

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS, January 31, 2020

### SPECIAL: AUSCHWITZ LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY

[Auschwitz survivors warn of rising anti-Semitism 75 years on](#) [Vanessa Gera, AP, 27 Jan 2020]  
*Survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp prayed and wept as they marked the [75th anniversary of its liberation](#), returning Monday to the place where they lost entire families and warning about the ominous growth of anti-Semitism and hatred in the world.*

[Poland, Israel condemn resurgent anti-Semitism at Auschwitz commemoration](#) [Joanna Plucinska and Maayan Lubell, Reuters, 26 Jan 2020]  
*The presidents of Israel and Poland called on Monday for greater efforts to combat anti-Semitism as the world marked 75 years since the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp amid concerns over a resurgence of anti-Jewish prejudice.*  
[SEE ALSO: [1](#), [2](#) ]

[55,000 students have visited this new NYC Auschwitz exhibition](#) [Text by Channon Hodge; Video by Channon Hodge and Diana Diroy, CNN, 27 Jan 2020]  
*There's a toddler's blush pink, ruffled dress. A buckled red shoe with cut-out slits. Clear and sea foam colored liquor bottles. Remnants of lives stolen during the Holocaust, they are among the more than 700 objects on display at "[Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away.](#)" an exhibition at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City.*  
[SEE ALSO]

[Photos of Nazis at Sobibor death camp are the first of their kind](#) [Debbie Cenziper and Loveday Morris, The Washington Post, 28 Jan 2020]  
*Historians in Germany have unearthed hundreds of photos of the notorious Sobibor death camp and other key sites in the Nazi extermination machine, stashed for decades in albums belonging to the camp's deputy commandant and in the attic and cupboards of the family home.*  
[REPRINT]

[The Polish hero who volunteered to go to Auschwitz—and warned the world about the Nazi death machine](#) [Gillian Brockell, The Washington Post, 26 Jan 2020]  
*It wasn't until the 1990s that Zofia and Andrzej Pilecki found out their father was a hero. As teens in postwar Poland, they had been told he was a traitor and an enemy of the state, and they listened to news reports about his 1948 trial and execution on the school radio. In fact, Witold Pilecki was a Polish resistance fighter who voluntarily went to Auschwitz to start a resistance, and he sent secret messages to the Allies, becoming the first to sound the alarm about the true nature of Nazi Germany's largest concentration and extermination camp.*

### CULTURE

[Every Agency Needs a Semper Fi](#) [Howard Risher, GovExec.com, 28 Jan 2020]

*The Marine Corps has sustained its elite status since its creation in 1775... The Marine Corps' story is relevant because of the growing evidence that agencies are entering an era of workforce concerns that can be expected to trigger performance problems.*

[U.S. Soldiers Seen as More Trustworthy Than Judges, New Poll Finds](#) [Dorothy Mills-Gregg, *Military.com*, 25 Jan 2020]

*Almost 70% of Americans surveyed in a recent [online poll](#) said soldiers are more trustworthy than judges, police and Transportation Security Administration agents... MTurk the platform that was used for the survey, while widely used for studies, has been criticized within the last two years for taking advantage of rural workers, and there's been skepticism about whether robots or people are filling out the surveys.*

[More Sailors Are Reenlisting. Leaders Say It's Because Navy Culture Is Changing](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 24 Jan 2020]

*The Navy is moving away from the "suck it up, buttercup"-style culture of the past to appeal to the millennial generation and beyond—and new retention numbers indicate the approach is likely working... Fleet Master Chief Wes Koshoffer, with Navy Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education, told reporters the high re-up rates are a result of an ongoing culture shift in the Navy. Leaders are listening to rank-and-file sailors, he said, and the Navy is focused on developing policies based on what's easier for the individual and their family.*

[The Emoji Designer Who's Bringing African Culture To Smartphone Keyboards](#) [Pien Huang, *NPR*, 8 Jan 2020]

