

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS, March 27, 2020

### CULTURE

[Former SMA Daniel Dailey weighs in on tattoos, beards in uniform, and the U.S. toilet paper crisis](#)

[Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 24 Mar 2020]

*Even in the middle of a global pandemic, former Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey seems calm, cool, and collected. Much of his popularity can likely be traced back to one of his first big decisions as SMA. In his first weeks on the job, Dailey tackled an issue a lot of soldiers took very seriously: the service's tattoo policy.*

[Better have a fresh haircut Marines, the barbershops across the Corps are still running](#) [Shawn Snow, *Marine Corps Times*, 23 Mar 2020]

*As COVID-19 continues to spread across the U.S., the Corps has taken a number of precautions to slow the spread to include closing and restricting a number of amenities from gyms, restaurants, movie theaters and other entertainment services. But still rolling strong across a number of major Marine Corps bases from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Quantico, Virginia, to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, are installation barbershops.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Madam C.J. Walker tackled the politics of Black hair. More than a century later, the battle still rages on.](#) [Helena Andrew-Dyer, *The Washington Post*, 23 Mar 2020]

*"Hair can be freedom or bondage. The choice is yours," Sarah Breedlove shouts to a growing crowd of Black women as she shows off her homemade "hair grower" — palm-sized tins of hope — in the Netflix limited series "Self Made." In the scene, Sarah isn't yet Madam C.J. Walker: the first female African American millionaire who employed nearly 10,000 workers, owned bustling factories run by women and built a mansion next to John D. Rockefeller's. But even without the fancy name, Sarah has vision and quickly emerges as the loudest voice in what we now know as the Great Conversation about Black hair. Should it be straight? Natural? Judged? Touched? Left alone?*

[Coronavirus leads Army to shut down its recruiting stations, focus on online recruiting](#) [Corey Dickstein, *Stars and Stripes*, 20 Mar 2020]

*The Army on Friday began closing the doors of its more than 1,400 recruiting stations across the nation in an effort to protect its recruiters from the fast-spreading coronavirus, service officials said. The Army's 10,000-plus recruiting force will shift to a nearly 100% focus on digital operations via social media, phone calls, text messages and video chats for an indefinite period, U.S. Army Recruiting Command announced.*

### DISCRIMINATION

[Activists and Lawmakers Call for an End to Ban on Gay Men Donating Blood](#) [Emma Coleman, *Route 50*, 24 March 2020]

*In order to be eligible, gay and bisexual men must be celibate for one year prior to making a donation, a federal policy meant to reduce the rate of HIV transmission through blood transfusions.*

*LGBTQ advocates and at least one state lawmaker are calling on the FDA to change that requirement, calling it scientifically unnecessary and dangerous during a pandemic.*

[Justices toss decision in media mogul's discrimination case](#) [The Associated Press, 23 Mar 2020]  
*The Supreme Court on Monday threw out a lower court ruling in favor of a Black media mogul and comedian who's suing cable giant Comcast alleging racial discrimination. The justices agreed unanimously that an appeals court applied the wrong legal standard in allowing business owner Byron Allen's [\\$20 billion suit](#) against Comcast to go forward. Allen has a separate \$10 billion suit against Charter Communications that the justices' decision also affects*

[People With Disabilities Say Rationing Care Policies Violate Civil Rights](#) [Joseph Shapiro, NPR, 23 Mar 2020]

*People with disabilities are asking the federal government to stop what they say are policies by states and hospitals that will ration care — and deny them treatment for the coronavirus. On Monday, several disability groups filed a complaint against the state of Washington, one of the states hardest hit by the pandemic.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[1st Female B-52 Pilot to Join Reserves Shares What it Takes](#) [Roxette Pietri-Freeman, KTBS.com (Bossier City, La.), 16 Mar 2020]

*When we think about a military pilot, the movie Top Gun may cross your mind. But Lt. Col Heather Decker has been the star in her own movie since 2001. She became the very first female B-52 pilot to join the reserves with the 307th Bomb Wing on Barksdale Air Force Base. For the past 17 years, the B-52's cockpit has been Decker's office. Although she recognizes she is just one of the few female B-52 pilots, she says she does not feel any different from the guys.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[Vital meals help Holocaust survivors amid coronavirus crisis](#) [Luis Andres Hanao and Jessie Wardarski, The Associated Press, 23 Mar 2020]

