

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, March 6, 2020

SPECIAL FEATURE: U.S. MILITARY WOMEN

[New plastic Army women include dog handler and Rosie the Riveter—and pink as a color option](#)

[Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 5 Mar 2020]

Little green plastic Army women shipping out later this year will include a military working dog and handler, a nurse, and Rosie the Riveter on a pedestal inscribed with her signature slogan “We Can Do It!” The post comes as Women’s History Month kicks off, with the military celebrating the contributions of female soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, even as military women continue to mark “firsts” and take on roles previously restricted only to men.

[[See also](#)]

[The Air Force Has its First Female F-35 Demo Team Commander and Pilot](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 3 Mar 2020]

The U.S. Air Force’s F-35 Joint Strike Fighter demonstration team is making history. Capt. Kristin “Beo” Wolfe of the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, was recently inducted as the new team commander for the 2020-2021 air show season, the service announced Monday. She is the first woman to command the team and follows Capt. Andrew “Dojo” Olson, who was the first solo F-35 performer for the team out of Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

[[See also](#)]

[Taller, heavier female soldiers out-perform leaner counterparts of same sex in power tasks, study finds](#) [Wyatt Olson, *Stars and Stripes*, 3 Mar 2020]

Female Army trainees and female soldiers who are taller and heavier performed tasks such as carrying sandbags better than their more compact counterparts of the same sex, suggesting that the Army should consider amending its physical standards for women, a [study](#) found.

[[See also](#)]

[U.S. Space Force May Become the Most Female-Friendly Military Service](#) [Hope Hodge-Seck, *Military.com*, 3 Mar 2020]

The sixth and newest U.S. military service may also be the one most appealing to and inclusive of women. Air Force Maj. Gen. Clinton Crosier, director of planning for U.S. Space Force, said the service is actively seeking ways to incorporate policies that allow for career flexibility and generous family and caregiver leave, and create a culture of equality and inclusion.

[Two female Marine cannoners are now howitzer section chiefs](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 3 Mar 2020]

Two female Marines have passed the Corps’ howitzer section chief course—accomplishing another milestone for female integration in the Marine Corps nearly four years after combat jobs were first opened to women.

[Camp Pendleton Marine becomes first woman to lead Howitzer team](#) [Andrew Dyer, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, 28 Feb 2020] [[Reprint](#)]

CULTURE

[A Yokota Air Base group is producing a new talk series, but don't call it TED](#) [Theron Godbold, *Stars and Stripes*, 6 Mar 2020]

A daylong series of brief, live presentations here on March 27 are planned around individual speakers expounding on an idea, just like a TED Talk. But don't call it a TED Talk. Instead, call it Yokota Hanashiba, a Japanese word that means "talking place."

[Renaming facility at Lackland AFB for Medal of Honor recipient meant to inspire future warriors](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 4 Mar 2020]

All airmen aspiring to join one of the Air Force's elite special warfare units will now begin their journey at a training complex named for Medal of Honor recipient Master Sgt. John A. Chapman. Chapman was the fourth enlisted airman to receive the Medal of Honor, and the training annex is only the second Air Force facility to be named in honor of an enlisted airman, according to service officials.

[Navy is overhauling education system as U.S. advantages erode](#) [Jennifer McDermott, *The Associated Press*, 2 Mar 2020]

The Navy wants to create a naval community college to provide associate's degrees to tens of thousands of young sailors and Marines, at no cost to them. It [plans](#) to unify the schools within the existing naval university system, similar to a state university system, and invest in them, as well as enact new policies to encourage and reward those who pursue professional military and civilian education. [\[See also\]](#)

[Will the Marine Corps become the smartest U.S. military branch?](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 28 Feb 2020]

Commandant Gen. David Berger wants to raise the minimum test score required to enlist in the Marine Corps higher than any other military branch in the Department of Defense. Berger directed the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Gary Thomas to "determine the opportunities, risks and costs associated with raising the minimum AFQT score for enlistment to 40 within the next 6 months."

[Army won't follow Marine Corps lead and rename Confederate bases](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 28 Feb 2020]

The Army has no plans to mirror an order by the Marine Corps commandant instructing his subordinates to remove Confederate-related paraphernalia from bases across the world, according to the service. "We have no plans to rename any street or installation, including those named for Confederate generals," an Army spokesperson said.

DISCRIMINATION

[Court considers whether men-only draft is constitutional](#) [Kevin McGill, *The Associated Press*, 3 Mar 2020]

Weeks before a government commission weighs in on the subject, federal appeals court judges will consider whether the military's all-male draft system is constitutional.

