctors for help. That makes informing those organizations of veteran-specific resources critical.

VA officials are expected to formally announce the new state partnerships next month.

To contact the Veteran Crisis Line, callers can dial 1-800-273-8255 and select option 1 for a VA staffer. Veterans, troops or their families members can also text 838255 or visit VeteransCrisisLine.net for assistance.

A warship doomed by ‘confusion, indecision, and ultimately panic’ on the bridge

By Geoff Ziezulewicz

Navy Times, January 14, 2019



The guided-missile destroyer Fitzgerald's heavily damaged starboard side as the warship made its way back to port following a 2017 collision off the coast of Japan. (Photo courtesy Sean Babbitt)

As the seconds ticked toward 1:30 a.m. on June 17, 2017, Lt. j.g. Sarah Coppock darted onto the [Fitzgerald's](#) bridge wing.

The sea air curled black around her as she gripped the alidade, frantic that she'd be tossed overboard.

“Oh s***,” she said. “I’m so f***ed.”

She didn't know the name of the hulking merchant vessel looming out of the night off the coast of Japan, but it was the Philippine-flagged [ACX Crystal](#), and it was going to spear into the smaller guided-missile destroyer, tearing a gash in the hull before continuing into the darkness at 18 knots.

Coppock's fellow watchstanders on the bridge also had succumbed to “confusion, indecision, and ultimately panic,” according to an internal Navy investigation into the Fitzgerald disaster obtained by Navy Times.

Helmed by Rear Adm. Brian Fort, a surface warfare officer with more than a quarter-century of service to the Navy, the secret probe was sent up the chain of command 41 days after the collision.

It was designed to both candidly describe to senior commanders what went wrong while helping federal attorneys defend against lawsuits from the ACX Crystal's owners and operators and, indirectly, the families of the seven sailors drowned in the berthing spaces below the bridge.

The Navy has paraded out a series of public reports addressing both the Fitzgerald tragedy and the Aug. 21, 2017, collision involving the [John S. McCain](#) and the Liberian-flagged tanker Alnic MC that killed 10 more American sailors.

But none of those investigations so starkly blueprinted the cascade of failures at all levels of the Navy that combined to cause the Fitzgerald disaster, especially the way the doomed crew of the destroyer was staffed, trained and led in the months before it the collision.

Fort's team of investigators described a bridge team that was overworked and exhausted, plagued by low morale, facing a relentless tempo of operations decreed by admirals far above them, distrustful of their superiors and, fatally, each other.

And Navy officials knew all of that at least a year before the tragedy.

Barreling into a shipping superhighway

Publicly released accounts of the Fitz disaster state the warship was performing routine operations at the time of the collision

But Fort's report shows how grueling life had become for the crew and throughout the Japan-based 7th Fleet.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/01/14/a-warship-doomed-by-confusion-indecision-and-ultimately-panic-on-the-bridge/>

The crew's workday began at 6 a.m. on June 16, 2017, and it involved "a full schedule of demanding evolutions."

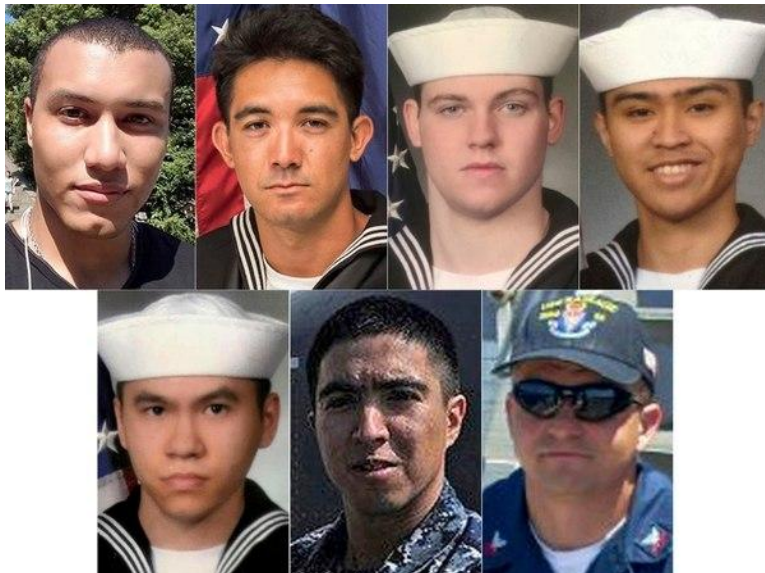
By the time Coppock and her watchstanders arrived on the bridge 16 hours later for their four-hour shift, they were "fatigued and without adequate rest," the report states.

Although they were moving through one of the world's busiest maritime corridors at night, neither their commanding officer, [Cmdr. Bryce Benson](#), nor his executive officer, [Cmdr. Sean Babbitt](#), joined them.

To Fort, that was inexplicable, but he soon discovered it was a routine practice on board the Fitz, dating back at least to the warship's previous commanding officer, Cmdr. Robert Shu.

Benson was "a little more active" on the bridge than Shu, but "it was not routine for the CO or (executive officer) to come up to the Bridge from (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.)," Fort wrote.

Out of 78 underway days from February to May of that year, the CO was on the bridge just four times between the dark hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., according to the report.



Seven sailors drowned aboard the warship Fitzgerald in June 2017. They are, clockwise from top right, Xavier Martin, Shingo Douglass, Dakota Rigsby, Carlos Sibayan, Gary Rehm, Noe Hernandez and Tan Huynh. (U.S. Navy)

In fact, both Benson and his XO Babbitt were in their quarters when the ACX Crystal collided with the Fitz.

Benson was left dangling from the splintered hull above the sea, and his sailors had to break into his room to save him.

He suffered a severe traumatic brain injury

and now faces court-martial, charged with dereliction in the performance of duties through negligence resulting in death and improper hazarding a vessel.

Benson had been the XO to Shu before "fleeting up" to take command of the warship shortly before the collision. It was his first transit from Sagami Bay to the open sea as the Fitz's CO.

Shu said in an email to Navy Times that he "visited the bridge as well as all controlling stations daily."

"I routinely stopped by controlling stations to see how the watch was going and if the watch had any questions about anything going on," he said. "I always reminded them to keep things safe and call if they needed anything. I routinely stopped by the bridge every night before going to bed."

Before the collision, the Fitz was rounding Oshima Island, pointed toward the bustling sea lanes known as the Mikomoto Shima traffic separation scheme.

It's a shipping superhighway, and the Fitz was barreling into traffic.

"Watchstanders were unaware of this approaching and dynamic change in the surface traffic pattern and sailed headlong into this crossing traffic at 20 knots," Fort wrote.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/01/14/a-warship-doomed-by-confusion-indecision-and-ultimately-panic-on-the-bridge/>

Despite a standing order to warn him when vessels got too close to his warship, no one bothered to awaken Benson as the Fitz neared the Crystal and two other commercial vessels.

'Your people are exhausted mentally and physically.'

Coppock wasn't communicating with her CO or his XO but she also wasn't talking to the ship's electronic nerve center — the Combat Information Center, or CIC.

Bridge and CIC teams are supposed to constantly share information on what they're seeing and their sensors detecting, working together to navigate a ship safely through the night.

But Coppock wouldn't talk with the CIC because her counterparts there "had given her bad information in the past," according to the report.

The CIC was led by Lt. Natalie Combs. Testifying under oath at a hearing last year to determine if Combs should stand court-martial, Fort said it was "unfathomable" that the bridge didn't talk to the CIC on the night of the disaster.

But Fort found that was far from the only fissure splitting the warship's crew, a systemic problem of mistrust that he believed superiors failed to properly address long before the catastrophe.

Another junior officer told Fort's investigators "she could not trust the person next to her."

This issue had been echoed in command climate surveys by other crewmembers in both 2016 and early 2017 that should've been briefed up the chain of command to Destroyer Squadron 15, but Fort found that never happened.

Shu said in an email to Navy Times that he debriefed his first survey to Destroyer Squadron 15, but wasn't able to debrief on the March 2017 survey "due to the schedule and changes."

"The Commodore did have a copy of the survey as well and didn't ever express any concerns to me about it," he said.

The 2016 survey included comments showing "significant issues with communication across the chain of command, particularly levied at the (chief mess) and Department Heads," the report states.

By the 2017 survey, those signs pointing to miscommunication and distrust had multiplied, Fort found, but there were other problems, too.

"Your people are exhausted mentally and physically," one sailor wrote, a feeling shared by the bridge team on the night of the ACX Crystal calamity.

A 'turn for the worse'

The 2017 survey results "identified continued and significant issues with communication throughout the command, concerns for stress being levied on the crew by the ship's OPTEMPO, and significant concerns for the leadership and effectiveness of the Command Master Chief," according to Fort's investigation.

In the aftermath of the Fitz tragedy, numerous officers, chiefs and sailors voiced similar complaints to Fort's investigators about the warship's most senior enlisted leader, [Command Master Chief Brice A. Baldwin](#), a career electronics technician who also had served on board the destroyer McFaul, amphibious warship Boxer and the guided-missile cruiser Antietam.

Fort's report concluded that CMC Baldwin seemed "disengaged and/or not respected" inside the chiefs mess and the "CMC was unaware that Deck Division Sailors had had no sleep prior to standing the 2200-0200 watch on 16 June 2017 and yet were part of every evolution prior to assuming watch."

Misconduct

Air Force Academy Vows New Steps to Stop Hazing in Sports Teams

By Tom Roeder, The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

Military.com, January 16, 2019



Basic cadets march on the U.S. Air Force Academy's terrazzo in Colorado Springs, Colo., July 12, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Darcie Ibidapo)

The Air Force Academy's athletic program will get an ombudsman to deal with complaints and a new system for cadets to anonymously report concerns after an independent review of the program that stemmed from two hazing incidents since late 2016.

Cases are pending against a pair of cadets on the academy's swimming team after freshmen complained about a hazing ritual that included eating to the point of sickness and a rite that involved naked upperclassmen and threatened -- but phony -- demands for oral sex. Another incident involved the school's men's lacrosse team. Details of that case haven't been released, but the team's head coach left the school in the wake of an investigation.

The review, by North Carolina consulting firm Collegiate Sports Associates, found the academy had strong programs in place to instill military values and prevent sexual assault. But confused lines of communication and a rigid command structure allowed misconduct, the report found.

"There is no documented alternative for reporting outside the chain-of-command for unacceptable behavior that resides within the hierarchy," the report said.

In a written statement from Superintendent Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria, the academy said it is moving quickly to address the issues found in the report.

"While we are heartened by the review stating that our program is in many ways 'a model for NCAA programs with high standards for behavior and performance and specific training protocols for developing future leaders,' we also have opportunities to improve our culture and climate, and we are committed to implementing programs to address these areas," Silveria said.

In addition to the ombudsman and anonymous reporting system, the academy also is reinforcing its athletic code of conduct, which will be taught to coaches and teams.

"Our mission at the United States Air Force Academy is drastically different than other civilian universities," Silveria said. "We train, educate and inspire leaders of character -- leaders of Airmen -- who will directly contribute to our nation's security."

The review follows a criminal investigation that led to the first court-martial charges for hazing in the history of the school. The court-martial proceedings have yet to proceed to evidence hearings, a necessary step to determine whether the cases will head to trial.

Former Academy Athletic Director Jim Knowlton ordered the review before he departed the school last spring. The academy announced last month that it hired Nathan Pine, who led the athletic department at Holy Cross University, to the post. He's the academy's first athletic director who hasn't served in uniform.

