

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, JUNE 12, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

[A pilot with the callsign “Banzai” is the first woman to fly the F-35 in combat](#) [Paul Szoldra, *Task & Purpose*, 11 June 2020]

An Air Force pilot with the callsign “Banzai” just made F-35 history, according to an Air Force [press release](#). Capt. Emily “Banzai” Thompson with the 388th Fighter Wing is now the first woman to fly the stealth fighter in combat after launching from Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. The Air Force release published Tuesday did not say when or where Thompson flew the jet. Task & Purpose has reached out to an Air Force spokeswoman with those questions. Still, the release said that Thompson, who started her career flying F-16 Fighting Falcons, was on her first deployment and this was her first combat sortie. She was also sent off by an all-female maintenance crew.

[Air Force orders reviews of discipline, opportunities for Black airmen](#) [Wyatt Olson, *Stars and Stripes*, 10 June 2020]

Top Air Force officials announced on Tuesday they had ordered independent reviews of the Air Force’s record on both military discipline and opportunities for Black airmen in response to sustained national protests over race. The review, to be conducted by the Air Force Inspector General, will “assess and capture existing racial disparities, assess Air Force-specific causal factors, like culture and policies, assimilate the analysis and conclusions of previous racial disparity studies by external organizations and make concrete recommendations resulting in impactful and lasting change,” the Air Force said in a news release. The service vowed in the news release that the “full results of both reviews, good or bad,” will be made fully public.

[Trump opposes changing bases named for Confederate generals](#) [Leo Shane III and Kyle Rempfer, *Military Times*, 10 June 2020]

President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that he “will not even consider” renaming U.S. military bases currently honoring Confederate leaders, calling them “part of a great American heritage.” The White House announcement came just one day after Pentagon officials said that Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Defense Secretary Mark Esper were open to the possibility of changing the names, noting they would want bi-partisan consensus before any changes.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[CNO says no more Confederate battle flags in public spaces and work areas](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 9 June 2020]

*The Navy’s top officer has directed his staff to draft an order that will ban the Confederate battle flag from all public spaces and work areas on Navy bases, ships, subs and aircraft. “The order is meant to ensure unit cohesion, preserve good order and discipline, and uphold the Navy’s core values of honor, courage and commitment,” a spokesman for Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday said in an email Tuesday. The spokesman, Cmdr. Nathan Christensen, declined to comment as to whether the sea service planned to change the name of the warship *Chancellorsville*, commissioned in 1989 and named after a Confederate victory during the Civil War. It is believed to*

be the sole Navy ship on active duty named in honor of the Confederacy. An image on the command's official website shows an image featuring several renderings of the Confederate flag. [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Senate confirms new Air Force chief of staff in historic, unanimous vote](#) [Valerie Insinna, *Defense News*, 9 June 2020]

Gen. Charles Q. Brown will become the first Black service member to lead an American military branch after lawmakers on Tuesday voted to make him the Air Force's 22nd chief of staff. Brown, who is currently the commander of Pacific Air Forces, was confirmed for the post in an unanimous 98-0 vote. He will replace Gen. Dave Goldfein as the Air Force's top general. The Senate's confirmation of Brown comes just days after Defense News learned of a procedural hold on his nomination by Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska. Sullivan had delayed Brown's nomination from moving forward due to questions about the KC-46 aerial-refueling tanker, which Sullivan wants to be based in Alaska.

[Marine Corps bars public display of Confederate flag on installations](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Marine Corps Times*, 7 June 2020]

The Marine Corps is officially barring symbols depicting the Confederate battle flag from public spaces on Marine Corps installations — a move that comes following George Floyd's death in police custody last month. "The Confederate battle flag has all too often been co-opted by violent extremist and racist groups whose divisive beliefs have no place in our Corps," the Marine Corps said in a social media post Friday. As a result, a new [MARADMIN message](#) instructs Marine Corps commanders across the entire service to "identify and remove" displays of the Confederate battle flag on Marine bases. This applies to bumper stickers, clothing, mugs, posters, flags and other items depicting the Confederate battle flag in public and work spaces on Marine Corps installations.

.....

CULTURE

[It's time to rename Fort Benning for Alwyn Cashe \[OPINION\]](#) [J. Davis Winkie, *Task & Purpose*, 12 June 2020]

Stop celebrating a rabid secessionist and large slaveholder who killed American soldiers, and instead render honor to a man who selflessly ran into a burning vehicle three times to save his soldiers. Not only would the move help the Army to catch up with its sister services who are working to ban Confederate symbols, but it would honor a soldier who embodied everything the service holds dear.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Matt James will be the first Black "Bachelor" in ABC series history](#) [Kelly Lawler, *USA Today*, 12 June 2020]

Matt James is making history on ABC's "The Bachelor." The 28-year-old will become the first Black man to take the lead role in the long-running reality dating show, the network announced Friday. Over 40 seasons of "Bachelor," and its sister series "The Bachelorette," only one Black person has held the title role – Rachel Lindsay, who led "Bachelorette" in the 2017 season.