*Brooklyn caterer Israel Frischman is continuing to prepare dozens of meals for elderly Holocaust survivors even though the Jewish community center that provides them owes him money. The Nachas Health and Family Network in Brooklyn has been forced to suspend its counseling services, exercise classes and Torah lessons due to the coronavirus outbreak. But it's relying on the kindness of Frischman and volunteers to continue delivering vital kosher meals to survivors, many of whom live in poverty, and are in their 80s and 90s and at a high-risk of the contagion.*

[For parents trying to replicate school for children with disabilities, a confounding task](#) [Martha Irvine, The Associated Press, 23 Mar 2020]

*Some like to portray them as coddled and entitled. But this is a generation that also has grown up with its share of stress — school shootings, social media pressure, a Great Recession, climate change. Studies have shown that “kids in these circumstances are thrust into growing up faster than*

*is typical,” said Pallas, a professor of sociology and education. It’s still early, of course. But even younger children can sense that something unusual is going on.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

[OPM Revises Hiring and Onboarding Policies Amid Coronavirus Pandemic](#) [Eric Katz, *GovExec*, 24 Mar 2020]

*The Trump administration is making new flexibilities available to federal agencies to onboard new hires during the current national emergency caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic. When agencies bring on new employees, many have to go through a swearing in process. Now, the Office of Personnel Management is directing agencies to conduct virtual oaths of office. Employees can repeat the necessary phrases to designated personnel via Skype, FaceTime or other systems agreed to by the agency’s human resources office and chief information officer. Employees will then have to conduct an in-person swearing-in upon their offices reopening.*

[Panel to recommend making women register for the draft](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 24 Mar 2020]

*A panel charged with evaluating the Selective Service System will recommend requiring women to register future military drafts, according to congressional sources briefed on the upcoming report. The bipartisan [National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service](#) which spent the last two years holding information sessions on the issue — is set to release its findings on Wednesday. They will include for the first time requiring women between the ages of 18 and 25 to register for potential conscription in the event of a prolonged war, as all young men are currently required to do.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Exercising During Coronavirus: Can I Jog? Is That Water Fountain Safe?](#) [Gretchen Reynolds, *The New York Times*, 23 Mar 2020]

*With almost all of us spending a lot of time at home because of the coronavirus pandemic and some under edicts to shelter in place and avoid going out at all, those of us who are used to regular exercise naturally have pressing questions and concerns about how best to stay in shape. To get answers, I spoke with virologists, physiologists and other scientists about what we do and do not know about exercising during the coronavirus crisis. Here is what they had to say.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Census Bureau is delaying hiring and field operations](#) [Andrew Eversden, *Federal Times*, 20 Mar 2020]

*The Census Bureau has paused all hiring and on-boarding for nearly 600,000 employees due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, top Census officials told reporters March 20. The suspension will run through “at least” April 1, said Census Associate Director for Field Operations Tim Olson. The on-boarding process includes getting fingerprints, background checks and completing forms, before training begins.*

[Fed employees: Is your home internet jammed up? Try these steps](#) [Frank Bajak, *Federal Times*, 20 Mar 2020]

*With so much of the U.S. workforce — and their families — now cooped up at home to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus, it's not a huge surprise that home internet is showing the strain. If you've had a work-related video conference stutter while your teenagers play Call of Duty online, or found yourself unable to stream the news while your spouse uploads huge data files for work, you'll have a good idea of the problem.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Supreme Court won't hear wrongful death claim in case of Michigan Marine recruit](#) [Todd Spangler, *The Detroit Free Press*, 24 Mar 2020]

*The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear a wrongful death claim against the U.S. Marine Corps brought by the family of a 20-year-old Taylor recruit who died at boot camp four years ago. The court entered an order in federal court in Detroit on Tuesday acknowledging that the justices had decided not to hear the [appeal](#) brought by the family of Raheel Siddiqui, who died after a fall from a third-floor walkway balcony at Parris Island, S.C., in 2016. The denial, which came without explanation, effectively brings the \$100-million wrongful death claim to an end, unless some new ground for appeal is found.*

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[Teens Reportedly Choked, Traumatized at Fort Stewart's Youth Challenge Academy](#) [Chris Joyner, Jennifer Peebles and Johnny Edwards, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 23 Mar 2020]