[Virginia governor signs bill banning conversion therapy for minors](#) [Caroline Kelly, CNN, 3 Mar 2020]

Democratic Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam has signed into law a bill banning the controversial practice of “conversion therapy” for minors, according to a release from his office Tuesday. The legislation, House Bill 386, adds the commonwealth to a growing list of states that have issued similar bans on the widely discredited practice, which attempts to forcibly change someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

DIVERSITY

[Pacific commander picked as next top Air Force general would be first Black military service chief](#) [Corey Dickstein, Stars and Stripes, 2 Mar 2020]

Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. was nominated Monday to become the next Air Force chief of staff, a selection that would make him the first African American to serve as the top uniformed leader of a U.S. military service.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Raising a Nontoxic Man](#) [OPINION][Teddy Wayne, The New York Times, 28 Feb 2020]

How vulnerably nontoxic should my son make himself in a world that preys on the undefended—but whose opposite is the grotesque alpha-male caricature?

MISCELLANEOUS

[ADHD diagnoses increasing in Black kids, report suggests](#) [Mike Stobbe, The Associated Press, 4 Mar 2020]

For the first time, a U.S. survey found that Black children appear to be more likely than White kids to be diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other learning disabilities. Previous studies had found the diagnosis was far more likely in White kids.

[Teachers at U.S. military base schools battle policy requiring extra work without pay](#) [Jennifer H. Swan, Stars and Stripes, 4 Mar 2020]

Teachers at stateside schools for military dependents are fighting a requirement that they work an extra 30 minutes most workdays without pay. The issue is at the heart of a bitter contract dispute between DODEA and the Federal Education Association, Stateside Region, which represents about 2,400 employees at Pentagon schools in the U.S., including Puerto Rico and Guam. The two sides haven’t agreed on a labor deal since the last contract expired in 2009.

[Here Are the 16 Jobs that Will Be Available to Troops in U.S. Space Force](#) [Hope Hodge-Seck, Military.com, 3 Mar 2020]

The U.S. Space Force is just 75 days old, but it has already narrowed down a tight list of 16 military job specialties that it will own, the director of Space Force Planning said Tuesday. The members of the nation’s newest military branch will focus on five key technical areas: space operations, space engineering, space intelligence, space acquisition and science, and space cyber.

[Enlisted job marketplace launches this summer for select soldiers](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 3 Mar 2020]

Armor, intelligence and some quartermaster troops will test a new assignment market system that launches this summer and is scheduled to go service-wide in January 2021, according to an Army news service release. The Assignment Satisfaction Key-Enlisted Marketplace pilot program will launch in June, but was already tested by a smaller group of armor branch noncommissioned officers last year.

[Down's syndrome, so what? One woman's campaign in France's municipal elections](#) [Caroline Pailliez and Lucien Libert, *Reuters*, 3 Mar 2020]

Eleonore Laloux has battled all her life to be treated like others. Now the 34-year-old is waging a new campaign: to become one of the first women in France with Down's syndrome to win a local council seat in this month's municipal elections.

[Burkina Faso TV star inspiring fellow albinos to excel without fear or shame](#) [Thiam Ndiaga, *Reuters*, 2 Mar 2020]

Long before she rose to fame in Burkina Faso, Line Banty became acutely aware of her albinism when as a young girl she was the only one in her family to get badly sunburned on a beach outing... Like many with albinism, life has not been easy for Banty. People with the congenital condition, which causes a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair and eyes, are often ostracized.

MISCONDUCT

[Eddie Gallagher, Navy SEAL acquitted of murder, says posing with dead ISIS prisoner was "wrong"](#) [60 Minutes (CBS News), 28 Feb 2020]

A Navy SEAL charged and acquitted of murdering an ISIS prisoner in 2017 speaks about the events that led to his court-martial for the first time in a 60 Minutes interview with David Martin. Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher tells Martin he was wrong to pose for photos with the wounded prisoner, holding a knife to his neck and implying in a text he had killed the ISIS fighter. He called the incident "wrong" and "distasteful."

RACISM

[Oklahoma College Recruiter Lined Up High School Students by Skin Color and Hair Type](#) [Christine Hauser, *The New York Times*, 3 Mar 2020]

A college recruiter from Oklahoma Christian University is no longer working for the school after he told a group of high school students to line up organized by their skin color and hair texture, officials said on Tuesday.

[State Leaders Seek Strategies to Combat Extremist Violence](#) [Emma Coleman, *Route Fifty*, 28 Feb 2020]

Domestic terrorism and hate crimes are on the rise in the United States, with the latter hitting a 16-year high in 2019. Much of that upswing has been attributed to White nationalists and right-wing groups, who are responsible for 71% of fatalities associated with domestic extremist violence in the U.S. in the past decade.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARRASSMENT

[President of Largest Federal Employee Union Resigns Amid Investigation](#) [Erich Wagner, *GovExec.com*, 28 Feb 2020]

J. David Cox was accused last year of a pattern of behavior including sexual harassment and unwanted advances toward union employees. Cox reportedly resigned after additional charges were levied against him earlier this month.