[Country group Lady Antebellum changes name to Lady A](#) [The Associated Press, 11 June 2020]
Grammy-winning country group Lady Antebellum is changing its name to Lady A, with members saying they are regretful and embarrassed for not taking into consideration the word's associations with slavery. The band, made up of Hillary Scott, Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood, made the [announcement](#) Thursday on their social media.

[2020 Is the Summer of the Road Trip. Unless You're Black.](#) [Tariro Mzezewa, *The New York Times*, 10 June 2020]

With the country reopening, travel industry experts say people are planning short trips to destinations relatively close to home. By driving they can control the number of people they interact with, how many stops they make on the way and whether to take a detour or not — all things they can't control on a plane. For many Black travelers, however, the road trip has long conjured fear, not freedom. Victor Hugo Green published the first version of his now-famous "Green Book" in 1936; it listed towns, motels, restaurants and homes where Black drivers were welcome and would be safe. At the time, state and local laws enforced racial segregation, primarily in the South, a racial caste system known as Jim Crow that was legally undone by the passage of Civil Rights legislation in the 1960s. The "Green Book" was updated and published through the 1960s and inspired the 2018 film of the same name that won an Oscar but was widely criticized for making a White character's emotional journey its focus.

["Gone with the Wind" pulled from HBO Max until it can return with "historical context"](#) [Frank Pallotta, *CNN*, 10 June 2020]

HBO Max has pulled "Gone with the Wind" from its library of films. The removal of the film comes as mass protests sweep across the United States following the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who was killed while in police custody. The 1939 film, which tells the love story of Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler during the American Civil War, is considered by many to be a cinematic classic and is one of the most popular films ever made. However, the movie is also incredibly controversial. The film's portrayal of slavery, African Americans and the Civil War South has been received much more critically in the decades since its release. The spokesperson added that when the film returns to HBO Max, it "will return with a discussion of its historical context and a denouncement of those very depictions," and will be presented "as it was originally created, because to do otherwise would be the same as claiming these prejudices never existed."

[NASCAR bans Confederate flags at all races, events](#) [Steve Almasy, *CNN*, 10 June 2020]

On Monday, the only full-time African American driver in NASCAR's Cup Series called for the auto racing body to ban Confederate flags from its events. Two days later, his dream came true. "The presence of the Confederate flag at NASCAR events runs contrary to our commitment to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all fans, our competitors and our industry," NASCAR said in a statement on its website hours ahead of its race Wednesday night in Martinsville, Virginia.

[How the country music industry is responding to George Floyd's death — and facing its own painful truths](#) [Emily Yahr, *The Washington Post*, 9 June 2020]

Rachel Berry really didn't think many people would see her [Instagram post](#). But she knew she had to say something. Berry, a 28-year-old from New Jersey, described the fears she often feels as a Black woman at country shows and festivals: Being worried that if she stands up to dance, someone will

yell a racial slur. The uneasy feeling walking through parking lot tailgates and seeing Confederate flags. Sometimes, she declines to go to concerts because she Googles the city's name and "racism" and the search reveals racist incidents. "All I ask from not only the country music community, but every human being on this Earth, is that if you see or hear something that is wrong, speak up," she wrote.

[Judge blocks Virginia governor's move to take down Robert E. Lee statue](#) [John Bowden, *The Hill*, 9 June 2020]

A Virginia judge on Monday temporarily blocked Gov. Ralph Northam (D) from ordering the removal of a large statue of Confederate general Robert E. Lee from the Monument Ave. traffic circle located in downtown Richmond, Va. Judge Bradley B. Cavedo, according to multiple reports, issued a 10-day injunction halting Northam's order in the face of a lawsuit, contending that the state had agreed to protect the statue when it annexed the land. Gov. Northam announced last week at a press conference that the state's Department of General Services would remove the statue.

[Take the Confederate Names Off Our Army Bases \[OPINION\]](#) [David Petraeus, *The Atlantic*, 9 June 2020]

As I have watched Confederate monuments being removed by state and local governments, and sometimes by the forceful will of the American people, the fact that 10 U.S. Army installations are named for Confederate officers has weighed on me. That number includes the Army's largest base, one very special to many in uniform: Fort Bragg, in North Carolina. The highway sign for Bragg proclaims it home of the airborne and special operations forces. I had three assignments there during my career. Soldiers stationed at Bragg are rightly proud to serve in its elite units. Some call it "the Center of the Military Universe," "the Mother Ship," or even "Hallowed Ground." But Braxton Bragg—the general for whom the base was named—served in the Confederate States Army.

