

SPECIAL: MLK

[How Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday became a holiday](#) [National Constitution Center, 2020-01-20]

The fight to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a holiday took 32 years, a lot of campaigning, and guest appearances including Stevie Wonder, Ted Kennedy, and the National Football League.

[Alabama county to preserve jail remnant where MLK was held](#) [Jay Reeves, AP, 2020-01-09]

An Alabama county is preserving what's left of the lockup where officials say Martin Luther King Jr. served his final time behind bars just months before his assassination.

CULTURE

[An inked culture: Sailors discuss the Navy's longstanding tattoo tradition](#) [J.D. Simkins, Navy Times, 2020-01-12] [VIDEO]

Sailors adorning their bodies with tattoos is a well-established Navy tradition, and the featured shipmates from the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt are no exception.

[For Keeps! Atlanta's home for rare and classic black books](#) [Curtis Bunn, NBC News, 2020-01-09]

If Rosa Duffy has her way, For Keeps!, the store for rare and classic black books she opened in late 2018, will evolve into a long-standing neighborhood treasure, not unlike King's church, Ebenezer Baptist, in the Sweet Auburn section of Atlanta, near downtown.

[Coast Guard Wrapping Up Study on Why Minority Members Leave the Service](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, Military.com, 2020-01-15]

The Coast Guard will wrap up a study examining why minority service members are leaving its ranks and publish its initial findings by June to try to thwart retention gaps, the service's vice commandant said Wednesday.

DISCRIMINATION

[Ruling barring discharge of HIV-positive airmen upheld for now](#) [Denise Lavoie, AP, 2020-01-10] [See also]

An injunction barring the Trump administration from discharging two Air Force members who are HIV-positive was [upheld](#) Friday by a federal appeals court panel that called the military's rationale for prohibiting deployment of service members living with HIV "outmoded and at odds with current science."

DIVERSITY

[Pope names 1st woman manager in Vatican Secretariat of State](#) [AP, 2020-01-15] [[Reprint](#)]

Pope Francis has tapped an Italian lawyer to be the first woman to hold a management position in the Vatican's most important office, the Secretariat of State. Francis on Wednesday named Francesca Di Giovanni, a 27-year veteran of the Vatican, as undersecretary for multilateral affairs.

[59-year-old Afghanistan veteran will report to Army basic training this summer](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 2020-01-14]

After a 10-year break in service, Staff Sgt. Monte L. Gould will have to report to basic combat training this June at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Army Regulation 601–210 allows waivers for prior service soldiers who can qualify for retired pay by age 62—and who have been granted a waiver permitting enlistment over 55 years of age.

[Will the first woman on the moon be a Marine? Cobra pilot becomes one of NASA’s newest astronauts](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 2020-01-14]

After two years of intense training, Marine Maj. Jasmin Moghbeli became one of NASA’s newest astronauts Friday. She was born in Germany to Iranian parents, but moved to Baldwin, New York, when she was only 8 months old. The Marine joins the force as it eyes putting the first woman on the moon and the first people on Mars.

[Same sex marriage is finally legal in Northern Ireland](#) [Luke McGee, *CNN*, 2020-01-13]

Same-sex marriage is now legal in Northern Ireland, bringing the province in line with the rest of the United Kingdom, where it has been legal since 2014.

[Navy Lt. Kayla Barron of Richland completes astronaut training, sets her sights on the stars](#) [Kip Hill, *The Spokesman-Review (Spokane, Wash.)*, 2020-01-13] [[Reprint](#)]

Barron’s graduation means she’ll be the second female astronaut from the region eligible for space travel as NASA begins its Artemis missions with eyes to the moon and beyond.

[Who Signs Up to Fight? Makeup of U.S. Recruits Shows Glaring Disparity](#) [Dave Philipps and Tim Arango, *The New York Times*, 2020-01-10]

More and more, new recruits come from the same small number of counties and are the children of old recruits. In 2019, 79 percent of Army recruits reported having a family member who served. For nearly 30 percent, it was a parent—a striking point in a nation where less than 1 percent of the population serves in the military.