*O'Plerou Grebet is a 22-year-old graphic design student in Ivory Coast. Everywhere he looks, he sees signs of Western influence—from the glass skyscrapers and malls lining the streets in his home city of Abidjan to the way his peers spoke and dressed. So he used his design skills to create digital stickers that depict what he thinks is missing from global keyboard culture: symbols of history and daily life in Ivory Coast and neighboring countries.*

[Mom takes on schools that don't approve of son's long, natural hair](#) [Jacqueline Laurean Yates, *ABC News*, 28 Jan 2020]

*One mother is taking a stand to try to change school policies she says restrict boys from having long hair. Bonnie Miller's 8-year-old son, Farouk James, has become an Instagram star with more than 270,000 followers, posing for snaps with his big and bright natural hair.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Former Reporter Sues Navy Times, Claiming He Was Fired for Reenlisting in the Navy](#) [Amy Bushatz, *Military.com*, 31 Jan 2020]

*A longtime reporter for the independent publication Navy Times was fired last year because he was in the process of reenlisting in the military, according to a [lawsuit](#) filed in California last month. The suit alleges the publication broke a federal law protecting employees who serve.*

[Agency Officials Are Increasingly Retaliating Against Whistleblowers with Impunity, IG Says](#) [Eric Katz, *GovExec.com*, 28 Jan 2020]

*Officials at the Defense Department are not taking action when the inspector general validates allegations of whistleblower reprisal, Glenn Fine, who is currently performing the duties of the Pentagon's IG, told a panel of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. He called it critical that management take prompt remedial action and called on Congress to take action when the department fails to do so.*

[Senator Calls on Interior to Reinstate References to LGBTQ Employees in Workplace Discrimination Guidance](#) [Courtney Bubl , GovExec.com, 29 Jan 2020]

*On Tuesday, a top Senate Democrat called on the Interior Department to reinstate language including LGBTQ employees in departmental guidance on workplace discrimination. In response, the department touted its efforts to protect such employees and said it complies with federal regulations on the matter.*

[Ageism can shorten life expectancy](#) [Michael Greenwood, Futurity.org, 16 Jan 2020]

*Ageism can harm older people's health, a review of research in 45 countries across 5 continents shows. The researchers base their analysis on a systematic review of 422 studies around the world that included over 7 million participants. There was evidence of the adverse effects of ageism on older persons in 96% of the studies.*

[\[REPRINT\]\[Original Study DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0220857\]](#)

[Supreme Court Justices Skeptical of Current Standard for Federal Worker Age Discrimination Cases](#) [Erich Wagner, GovExec.com, 15 Jan 2020]

*Justices on the Supreme Court on Wednesday appeared ready to reject portions of the Trump administration's arguments that federal courts should maintain the current strict standard for proving age discrimination in the federal workplace, although some expressed reservations about whether a lesser standard could amount to "regulation of speech."*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Woman makes history in the Virginia Army National Guard infantry](#) [J.D. Simkins, Army Times, 26 Jan 2020]

*Ana-Alicia Bennett made history last month when she became the first woman to enlist under the 11B "Infantryman" MOS designation in the ranks of the Virginia Army National Guard.*

[Why a huge drop in service members becoming citizens has lawmakers worried](#) [Meghann Myers, Military.com, 24 Jan 2020]

*Tens of thousands of troops have earned their citizenship through serving since 2010, but a precipitous drop in those numbers has some lawmakers concerned. In a letter to the Government Accountability Office on Thursday, three senators called for a review of a handful of policies allowing a naturalization of non-citizen troops, after concerns about whether the Trump administration has directed the Defense and Homeland Security departments to tamp down on immigrants serving in the military.*

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[Don't just fake it: "Deep acting" emotions pays off at work](#) [Alexis Blue, Futurity.org, 24 Jan 2020]

*Faking positive emotions for coworkers can do more harm than good, researchers say. Making an effort to actually feel them, however, can produce personal and professional benefits.*

[\[REPRINT\]\[Original Study DOI: 10.1037/apl0000473\]](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Staff NCOs required to earn college degrees? The top enlisted Marine could see it coming](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 30 Jan 2020]