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

[The Army is considering renaming military bases named for Confederate leaders](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 8 June 2020]

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy is now open to renaming 10 bases that were long ago named after Confederate leaders, an Army official said. McCarthy is considering what step to take next and he plans to consult with Congress and key stakeholders, the official said. The long-standing issue of why the Army honors Confederate officers who betrayed their country during the Civil War came under renewed scrutiny in February when Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger announced that Confederate flags and other paraphernalia would be banned from Corps installations.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Felling of slave trader statue prompts fresh look at British history](#) [Estelle Shirbon, *Reuters*, 8 May 2020]

The statue of Edward Colston, who made a fortune in the 17th century from trading in West African slaves, was torn down and thrown into Bristol harbour on Sunday by a group of demonstrators taking part in a worldwide wave of protests. Statues of figures from Britain's imperialist past have in recent years become the subject of controversies between those who argue that such monuments merely reflect history and those who say they glorify racism.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[J.K. Rowling's Twitter comments about transgender women treat equality like it's a zero-sum game](#) [\[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Monica Hesse, *The Washington Post*, 8 June 2020]

It would seem like an odd time for a wealthy and influential celebrity to seek out yet another vulnerable population to punch down. And yet J.K. Rowling, the most famous literary hero to a generation of readers, this weekend tweeted out a series of statements about the transgender community that were misguided and baffling. Her main assertion, the core of her anxiety, is that the acknowledgment of transgenderism somehow erases her own experiences. That if transgender women are women, then she cannot be. Rowling's fear of "erasure" is similar to the most common argument put forth by detractors of same-sex marriage five years ago: If gay people were allowed to marry, the argument went, then somehow it would render these detractors' own heterosexual marriages meaningless.

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

[Protesters topple Confederate statue in Virginia capital](#) [*The Associated Press*, 7 June 2020]

A small group of demonstrators toppled a statue of a Confederate general in the former capital of the Confederacy late Saturday, following a day of largely peaceful protests in the Virginia city. The statue of Gen. Williams Carter Wickham was pulled from its pedestal in Monroe Park, a Richmond police spokeswoman said. A rope had been tied around the Confederate statue, which has stood since 1891. In 2017, some of Wickham's descendants urged the city to remove the statue.

[Robert E. Lee is my ancestor. Take down his statue, and let his cause be lost.](#) [\[OPINION\]](#) [Robert W. Lee IV, *The Washington Post*, 7 June 2020]

In the small town where I live and grew up, the Lost Cause of the Confederacy didn't need a special name — it was the education we all received. We were taught that during the Civil War, the Confederate States of America had just motive. Perhaps you've heard the mantra: "The Civil War was fought for states' rights." It was enshrined in monuments across the country after the war ended. The catch is that there's more to that sentence, something we southerners are never taught: The Civil War was fought for states' rights to enslave African people in the United States of America. Many of us were never taught the rest of the sentence and are forced to discover it for ourselves, but my reality is unique amid the landscape of southern identity. My name is Robert W. Lee: I'm a Christian pastor, a husband, a friend, a son, a brother. But you undoubtedly realize that I bear the name of the icon of the Southern understanding of the world, and I also bear his heritage.

DISCRIMINATION

[Lawsuit Against SecDef Dropped After Transgender Sailor Gets Waiver to Serve](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 9 June 2020]

The Navy has issued a waiver allowing a transgender lieutenant to continue to serve openly as a woman, despite a military policy that could have resulted in her discharge. In return for the waiver, advocacy groups backing the lieutenant, identified only as Jane Doe, agreed June 5 to the dismissal of a civil suit. The suit had been filed in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts against Defense Secretary Mark Esper, challenging the military's current transgender policy. The waiver is believed

to be the first exemption to the transgender policy granted by the military, although several others are pending, Shannon Minter, national legal director of NCLR, told Military.com.

[What Is Elder Justice And Why Do We Need It? \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Grace Birnstengel, *Next Avenue*, 5 June 2020]

Justice is sought for anyone who is wronged. Justice can be defined by an individual and looks differently for everyone. Acts of injustice are seen on large scales against historically marginalized groups: People of color. Indigenous people. Immigrants. People living in poverty. The LGBTQ community. People with disabilities. Women. People of different faiths. And elders. Elders are subject to mistreatment and abuse at rates unknown to many. Each year, [hundreds of thousands of Americans over 60 are abused, neglected or exploited](#). Research estimates that one out of every 10 people age 60 and older are victims of abuse every year. This cruelty, referred to as elder abuse, comes in the form of physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse; abandonment and neglect.

