

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.

Active-Duty Military Suicides at Record Highs in 2018 [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 30 January 2019]

- The U.S. military finished 2018 with a troubling, sad statistic: It experienced the highest number of suicides among active-duty personnel in at least six years.
- A total of 321 active-duty members took their lives during the year, including 57 Marines, 68 sailors, 58 airmen, and 138 soldiers.
- The deaths equal the total number of active-duty personnel who died by suicide in 2012, the record since the services began closely tracking the issue in 2001.

[Active-Duty Military Suicides At Record Highs in 2018](#)

House panel takes aim at legal roadblock to military malpractice lawsuits [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 25 January 2019]

- A key House Democrat is targeting legislative fixes to [the Feres Doctrine](#) as a top priority this session, taking aim at the legal precedent critics say [unfairly blocks troops from suing the military](#) for medical malpractice, supervisor negligence, and a host of other on-duty mistakes.
- Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif. and the new chairwoman of the [House Armed Services](#) personnel subcommittee, listed the legal issue among her areas of focus in her first statement in the new leadership role. In her statement, she said the panel's guiding focus will be to tackle "critical issues that impact not only our service members but their families who also bear the burden of sacrifice and commitment to our country."
- Those include potential new rules for response and prosecution of sexual assault cases in the military—a topic for which Speier has been a vocal advocate for years—as well as reviewing rules for transgender enlistment, improving data usage in military recruiting and retention, and monitoring troops' pay and benefits.

[House panel takes aim at legal roadblock to military malpractice lawsuits](#)

Sexual assault, harassment spikes at military academies, strategies fail to stem crisis [Tom Vanden Brook, *USA TODAY*, 31 January 2019]

- Incidents of sexual assault at U.S. military academies spiked nearly 50 percent in the past school year despite years of focus on the problem and declarations of zero tolerance, according to results of a survey by the Pentagon.
- The number of students reporting unwanted sexual contact totaled 747 in the 2017-18 academic year, compared with 507 in 2015-16, according to anonymous surveys of cadets and midshipmen. Unwanted sexual contact ranges from groping to rape.
- About 16 percent of women and 2 percent of men at the premier military colleges reported being sexually assaulted, [Nathan Galbreath, deputy director of the Pentagon's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office] said. The increase in assaults stems from more men and women at the Army's academy at West Point reporting unwanted sexual contact from men and women, and more women reporting at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Reporting remained stable at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

[Sexual assault, harassment spikes at military academies, strategies fail to stem crisis](#)

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Culture

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Discrimination

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Diversity

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Miscellaneous

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[After a rough 2018, Army recruiting is trying to turn around both its strategies and its notorious culture](#)

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[Boot Camp Casualty: The story inside one recruit's mysterious death that triggered big changes](#)

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['It wasn't a fun place to work': DOD's cultural hurdles in attracting tech talent](#)

[New Army leave policy more flexible after childbirth, gives three weeks off to fathers](#)

[Senate hearings to probe unsafe housing of U.S. military families](#)

[Violence Against Women Act extended in bill that reopened government](#)

Misconduct

[Congressman Duncan Hunter turns up pressure on Navy in SEAL war crimes case](#)

[Former Green Beret sentenced to 10 years in domestic abuse court-martial](#)

[Fort Bragg soldiers face federal charges in sham marriage scheme](#)

[Seven SEALs granted immunity in Iraq war crimes prosecutions](#)

[These Marines were falsely accused of war crimes. Twelve years later, they have vindication.](#)

[Two Essex sailors plead guilty to using and selling a bunch of drugs](#)

Racism

[Duke professor sparks online outrage after telling Chinese students to only speak English](#)

['Empire' cast member alleges homophobic attack in Chicago](#)

Religion

[Anti-Semitic killings in 2018 'highest' in decades: Israel](#)

[Hate crimes charged in Pittsburgh synagogue massacre case](#)

[They Created a Muslim Enclave in Upstate N.Y. Then Came the Online Conspiracies.](#)

[Trump offers encouragement for state efforts to teach Bible literacy in public schools](#)

[U.S. judge sentences men to 25 to 30 years for plot to bomb Somalis](#)

Sexism

[Americans take the pain of girls less seriously than that of boys, a new study finds](#)

Sexual Assault/Harassment

[BLAKE Act would target ex-congressman for not repaying taxpayer funds used in settlement](#)

[MSU cited for 'serious noncompliance' with federal campus safety law related to Larry Nassar case](#)

[Nearly 100,000 comments on Betsy DeVos's plan to overhaul rules on sexual assault probes](#)

[Pair of Guam airmen face trial on sex offenses in unrelated cases](#)

[Sexual assault, harassment spikes at military academies, strategies fail to stem crisis](#)