More than 1,000 of the academy's 4,000 cadets are in intercollegiate sports, making the athletic department one of the most influential at the school. Yet the athletic program has had a series of misconduct issues

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/01/16/air-force-academy-vows-new-steps-stop-hazing-sports-teams.html>

over the past decade that have prompted repeated changes as leaders sought to shore up programs to prevent bad behavior.

Knowlton's hiring in 2015 coincided with an academy push to eliminate what former Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson called toxic subcultures in sports programs.

A 2014 Gazette investigation found that academy athletes had engaged in a pattern of misconduct that included drug abuse, sexual assault and cheating in class.

Knowlton and Johnson were credited with cleaning up most of the misconduct, but hazing emerged as a new issue.

The investigation found that milder hazing rituals had existed on academy teams for decades but over time grew extreme.

"What once may have been acceptable 'initiation' behavior has evolved over time to be inappropriate or hazing," the report found. "Often these activities are built into the lore of a program and passed-on from each class by upper-class cadets who had recently gone through the same ritual."

The report also found that the academy needs to keep a closer eye on coaches, who operate with a great deal of autonomy.

"In many ways, coaches are the most influential Academy figures in the lives of cadet-athletes," the report found. "Yet, there is no formal training or certification to be a Division I coach regarding all aspects of their roles and responsibilities."

Silveria pledged that the school will continue its work to stamp out misconduct in sports.

"Given the importance of this mission, we must be dedicated to ensuring the very highest standards across our entire organization," Silveria said.

Discharged Navy petty officer mentored young enlisted sailors while running a prostitution ring

By Rose L. Thayer

Stars and Stripes, January 11, 2019



As a Navy counselor, Joseph Fetterman was tasked with mentoring young enlisted sailors at Tinker Air Force Base — but Fetterman was enhancing his military pay with cash flow from a prostitution ring that he and his wife operated using women flown in from Thailand. (Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office)

As a Navy counselor, Joseph Fetterman was tasked with mentoring young, enlisted sailors at Tinker Air Force Base near Oklahoma City. For at least four years, the petty officer first class spent his days at the base helping sailors map out a career path, plan for retirement and weigh their options for rate changes.

But during at least his final year in that job, Fetterman, 35, was enhancing his military pay with cash flow from a prostitution ring that he and his wife, Kanyarat, operated using women flown to America from Thailand, according to documents released by the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office.

Using undercover agents, local law enforcement linked the couple to online advertisements, a massage parlor and multiple apartments in the Oklahoma City area used for prostitution. The Fettermans eventually pleaded guilty in November to multiple charges related to prostitution and received deferred sentences of two years, meaning that as long as they stay out of trouble, neither will serve jail time as a result of their plea deal.

But Fetterman, who was stationed with the Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 3, Sea Duty Component at the air force base, was discharged from the Navy on Dec. 5. Service officials would not comment on his discharge.

Fetterman was first stationed at Tinker's Strategic Communications Wing 1 from 2006 to 2009. He returned to one of the wing's squadrons in October 2010, remaining at the base with the exception of one month of training in 2014 at Norfolk, Va.

The Navy's footprint is small at Tinker, with about 1,700 active-duty personnel. As a squadron counselor, Fetterman would have helped many of the 500 sailors assigned to the unit navigate their next move in the Navy.

During his time there, Fetterman married, divorced and then remarried Kanyarat, whose family is originally from Thailand. Their most recent marriage license was filed in February 2017, according to Oklahoma County court records.

The first evidence of their prostitution ring appeared just seven months later, according to authorities.

In the Oklahoma City police investigation of the Fettermans, detectives arranged to meet a woman through a website known for prostitution in September 2017, according to district attorney records. When the undercover agent arrived at the apartment, a woman offered to perform sexual acts with the agent for \$160. The apartment was leased to Kanyarat Fetterman. Police conducted similar stings in February and March 2018 with two more women at two other apartments leased by Kanyarat Fetterman. At one apartment,

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/discharged-navy-petty-officer-mentored-young-enlisted-sailors-while-running-a-prostitution-ring-1.564117>

detectives found business cards for Bangkok Traditional Thai Massage in nearby Del City, Okla. Kanyarat Fetterman was listed as the sole proprietor of the business, which was closed at some point during the investigation for code violations, according to records.



Joseph Fetterman's wife, Kanyarat, is accused of helping her husband run the prostitution ring. (Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office)

The women arrested for prostitution told investigators that they had seen Kanyarat and Joseph Fetterman come to collect money from them and at the massage parlor and often driving a new Chevy Camaro.

In April 2018, Kanyarat Fetterman was observed at the Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City picking up a woman that investigators believed to be from Thailand. The woman and her luggage were brought to the massage parlor, the report stated.

Investigators also concluded the couple lived in a home valued at more than \$250,000, which they considered beyond the means of an E-6, along with the responsibility of about \$1,800 total in rent for the various apartments. The couple was also able to quickly pay off two new vehicles — the Camaro and a Honda Odyssey. The basic pay for an E-6 with more than 16 years in service is about \$3,800 a month.

Joseph Fetterman's Navy service record and decorations indicated he enlisted in February 2001 and deployed in support of the global war on terror. Other overseas service included time in a Naval Criminal Investigative Service field office in Bahrain and on board the USS Harry Truman and the USS Carter Hall.

His medals include four Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Good Conduct Medal and a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. His home state of record is listed as Ohio.

To become a career counselor, the Navy requires a rank of petty officer first or second class and experience in the total environment of the service, according to its online job description with Navy Personnel Command.

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Ex-Guantánamo base commander charged with impeding death inquiry, lying about affair

By Carol Rosenberg

McClatchy Washington Bureau, January 9, 2019



Capt. John “J.R.” Nettleton, then commanding officer of Navy base Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, delivers remarks during a Battle of Midway commemoration ceremony, June 3, 2014 in this Pentagon handout photo.

This article was produced in partnership with the [Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting](#).

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVY BASE, Cuba — The former commander of Guantánamo Navy base is under arrest, accused of covering up an affair and fight he had with a base worker who soon afterward was found drowned in the bay, according to an indictment obtained by McClatchy.

Navy Capt. John “J.R.” Nettleton was [removed from his post](#) on Jan. 21, 2015. Ten days earlier a U.S. Coast Guard unit discovered the body of commissary worker Christopher Tur, 42, in the waters of Guantánamo Bay, [a 36-page indictment](#) says.

It charges Nettleton, 53, with two counts of obstruction of justice, one count of concealment of material facts, two counts of falsification of records, and five counts of making a false statement in a case that, in part, relies on text messages from Nettleton’s daughter to a friend while the fight was occurring inside his official residence on Jan. 9, 2015.

Nettleton turned himself into the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Office in Jacksonville, and was taken to the federal courthouse in Jacksonville. Nettleton pleaded not guilty, The Associated Press reported, and was released on bond. After Nettleton was relieved of command at Guantánamo four years ago, he was assigned to Navy Region Southeast headquarters in Jacksonville while the incident was under investigation.

His lawyer, former Marine Colby Vokey, who years ago defended an enemy combatant at Guantánamo, declared via email that Nettleton was “innocent of these charges.”

“Captain Nettleton is looking forward to the opportunity to finally being able to rebut the allegations and the investigations after having this hanging over his head for several years,” Vokey said.

According to the indictment, a clash began on that Friday night, Jan. 9, during a “Hail and Farewell Party,” at the Officers Club up the road from Nettleton’s house, to celebrate the arrival of a new executive officer on the Navy base and bid the man he was replacing farewell. Outside, Tur confronted Nettleton and accused him of having an extramarital affair with his wife, Lara.

The two men were separated, but Tur turned up at the captain’s house soon after and a fight ensued. The commander’s daughter heard the fight and sent a series of texts to friends, including one describing her father lying on the ground. “Um well my dad’s really drunk and some other dude is here and they’re like getting into a fight downstairs and I’m hiding,” one text message said. She described the fight as loud, and told a friend she had locked herself in her room.

<https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/national-security/guantanamo/article224158005.html>

According to the indictment, that was the last time Tur was seen alive. It describes a series of escalating searches for him across the base, with Nettleton briefing police and other personnel that Tur had last been seen at the club. As the searches went on, the indictment says, Nettleton repeatedly omitted the allegation of the affair, the fact that Tur had been at his house or that an altercation had occurred — including in notices to his commander at Jacksonville, Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson.



Christopher M. Tur served in the Marine Corps before coming to Guantánamo. The base newsletter, the Gazette, included this photo of him in an announcement of his Jan. 11, 2015, death.

The omissions, the document says, meant the search was misdirected. At one point, another officer sought Nettleton's permission to ask the Coast Guard to search the bay, and Nettleton declined. At another, NCIS agents found an apparently bloodied paper towel near the base of the pier in Nettleton's backyard, and the captain is quoted as saying, "That's probably nothing." Subsequent tests found it had Tur's DNA.

Tur's cause of death, according to the indictment, was drowning. But he also had suffered fractured ribs and a cut on his head before he died. No one has been charged with Tur's death, and NCIS spokesman Jeff Houston said the investigation has concluded but no details outside of the indictment would be provided.

The indictment adds that Nettleton and Tur's wife colluded to cover up their affair, at one point quoting her as telling him after she was questioned by NCIS that it's "none of their business." Adultery is a crime in the military.

The charge sheet alleges Nettleton "did corruptly obstruct, influence and impede official proceedings," including the Navy investigation of Tur's disappearance and death, a Navy court-martial that has yet to occur and a federal grand jury proceeding.

Nettleton had been assigned to Navy Region Southeast Headquarters in Jacksonville, pending the Tur death investigation. Although the NCIS initially handled the crime, Justice Department attorneys subsequently took the case and presented it to a grand jury at the Middle District of the U.S. District Court in Jacksonville.

Navy spokesman Bill Dougherty referred all questions to his counterparts in the Department of Justice, where the public affairs office is closed as nonessential during the U.S. government shutdown. The DOJ case prosecutor, Peter Nothstein, did not respond to a call or email seeking additional information, notably about Nettleton's arrest and arraignment.

The Guantánamo base commander has no role in the running of the war-on-terror prison camps at the base. That is currently the responsibility of a rear admiral who commands the base's separate Detention Center Zone within the 45-square-mile outpost in southeast Cuba and answers to [Adm. Craig Faller](#), the commander of the U.S. Southern Command in Doral.

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/17/hearing-set-for-former-green-beret-accused-of-murdering-alleged-afghan-bomb-maker/>

Hearing set for former Green Beret accused of murdering alleged Afghan bomb-maker

By Todd South

Army Times, January 17, 2019



Then-Capt. Mathew Golsteyn is congratulated by fellow soldiers following an award ceremony for 3rd Special Forces Group on Fort Bragg, N.C., Jan. 4, 2011. (James Robinson/The Fayetteville Observer via AP)

Officials have set a date for the preliminary hearing of a [former Green Beret charged with murder](#) in the death of an Afghan man during a 2010 deployment.

Maj. Mathew Golsteyn will face the Article 32 hearing on March 14 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, according to a statement released by Army [Special Operations Command](#).

The hearing is an “initial step” toward determining if Golsteyn violated the [Uniform Code of Military Justice](#) charge of premeditated murder.

Eight years after the alleged incident, on Dec. 18, Golsteyn’s commander “determined that sufficient evidence exists to warrant the preferral of charges against him,” USASOC spokesman Lt. Col. Loren Bymer told Army Times in a brief email statement at the time.