DIVERSITY

[Gay Pride embraces its roots by teaming up with U.S. Black activists](#) [Alicia Powell and Jill Serjeant, *Reuters*, 11 June 2020]

While the coronavirus epidemic has forced the cancellation of traditional Pride events in June, U.S. gay groups are using virtual gatherings to amplify the voices of people of color, whose demands for social justice are taking the nation by storm. “Pride started as a riot that was led by two women of color at Stonewall 51 years ago,” said Sarah Kate Ellis, chief executive of LGBTQ group GLAAD. “It is part protest, part celebration. I am thrilled that we can really be an ally and can be a presenter of pushing for change and locking arms with the Black Lives Matter movement.” Riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York in 1969 were spearheaded by transgender activists Marsha P. Johnson, who was Black, and Latina Sylvia Rivera.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Face masks with windows mean more than smiles to deaf people](#) [Julie Watson, *The Associated Press*, 12 June 2020]

Michael Conley felt especially isolated these past few months: A deaf man, he was prevented from reading lips by the masks people wore to prevent the spread of COVID-19. But then he met Ingrid Helton, a costume designer who sewed him a solution – masks with plastic windows for hearing people to wear, allowing lip readers to see mouths move. She has started a business to provide the windowed masks, and she’s not alone. A half-dozen startups are doing the same. They have been inundated with orders -- and not only from friends and family of the roughly 48 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

[Micro-aggressions Are A Big Deal: How To Talk Them Out And When To Walk Away](#) [Andrew Limbong, *NPR*, 9 June 2020]

The police killing of George Floyd and the protests that followed have the nation discussing big issues of structural racism, policing and power. And maybe you’re thinking about your part in all of this, too. Maybe at your workplace or in your friend group or among family, you’re having difficult discussions about the instances of racism that you’ve seen or felt or even may have even been

complicit in. These conversations are essential to affect change, but they're hard and uncomfortable, and you're bound to run into what's known as "micro-aggressions." These are the thinly veiled, everyday instances of racism, homophobia, sexism (and more) that you see in the world. Sometimes it's an insult, other times it's an errant comment or gesture. Kevin Nadal, a professor of psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, has spent years researching and writing [books](#) on the effects of micro-aggressions. As these big structural issues play out, he says it's important to confront the small stuff.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Why Are So Many N.Y.P.D. Officers Refusing to Wear Masks at Protests?](#) [Michael Wilson, *The New York Times*, 11 June 2020]

Riot helmets, ballistic vests, shields, batons — fully decked-out police officers have become staples in New York City as the protests against racism and police brutality approach their third week. But increasingly, one piece of equipment has attracted attention with its absence: the face mask. While police officers may forgo mask-wearing for any number of reasons, from peer pressure within ranks that are loath to change to a desire to more easily communicate, the images have fueled a perception of the police as arrogant and dismissive of protesters' health — perhaps even at the peril of their own.

[Bill Would Cover Doulas for Expectant Service Women, Dependents](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 10 June 2020]

A bill introduced in Congress last month would require Tricare to cover the services of doulas -- trained professionals who provide physical and emotional support for pregnant women throughout labor, delivery and the postpartum process. The proposed legislation, sponsored by Democratic Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, aims to help service members and dependent spouses who are stationed away from family and friends or delivering alone because their partners are deployed. Arguing that doulas reduce the risk of complications during and after childbirth, the senators said the bill would help cut health care costs and improve maternal health.

[Can Military Retirees Make Political Statements?](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 8 June 2020]

You may have heard conflicting stories about whether retired military personnel are allowed to make political statements or are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Exactly what are the facts? Can retirees make political statements, publicly denounce a politician or cause, or wear their uniform while marching in protests? The short answer is -- usually. You may remember the UCMJ from when you memorized it in boot camp. Article 2 says that retirees are subject to the rules contained in the regulations. You may also know that [active-duty military are prohibited from making political statements or participating in political activities](#) or participating in political activities in such a way that implies military support for their cause, brings discredit on the military or seeks to undermine the military's duty.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka speaks out for Black Lives Matter, faces backlash](#) [Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post*, 8 June 2020]

Osaka, 22, has deep roots in the United States. She moved to New York with her family when she was 3 and has lived and trained in South Florida for most of her life. She said last year that she was giving up her U.S. citizenship to represent Japan in the Tokyo Olympics, because Japan's Nationality Act stipulates that those who hold dual citizenship must choose one before their 22nd birthday. But for some nationalists, acceptance of Osaka seems grudging at best — or conditional on her keeping her mouth shut on political issues. Many people hoped that the rise of Osaka — a two-time Grand Slam winner and former world No. 1 who was born to a Japanese mother and a Haitian father — would encourage Japanese society to be more accepting of people known as “hafu,” or half-Japanese.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[As The Nation Chants Her Name, Breonna Taylor's Family Grieves A Life “Robbed”](#) [Ari Shapiro, Jason Fuller and Becky Sullivan, NPR, 4 June 2020]