SUICIDE

[The National Guard expects its suicide rate to drop](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 5 Mar 2020]

The National Guard's suicide rate has surpassed their active-duty counterparts over the past three years, but there is confidence that things are turning around, a Guard senior health official told reporters Thursday.

[After years of failure to end the crisis, veteran suicide takes center stage on Capitol Hill](#) [Steve Beynon, *Stars and Stripes*, 5 Mar 2020]

The suicide epidemic took center stage on Capitol Hill last week, with a large roster of veteran advocacy groups testifying before the Veterans' Affairs Committees of both legislative branches and lobbying hundreds of lawmakers, sounding the alarm on a number of issues veterans face—most notably suicide.

[To help stem the tide of veteran suicides, VA must stop turning away patients](#) [OPINION] [Margaret Kuzma, *Military Times*, 5 Mar 2020]

According to a new [report](#) from the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, the VA is systematically turning away veterans eligible for care across the country. Eligibility rules can be complex, and service does not always confer veteran status in the eyes of the VA. However, by law, all veterans have the right to apply for VA care and receive an individualized eligibility review with a written decision. In practice, many veterans—even combat veterans or those who endured military sexual trauma—are turned away at the front desk.

[Suicide remains growing challenge for younger veterans, survey shows](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 4 Mar 2020]

The number of young veterans who know someone who has died by suicide or considered harming themselves both increased significantly in recent years according to just-released annual membership [survey](#) of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, another sign of the mental health struggles facing the military community.

VETERANS

[Report: VA unlawfully denies health care access for veterans with “bad paper”](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 5 Mar 2020]

The Department of Veterans Affairs has unlawfully turned away veterans with other-than-honorable discharges for decades because of flawed training and guidance that created a “cycle of misinformation,” a [report](#) released Thursday found.

[Proposed law would eliminate benefits deduction for military retirees with combat-related injuries or illnesses](#) [Dylan Gresik, *Military Times*, 4 Mar 2020]

The Major Richard Star Act, [HR 5995](#), introduced by Rep. Gus Bilirakis, a Republican from Florida, seeks to eliminate a legal provision that prevents some retired veterans from simultaneously collecting two types of federal monetary benefits, referred to as “concurrent receipt.”

[This Institute Is Offering Free TBI Treatment for Vets with “Bad Paper” Discharges](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 4 Mar 2020]

The Marcus Institute for Brain Health is offering free evaluations and treatment for veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), according to a new [announcement](#) from the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Vantage Point blog. You do not need to be eligible for VA health care to qualify for this program, and there is no cost, according to the announcement. The institute is affiliated with the University of Colorado’s medical school.

[In search of a light fix for PTSD](#) [Bill Cox, *Sarasota Herald Tribune*, 3 Mar 2020]

Sarasota psychologist George Lindenfeld pursues photon therapy to address brain damage. Since arriving in Sarasota five years ago, Lindenfeld has collaborated with Mindspace Integrated Wellness Center in treating traumatized military veterans with an approach called Reconsolidation Enhancement by Stimulation of Emotional Triggers, or RESET Therapy.

[\[Reprint\]](#)

[VA promises new plan to address needs of growing population of elderly vets](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 3 Mar 2020]

Veterans Affairs officials will release a new strategic plan later this month on the health care demands of the country’s rapidly aging veterans population, in response to recent concerns that the department is ill-prepared for the looming issue. During an appearance before the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee on Tuesday, Teresa Boyd, assistant deputy undersecretary for health at VA, said the comprehensive plan—referenced by other department officials in recent Hill events—will be delivered to lawmakers later in March.

[Exposure to Toxic Chemicals Has Become a Top Issue for Veteran Organizations](#) [Dorothy Mills-Gregg, *Military.com*, 2 Mar 2020]

Toxic exposure, a high veterans suicide rate, and accommodating the Department of Veterans Affairs’ fastest growing demographic, women, are among the issues veterans service organizations (VSOs) have brought up to Congress this year. In hearings held Tuesday and Wednesday, the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees jointly heard from eight VSOs about their priorities for 2020.

[Sons of Tuskegee Airmen share history lessons with students](#) [Samuel Northrup, *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 29 Feb 2020]

Growing up in Petersburg, Howard Baugh was always told he could not fly because of the color of his skin. Baugh’s sons, Howard and Richard, recounted their father’s story to a small group of Richmond Public Schools students and teachers on Feb. 25 at the Virginia War Memorial before a panel discussion on the legacy of their father and the other Black airmen.

[\[Reprint\]](#)