Both President Donald Trump and Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., a Marine veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, have defended Golsteyn. Trump has tweeted that he would review the case against Golsteyn, prompting concerns that the judicial process could be swayed in favor of the former Green Beret.

Golsteyn’s attorney, Phillip Stackhouse, said at that time that his client is a “humble servant-leader who saved countless lives, both American and Afghan, and has been recognized repeatedly for his valorous actions.”

The major was recalled to active duty and placed under the command of the USASOC headquarters company at the time of the charge.

During the intense Battle of Marja, explosives planted on a booby-trapped door killed two Marines and wounded three others who were working with the major’s unit.

During those heated days, Golsteyn earned a Silver Star, the nation’s third-highest award for valor, when he helped track down a sniper targeting his troops, assisted a wounded Afghan soldier and helped coordinate multiple airstrikes.

In the same deployment, Golsteyn allegedly later told CIA interviewers, after Marines were killed in the February blast, his unit found bomb-making materials nearby, detained a suspected bomb-maker and brought him back to their base.

A local tribal leader identified the man as a known Taliban bomb-maker. The accused learned of the leader’s identification, which led the tribal leader to fear he would kill him and his family if released.

Trusting the leader and having also seen other detainees released, Golsteyn allegedly told CIA interviewers that he and another soldier took the alleged bomb-maker off base, shot him and buried his remains.

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/17/hearing-set-for-former-green-beret-accused-of-murdering-alleged-afghan-bomb-maker/>



Golsteyn was a captain with 3rd Special Forces Group when he deployed to Afghanistan in 2010.

He also allegedly told the interviewers that on the night of the killing, he and two other soldiers dug up the body and burned it in a trash pit on base.

Those details were included in a 2011 report filed by an Army investigator, Special Agent Zachary Jackson. The report led to a board of inquiry into the allegations against Golsteyn.

The board recommended a general discharge for Golsteyn and found no clear evidence the soldier violated the rules of engagement. But the board found the major's conduct unbecoming of an officer.

Top Army officials stripped Golsteyn of his Special Forces tab and the Silver Star. He was pending a medical discharge, when, in 2016, he told Fox News a version of the events that led to the death of the bomb-maker, prompting a second inquiry that led to the murder charge.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/15/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-biggest-update-to-ucmj-in-decades/>

Here's what you need to know about the biggest update to UCMJ in decades

By Meghann Myers

Military Times, January 15, 2019



A sweeping set of changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice went into effect Jan. 1. (Kemberly Groue/Air Force)

In 2016, Congress passed a new [Military Justice Act](#), calling for a review and reorganization of the [Uniform Code of Military Justice](#), the set of [rules and regulations](#) that dictate criminal offenses for service members and how they are adjudicated.

Among the changes are new definitions for adultery and [intimate partner violence](#), and a specific law against sexual relationships between instructors and trainees.

The revamped system went live on Jan. 1, the first update to the [UCMJ](#) since 1984, and, according to officials, the biggest set of changes since the code was enacted after World War II.

The Military Justice Act of 2016 called on the services' judge advocate general corps to take a big-picture look at criminal justice in the military, updating some rules and definitions, while changing up some proceedings to streamline processes or to get them in line with civilian federal courts.

"We make a lot of changes every year, we always have, to our military justice system," Army Col. Sara Root, who works in the criminal law division at the Office of the Judge Advocate General, said. "But they said, 'Let's take a look, and just see how we can make it more efficient, more effective.'"

The original UCMJ went into effect in 1951. There were small updates in 1968 and 1984, according to the chief of the Army's Military Justice Legislation Training Team, but in some ways, it was still "a little bit dated."

The judge advocate corps has been training on the new rules for the past year, Root said, with a team traveling to 48 installations and briefing more than 6,000 military lawyers and legal personnel.

"In addition to training our corps, our military justice experts are building tools and updating publications," Lt. Gen. Jeff Rockwell, the Air Force judge advocate general, said in a Jan. 2 news release. "Installation commanders, convening authorities, chief master sergeants and first sergeants will continue to receive military justice training in formal courses and from their local installation legal offices. Our focus is to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for all airmen."

For service members, the most important thing to note is when and how the new rules take effect.

Offenses committed before Jan. 1 fall under the previous system, so any investigations or proceedings that were underway in 2018 will continue according to those rules. Offenses committed after Jan. 1 fall under the new UCMJ.

Where it could get complicated is so-called "straddling offenses," Root said.

For instance, if a service member is arrested today on multiple counts of domestic violence that occurred both in 2018 and in the new year, charges would be applied according to when each incident occurred.

The accused can opt in to the new sentencing rules if they have straddling offenses, Root said, but otherwise commands will have to use the old rules.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/15/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-biggest-update-to-ucmj-in-decades/>

Some of the updates go too far, according to one civilian defense attorney, while, in other places, not far enough.

Some definitions and norms might trip up service members, Sean Timmons, a former Army judge advocate and current managing partner at the law firm Tully Rinckey, said, so they should take care to read about the changes.

“A lot of behavior that’s legal, or at least acceptable in the civilian world, is criminalized in the military,” Timmons said.

And while the new Military Justice Act could streamline some of the time and resources it takes to prosecute crimes, he added, there are still some major obstacles to adequately applying UCMJ — the way then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis directed the services to in an August memo.

“Honestly, that’s the biggest crux of my practice,” Timmons said of defending sexual assault cases, which he said are dominating caseloads.

Prosecutors are using administrative and other non-judicial action to prosecute more minor offenses because they’re focusing their efforts on what Timmons called “he said, she said” cases.

“The military has spent every resource it can to try to tell Congress ... ‘Look, we’re doing everything we possibly can,’ but they’re neglecting other crimes,” he said.

New rules

There are some new definitions for terms with which you might already be familiar.

Adultery, for instance, is one that can confound service members. Cheating on a spouse is illegal in more than a dozen states, but prosecuting it is practically unheard of.

Until Jan. 1, in the military, it was only defined as sexual intercourse between a man and a woman — specifically the variety that can produce offspring.

Now, adultery has been re-branded as extramarital sexual contact, and it includes genital, oral and anal acts. On the other hand, it’s also not considered adultery if you are legally separated, somewhat relaxing the previous law.

The definition of intimate partner violence has also been redefined, beyond spouses and domestic partners.

“It’s actually pretty broad, and it’s meant to bring us into the 21st century, where it doesn’t just have to be that you’re married, for example,” Root said.

It now includes former spouses, someone you have a child with, someone you live with or have lived with as a romantic partner, as well as someone you’re dating.

The regulations are not explicit on how long someone must be a romantic or sexual acquaintance to be considered an intimate partner.

“So, I think that’s one area where we’ll see, maybe, the definition develop,” Root said, adding, “I don’t know that one date would be enough.”

There are some other, smaller tweaks, as well.

Cyber-stalking, conduct that induces fear of harm carried out through electronic communication, has been added to Article 130.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/15/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-biggest-update-to-ucmj-in-decades/>

And “breaking and entering” can now occur at any time of day, whereas before it was defined by a nighttime break-in.

One change, to the sexual assault section of Article 120, is particularly worrying for Timmons.

“My argument is, as a defense attorney, that Article 120 is extensive and expansive,” he said, bordering on unconstitutional.

This is because the latest version shifts some of the burden of proof onto the defense, rather than the traditional, civilian practice of placing burden solely on the prosecution.

According to the UCMJ, if the accused claims he was too incapacitated to be aware he was sexually assaulting someone, the defense has to prove that, rather than the prosecution having to prove he was competent at the time.

And in a case of “mistaken age,” the defense would have to prove that he or she could not have known the age of the victim.

Timmons argued that the shifting of the burden is an overreaction to pressure from Congress to stamp out sexual assault.

“And now they’re taking it seriously — they’re taking it so seriously that they’ve shifted the burden to guilty until proven innocent,” he said. “I’d like to see Congress modify it. [This] harms people because they go through two years of the trial process, where they’re slandered and defamed.”

New articles

While many of the changes to UCMJ laws themselves involved migrating offenses from one article to another, there are some brand new laws:

- Article 93a, prohibited activities with a military recruit or trainee by a person in position of special trust. Previously, this would have been considered an Article 92 offense, failure to obey a regulation. While there are already laws against unwanted sexual contact and inappropriate relationships, this adds a layer when those crimes occur between, for example, a recruiter and an enlistment prospect, or an instructor and a basic trainee. It carries a sentence of up to five years. Stories of instructors or recruiters assaulting or otherwise carrying on sexual relationships with the young people they’re charged with guiding have regularly made headlines. Article 93a would have added charges to the prosecution of military training instructors at the center of a 2012 scandal at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, the site of the service’s basic military training, for example.
- Article 121a, fraudulent use of credit cards, debit cards and other access devices. This law focuses on the intent to defraud, rather than larceny, which requires success. “Access devices” can mean account numbers, pass codes or telecommunications equipment that can be exploited to obtain money, goods or services.
- Article 123, offenses concerning government computers. This includes unauthorized use to obtain classified information, to obtain sensitive information or uploading a virus or other program to damage a network. Previously this fell under Article 92.
- Article 132, retaliation. It is now illegal to misuse authority in an attempt to retaliate against a person for making a complaint or reporting a crime. This might include corrective training or

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/15/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-biggest-update-to-ucmj-in-decades/>

withholding awards for no other reason than to punish whistle-blowing, for example. It is also illegal to discourage someone from making a complaint or reporting a crime.

Article 134, or, the ‘catch-all’

In the past, when a convening authority had a laundry list of bad behavior, but not enough UCMJ laws to cover them, miscellaneous specifications would fall under a charge of Article 134, also known as the “general article.”

“I think what they’ve learned over the years is that what’s essential for an Article 134 is that ... one of the elements is it’s service discrediting,” Root said. “They’ve found that, really, most of those types of crimes, that’s not why they’re criminal. It’s pretty obvious that they have their own source of criminality.”

Child endangerment, for example, used to be considered an Article 134 offense.

But child endangerment is a crime in itself, Root said, and shouldn’t be considered a crime just because it’s discrediting to the military when a service member does it.

The Military Justice Act required the services to move more than a dozen offenses out of 134 and into other articles that grouped crimes together more logically.

“I think it’s designed to allow the government to charge more offenses, to put the burden on the defense,” Timmons said.

It amounts to throwing as many things at the wall as possible and seeing what sticks, rather than having one, generalized specification of 134 for harming good order and discipline, he said.

A defendant then thinks, “Okay, I’m obviously going to be convicted of something — let me just plead guilty to this,” Timmons added.

As a result of this change, several offenses have now been moved out of Article 134. Some examples:

- Assault with intent to commit specific offenses, now Article 128c.
- Bribery and graft, now Article 124a and 124b.
- Burning (property) with intent to defraud, now Article 126c.
- Child endangerment, now Article 119b.
- Drinking liquor with a prisoner, now Article 96b.
- Willfully discharging a firearm to endanger a human life, now Article 114b.
- Fleeing the scene of an accident, now Article 111.
- Impersonating an officer (including warrant, petty or noncommissioned), agent or official, now Article 106.
- Kidnapping, to Article 125.
- Obstructing justice, to Article 131b.
- Breaking medical quarantine, to Article 84.
- Communicating threats, to Article 115.
- Wearing unauthorized uniform items, to Article 106a.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/15/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-biggest-update-to-ucmj-in-decades/>

Court martial changes

The UCMJ review also yielded a handful of changes to the way criminal cases are carried out.

“The greatest thing is that now the military system is a court of competent jurisdiction,” Root said, able to issue subpoenas to produce evidence.