[Air Force Colonel to Become First Female Wing Commander of Georgia Air National Guard](#) [Jenna Eason, *The Macon Telegraph (Macon, Ga.)*, 2020-01-10] [[Reprint](#)]

Col. Amy Holbeck will take control of the Georgia Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Wing as the first female wing commander in the more than 70 year history of the Georgia Air National Guard.

[First all-women team enters Aviano bomb-building competition—and wins](#) [Ericka A. Woolever, *Stars and Stripes*, 2020-01-11] [[See also](#)]

For the first time since Aviano began hosting its quarterly bomb-building competition, an all-female team entered—and won. The team, called the Bouncing Bettys, completed the Rapid Aircraft Generation and Employment competition last week.

[Platoon-level gender integration now required at Marine boot camp, as lawmakers still question recruit safety](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 2019-12-30]

Although the Corps will still be allowed to have separate-gender squad bays, with the passage of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act the rest of training must be fully integrated down to the platoon level, according to lawmakers.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[The Army Has Introduced a New Leadership Value. Here's Why It Matters](#) [Corie Weathers, *Military.com*, 2019-12-27] [OPINION]

Straight out of the classrooms and lecture halls of the Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) and School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, comes a word that is meant to inspire a new kind of leadership... Recent changes to Army doctrine on leadership development sparked dialogue, as humility was introduced alongside empathy as necessary leadership attributes.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force turns to tablet computers, online study guides to improve basic training](#) [James Bolinger, *Stars and Stripes*, 2020-01-14]

The Air Force is using tablet-style computers and web-based study guides during basic military training to reinforce classroom lessons and track trainees' progress, officials said Monday. Each tablet runs an adaptive learning software and is linked to a "parent" device that notifies instructors when a student is not studying or is struggling in a certain area. Students can use the devices only for certain hours each day, and any unapproved activity is immediately sent to the parent device controlled by the instructors.

[Army Launches Pilot to Study Personality Assessment Entrance Tests for Recruits](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com* 2020-01-03]

Under a three-year pilot study, recruits will be required to take the Tailored Adaptive Personality Assessment System (TAPAS) -- a 120-question non-cognitive exam designed to predict performance, behaviors and attitudes of potential soldiers, according to a recent Army news release.

MISCONDUCT

[A West Point cadet tried to crowdfund money to bring a porn star to the academy's winter banquet](#) [James Clark, *Task & Purpose*, 2020-01-14]

A cadet at West Point attempted to crowdfund money to cover travel fare and hotel fees so that his favorite adult film star could be his date to the service academy's annual winter banquet. According to the U.S. Military Academy Public Affairs Office, "the cadet promptly removed the page from the site after consulting with his peers."

[Navy captain testifies about drunken fight that preceded civilian worker's death](#) [By Anne Schindler (First Coast News), *The Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville, Fla.)*, 2020-01-14] [[Reprint](#)]

John Nettleton isn't accused in the death of Christopher Tur, but he is accused with obstructing the investigation into his disappearance and lying to investigators. Nettleton, who was eventually reassigned to Jacksonville, initially concealed that he'd had an affair with Tur's wife and a bloody fistfight with him the night he went missing.

[Investigation finds former top enlisted leader improperly endorsed products and used staff as personal shoppers](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 2020-01-13] [[Reprint](#)]

Retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell "demonstrated a pattern of using his subordinate staff to perform services for his personal convenience" while he served as the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, according to a redacted copy of an Army Inspector General investigation.

[After Gallagher Case, Review Calls for Big Changes to Navy and Marine Corps Legal System](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 2020-01-10] [*See also:* [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

A months-long review of the Navy and Marine Corps legal communities has identified serious training gaps, cultural problems and other areas in need of reform. A 13-person panel—which included military brass and outside legal experts—released a [274-page report](#) on Friday detailing ways the sea services can improve their legal communities.

RACISM

[Who is U.S. neo-Nazi group “The Base”?](#) [Maria Caspani and Mark Hosenball, *Reuters*, 2020-01-16]

The FBI has arrested three suspected members of an armed neo-Nazi group known as The Base that hopes to start a race war in the United States, officials said on Thursday.