*The state and federally funded program in this rural town near Savannah bills itself as a place where difficult teens at risk of dropping out of school can finish their education in an atmosphere of military discipline. The Georgia National Guard runs the academy and high school students from throughout the state apply to attend. But an investigation by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution found that some of the academy's uniform-clad security staffers -- most former military themselves -- used their positions to physically abuse their teenage cadets, some of whom were in such fragile mental states they attempted to escape, harm themselves or commit suicide.*

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[Judge says St. Louis County man accused of war crime can be extradited to Bosnia](#) [Robert Patrick, *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 23 Mar 2020]

*A federal judge has approved a request to extradite a St. Louis County man to Bosnia and Herzegovina to face a war crime charge. The government of Bosnia and Herzegovina says that Adem Kostjerevac raped a pregnant Serbian prisoner in 1992. He was indicted there in 2015, court documents here say, and a prosecutor sought an order to arrest him in April 2017.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Army employee fired for insensitive post about coronavirus outbreak](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 21 Mar 2020]

*Army officials fired a social media manager on Saturday for an Instagram post related to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak that critics — including at least one member on Congress — blasted as offensive and racist. The post, part of a series of questions and answers on the virus, was up on the Army's official social media account for several hours before being deleted. Under the posted*

question “why did a man eat a bat,” Army officials wrote “it wasn’t because he was thirsty” with a picture of a man shrugging.

## **RACISM**

[Last survivor of transatlantic slave trade discovered](#) [Sean Coughlan, *BBC News (Education)*, 25 March 2020]

*Hannah Durkin, at Newcastle University, had previously identified the last surviving slave captured in Africa in the 19th Century and brought to the United States as a woman called Redoshi Smith, who died in 1937. But she has now discovered that another former slave, Matilda McCrear, had lived three years later. Matilda died in Selma, Alabama, in January 1940, at the age 83 - and her rebellious life story was the last living link with slaves abducted from Africa.*

[Spit On, Yelled At, Attacked: Chinese-Americans Fear for Their Safety](#) [Sabrina Tavernise and Richard A. Oppel Jr., *The New York Times*, 23 Mar 2020]

*As the coronavirus upends American life, Chinese-Americans face a double threat. Not only are they grappling like everyone else with how to avoid the virus itself, they are also contending with growing racism in the form of verbal and physical attacks. Other Asian-Americans — with families from Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Myanmar and other places — are facing threats, too, lumped together with Chinese-Americans by a bigotry that does not know the difference.*

[SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#)]

[White supremacists encouraging their members to spread coronavirus to cops, Jews, FBI says](#) [Josh Margolin, *ABC News*, 23 Mar 2020]

*Racist extremist groups, including neo-Nazis and other White supremacists, are encouraging members who contract novel coronavirus disease to spread the contagion to cops and Jews, according to intelligence gathered by the FBI. In an alert obtained by ABC News, the FBI’s New York office reports that “members of extremist groups are encouraging one another to spread the virus, if contracted, through bodily fluids and personal interactions.”*

[Marines reveal charges against lieutenant accused of White supremacist activity](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 18 Mar 2020]

*Marine 2nd Lt. Felipe Maher could face a general court-martial on charges that he was a member of a White supremacist group and then lied about it, the Marine Corps confirmed on Wednesday. This is the first time the Marine Corps has revealed what charges Maher is facing since his Article 32 preliminary hearing in October. Corps officials first confirmed in June that Maher was under investigation for allegedly using the N-word and making other racist comments on Snapchat.*

## **RELIGION**

[Christchurch shootings: Brenton Tarrant pleads guilty to 51 murders](#) [*BBC News (Asia)*, 26 Mar 2020]

*A man accused of deadly attacks on mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch a year ago has pleaded guilty to 51 charges of murder. Brenton Tarrant, 29, also admitted the attempted murder of*

another 40 people, and one terrorism charge. He had previously denied the charges and was due to go on trial in June.