In a civilian court, once charges are filed, the prosecution and defense are able to ask for court orders to talk to witnesses or receive evidence that will help determine whether a case is fit for trial.

In the military, early decisions are made by commanders and convening authorities — high-ranking officers at installations, for example — who decide whether to draw up charges or refer a case to court-martial.

These local convening authorities, however, didn’t have the jurisdiction to issue court orders for evidence or communications because they aren’t judges.

Having them, or other court-ordered evidence, could make a big difference in deciding whether a case is strong enough for a trial, Root said.

In the past, cases would get to the court-martial phase before prosecutors could see those emails, for example, and sometimes they wouldn’t be as compelling as they had hoped.

A new special court-martial, dubbed the “bench trial,” offers a judge-only, pared-down version of a military trial that streamlines the process for a prosecution but also guarantees no more than six months confinement or forfeiture of pay for the accused, taking punitive discharge off the table.

“In cases where the accused is likely to plead guilty, it might be attractive,” Root said, because of the limits on sentencing.

It also puts the military more on par with federal criminal courts, which have more latitude to prosecute petty crimes quickly.

“And we have a lot of crimes in the military that specifically deal with good order and discipline,” Root said, like absent without leave, disrespecting leadership and minor drug possession.

A bench trial could be attractive to a defendant in a case where the details are “grotesque,” Timmons said, such as possession of child pornography, where a judge might take a more surgical look at laws and sentencing.

There are also some changes to plea agreements, including mandatory minimum sentences in plea agreements, whereas parties could previously agree on light punishments or a judge could hand one down.

A mandatory minimum sentence in a plea deal could satisfy a victim’s desire to see justice while avoiding the spectacle of a trial.

“There’s some assurance for a commander that there would be some sentence,” Root said, adding, “and I think sometimes maybe a victim might be supportive of a plea agreement.”

For cases that do make it to trial, there are some significant changes to jury panel sizes.

A general court-martial used to require at least five panel members, Root said, but the number usually depended “on how many seats are in the panel box at a particular location,” and two-thirds finding guilty needed to convict.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/01/15/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-biggest-update-to-ucmj-in-decades/>

Now it's regulated: Four for a special court-martial, eight for a general court-martial, and 12 for a capital general court-martial, with three-quarters to convict.

There are yet more changes for post-trial proceedings.

Service members found guilty at trial can elect to be sentenced either by a judge alone or by a panel, as is done now. Once a sentence is handed down, if it calls for a dishonorable or bad-conduct discharge, more than one year in prison, dismissal of an officer or death, the case is automatically sent to an appeals court for review.

But that process couldn't start until a convening authority approved the sentence, and that wouldn't happen until the court reporter completed a full transcript of the trial. It could take months and months, Root said.

Now, an audio recording of a trial is considered a sufficient record of trial, and courts-martial are considered closed after a judgment is entered — in more like 45 to 60 days, she said.

In May 2017, the Armed Forces Court of Appeals overturned the 2015 rape conviction of Airman Rodney Boyce. The hope is that speeding up the process to end a trial will also speed up the appeals process, possibly cutting down the time the accused spends in confinement, waiting on an appeal.

“If that happens faster, that means my client has a better chance of getting an acquittal down the road,” Timmons said.

SEE ALSO:

[Updates to Uniformed Military Code of Justice](#) [*Military.com*, 2019-01-14]

Navy contradicts Congressman Hunter's claims concerning SEAL's confinement conditions

By Andrew Dyer

The San Diego Union-Tribune, January 14, 2019

Navy Personnel Command — which oversees the Navy brig where military prisoners are held — has pushed back against a congressman's claims that a SEAL charged with multiple war crimes is being held in "irregularly harsh" conditions.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Alpine, [sent a letter](#) to President Donald Trump last week to draw attention to the plight of Edward R. Gallagher, a Navy SEAL being held in a Miramar brig on [charges](#) of premeditated murder and shooting civilians during a 2017 Iraq deployment.

Gallagher is undergoing a general court martial in San Diego. The trial phase is scheduled to begin Feb. 19.

Hunter, who had weighed in during Gallagher's arraignment the week prior, met with the SEAL on Jan. 7 for up to an hour.

In his letter to Trump, Hunter said that conditions in the brig were not appropriate for an American war hero with 19 years of service. Hunter said, for example, that Gallagher's children were forced to wear hospital gowns during brig visits "so that they may not 'bring unwanted attention from' any of the other inmates."

In a lengthy statement in response to questions from The San Diego Union-Tribune about the issues raised by Hunter, Cmdr. Karin Burzynski, a spokeswoman for Navy Personnel Command, said Navy Consolidated Brig Miramar was only following regulations.

"For all of the claims (Hunter) raised, the brig is in compliance with all directives, regulations, policies and national standards," Burzynski said in an email.

Among those regulations, she said, was a visitor dress code.

"All Naval Consolidated Brigs have visitation clothing requirements, which are derived from Navy uniform regulations and the host installation civilian clothes policy," she said.

Burzynski said "hospital gown-like smocks" are offered at the brig so that visitors can proceed with their scheduled visits "while conforming to the civilian attire policy."

"Records are not required or kept of visitors who arrive in inappropriate attire and are offered a smock," she said. "However, it is believed that during one visit, SOC Gallagher's 9-year old son was asked to wear a smock over his tank-top, which he did without incident."

Reached by phone Monday, Gallagher's wife, Andrea Gallagher, declined to comment on the visit.

Another charge levied by Hunter was that the only rooms in which Gallagher could speak to his lawyers "allegedly have cameras, guards and most likely microphones."

Burzynski denied this outright.

"There are no cameras or listening devices in the attorney-client rooms," she said.

She did say, however, that visits might be observed by a correctional specialist outside the room through a glass view port in the door.

"This provides a measure of safety for all individuals and ensures no passing of contraband or other illicit activity," Burzynski said. "At no time during a legal or official visit will acoustical privacy be violated."

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/military/sd-me-navy-response-hunter-letter-20190114-story.html>

Gallagher's motion to be released from pretrial confinement was [denied](#) Thursday by Capt. Aaron Rugh, the Navy judge overseeing the court martial.

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SEE ALSO:

[Military judge denies request to release SEAL from brig](#) [*The Associated Press*, 2019-01-10]

[Navy SEAL accused of murdering wounded ISIS fighter pleads not guilty](#) [*CBS News*, 2019-01-04]

[Navy SEAL accused of a brutal killing allegedly threatened to blackmail his teammates: 'I have s--- on all of you'](#) [2019-01-04]

Sacked sub commander hired 10 prostitutes in the Philippines, report says

Stars and Stripes, January 12, 2019



Capt. Travis Zettel, then-commander of the fast-attack submarine USS Bremerton, salutes sideboys at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 5, 2016. (Michael Lee/U.S. Navy)

The commander of a fast-attack submarine was relieved of his duties last summer after admitting he paid for “female accompaniment” during a stop in the Philippines, a Washington state newspaper reported Friday.

Capt. Travis Zettel, who lost his job aboard the USS Bremerton in late August because of “a loss in confidence in his ability to command,” was reassigned to the Submarine Squadron 19 staff at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Navy officials said at the time.

The Kitsap Sun of Bremerton, Wash. — where the Bremerton began its decommissioning last spring — based its report on documents received through a Freedom of Information Act request.

During the submarine’s March visit to Subic Bay, Philippines, Zettel was seen with 10 “provocatively dressed females outside the front door of [his] hotel,” a sailor told the Naval Criminal Investigative Service after calling an Inspector General hotline, according to the newspaper.

The tipster said Zettel told him and another sailor that he’d “ordered ten girls,” the report said. Another sailor told investigators he saw Zettel walking around and talking to other sailors in his command with “three local females holding onto his arm.”

The newspaper said NCIS agents later confronted Zettel with the allegations and that he “admitted culpability in the payment of female accompaniment.”

During the incident, the Bremerton — then based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam — was on the final patrol of its nearly four-decade career. The Navy’s oldest active submarine then left Hawaii on April 20 for Bremerton, Wash., to be decommissioned.

SEE ALSO:

[USS Bremerton sub commander relieved for hiring prostitutes](#) [*Kitsap Sun (Bremerton, Wash.)*, 2019-01-11]

Two soldiers have been charged with the murder of a third in a Fort Stewart love triangle

By Meghann Myers

Army Times, January 15, 2019



One soldier has been arraigned and another sits in a Liberty County, Georgia, jail in the premeditated murder of Sgt. Tyrone Hassel III, who was shot and killed on New Year's Eve. (Stock photo)

One soldier has been arraigned and another sits in a Liberty County, Georgia, jail awaiting extradition to Michigan in the premeditated murder of [Sgt. Tyrone Hassel III](#), who was shot and killed on New Year's Eve while home visiting family for the holidays.

[Spc. Kemia Hassel](#), the sergeant's wife, and Spc. Jeremy Cuellar are accused of conspiring to murder Tyrone, according to a Monday release from Berrien County prosecutor Michael Sepic.

"The motive for the two to plot Sgt. Hassel's death may have been to continue their relationship and reap the Army's death benefit from his murder," the release said.

The military provides a \$100,000 death gratuity to next-of-kin when a service member dies while on active duty. Additionally, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance pays up to \$400,000 following a death.

All three soldiers were assigned to 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia, according to Fort Stewart spokeswoman Dina McKain.

Tyrone Hassel made a permanent change-of-station move to Fort Stewart from Fort Carson, Colorado, in December.

Kemia Hassel and Cuellar had been having an affair, the Berrien County release said.

According to a joint investigation by Army Criminal Investigation Command and local Michigan officials, Cuellar drove from Georgia to Chicago over the last few days of 2018, where he waited for Kemia Hassel's directions.

On Dec. 31, Tyrone Hassel was returning from a gathering at his father's house when Cuellar ambushed him outside of the St. Joseph Township home where the married couple was staying with their toddler son.

A tip to local police led to arrests on Jan. 11. Kemia Hassel was arraigned Monday, her bond set at \$2.5 million, with a mandatory tracking device. She is currently being held in the Berrien County jail, the release said, and her next hearing is set for Jan. 23.

Cuellar faces a charge of premeditated murder, along with an extra charge for using a firearm to commit a felony. He was arrested in Georgia on Saturday and will face arraignment in Michigan, the release said.

SEE ALSO:

[Specialist charged with soldier husband's New Year's Eve murder](#) [Army Times, 2019-01-14]

UN health chief orders probe into misconduct

By Maria Cheng

The Associated Press, January 17, 2019



In this Tuesday Aug. 14, 2018 file photo, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), speaks during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on WHO Ebola operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has ordered an internal investigation into allegations the U.N. health agency is rife with racism, sexism and corruption, after a series of anonymous emails

with the explosive charges were sent to top managers last year. (Salvatore Di Nolfi/keystone via AP)

LONDON (AP) — The head of the World Health Organization has ordered an internal investigation into allegations the U.N. health agency is rife with racism, sexism and corruption, after a series of anonymous emails with the explosive charges were sent to top managers last year.

Three emails addressed to WHO directors — and obtained by the Associated Press — complained about “systematic racial discrimination” against African staffers and alleged other instances of wrongdoing, including claims that some of the money intended to fight Ebola in Congo was misspent.

Last month, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told staffers he had instructed the head of WHO’s office of internal oversight to look into the charges raised by the emails. He confirmed that directive to the AP on Thursday.

A WHO statement issued after the AP story was published said the agency was “aware” of such allegations and has “zero tolerance for misconduct or discrimination of any kind.” The statement said Tedros has “championed openness, transparency and diversity” since he became WHO’s chief.