*There could be a Marine Corps that requires staff noncommissioned officers to receive [college degrees](#) in order to fulfill the commandant's design for the Marine Corps. At least, that's the Marine Corps that the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Troy Black, can envision in the not too distant future.*

[Army releases ACFT mobile app that calculates scores, personalizes workouts](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 28 Jan 2020]

*The Army has updated its Physical Readiness Training, or PRT, mobile app for soldiers preparing to take the new Army Combat Fitness Test this year.*

[Enlisted and Need Advice? The SEAC Wants to Hear from You](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 24 Jan 2020]

*With just one month on the job, Senior Enlisted Adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (SEAC) Ramon "CZ" Colon-Lopez, has set an ambitious goal to visit with the other services' top enlisted leaders, as well as those at the combatant commands, to discuss ways to learn from one another and solve critical issues for the troops.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Review finds heavy use of commando forces led to ethics slip](#) [Robert Burns and Lolita C. Baldor, *AP*, 28 Jan 2020]

*Episodic misconduct and ethical lapses among U.S. special operations forces, like the Navy SEALs and Army Green Berets, stem from a culture that puts too much emphasis on fighting and too little on developing good leaders, an in-depth review has concluded.*

[\[REPRINT\]\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

["You all suck": A cruiser captain, shame roulette and the hunt for Sun Drop soda](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 24 Jan 2020]

*The ex-commanding officer of a Japan-based Navy warship created a toxic work environment, ordered subordinates to locate his favorite soda and wasted taxpayer dollars on medals he wasn't authorized to award, according to a recently released Naval Inspector General investigation.*

[Corporal Gets Nearly 6 Years for Fatal Shooting of Fellow Marine](#) [Dennis Hoey, *Portland Press Herald (Portland, ME)*, 27 Jan 2020]

*Spencer Daily of Ohio was court-martialed this month and sentenced to 69 months for involuntary manslaughter and another offense in the death last year of Standish native Tyler Wallingford.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Military Retirees Can Be Court-Martialed After All, Appeals Court Decides](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 29 Jan 2020]

*In the latest turn of a dramatic and winding court saga, a naval appeals court has released a split decision finding that a Navy retiree was properly court-martialed and convicted for a crime committed after he had left active duty.*

## **RACISM**

[Wilson County Judge Haywood Barry regrets comment about “regular white man” hours in court](#) [Andy Humbles and Adam Tamburin, *The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tenn.), 30 Jan 2020]

*A Wilson County general sessions judge apologized Thursday for a comment he made in open court about working like “a regular white man” and not being “a slave.”... The Tennessee code of judicial conduct says judges “shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct engage in harassment, including but not limited to bias, prejudice, or harassment based upon race. ... A judge who manifests bias or prejudice in a proceeding impairs the fairness of the proceeding and brings the judiciary into disrepute.”*

[White supremacist appeals death penalty in 2015 Charleston church massacre](#) [Denise Lavoie, *Stars and Stripes*, 28 Jan 2020]

*White supremacist Dylann Roof on Tuesday appealed his federal convictions and death sentence in the 2015 massacre of nine black church members in South Carolina, arguing that he was mentally ill when he represented himself at his capital trial.*

## **SEXISM**

[No zipperless pants or showing “collar bone”: Parents file complaint on dress code for girls at Kadena AB middle school](#) [Matthew M. Burke, *Stars and Stripes*, 31 Jan 2020]

*A dress code imposed at a Defense Department middle school on Okinawa in August discriminates against female students, according to a complaint filed by parents with the Department of Education.... The complaint also said that in 2018 then-vice principal Mik held a meeting with female students at which she said if “the female children did not want boys to sexually harass them, then they should not dress like they did, or words to that effect.”*

[Lawmakers Are Fighting for Better-Fitting Female Body Armor for U.S. Troops](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 30 Jan 2020]

*Bipartisan bills to boost the availability of better-fitting body armor for female troops and require a report on preventable injuries attributed to bad fits are gaining support in both the House and Senate.*