#### [Navy OK's beards, turbans, and hijabs worn for religious reasons, though key questions remain](#)

[David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 23 Mar 2020]

*The Navy last week became the third branch of the U.S. military to approve the wearing of unconcealed beards, turbans, hijabs, kufis, yarmulkes, unshorn hair and other articles of faith for religious reasons. The [policy change](#), which went into effect on March 16, formalizes a process where sailors apply for religious accommodation waivers that allow them to wear unconcealed articles of faith.*

#### [Navy, Air Force chaplains must end in-person worship like Army did, advocacy group says](#)

[Kyle Rempfer, *Military Times*, 20 Mar 2020]

*An advocacy group is complaining about the lack of strict orders from the Navy and Air Force to end in-person worship services during the coronavirus pandemic, but officials from those services say the decision to do so rests with local commanders and not their chiefs of chaplains. Army employee fired for insensitive post about coronavirus outbreak. The Navy and Air Force stances are in contrast to the Army, which closed all chapels in the United States and Europe this past weekend, according to a memo signed by the Navy chief of chaplains and provided to *Military Times*.*

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARRASSMENT**

#### [Get More Out of STEM Grants by Making a Plan to Tackle Sexual Harassment, Watchdog Says](#)

[Mariam Baksh, *NextGov*, 23 Mar 2020]

*Agencies' processes for reviewing complaints don't reflect the full picture. In 2017 alone, the media covered at least 97 allegations of sexual harassment at universities. But a new Government Accountability Report shows five agencies that dole out STEM grants received a total of fewer than 40 complaints between 2015 and 2017—and that lax oversight could cost them.*

### **SUICIDE**

#### [Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 10: Howard and Jean Somers — Suicide Prevention Advocacy](#)

[Duane France and Shauna Springer, *Military Times*, 18 Mar 2020]

*This podcast from *Military Times* examines the alarming rate of military and veterans suicide, offering new insights based on research and effective clinical and peer support practices in suicide prevention. Hosted by Duane France, a retired Army combat veteran, author and mental health counselor, and Shauna Springer, a psychologist, author and nationally recognized expert on initiatives to benefit the military community, the podcast aims to move beyond awareness to identify actionable strategies that can impact the rising suicide rate among service members, veterans, and their families.*

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

### **VETERANS**

[Work on getting homeless veterans into permanent housing has halted, advocates say](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 24 Mar 2020]

*The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans is urging Congress to approve \$200 million in emergency funding to house homeless veterans temporarily in hotel rooms and secure coronavirus tests for those who get sick. Veterans who received housing vouchers from the government but had not yet rented homes before the coronavirus pandemic are now unable to find housing, said Kathryn Monet, chief executive officer of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. Meanwhile, the homeless population is at increased risk of contracting the coronavirus, and the economic fallout is expected to push more Americans into homelessness.*

[America honors merchant mariners, without whom we could not win wars \[OPINION\]](#) [Capt. James Tobin, *The Hill*, 24 Mar 2020]

*In 2020, the nation will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and the many harrowing battles that made it possible. Regrettably, this will be the last major tribute to the greatest generation of aging American soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who saved the nation — and the world — from a bleak totalitarian future. There is one group who served — and also sacrificed — who often are left out of the commemorations: the more than 200,000 American merchant mariners who commanded and crewed the U.S. Merchant Marine fleet of cargo ships that literally made victory possible.*

[This Physician Is Using Hormones to Treat TBI Patients](#) [Dorothy Mills-Gregg, *Military.com*, 22 Mar 2020]

*While some physicians are shy about using testosterone and other hormones to treat patients with a traumatic brain injury, that hasn't stopped one southern California physician. Studies have found testosterone hormone therapy can damage patients' brains, but Mark Gordon, Millennium Health Centers founder and medical director, has found a way to carefully increase this and other hormones in his patients.*

[Jupiter non-profits turn shelter pets into service dogs for military vets](#) [Sam Howard, *The Palm Beach Post*, 20 Mar 2020]

*Delta, a year-and-a-half-old lab mix, is among the latest dogs to be paired with a military veteran through the Shelter to Service Dog program, a joint effort by two Jupiter non-profit organizations: the Renewal Coalition and Furry Friends Adoption, Clinic and Ranch. The program has set up veterans with 22 service dogs since its 2014 launch.*

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[“Welcome home ‘Tio,’ nephew says as missing Korean War soldier is finally laid to rest](#) [Carmen Duarte, *Arizona Daily Star*, (Tucson, Ariz.), 20 Mar 2020]

*After nearly 70 years listed as missing in action, Korean War veteran Army Cpl. Arthur Contreras Ramirez's remains were laid to rest before family, friends and veterans on Thursday. A funeral Mass was said at the downtown St. Augustine Cathedral — and a limited crowd was allowed under coronavirus protocol followed by the church.*

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