However, critics doubt that WHO can effectively investigate itself and have called for the probe to be made public.

The first email, which was sent last April, claimed there was “systematic racial discrimination against Africans at WHO” and that African staffers were being “abused, sworn at (and) shown contempt to” by their Geneva-based colleagues.

Two further emails addressed to WHO directors complained that senior officials were “attempting to stifle” investigations into such problems and also alleged other instances of wrongdoing, including allegedly misspent Ebola funds.

The last email, sent in December, labeled the behavior of a senior doctor helping to lead the response against Ebola as “unacceptable, unprofessional and racist,” citing a November incident at a meeting where the doctor reportedly “humiliated, disgraced and belittled” a subordinate from the Middle East.

Tedros — a former health minister of Ethiopia and WHO’s first African director-general — said investigators looking into the charges “have all my support” and that he would provide more resources if necessary.

“To those that are giving us feedback, thank you,” he told a meeting of WHO’s country representatives in Nairobi last month. “We will do everything to correct (it) if there are problems.”

<https://www.apnews.com/0309500d252b4d63aab359d4c4e1965f>

But Tedros refuted claims that WHO's hiring policies are skewed, arguing that his top management team was more geographically diverse and gender-balanced than any other U.N. organization after adopting measures to be more inclusive.

"There is change already happening," he said during the December staff meeting, according to an audio recording provided to the AP.

WHO's in-house investigation into misconduct comes after other U.N. agencies have been rocked by harassment complaints.

At UNAIDS, chief Michel Sidibe agreed to step down after an independent report concluded in December that his "defective leadership" had created a toxic working environment, with staffers asserting there was rampant sexual harassment, bullying and abuse of power.

The author of the anonymous WHO emails also charged there were "crooked recruitment and selection" processes that were "tantamount to fraud, corruption and abuse of authority."

In the latest anonymous message, the author singled out the supposedly flawed hiring process of a senior director in WHO's emergencies department, suggesting that might have led to mistakes being made by incompetent officials involved in efforts to stop Ebola in Congo.

Some staffers feared that funds donated to stem the spread of the deadly virus "have not been used judiciously," the email said, warning such blunders could undermine WHO's credibility.

"A plane was hired to transport three vehicles from the warehouse in Dubai at the cost of \$1 million. Why would WHO ship vehicles from Dubai? We would appreciate the rationale when jeeps in DRC (Congo) can be purchased at \$80,000 per vehicle," the email said, claiming that "corruption stories about logisticians and procurement in WHO's (Geneva emergencies department) are legendary."

Sarah Russell, a WHO spokeswoman, said WHO shipped 10 vehicles out of Dubai last May because there were no vehicles available for sale in Congo that met minimum safety standards at the time. She said it cost \$237,801 to transport them.

David Webb, director of WHO's office of internal oversight, told staffers that Tedros had asked him "to conduct an appropriate investigation" into the issues raised in the emails. Webb said he and his team would scrutinize those accusations, in addition to the approximately 150 other claims that have been reported to his office this year.

"My team is trying their best to go to DRC (Congo), to go to where the allegations are with an effort to find the facts," he said.

The revelations about the alleged wrongdoing were likely to prompt discussions next week at WHO's executive board meeting at its Geneva headquarters. Russell said WHO regularly reports on "substantiated allegations arising from independent investigations" at its executive meetings.

Webb said the investigation would be conducted independently even though it would be done by WHO staffers.

Critics outside the organization felt that was not enough.

Paula Donovan, co-director of AIDS-Free World and its Code Blue campaign, which works to end impunity for U.N. personnel who commit sexual abuse, said Tedros was right to be concerned but "dead wrong to 'instruct' WHO staff to investigate allegations made against WHO."

<https://www.apnews.com/0309500d252b4d63aab359d4c4e1965f>

As one of the defendants, Tedros “obviously cannot be involved in assessing, investigating, prosecuting or judging,” Donovan said.

Oyewale Tomori, a Nigerian virologist who previously worked at WHO and now serves on several of its advisory groups, wasn’t surprised by the emails’ claims of racism, sexism and corruption.

“After what I’ve seen at WHO, I have no doubt that everything in those emails is true,” he said, although he had no evidence to prove the specific claims.

Tomori said he and his African colleagues had often been subjected to “slights that turned to slurs, embarrassing humiliations and rudeness that escalated to abuse” from fellow WHO staffers.

He predicted that without an independent investigation, more complaints would continue to spill out.

“People have known about these problems for a long time,” he said. “But nobody wants to talk because they’re afraid.”

Jamey Keaten in Geneva contributed to this report.

Racism

Coast Guard member reprimanded for flashing controversial gesture on MSNBC

By Carl Prine and J.D. Simkins

Navy Times, January 13, 2019



A Coast Guardsman stirred controversy after flashing the "okay" hand signal, prompting his dismissal from a Hurricane Florence emergency response team. (Screenshot of MSNBC broadcast)

The Coast Guard has formally reprimanded a member with 23 years in uniform for flashing a hand gesture tied to white supremacists during a live TV interview featuring his boss.

He was upbraided in administrative letter of censure signed by Capt. John Reed, the head of [Hurricane Florence](#) response efforts in Charleston, South Carolina, when the unnamed officer formed the “OK” hand signal during MSNBC’s Sept. 14 “Live with Ali Velshi” broadcast.

“While your actions may have seemed funny and playful to you, they clearly showed lack of maturity and inability to understand the gravity of the situation, namely the preparation and response to Hurricane Florence, a declared disaster,” wrote Reed in the Oct. 5 letter, which the Coast Guard provided to Navy Times.

His admonishment was first reported by [The Post and Courier](#), which identified him as a lieutenant.

The Coast Guard declined to provide his rank or rating to Navy Times but the services typically do not name junior officers or enlisted personnel who receive merely administrative sanctions for wrongdoing.

Velshi was interviewing Reed about the changing path of the deadly storm and the tactics the Coast Guard employs to mitigate that when the lieutenant, seated at a table behind the captain, looked directly at the camera and formed the “OK” sign before moving it across the right side of his face.

That sparked an explosion of outrage on social media because the symbol has become linked recently to white supremacists and ethnic nationalists, even if it’s long been associated with signaling that everything’s fine, too.

OK’s strange path to alt-right politics and “white power” symbolism began as a joke.

In a 2017 troll campaign on a [popular 4chan board](#), participants tried to bamboozle liberals and agitate the mass media by spreading a hoax that neo-Nazis had commandeered OK as a secret signal.

The problem was that some in far-right and white nationalist circles earnestly adopted it.

Noting the migration from online stunt to sincere hate symbol, Mark Pitcavage, a senior research fellow at the Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism, [weighed in](#), saying that his organization was updating its understanding of the gesture while cautioning that it’s “not a reliable signifier and no one should assume anything about the use of such a gesture unless there are other unmistakable white supremacist signifiers in that context as well.”

Within the maritime services, the “OK” sign also has long been associated with the “circle game,” tomfoolery that involves a quick, but painful, swat by a prankster on an unsuspecting victim.

Without specifying the lieutenant’s intent, Reed’s administrative letter of censure hints that the unidentified man’s motives weren’t racist, just juvenile and premeditated.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/01/13/coast-guard-officer-reprimanded-for-flashing-controversial-gesture-on-msnbc/>

The captain notes that an unnamed public affairs specialist had directly cautioned the lieutenant about the controversy behind the gesture before the live broadcast began, “yet you went ahead and decided to play a game as a leader in our Service. In doing so, you embroiled the Coast Guard in a political and social controversy that reverberated at the highest level of our Service and Department.”

In an email to Navy Times, Coast Guard District 7 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Kelley said that an internal probe by Coast Guard Investigative Services determined that the letter of censure was the best sanction for the lieutenant.

Although Capt. Reed in the written reprimand tells the lieutenant that the letter will neither be filed locally with his unit nor end up in his permanent records, Kelley explained that the officer’s actions were documented in his annual evaluation report.

“This annual evaluation report is a document that is a primary consideration for future jobs or promotions that this member might apply for or be eligible for in the Coast Guard,” Kelley said.

Although the lieutenant was immediately removed from all storm response efforts, his stunt created a significant distraction from the efforts of the Coast Guard and partner agencies battling Hurricane Florence, Kelley said, and “the perception that this gesture created, regardless of the intent, is not only unprofessional but contrary to all three core values of the service, Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.”

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SEE ALSO:

[SC Coast Guard officer censured for flashing white supremacy sign on TV](#) [*The Post and Courier* (Charleston, S.C.), 2019-01-10]

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/01/14/father-dna-says-he-still-believes-link-between-race-intelligence-his-lab-just-stripped-him-his-titles/>

The father of DNA says he still believes in a link between race, intelligence. His lab just stripped him of his titles.

By Meagan Flynn

The Washington Post, January 14, 2019

Five years ago, James Watson, one of the fathers of DNA, tried to [sell his Nobel Prize](#) because people thought he was a racist.

Watson, who won the prize in 1962 for outlining the double-helix structure of DNA, wanted [to offer penance](#) for the comments that brought his reputation crashing down in 2007. That year, the scientist told Britain's Sunday Times that he was "gloomy about the prospect of Africa" because he believed African intelligence was genetically lower than that of Europeans. Watson never lived the comments down, telling [the Financial Times in 2014](#) that he believed the backlash had made him an "unperson."

But if he had been trying to change his reputation on the topic of race, on Friday it became apparent that the 90-year-old scientist hasn't done himself any favors this month. In ["American Masters: Decoding Watson,"](#) a PBS documentary released Jan. 2, he revealed that his scientifically unsupported views on race and genetics have not changed "at all" since 2007 — leading the laboratory where he spent the bulk of his career to revoke his honorary titles.

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Long Island issued the announcement Friday along with a searing rebuke of Watson, calling his beliefs "reprehensible" and "unsupported by science."

"Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) unequivocally rejects the unsubstantiated and reckless personal opinions Dr. James D. Watson expressed on the subject of ethnicity and genetics during the PBS documentary 'American Masters: Decoding Watson' that aired January 2, 2019," Marilyn Simons, CSHL's chair of the board of trustees, and Bruce Stillman, president and CEO, [said in the statement](#).

They added: "The Laboratory condemns the misuse of science to justify prejudice."

Cold Spring Harbor had removed Watson as chancellor and from all administrative duties in 2007 following his explosive comments but allowed him to maintain an office and several titles after Watson expressed regret over making them. On Friday, the lab revoked his titles of chancellor emeritus, honorary trustee and Oliver R. Grace professor emeritus. Attempts to reach Watson late Sunday night were unsuccessful.

Watson, renowned for his landmark co-discovery of the double helix in the 1950s and his ensuing research in molecular biology, also developed a reputation as an unfiltered provocateur, sometimes denigrating the reputations of colleagues or making remarks seen as sexist, homophobic or racist.

The scientific community drew a line in the sand in 2007. Watson [told a British reporter](#) with the Sunday Times that "all our social policies are based on the fact that African intelligence is the same as ours, whereas all the testing says not really."

He added that he hoped everyone was equal — "but people who have to deal with black employees find this not true."

Days later, he said in a [statement to the Associated Press](#): "I cannot understand how I could have said what I am quoted as having said. There is no scientific basis for such a belief."