[Democratic AGs sue to force U.S. to ratify ERA](#) [Sarah Rankin and Michelle L. Price, *AP*, 30 Jan 2020]

*Three Democratic state attorneys general are suing a U.S. government official to force him to recognize Virginia’s vote this week to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and certify the measure as part of the Constitution.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Sexual assault reports are up a third this year at the military service academies](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 30 Jun 2020]

*Reports of unwanted sexual contact at the military service academies jumped over 30 percent in the past year, according to a Defense Department [report](#) released Thursday. The numbers, totaling both restricted and unrestricted sexual assault reports filed by midshipmen and cadets at the Air Force Academy, Naval Academy and West Point, are up to 122 in 2019, from 92 in the previous two years. [\[Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Office \(SAPRO\) Reports\]](#)*

[In retrial, soldier is convicted of sexually assaulting mother-in-law](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 30 Jan 2020]

*A soldier apologized to his mother-in-law Thursday after he was found guilty in a court-martial retrial of sexually assaulting her as she slept. Spc. Brian Hollenbeck, named “Best Warrior” at U.S. Army Africa six years ago, was convicted in 2017 of sexually assaulting his mother-in-law during a visit to her daughter and son-in-law’s new home in Italy. Hollenbeck was granted a retrial last year after an appellate court determined the verdict was flawed because of a possibly biased juror.*

[Navy investigating who took secret videos of sailors in a bathroom and posted to porn site](#) [Courtney Kube, *NBC News*, 24 Jan 2020]

*The Navy is investigating who secretly recorded dozens of videos of service members in a bathroom and then shared the videos with a pornographic website, according to two U.S. military officials.*

[Army probes handling of Illinois sex assault complaints](#) [Todd Richmond, *The Associated Press*, 24 Jan 2020]

*Army officials have quietly ordered an investigation into allegations that leaders of an Illinois-based reserve unit mishandled sexual assault complaints and retaliated against a whistleblower, according to documents obtained by *The Associated Press*.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **SUICIDE**

[Lawmakers Question VA over Improving Veteran Care for Suicide](#) [Dorothy Mills-Gregg, *Military.com*, 30 Jan 2020]

*Lawmakers admonished the Department of Veterans Affairs on Wednesday over reports of veterans committing suicide at its facilities, as well as its lack of progress in reducing veteran suicide rates.*

[Suicide prevention bill would make any service member entitled to emergency treatment](#) [Steven Beynon, *Stars and Stripes*, 28 Jan 2020]

*A bill introduced in the House on Tuesday would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for the mental health care of any veteran regardless of discharge status or benefits eligibility.*

## **VETERANS**

[Congress Passes Bill to Spur Veterans’ Participation in STEM Fields](#) [Brandi Vincent, *NextGov.com*, 28 Jan 2020]

*A bipartisan bill aimed at boosting veterans' involvement in America's science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, education and workforce is bound for President Trump's desk.*  
[\[Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act\]](#)

[Top VA hospital lacked full-time gynecologist, facilities serving women veterans for years, report says](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 24 Jan 2020]

*One of the largest veterans' medical centers in the country went almost two years without a full-time gynecologist and lacked private, secure spaces for women patients for even longer, according to a new [report](#) released by the Veterans Affairs Inspector General this week. Department officials insist most of those issues at the North Texas VA Health Care System have been resolved now, but lawmakers are saying the shortfalls are indicative of larger cultural and leadership problems within the federal agency in their response to the rising number of women veterans.*

[Arizona's Longest-Living Veteran Dies in Tucson at Age 105](#) [AP, 27 Jan 2020]

*Navajo Nation officials say a 105-year-old woman who served in World War II and was Arizona's longest-living veteran has died.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Some Civilians Who Served in Vietnam Are Getting Veteran Status](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 22 Jan 2020]

*A recent ruling by the Defense Department has granted veteran status to a group of civilians who served in Vietnam. Specifically, the group consists of "Department of the Navy civilian special agents who served in direct support and under control of the Department of the Navy within the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975."*