

CULTURE

[Holocaust education planned after WV jail guard Nazi salute](#) [Anthony Izaguirre, AP, 2019-12-31]
West Virginia plans to begin training its corrections department staff about the Holocaust after a photograph of correction officer cadets giving Nazi salutes led to dozens of firings and widespread outrage.

[Pentagon Leaders Tell Troops to Stop Using Mail-In Genealogy DNA Kits](#) [Gina Harkins, Military.com, 2019-12-27]

U.S. troops are being advised to steer clear of popular genetic-testing kits over what Pentagon leaders say is a growing concern that the personal information could be exploited or tracked.

DIVERSITY

["Captain Marvel" Effect? Air Force Academy Sees Most Female Applicants in 5 Years](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, Military.com, 2020-01-05]

The proportion of female applicants to the Air Force Academy's class of 2023 will be the highest in the last five years—31.2%, according to statistics provided to Military.com. By comparison, 913 men, or 73.5%, and 329 women, or 26.5%, made up the 2019 graduating class.

[I am Harvard Law's first deafblind graduate. Here's what college is like for students with disabilities](#) [Haben Girma, CNBC.com, 2020-01-04]

Haben Girma is the first deafblind person to graduate from Harvard Law School. An advocate for equal opportunities for people with disabilities, she was named by former President Barack Obama as a White House Champion of Change. Haben also received the Helen Keller Achievement Award, and a spot on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. This is an adapted excerpt from her book "Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law."

MISCELLANEOUS

[Navy Launches a New Civilian Human Capital Strategy for First Time in a Decade](#) [Courtney Bubl , Government Executive, 2020-01-09]

The main pillars of the 2019-2030 strategy are: tap into the best possible talent, improve employees' experience at work, better align the civilian workforce with the Navy and Marine Corps mission, identify future skills needs, harness data in employee hiring and retention, reform the talent pipeline process, and ensure employees are training in digital and smart technologies.

[AP Exclusive: Sierra skeleton ID'd as "ghost of Manzanar"](#) [Brian Melley, AP, 2020-01-03]

A skeleton found by hikers this fall near California's second-highest peak was identified Friday as a Japanese American artist who had left the Manzanar internment camp to paint in the mountains in the waning days of World War II.

[Space Force Is Go for Launch, But "Thousands" of Decisions Remain](#) [Marcus Weisgerber, Government Executive, 2019-12-23]

With President Trump's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act, the U.S. Space Force has officially lifted off. Senior defense officials and military leaders said that the law allows the new

service to begin to execute on months of planning. But “thousands” of decisions have yet to be made.

MISCONDUCT

[Army Spec Ops boss won't reinstate Special Forces tab to officer pardoned by Trump](#) [Kyle Rempfer and Todd South, *Army Times*, 2020-01-09]

The general helming Army Special Operations Command denied a request to reinstate the Special Forces tab of an officer pardoned before going to trial for premeditated murder, forcing the request to now go to the service's highest level review for personnel actions.

[Military launched probe of Wisconsin Guard's top general](#) [Todd Richmond (AP), *Army Times*, 2020-01-08]

The National Guard's headquarters opened an investigation this fall into allegations that the Wisconsin National Guard's top commander improperly initiated an internal investigation in a sexual assault case even as he was under scrutiny for allegedly mishandling sexual assault complaints, Gov. Tony Evers' office said Tuesday.

[After War Crimes Acquittals, Gallagher Cashes In with Clothing Line, Endorsements](#) [Caitlin Doornbos, *Stars and Stripes*, 2020-01-03]

Eddie Gallagher, the former Navy SEAL acquitted this summer of murdering an Iraqi captive, is cashing in on his newfound notoriety with an apparel line.

RELIGION

[Methodists propose split in gay marriage, clergy impasse](#) [Travis Loller and Gary Fields, *AP*, 2020-01-03]

United Methodist Church leaders from around the world and across ideological divides unveiled a plan Friday for a new conservative denomination that would split from the church in an attempt to resolve a decades-long dispute over gay marriage and gay clergy.

[Pagan Nevada Guard Soldier Gets Waiver to Grow Beard; More May Follow](#) [Dorothy Mills-Gregg, *Military.com*, 2019-12-30] [*See also*]

The Nevada Army Guard's first religious accommodation waiver granted a Norse Pagan soldier permission to grow a beard. Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Hopper of the Nevada Army Guard's 3665th Ordnance Company has grown a Norse beard, or Skegg, which he sees as a “sacred and defining feature of masculine men.” Now, the Guard is considering two similar requests from Pagan soldiers, according to a recent Army news release.

[As Jewish enclaves spring up around NYC, so does intolerance](#) [Mary Esch and RyanTarinelli, *AP*, 2020-01-02]

For years, ultra-Orthodox Jewish families priced out of increasingly expensive Brooklyn neighborhoods have been turning to the suburbs, where they have taken advantage of open space and cheaper housing to establish modern-day versions of the European shtetls where their ancestors lived for centuries before the Holocaust. The expansion of Hasidic communities in New York's

Hudson Valley, the Catskills and northern New Jersey been accompanied by flare-ups of rhetoric aimed at new development that some say is cloaked anti-Semitism.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Former Princess Tessy Antony Reveals How She Fought Off Her Would-Be Rapist While in the Military](#) [Ashley Boucher, *People*, 2020-01-06] [[Reprint](#)]

The former princess of Luxembourg, Tessy Antony, who joined the Luxembourg Army at age 18, says that she once had to defend herself from a fellow military officer who tried to sexually assault her.

[PHOTOS: #MenToo: The hidden tragedy of male sexual abuse in the military](#) [Yahoo News Photo Staff, 2019-12-31] [[See also](#)]

Award-winning photojournalist [Mary F. Calvert](#) has spent six years documenting the prevalence of rape in the military and the effects on victims. She began with a focus on female victims but more recently has examined the underreported incidence of sexual assaults on men and the lifelong trauma it can inflict.

[Coast Guard, Congress still working to address bullying and harassment, officials say](#) [Julia Bergman, *The Day* (New London, Conn.), 2019-12-28] [[Reprint](#)]

Following an 18-month probe into how the Coast Guard responds to complaints of bullying, harassment and retaliation, and a recent congressional hearing on the matter, Democratic U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi said Congress' work is not over.

SUICIDE

[New VA Suicide Prevention Strategy: Talk to Vets 3 Times in First Year Out of Uniform](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 2019-12-25]

The Department of Veterans Affairs launched a new suicide prevention outreach program earlier this month to contact the more than 200,000 troops who leave the military annually. The goal is to reach out to each at least three times in the first year of transition to civilian life to inform them of the availability of VA mental health services.

VETERANS

[Health is veterans' biggest challenge in first year home](#) [Gina Digravio, *Futurity*, 2020-01-02] [[Reprint](#)]

A survey of almost 10,000 veterans shows that health concerns rank highest among worries for vets transitioning back to civilian life. The findings appear in [the American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#) (DOI: 10.1016/j.amepre.2019.10.016).