That was also the resounding consensus from the scientific community. Geneticist Joseph L. Graves explained in an interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper at the time that Watson's beliefs stemmed from

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/01/14/father-dna-says-he-still-believes-link-between-race-intelligence-his-lab-just-stripped-him-his-titles/>

some geneticists who believed there were relationships between IQ scores and genetics. But Graves said there is no scientific basis suggesting the two are causally linked, or that IQ scores are even a reliable measure of intelligence. The most “obvious” explanation for differences in IQ tests are environmental factors affecting a person’s upbringing, he added.

In the PBS documentary, when the interviewer asked Watson whether his views on the relationship between race and intelligence have changed, Watson responded, “No, not at all.”

“I would like for them to have changed,” he said. “There would [have to be] new knowledge, which says that your nurture is much more important than nature. But I haven’t seen any knowledge. And there’s a difference on the average between blacks and whites on IQ tests. I would say the difference is ... it’s genetic.”

“Racism suspends all rational judgment. It really does,” Graves said in the PBS documentary. “It’s one of the most insidious things that racism does. It takes people who are otherwise brilliant people and gets them down roads that are intellectually unsupportable.”

Criticism of Watson’s remarks and his treatment of others dates to his and his colleague Francis Crick’s Nobel Prize for the discovery of the double helix. A third scientist, Rosalind Franklin, whose critical X-ray photograph of a DNA molecule led to the discovery, died four years before Crick and Watson won the prize. And in Watson’s book recounting the discovery, “The Double Helix,” he dismissed Franklin as “Rosy,” criticized her clothing and makeup, and otherwise downplayed her role, [critics have pointed out](#).

In 2000, the [San Francisco Chronicle reported](#), he told an audience at the University of California at Berkeley that there was a link between sunlight exposure and sex drive, saying: “That’s why you have Latin Lovers. You’ve never heard of an English lover. Only an English patient.” He also suggested that thin people weren’t happy, which made them inherently more ambitious than “fat people.”

“Whenever you interview fat people,” he said, the Chronicle reported at the time, “you feel bad, because you know you’re not going to hire them.”

In 2012, he [told a science conference](#) that “having all these women around makes it more fun for the men, but they’re probably less effective.”

Perhaps his most controversial take on sexuality came in the 1997, when he suggested to the Sunday Telegraph that if a gene was discovered for homosexuality prior to a baby’s birth and a pregnant woman didn’t want the baby with this gene, she should be allowed to abort. He later said his comments were taken out of context but [said in an interview with the Independent](#): “During an interview, I was asked about homosexuality, and I related a story about a woman who felt her life had been ruined because her son was a homosexual and she would never have grandchildren. I simply said that women in that situation should have a choice over whether or not to abort. I didn’t say that fetuses found to have a gay gene should be aborted.”

In its statement Friday, Cold Spring Harbor said that it “acknowledges and appreciates Dr. Watson’s substantial scientific legacy,” but that his statements in the PBS documentary reaffirming his belief in the relationship between race and intelligence are “utterly incompatible with our mission, values and policies.”

The statements “require the severing of any remaining vestiges of his involvement,” the lab said.

Florida pardons wrongly accused 'Groveland Four' after 70 years

By Letitia Stein

Reuters, January 11, 2019

TAMPA, Fla. (Reuters) - Four black men wrongly accused of raping a white teenager 70 years ago were pardoned by top Florida officials on Friday, a long-sought step in a case seen as a historic racial injustice.

While none of the men known as the “Groveland Four” remain alive, family members and supporters appealed their innocence to the Florida Clemency Board, composed of the state’s governor, attorney general, chief financial officer and agriculture commissioner.

The board, meeting at the state capitol in Tallahassee, voted unanimously to pardon Charles Greenlee, Walter Irvin and Samuel Shepherd and Ernest Thomas.

Republican Governor Ron DeSantis, elected to the office in November and sworn in earlier this week, called the case a “miscarriage of justice” in which the nation’s judicial ideals were “perverted time and time again.”

The men were accused of abducting and sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl in 1949 near Groveland, Florida.

The alleged victim maintained on Friday that she was not a liar and opposed the pardons before they were granted.

Thomas was hunted down by a posse of over 1,000 men and killed as he was shot 400 times days later. The three others were beaten in custody and convicted. Of those, one was shot dead on the way to a retrial.

Renewed interest in the Groveland Four was sparked by the book, “Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys and the Dawn of a New America” by Gilbert King that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2013.

Florida legislators passed resolutions in 2017 apologizing to the families of the four men and recommended their posthumous pardons.

Reporting by Letitia Stein; editing by Colleen Jenkins and Tom Brown

Hate groups are about to find lawmakers eager to scrutinize them

By William Douglas

McClatchy Washington Bureau, January 14, 2019

WASHINGTON—For years, Republicans have watched white supremacists claim the GOP is on their side. And on Capitol Hill, Republican lawmakers did little to clamp down on race-based hate groups.

But as of last week, Democrats are in charge of the House.

And that means Rep. Bennie Thompson, an African American lawmaker from Mississippi, is in charge of the House Homeland Security Committee.

He plans to act. Thompson intends to hold hearings to spotlight what experts say is a growth of deadly right wing extremism in America, even if the hearings could feature members of white supremacist groups.

“There are some people, I understand, who have belonged to those groups in the past, so there might be an opportunity for dialogue there,” Thompson said.

After a woman was killed by a Nazi sympathizer who drove his car into a crowd of peaceful counter-protesters at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017, Congress passed a resolution condemning the march. Though President Donald Trump signed the measure, and said he opposed hatred, bigotry and racism, he told reporters earlier the same day “You got some very bad people on the other side also.”

Hate crimes have spiked dramatically — incidents spiked 5.9 percent in 2017 over 2016, according to the FBI — but the House last year took no final action to help curb the trend. And the White House and Rep. Steve King, a veteran Republican lawmaker, have come under fire for indicating sympathy for white nationalists before clarifying they in fact were against hate and bigotry.

Several terrorism experts say attention to the issue is long overdue.

They say that the government has largely ignored the growth of a violent far right that exploded into the public consciousness with the deadly explosion of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. by [Timothy McVeigh](#), an anti-government extremist.

“For all the intense focus on preventing terrorism, there’s a large blind spot about terrorism from the far right,” said Michael German, a former FBI agent and a fellow at New York University’s Brennan Center for Justice.

“The federal government doesn’t keep accurate records describing the nature and impact of this violence. So it’s impossible to develop good policy if you don’t have a factual concept of the threat,” he said.

Under Republican control from 2011 until last week, the House Homeland Security Committee repeatedly rejected calls by Thompson and Democrats for specific probes of domestic far right activities. Some Republicans now are wary that Thompson’s probe would be conducted with a partisan eye.

“I worry that it becomes completely political — a political cudgel and a political issue and we don’t focus on the violence and the problems we have in society and any potential solutions,” said Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pennsylvania, a member of the Home Security Committee and the conservative House Freedom Caucus.

“I just think it would be better to characterize it as violent extremism and look at all of it (violent extremism),” he said.

<https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article224234360.html>

For years, Congress and the White House has looked at terrorism through the lens of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. The House Homeland Security Committee, established after those attacks, largely has focused on the foreign threat or potential danger posed by U.S. residents becoming radicalized by foreign terrorist groups.

Rep. Peter King, R-New York, a former committee chair, who presided over a [series](#) of hearings on the threat of radicalization of American Muslims, said the panel is not the venue for Thompson to address his concern.

“To me, that was the function of the judiciary committee,” King said. “The purpose of the Homeland Security Committee was to fight basically overseas terrorists who have allies in the United States. If this was World War II, it would be the American Nazi Party. As far as I know, right wing groups don’t have foreign ties.”

Rep. Mark Walker, R-North Carolina, suggested that more of the nation’s attention and money still needs to be focused on combating the international terrorist threat.

“I have no problem call (white supremacy) out for what it is: Hateful, ignorant pride,” Walker said. “But I want to make sure that we don’t miss where a lot of the terrorist activity is coming from. We have a thousand terrorists we are monitoring right now. I don’t know if very many of them (domestic terrorists) are considered in that particular group, but actually more are international.

“So do we need to target some of these? Absolutely,” he said. “But let’s not let that overwhelm our resources for the smaller percentage to miss out on the larger groups.”

The committee has dealt with the subject sporadically, but did little legislatively.

And congressional Republicans found themselves dogged by comments such as those recently by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, who last week told The New York Times. “White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization — how did that language become offensive?”

King later issued a statement saying “I reject those labels and the evil ideology that they define.”

But GOP leaders this week were quick to denounce King. His comments were “abhorrent and racist and should have no place in our national discourse,” said Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyoming, the House’s third-ranking Republican.

King has been under fire before. Two years ago, he told CNN “I’d like to see an America that’s just so homogeneous that we look a lot the same.” He narrowly won re-election last year.

Thompson said his aim is to change the dialogue and find a balance in a U.S. domestic terrorism strategy that he believes has focused too heavily on the threat of homegrown Muslim terrorism and too little the rise of far right, white nationalist, and anti-Semitic groups.

“We want to basically kind of change the conversation so that people understand that a bigger threat on the domestic side is the radical right wing folk in this country,” he said.

A recent spate of deadly incidents — including the shooting deaths of 11 congregants at a Pittsburgh [synagogue](#) in October, the February 2018 shooting deaths of 17 students and staff members at Marjory [Stoneman Douglas High School](#) in Parkland, Florida and the August 2017 white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia — have given Thompson and other congressional Democrats anecdotal evidence about the extreme right.

<https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article224234360.html>

A study by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office found that violent extremism was responsible for 85 attacks and 225 deaths in the United States between September 12, 2001 and December 31, 2016.

Of those, 106 deaths were attributed to far right violence in 22 separate incidents and 119 were attributed to “radical Islamist violent extremists” in 23 separate incidents.

Between 2008 and 2017, domestic extremists were responsible for 387 murders. Of those, 274, or 71 percent, were committed by far right members of one group or another, according to a 2018 Anti-Defamation League [study](#).

The rise of the far right has long been a sensitive subject in Congress.

A 2009 Department of Homeland Security report that warned the election of Barack Obama as the nation’s first African American president and a poor economy could lead to a resurgence of far right extremism and that military veterans could be prime recruits.

Several Republicans called for then-Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano’s firing. Veterans organizations demanded an apology.

Thompson, then homeland security committee chairman, said the report “appears to have blurred the line between violent belief, which is Constitutionally protected, and violent action, which is not.”

Napolitano [apologized](#) for the report. But the political backlash led DHS to halt work on tracking violent far right extremism, according to Daryl Johnson, the report’s author.

A decade later, Johnson calls the report prescient.

“When I wrote that report back in 2009, I thought it was going to be maybe a four, maximum eight-year cycle,” said [Johnson](#), who now runs an analytics firm that focuses on domestic extremism in the United States. “And here we are at Year 10 and it’s thriving due to neglect at the federal level to recognize the threat and to do anything about it.”

McClatchy’s Emma Dumain contributed to this story.

SEE ALSO:

[Powerful speech at vigil: "This is what happens when you give white supremacy a pass"](#) [2019-01-11] [VIDEO]

House passes resolution condemning Rep. Steve King over white supremacy comments, with his help

By Eliza Collins

USA TODAY, January 15, 2019

WASHINGTON – The House nearly unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday condemning Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, for questioning why phrases such as "white supremacist" are offensive.

King voted for the resolution himself. It passed 424 to 1.

Before the vote, King said he agreed with South Carolina Rep. James Clyburn's resolution, titled "Rejecting White nationalism and White supremacy." The resolution invoked King's comments and condemned such words as "hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States."