Before she was a hashtag or a headline, before protesters around the country chanted her name, Breonna Taylor was a 26-year-old woman who played cards with her aunts and fell asleep watching movies with friends. That changed on March 13, when police officers executing a no-knock warrant in the middle of the night killed her in her apartment in Louisville, Ky. Now, as protesters around the country have taken up her name in their call for racial justice and an end to police violence, Taylor's friends and family remember the woman they knew and loved: someone who cared for others and loved singing, playing games, cooking and checking up on friends.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

MISCONDUCT

[“It’s not a joking matter”: Soldier wants Ramstein commissary worker fired for “I can’t breathe” comment](#) [Jennifer H. Svan, *Stars and Stripes*, 9 June 2020]

A Ramstein commissary employee's comments are being investigated by store management after an Army sergeant overheard jokes he made about George Floyd's death and reported him. “I can't breathe, I can't breathe,” Andera Peebles said she heard the employee say to someone behind the glass customer service window at the front of the store June 5, as she waited in line to check out. The commissary employee appeared to be joking, said Peebles, who is Black, but his words were loud enough to be heard by her and other customers, and what he said was deeply offensive and hurtful.

[Texas police chase ends in death as “Live PD” cameras roll. “I can’t breathe,” the man cries](#) [Tony Plohetski, *USA Today*, 9 June 2020]

Javier Ambler was driving home from a friendly poker game in the early hours of March 28, 2019, when a Williamson County sheriff's deputy noticed that he failed to dim the headlights of his SUV to oncoming traffic. Twenty-eight minutes later, the Black father of two sons lay dying on a north Austin street after deputies held him down and used Tasers on him four times while a crew from A&E's reality show “Live PD” filmed. Ambler, a 40-year-old former postal worker, repeatedly pleaded for mercy, telling deputies he had congestive heart failure and couldn't breathe. He cried, “Save me,” before deputies deployed a final shock. His death never made headlines.

[Florida police organization offers to hire cops who were fired or resigned over police misconduct](#) [Alicia Lee, *CNN*, 8 June 2020]

As the cries for police reform grow louder across the nation, some police departments are holding their officers accountable, firing or suspending those accused of excessive force during recent protests. One Florida police organization has said it will re-hire those very officers accused of misconduct, and that offer is prompting outrage. On Saturday, the Brevard County chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police posted a message on Facebook addressed to the “Buffalo 57” and “Atlanta 6,” saying that it was “hiring.”

[Former Coast Guard Lieutenant Accused of Plot Seeks to Withdraw Guilty Plea](#) [Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 8 June 2020]

A former Coast Guard lieutenant accused of plotting politically motivated killings inspired by a far-right mass murderer asked a federal appeals court on Monday to let him withdraw his guilty plea or else throw out his sentence of more than 13 years in prison. Federal prosecutors called Hasson a domestic terrorist and self-described White nationalist. In an earlier court filing, prosecutors said Hasson appeared to be planning attacks inspired by the manifesto of Anders Behring Breivik, the Norwegian far-right terrorist who killed 77 people in a 2011 bomb-and-shooting rampage. Adm. Karl Schultz, the Coast Guard’s commandant, has said Hasson was being “involuntarily separated” from the guard without “any rights, benefits and retirement pay, which he may have otherwise been entitled.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

RACISM

[African Americans point to racial biases in economics](#) [Josh Boak, *The Associated Press*, 11 June 2020]

The field of economics is facing an upheaval, with African American scholars decrying bias in the profession and presenting evidence that leading journals have failed to publish sufficient research that documents racial inequalities. This tumult reflects racial dynamics at a delicate moment set against the backdrop of protests over the police killing of George Floyd that have thrust varying forms of bias into public consciousness. Though videos have illustrated police brutality against African Americans and others, the extent of racially driven economic problems is often less recognized.

[Red Sox acknowledge racism at Fenway Park “is real,” promise action](#) [Mat Bonesteel, *The Washington Post*, 11 June 2020]

Last week, former MLB outfielder Torii Hunter told ESPN’s “Golic and Wingo” show that he did “everything I [could] not to go to Boston” during his lengthy career, a feeling so strong that he had a no-trade clause to the Red Sox inserted into any contract he signed. Hunter’s reasoning was simple. “I’ve been called the n-word in Boston 100 times, and I’ve said something about it,” he said. “It happened all the time, from little kids, and grown-ups right next to them didn’t say anything.” Wednesday night, as the national conversation over racism and police brutality in the United States continued amid the protests sparked by George Floyd’s death, the Red Sox acknowledged Hunter’s experiences as a Black ballplayer at Fenway Park. Three words accompanied the statement: “This is real.”