RELIGION

[Group to Fight Space Force’s Use of Bible for Swearing-In Ceremonies](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 2020-01-13] [*See also*]

The U.S. Space Force has designated its own King James Bible for swearing-in ceremonies... Some users and veterans took to Twitter to voice their displeasure with the move, saying that religious texts aren’t typically used when officers take an oath of office, though leaders can opt to do so.

[Airman becomes the service’s first female Muslim chaplain candidate](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 2020-01-10]

The Air Force last month commissioned the first female Muslim chaplain in the service.

SEXISM

[Don’t Ask Me to Do Office Housework!](#) [Rachel Feintzeig, *The Wall Street Journal*, 2019-10-13]

Women are often expected to do the less-glamorous work, like buy birthday cards and take notes.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Soldier appeals sex crime conviction, says jury was likely to be confused by SHARP testimony](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 2020-01-14]

A soldier convicted of a sex crime is arguing that testimony explaining the military’s required Sexual Assault Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention training (SHARP) “unfairly prejudiced” a jury, documents filed to the nation’s highest military court say.

[Appeals court overturns Naval Academy midshipman's sex assault conviction](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 2020-01-14]

A military appeals court has overturned a U.S. Naval Academy midshipman's 2018 conviction for sexually assaulting another student, ruling that the evidence was "factually insufficient" to warrant a conviction. "Two young squad-mates at the Naval Academy, who one Government witness described as 'close friends' and 'friends,' had been drinking alcohol and made a very poor decision to have sex," the ruling states.

[Governor approves Wisconsin Guard sex assault ombudsman](#) [AP, *Air Force Times*, 2020-01-12]
Gov. Tony Evers created the position with an executive order in December after federal investigators issued a report revealing multiple shortcomings in the Wisconsin Guard's sexual misconduct reporting protocols, most notably commanders opening their own internal investigations into complaints rather than referring them to Army or Air Force criminal investigators as required by federal law and Department of Defense policy.

[Army Reserve leaders accused of mishandling sexual assault claims](#) [Todd Richmond, *AP*, 2020-01-10]

Leaders of a U.S. Army Reserve unit that controls thousands of soldiers across the western United States have mishandled at least two sexual assault complaints by not referring them for outside investigation, according to victims, their advocate and documents obtained by The Associated Press.

SUICIDE

[Family of former West Point cadet who died by suicide alleges death resulted from Portland VA Medical Center's negligent health care](#) [Maxine Bernstein, *The Oregonian/OregonLive (Portland, Ore.)*, 2020-01-14] [[Reprint](#)]

A 24-year-old woman who injured her ankle as a West Point Military Academy cadet ended her life due to medical negligence after she was treated at Portland's Veterans Affairs Medical Center for chronic pain and associated anxiety, her family alleges in a federal lawsuit.

[Minneapolis VA hospital is cited again for failures in patient suicide](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars And Stripes*, 2020-01-08] [[See also](#)]

The Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Minneapolis could have prevented the suicide of a patient in 2018 who repeatedly told staff, "I want to die," according to a watchdog [report](#) released Wednesday.

VETERANS

[Veteran Group Sues Military Leaders, Claiming Yearslong Delays on Benefits Decisions](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 2020-01-14]

The military has failed to meet deadlines set by Congress for rulings on veteran's requests to correct records blocking them from receiving benefits, according to a federal class-action lawsuit filed last month.

[Court rules again to give veterans access to both Post-9/11 and Montgomery GI Bill education benefits](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 2020-01-13]

Federal officials have just a few weeks to decide whether to go along with a court ruling giving thousands of veterans an extra year of college tuition benefits or appeal the order in hopes of reversing the potential billions of dollars in new payouts.

[VA Expands Agent Orange Claim Eligibility](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 2020-01-10]

The VA has added service aboard ships within 12 nautical miles of the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia to the list of what can qualify veterans and their children for possible health care and disability benefits due to exposure to the defoliant. Previously, only those who served on the ground or on inland rivers could claim that exposure to the chemical made them ill.