"I regret that we are in this place," King said, adding that he rejects such ideologies. "I agree with every word that you have put in this. It's an honest and a direct resolution put together to address a subject that has been too long before the public dialogue in this country.

"I want to ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let's vote for this resolution. I'm putting up a yes on the board here," King said.

He said his "white supremacist" comments had not come across as he intended.

King sat alone on the GOP side of the chamber as Clyburn, the No. 3 Democrat in the House, urged his colleagues to support the resolution. A handful of Republicans sat nearby. Many stood up to condemn racism.

On the other side of the aisle, about two dozen Democrats sat in rapt silence as Clyburn, a civil rights veteran, invoked the work of Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday was Tuesday.

"Now is the time to do right," Clyburn said before the vote. "This body must speak out against this evil."

The sole "no" vote came from Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., an African-American, who said the measure did not go far enough.

Minimally, King should be censured, Rush said Tuesday, and if he continues making such remarks, he should be expelled from Congress.

"Steve King has made a career out of being a racist, and he needs to be called out as such," he said.

The vote followed a series of condemnations from lawmakers in both parties. A handful of prominent Republicans said King should leave Congress, and top House Republicans voted Monday not to assign King any committees in the new Congress. King was on the Judiciary, Agriculture and Small Business Committees. He had been the chairman of the immigration and border security subcommittee on the Judiciary Committee when Republicans controlled the House.

"White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization – how did that language become offensive?" [King said in an interview with The New York Times last week.](#) "Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization?"

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/01/15/steve-king-gop-concerns-king-white-supremacy-comment/2577013002/>

"The House Republicans denounce his language. We do not believe in his language, and we've decided that he will not serve on any" committees, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Tuesday. He said it was up to King whether he should resign.

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., the No. 3 House Republican, went further, echoing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.: "I think that he should find another line of work," she said. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, also called on King to resign.

Democrats won control of the House of Representatives, 235-199, with the help of a coalition of women, African-Americans and Hispanics. They ushered in the most diverse class yet, [breaking records for the number of women and minorities](#). The House GOP became less diverse, [seeing a decline in the number of women](#) and the loss of the sole African-American Republican woman in the House, Mia Love of Utah.

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., applauded Republican leaders for their "strong" actions against King on Tuesday. "I think they did the right thing," he said. "I think they're very concerned about their party being perceived as a Steve King party."

Hoyer said the party was discussing two measures that would censure King – one by Rush and a more narrow one from Rep. Tim Ryan of Ohio – acknowledging that such actions could open a Pandora's box. "It is a big deal to be censured," he said.

Ohio Rep. Dave Joyce, the first Republican to join Ryan's censure resolution and a member of the steering committee that stripped King of his committees, told USA TODAY he tried to have a "man-to-man" conversation with King when he "made stupid comments" about immigrants in 2013.

"My point was that when you say stupid things, it splashes on all of us," Joyce said. "He said, well, he gets good publicity out of it. I said, 'Well you need to think about other people here because it's not right.' "

Contributing: Nicole Gaudiano, Deborah Berry



SEE ALSO:

[White House denounces Rep. King's white supremacy remarks](#) [*The Associated Press*, 2019-01-16]

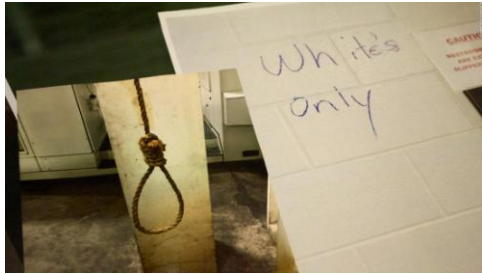
[Iowa's King off House committees after remarks about race](#) [*The Associated Press*, 2019-01-15]

[House GOP leader: 'Action will be taken' after King's white supremacy comment](#) [*CNN*, 2019-01-14]

[House GOP leader vows action against King over race remarks](#) [*The Associated Press*, 2019-01-13]

Inside the GM plant where nooses and 'whites-only' signs hung

By Mallory Simon and Sara Sidner
CNN, January 17, 2019



A noose that was found hanging in the plant and graffiti marking the bathroom "White's Only."

Editor's note: This story addresses hate speech and contains offensive language that may upset some readers. The N-word is spelled out several times in this story to detail the hostile work environment alleged in a lawsuit against GM.

Toledo, Ohio—It took 14 months for the noose to show up.

Fourteen months where Marcus Boyd says he endured racist comments, slights, even threats in a hostile workplace run by General Motors.

A workplace where people declared bathrooms were for "whites only," where black supervisors were denounced as "boy" and ignored by their subordinates, where black employees were called "monkey," or told to "go back to Africa."

A workplace where black employees were warned a white colleague's "daddy" was in the Ku Klux Klan. Where white workers wore shirts with Nazi symbols underneath their coveralls.

In Ohio.

In 2018.

All those allegations are detailed in a lawsuit filed against GM in which eight workers say managers at the Toledo Powertrain plant did little or nothing to stop racism.

For Boyd, it began on his first day. He said he could feel the glare from white team members as if they were saying, "Who's he to be in charge of them?"

All the other supervisors, who were white, received training before their jobs, Boyd said. Boyd, an experienced supervisor albeit in a different industry, was given a clipboard and told to start.

But if he wondered if he was making too much of that, the situation crystallized when some of his juniors ignored him, refused to follow his directions and called him the N-word, though he could never see exactly who said it.

When he reported the insubordination to upper management, he said he was told to deal with it himself, to counsel his workers who'd used the slur.

The message he said he took from his leaders at the plant: Be happy you're here. Deal with it.

But it got harder each day to ignore, he told CNN in an interview.

A white employee Boyd oversaw told him: "Back in the day, you would have been buried with a shovel."

In his role as supervisor, Boyd reported that, too. The worker was taken to a disciplinary hearing with a union official and business leader where he freely admitted what he had said, Boyd recalled. But then Boyd himself was pulled aside and advised to let the matter go if he wanted to get along at the plant, he said. No disciplinary action was taken, Boyd said.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/16/us/gm-toledo-racism-lawsuit/index.html>

Boyd and other workers of color learned there was a coded language to talk about them, according to the lawsuit. White employees kept calling them "Dan." They thought some people didn't respect them enough to learn their names. But other colleagues told them it was a slur, an acronym for "dumb ass nigger."

The N-word was a regular part of life at Toledo Powertrain, [where components are made for various Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles](#), Boyd said. A white woman seen walking with him later found "Nigger lover" written on her pizza box.

When Boyd and others reported the abuse, their leadership told them to handle it themselves, he said.

Even more violent situations were brushed away. Boyd said he feared for his life when a member of his team, irate about a vacation request, yelled and raised a heavy, metal clutch assembly as if he was going hit him.

Boyd said he reported it. This time the offender was punished by losing one day's salary. "One day!" Boyd repeated, frustrated. For what felt like a direct threat to his life. One swing with that clutch could have been deadly, Boyd said. He said he believes there's a simple reason why.

"You have management people in high places, and union officials in high places, that work together to protect people ... that are white," Boyd said.

'Like being at war'

It got to the point where Boyd began asking God to protect him.

"I used to have to pray. Literally, 'Lord protect me,'" Boyd said.

"It was like being at war," he added.

He said he and another black supervisor, Derrick Brooks, who was a former Marine, treated their workplace almost like it was a battlefield. When they saw each other or checked in by phone, as they did every day, they would let the other know, "I got your six," the term soldiers use to say they have your back.

It was the kind of reassurance they felt they were not getting from GM management.

And then Brooks found a noose hanging in the area where he worked. As the only black employee in that space on his shift, he believed it was aimed to intimidate him.

It was a breaking point, the beginning of the end of his career -- and that of Boyd -- at GM. Not just because the noose had been hung. But because of how GM allegedly reacted.

GM: Every shift was trained

That first noose, and then a second, then third, fourth and fifth were all reported to GM, according to the lawsuit Boyd and eight other black employees have filed against the company for allowing an "underlying atmosphere of violent racial hate and bullying."

GM rejects that characterization.

The company declined to be interviewed but provided a statement that it held mandatory meetings and closed the plant for a day to have training for every shift.

"Every day, everyone at General Motors is expected to uphold a set of values that are integral to the fabric of our culture," GM said in the statement. "Discrimination and harassment are not acceptable and [are] in stark contrast to how we expect people to show up at work."

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/16/us/gm-toledo-racism-lawsuit/index.html>

It continued: "We treat any reported incident with sensitivity and urgency, and are committed to providing an environment that is safe, open and inclusive. General Motors is taking this matter seriously and addressing it through the appropriate court process."

Boyd, Brooks and other black workers said initial meetings after the noose focused on violence, but not racial discrimination or intimidation.

GM, which declined to answer questions on the record after supplying the statement, placed an article about harassment in the employee magazine. The company replaced all ropes in the plant with yellow chains in an effort to stem the noose incidents.

But Boyd, Brooks and other black workers say that just removed an object, not the hatred.

The union at the plant also disagreed that any practices were discriminatory.

Dennis Earl, who was elected UAW local president in 2017, said: "Union people protect employees no matter what race, ethnicity."

Of Boyd's allegations, he said: "Punishments were equal across the board. If he feels management was being more lenient -- I don't see that. I've never seen that. It's pretty colorblind, if you ask me."

Earl, who is white, has worked for the plant for 34 years. He told CNN there could be "bad actors" like there can be anywhere, but there was no widespread intentional racism.

"Do I believe people are a little too sensitive these days? Absolutely," he said. "What passed 20 years ago doesn't pass today."

"You can't say the things you used to say off the cuff. It doesn't excuse it, but it's not racially motivated statements," he added.

"It's just bad judgment."

Great salary, but too high a cost

Brooks and Boyd both wanted to keep their supervisor jobs. They had worked hard to get these jobs, very good jobs with a six-figure salary, [far higher than most in Toledo](#).

Brooks used his salary for his eight children and Boyd takes care of his mother, a double amputee.

Both felt they had an extra requirement to draw their paycheck, beyond the work they did -- be grateful, do not complain. "There's unwritten rules with regards to manufacturing plants and when it comes to management," Brooks said. "When it comes to us being black supervisors, you need to be more appreciative of the job title that you have and go along and do the job that we're asking you."

But the noose felt like a direct threat.

"How rough and tough can you be when you got 11 to 12 people who want to put a noose around your neck and hang you 'til you're dead?" Brooks asked.

As with Boyd's experiences, Brooks was told to investigate the incident himself, he said. One person told him in a blatant lie: "That's not a noose used for hanging, it's a noose maintenance operators use to tie off a line."

Brooks shook his head as he recalled the scene. "Being in the military I know plenty about knots," he said, "and I know there is no reason whatsoever to tie a knot like that other than to use it for hanging a person."

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/16/us/gm-toledo-racism-lawsuit/index.html>

For Boyd, the noose was a threat filled with deeply racist roots, capping the fear he felt each of the previous shifts over 14 months in a workplace where he says racism was often ignored and allowed to thrive. "A noose just represented everything that happened to me every day before that."

And then two colleagues said they had heard alarming rumors and advised Boyd to get a gun, he said.

"There were eight white males that was supposedly plotting to sabotage and to follow me out," Boyd said.

It got to the point he was terrified. He feared that he'd be on the news after being found dead after an incident at the plant.

His mother urged him to quit the job, however much it paid. He left. So did Brooks.

Not just two men

It wasn't just Boyd and Brooks complaining. Another employee made a police report about the nooses and conversations about guns being brought to work. Others filed complaints with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

The commission, [which enforces state laws against discrimination](#), announced the findings of a nine-month investigation last March: GM did allow a racially hostile environment.

Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, the commission's director of regional operations, said racist behavior was so prevalent at Toledo Powertrain that she'd rank it among the worst cases her team has seen. Incidents continued while the commission was investigating, according to Sweeney-Newbern.

And she rejected GM's defense that it had taken appropriate action.

"GM did not deny that these things were taking place. They simply said, 'Hey as soon as we heard of these things we moved in and we took action.' That is not what we found in the investigation," she said.

One example came from a former union president's testimony, Sweeney-Newbern said, that at a meeting to address the placing of nooses a white supervisor bemoaned that "too big of a deal" was being made.

That supervisor went on to say, "There was never a black person who was lynched that didn't deserve it."

"That shows part of the culture problem at the plant," Sweeney-Newbern said.

"This is the individual that's going to go back and explain how wrong it is to the staff?" she exclaimed.

With no hope of change at the plant, Brooks took another job that paid a lot less. He is working on his Ph.D. Boyd is back in school with plans to go into a different industry.

Both say they can't believe that in this day and age they experienced the racism they did at work for one of the United States' oldest and most storied companies, still a key part of the economy [at No. 10 on the Fortune 500 list](#).

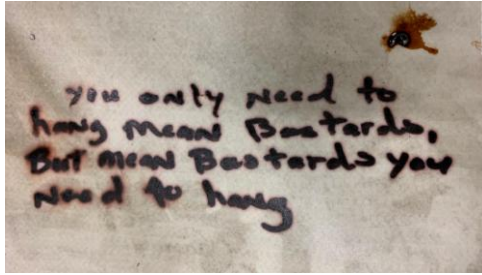
And they hear it's continuing at the plant, which is why, they said, as part of their lawsuit they want the court to dictate procedures and policies to address incidents of harassment, as well as compensation for their suffering.

"There hasn't been anything put in place with regards to trying to deal with the issue," Brooks said. "They are not doing anything with regards to really getting into the crux of what the issue is."

GM has not identified who was responsible for hanging the nooses so no one has been fired for those incidents. However, a GM representative said there have been some people dismissed in Toledo during the entire process of extensive anti-discrimination, anti-harassment work, which is continuing across its plants with cooperation from the union.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/16/us/gm-toledo-racism-lawsuit/index.html>

Lawyers for the men suing GM say there continue to be hateful and racist remarks at the plant to this day, which they plan to include in the lawsuit.



Threatening messages were still visible at the plant in January 2019, according to lawyers for Boyd and Brooks.

On Wednesday, lawyers showed photos including one showing a message scrawled on a cart on the plant floor that says: "You only need to hang mean bastards, but mean bastards you need to hang."

GM said it is aware of the incidents and has retained a handwriting expert to analyze the graffiti, noting that the police are involved.

Religion

What new LifeWay Research survey says about why young adults are dropping out of church

By Holly Meyer

Nashville Tennessean, January 15, 2019

Large numbers of young adults who frequently attended Protestant worship services in high school are dropping out of church.

Two-thirds of young people say they stopped regularly going to church for at least a year between the ages of 18 and 22, a [new LifeWay Research survey](#) shows.

That means the church had a chance to share its message and the value of attending with this group, but it didn't stick, said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

"That's a lot of folks saying, 'No, that's not for me' or 'It's not for me right now' at that young age," McConnell said.

LifeWay Research released its [student dropout survey](#) on Tuesday. The Nashville-based entity interviewed 2,002 U.S. adults ages 23 to 30 who attended a Protestant church two times or more a month for at least a year in high school. The interviews were conducted from Sept. 15 to Oct. 13, 2017.

LifeWay Research is a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources, which is the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The high dropout did not surprise Pastor Chris Brooks, who leads the Kairos congregation at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tenn. The majority of those who attend Kairos' Tuesday night service are between the ages of 22 and 29.

"There is a substantial amount of people in this age demographic who for whatever reason decided that the church is no longer integral to building their faith or their faith is no longer integral to them," Brooks said.

He loves young adults. They are selfish, but also still trying to figure out who they are and what they want to do, Brooks said. It leads to lively and challenging discussions at church, which he welcomes.

"It's identity and purpose, which are common themes throughout the Bible," Brooks said. "And, they're becoming aware of do they like the God that they were given growing up?"

Why young people say they are not going to church

The 66 percent who said they stopped attending church regularly as young adults cited a variety of reasons for leaving. The survey listed 55 and asked them to pick all that applied. On average, they chose seven or eight reasons, McConnell said.

The reasons fell under four categories:

- Nearly all — 96 percent — cited **life changes**, including moving to college and work responsibilities that prevented them from attending.
- Seventy-three percent said **church or pastor-related reasons** led them to leave. Of those, 32 percent said church members seemed judgmental or hypocritical and 29 percent said they did not feel connected to others who attended.

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/religion/2019/01/15/lifeway-research-survey-says-young-adults-dropping-out-church/2550997002/>

- Seventy percent named **religious, ethical or political beliefs** for dropping out. Of those, 25 percent said they disagreed with the church's stance on political or social issues while 22 percent said they were only attending to please someone else.
- And, 63 percent said **student and youth ministry reasons** contributed to their decision not to go. Of those, 23 percent said they never connected with students in student ministry and 20 percent said the students seemed judgmental or hypocritical.

"We're tapping into a lot of different feelings and logistical things as well," said McConnell, pointing out that this age group is often in a time of transition.

But leaving was not an intentional decision for many. Of those who dropped out, 71 percent said they did not plan on it.

"A statistic like that says, 'Wow, we need to help these young people plan ahead,'" McConnell said.

Those who left are not out of reach, experts say

At Iowa State University, it takes students to reach other students with the gospel, said Kendra Gustafson, associate director of The Salt Company, which is a Southern Baptist ministry on the Ames, Iowa campus.

"We have found that discipling and equipping our student leaders to reach out to their peers has been probably the most effective form of ministry," Gustafson said. "They really can do it. Give them courage and just boldness to just relationally welcome people in."

McConnell does not think those who have left between the ages of 18 and 22 are out of the church's reach forever.

When the 66 percent who said they left picked reasons for leaving, only 10 percent said they dropped out because they stopped believing in God.

Some who stopped attending church had already returned. At the time of the survey interviews, 31 percent of those who had dropped out as young adults said they were currently attending twice a month or more. Thirty-nine percent said they were attending church once a month or less and 29 percent were not going at all.

"I think the church should continue to reach out to them and be sharing the news of the gospel to have a relation with God, but also to have a relationship with the church," McConnell said. "For many of these young people, they haven't completely rejected the church, they may just be attending less and thinking that's OK."

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Sexual Assault / Harassment

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/11/entertainment/metoo-lasseter-r-kelly-weinstein/index.html>

So far, 2019 is proving the #MeToo fight is just beginning

By Sandra Gonzalez and Brian Lowry

CNN, January 12, 2019

Hollywood's attempt to deal with sexual misconduct seemed to be entering a new phase in the first few days of 2019.

CBS, a company that spent the latter months of 2018 under scrutiny following sexual-misconduct allegations that resulted in the departure of CEO Leslie Moonves, named [Susan Zirinsky](#) the new president of CBS News.

A 46-year veteran of the network, Zirinsky will become the first woman to run the news department.

On "CBS This Morning," co-anchor Norah O'Donnell said Zirinsky has "a kind heart and cares about the people that work here. So a new day is on the rise."

But a stark reminder that sweeping change won't occur overnight came days later.

On Thursday, [John Lasseter](#), the former Pixar chief who was ousted after being accused of inappropriate conduct, found a new job in Hollywood. (Lasseter apologized for making his former colleagues feel "uncomfortable.") On the same day, [Harvey Weinstein](#), the former movie mogul whose downfall helped spur a movement against sexual harassment in the industry and beyond, scored a partial victory in a civil suit brought by Ashley Judd.

If 2018 was the year when women in Hollywood and their allies called for change, this year may be when we learn if companies and industries that claimed to support their words take actions to do so.

In her upcoming Lifetime documentary, "Gretchen Carlson: Breaking the Silence," the former Fox News anchor who after a landmark sexual harassment suit against that network's chairman and CEO, Roger Ailes, emerged as an influential figure in the #MeToo movement, Carlson, calls attention to some companies who have fallen short. She does so by elevating the stories of average working women from all walks of life, many who experienced harassment and mistreatment while working in lower income positions.

"It's important for companies to take the first step now instead of waiting and hoping that this is some sort of a passing fad," she tells CNN in an interview. "If I was running the company, I would want to be on the front lines of this thing to really be seen as a company that was putting action into my words."

She adds: "I'm hopeful we're going to see of that."

Skydance Media received widespread criticism from Time's Up and other advocates for hiring Lasseter as their new head of animation.

"We didn't flip a switch and [now] everybody is going to get rid of all the harassers, get rid of all the assaulters and start the business anew. That's not the way it went," Melissa Silverstein, founder and publisher of Women and Hollywood, says. "The demand for systemic change is something we have to keep pushing for. But that's also really, really hard to do."

The week's events have also underscored the long, slow road to correcting an accepted norm in which stars and top executives could get away with abusing those around them. Hollywood's clean-up -- in certain high-profile cases -- is seemingly moving from news reports to the courts and criminal-justice system, where some of these stories will potentially drag on for years.

[Kevin Spacey](#) appeared in court in Nantucket on Monday to plead not guilty to a charge of indecent assault and battery stemming from an incident in 2016.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/11/entertainment/metoo-lasseter-r-kelly-weinstein/index.html>

[R. Kelly](#) could also be facing a possible criminal investigation, stemming from allegations of abuse against young women in the Lifetime documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly." The spotlight on Kelly has also turned attention on those in the music industry who have worked with him over the years. (On Wednesday night, one-time collaborator [Lady Gaga](#) joined the chorus of people now condemning Kelly.)

Silverstein sees the reaction to the docuseries as a good thing because it's "magnificent that these women's voices have been amplified" and they're finding supporters.

The rise of #MeToo continues to shift cultural attitudes about acceptable behavior.

"Green Book" director [Peter Farrelly](#) apologized this week after news articles referencing past instances of sexual misconduct, veiled at the time as attempts at humor, resurfaced.

In the middle of awards season, where Farrelly will be making promotional rounds, will Hollywood embrace his presence on the red carpets?

"The entertainment industry still has a lot of work to do, as pretty much every industry does," says Shaunna Thomas, co-founder and executive director of UltraViolet, a women's advocacy organization. "But, obviously their impact on culture is significant. They shape the content that the vast majority of people in this country are consuming, and so when you have misogynists shaping that kind of content that people are seeing, that's serious."

Thomas says that's why activists often focus on the entertainment industry and look for it to be a beacon for progress.

On Friday, UltraViolet commissioned a plane banner to fly over Sony Music's headquarters in Culver City, California, urging the company to cut ties with R. Kelly. The singer's record company, RCA Records, is owned by Sony.

"We do expect this year to be an opportunity to really cement some of the #MeToo gains we saw over the past year," she says. "I think this means abusers are not generally -- and there are going to be exceptions -- going to get golden parachutes when they are fired for abusing women."

Lasseter's appointment and the developments in the Weinstein case were particularly discouraging to advocates who aim to dismantle a system that has enabled abuse. (Silverstein says that with Lasseter's hire, Skydance's message to women is "that women's voices don't matter and that women's truths don't matter.")

"These blows hurt," Silverstein adds, "but it also should make us all resolute in...pushing for change."