[Air Force Materiel Command general says 25% of climate surveys report racial slurs and jokes in workplace](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 10 June 2020]

The chief of Air Force Materiel Command is “disappointed and frustrated” that 25 percent of respondents on climate surveys in AFMC reported racial slurs, jokes and innuendos were present in workplaces there. “This tells me we do not have the right workplace environment,” Gen. Arnold W. Bunch Jr. said in a [video statement](#) on Wednesday. “I expect our workplaces and installations to be safe environments, free from prejudice or fear and free from reprisal against anyone who speaks out.” The general’s video comes in the middle of a national conversation about race that is also taking place in the Air Force.

[Black DOJ Employees Demand Action on Police Reform: We “Will Not Be Silent”](#) [Eric Katz, Govexec, 10 June 2020]

A group of Black employees at the Justice Department has issued a statement calling on department leaders to take more proactive measures to reform police and hold accountable those acting unlawfully. The statement, from the DOJ Association of Black Attorneys, also condemned any retaliation or forceful law enforcement action against peaceful protestors that have taken place across the country in the wake of police killing George Floyd, an unarmed Black man. Justice has, with some controversy, deployed personnel from all of its law enforcement components to quell the protests. All department employee organizations, including DOJ Association of Hispanic Employees for Advancement and Development, DOJ Gender Equality Network, Justice Native American Association, DOJ Pan Asia Employees Association and DOJ Pride, announced their support for the statement.

[George Floyd protests: What do “thug”, “White privilege” and “ally” mean?](#) [BBC News, 10 June 2020]

Ally. Thug. All lives matter. White privilege. These are just a few of the words and phrases you may have seen or heard in discussions about racial inequality after the death of George Floyd. Many of these terms about race and activism are controversial - and people often have different ideas about what certain phrases mean. Their life experiences will also affect how they define them.

[Missouri woman prompts Merriam-Webster to redefine “racism”](#) [The Associated Press, 10 June 2020]

Merriam-Webster is revising its definition of racism after a Missouri woman’s emails claimed it fell short of including the systemic oppression of certain groups of people. Kennedy Mitchum, who lives in the St. Louis suburb Florissant, said people would argue with her about the definition of racism and she realized the problem was in the Merriam-Webster’s dictionary, [KMOV-TV reported](#). The Merriam-Webster online dictionary first defines racism as “a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.” Mitchum, who recently graduated with a degree in law, politics and society, said that definition was too simple.

[Video shows White men in N.J. mocking George Floyd’s death at protest](#) [Ben Kessler, NBC News, 10 June 2020]

A New Jersey corrections officer has been suspended and a FedEx worker fired after a video showed the two men, who are both White, mocking George Floyd’s death at a protest. Video shows one of

the men laying face down on the ground with another man's knee on his neck, recreating the way George Floyd, a Black man, was pinned down by a White Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, prior to his death in custody.

[Black troops call for action to fight racism in the military during USFK forum](#) [Kim Gamel, *Stars and Stripes*, 8 June 2020]

U.S. military leaders have been unusually outspoken about the need to address institutional racism amid a growing wave of civil unrest over the latest killing of a Black man in police custody. Many Black service members speaking Sunday at a forum organized by U.S. Forces Korea welcomed the outrage but called for words to be translated into deeds. Many said the forum was the first time they had felt free to discuss race during long military careers. Lt. Col. Nick Williams, who is assigned to USFK headquarters, said he initially “huddled in corners” with other Black officers and civilians to talk about Floyd’s killing, but he grew increasingly frustrated and worried for his son and daughter.

[Coast Guard Academy faulted on response to racial incidents](#) [Pat Eaton-Robb, *The Associated Press*, 8 June 2020]

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy failed to properly address complaints of racial harassment, including the use of racial slurs by cadets, according to the Department of Homeland Security’s inspector general. The academy in New London, Connecticut, said Monday it accepts the recommendations of the inspector general’s report and is committed to “pursuing improvements to policies and procedures that govern the response and investigation of all allegations of harassment and misconduct.” The complaints investigated by the Inspector General’s Office included episodes in which cadets used racial epithets, posed with a Confederate flag and watched and laughed at a blackface video in a common area.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[The Hmong American community, power, privilege and a place in Asian America](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 8 June 2020]

Former Minneapolis officer Tou Thao’s role in the death of George Floyd has thrust the city’s Hmong refugee population into the national discourse around race. The actions of Thao, who is Hmong American, have propelled the community into the contentious discussion involving the relationship between the Asian American and the Black communities. The national public spotlight and the feverish intercommunity dialogue follow the release of footage showing Thao standing aside as then-officer Derek Chauvin, who is White, dug his knee for eight minutes into the neck of Floyd, a Black man. And it also highlights, specifically, where some Hmong Americans see themselves in the larger context of Asian America.

[Man who allegedly ran over protesters is an admitted leader of the Ku Klux Klan, Virginia officials say](#) [Harmeet Kaur and Kay Jones, *CNN*, 8 June 2020]

A man who is accused of driving his car through a group of protesters in Virginia is an “admitted leader of the Ku Klux Klan and a propagandist for Confederate ideology,” according to the Henrico County Commonwealth’s Attorney. Harry Rogers, 36, is charged with attempted malicious wounding, felony vandalism, and assault and battery, and is being held without bond. He was arraigned in court on Monday morning, according to online court records.

[Military spouses across the U.S. organize and march in support of Black Lives Matter](#) [Brianna Keilar and Catherine Valentine, *CNN*, 8 June 2020]

They are Black, White and Hispanic men and women, spouses of both enlisted service members and the officer corps, some of them veterans themselves, many with biracial children, speaking on the condition of anonymity to protect their spouses' careers and the personal safety of their families. Many joined peaceful protests this weekend, alongside other military spouses. From Anchorage to California to Omaha to Washington, DC, small groups of military spouses and family members did the same, often marching by uniformed National Guard on the parade route.

[Iowa strength coach put on leave amid racism allegations](#) [The Associated Press, 7 June 2020]

Iowa football strength and conditioning coach Chris Doyle has been placed on administrative leave after several Black former players posted on social media about what they described as systemic racism in the program. Head coach Kirk Ferentz made the announcement Saturday night, calling it “a defining moment” for Iowa’s football program in a video posted on the team’s [Twitter account](#).

[Guardsman removed from DC mission after FBI said troop “expressed White supremacist ideology” online](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 6 June 2020]

An Ohio National Guard member was removed from the mission in Washington, D.C., after the FBI uncovered information indicating they expressed White supremacist ideology on the internet prior to the assignment. The individual was a soldier from the Ohio Guard’s Company C, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, based in the northwest part of the state. The soldier was a private first class who has been a member since May 2018, said Ohio Guard spokeswoman Stephanie Beougher in a statement. “If true, these are egregious allegations,” the statement reads. Officials are withholding the soldier’s name and other details of the allegation while the investigation is ongoing. The soldier will likely be removed from the Guard, said Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, who announced the investigation into the individual’s actions.

[Jacksonville-area Naval Academy alumni board member resigns after accidentally broadcasting racial slurs](#) [Emily Bloch, *The Florida Times-Union*, (Jacksonville, Fla.), 6 June 2020]

Scott Bethmann, a now-former Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees member, resigned from his position Saturday after an accidental Facebook Live video broadcast him and his wife speaking about the Black Lives Matter movement with racist comments and racial slurs. In video reviewed by the Times-Union, Bethmann can be heard talking about how large companies including Citi Bank are coming out with statements denouncing racism and showing solidarity to the Black Lives Matter movement. At one point, Nancy refers to the Black community and the “f---ing Asians” and Scott uses the N-word.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Stop everything, and watch the likely next Air Force chief of staff’s powerful statement on race](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 6 June 2020]

This week has seen the Air Force, along with the rest of the nation, start to grapple with the painful legacy of race and racism. And now, the general who is expected to soon be confirmed as the next chief of staff of the Air Force — becoming the first Black service chief in U.S. history — has weighed in with his thoughts. In a heartfelt, powerful video posted on [Twitter](#) Friday, Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown, who is now commander of Pacific Air Forces, spoke about his feelings on the death of

George Floyd during an arrest by police in Minneapolis, and the many other Black people who “suffered the same fate as George Floyd.”

[CEOs of Major Defense Companies Speak Out About Racism, Call for Unity](#) [Marcus Weisgerber, *Defense One*, 4 June 2020]

It’s rare for defense CEOs to speak out about social or political issues, but many spent the early part of the week doing just that, sending internal messages to their employees and posting to social media about racism in America. In many cases, their messages went out days before military leaders issued their own calls for reflection on Tuesday and Wednesday.

[Serving in the Army as a Queer Black Man Opened My Eyes to Racism in America](#)

[COMMENTARY](#) [Richard Brookshire, (as told to John Ismay), *The New York Times*, 4 June 2020]

Not only was I closeted because the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy was still in effect, but I was one of just a few Black people in my platoon of 40 soldiers. I think my company of a couple of hundred had maybe 10 Black soldiers — most of the others were Midwestern White guys. There were so many micro-aggressions and so much racism and homophobia. A gay soldier had been discovered in the unit before I got there, and he was beaten with a bat in the shower. And there was the lieutenant colonel who erupted when he saw the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on TV, telling me to turn it off, because “I don’t want to see that troublemaker.” You just let it roll off your back, because you’re getting ready to go to war with these people, and short of fighting people every day, you just become numb to it. It begins to chip away at your sense of self. I was under constant pressure to hide in plain sight as a Black queer person in a mostly all-White infantry unit getting ready to go to Afghanistan. I managed to build a somewhat close relationship with my fellow soldiers anyway.

RELIGION

[Pope Francis called George Floyd by name, twice, and offered support to an American bishop who knelt in prayer during a Black Lives Matter protest.](#) [Nicole Winfield and Elana Schor, *The Associated Press*, 10 June 2020]

Pope Francis called George Floyd by name, twice, and offered support to an American bishop who knelt in prayer during a Black Lives Matter protest. Cardinals Black and White have spoken out about Floyd’s death, and the Vatican’s communications juggernaut has shifted into overdrive to draw attention to the cause he now represents. Under normal circumstances, Floyd’s killing at the hands of a White police officer and the global protests denouncing racism and police brutality might have drawn a muted diplomatic response from the Holy See. Last week, Francis denounced the “sin of racism” and twice identified Floyd as the victim of a “tragic” killing.

[AP Exclusive: The Dalai Lama to release 1st album in July](#) [Mesfin Fekadu, *The Associated Press*, 9 June 2020]

Stressed out while working at a bank in New Zealand, Junelle Kunin began searching for music paired with teachings from the Dalai Lama to calm herself down and allow herself to focus. But she couldn’t find it online. That’s when the musician and practicing Buddhist proposed an idea to The Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama: Let’s make an album fusing music with mantras and chants from the Tibetan spiritual leader. Five years later, “Inner World” is born. The album featuring teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music will be released on July 6, his 85th birthday.

Net proceeds from the sales of the album will benefit Mind & Life Institute as well as Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning (SEE Learning), an international education program developed by Emory University and the Dalai Lama.

[Evangelical Christians Grapple With Racism As Sin](#) [Tom Gjelten, NPR, 6 June 2020]

Christians the world over have been united in their revulsion over the killing of George Floyd by a White Minneapolis police officer, and faith leaders from across the theological spectrum have spoken out about the lessons they think Christians should draw from the incident. For evangelical Christian leaders, however, crafting a response to Floyd's killing is complicated by their view of sin in individual, not societal, terms and their belief in the need for personal salvation above all. Evangelical theologians have long rejected the idea of a "social gospel," which holds that the kingdom of God should be pursued by making life better here on earth.

SEXISM

[19 Facts About The 19th Amendment On Its 100th Anniversary](#) [Diane Bystrom and Karen M. Kedrowski, *The Conversation*, 8 June 2020]

One hundred years ago, the 19th Amendment enfranchised millions of women across the United States following a seven-decade campaign. The struggle to expand voting rights to women resonates today as the country continues to debate who should vote and how. As scholars of civic engagement and women's suffrage, we have compiled "19 Things to Know" about this landmark amendment. Together they reveal the strength and determination of the suffrage movement as it battled for this fundamental right of citizenship.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

SUICIDE

[Hope that there is healing \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Aleha Landry, *Military Times*, 9 June 2020]

Military spouses, like me, living with a depressed or suicidal member face excruciating circumstances. The most difficult thing I have had to do is to support my depressed, sometimes suicidal spouse on a daily basis. It is something that Danny and Faun O'Neel also know all too well. Danny signed up to serve his country on Sept. 11, 2001. He deployed twice to Iraq and served one remote tour to Korea. "The biggest thing [the military can do] is to support the service member consistently. Around one-quarter of service members deal with mental illness. The military has to take appropriate steps to have help available when those members ask." Danny said. Faun joined in, "No, it's not enough to simply offer services. You have to shove the help down their throats. None will ask for help; make it to where they do not have a choice. We know they aren't going to come back from war "OK," so why are we making it "optional."

[Veterans group urges White House task force to release plan for suicide prevention after delays](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 8 June 2020]

Citing the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout as a source of mental stress, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America called on Secretary Robert Wilkie to publish the strategic plan, which is supposed to provide a roadmap for improving federal, state and local efforts to prevent suicide. The plan was recently delayed for a third time, IAVA said. "The reality is that our veterans

— and the country as a whole — need increased access to and support from mental health care professionals now more than ever,” said Jeremy Butler, CEO of IAVA. “It is likely that the ongoing and pervasive effects of the pandemic are only exacerbating an already tragic situation.”

VETERANS

[Honor Flight cancels all trips for 2020, affecting 20,000 veterans](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 11 June 2020]

The Honor Flight Network, which sends veterans to tour the war memorials in Washington, said Thursday it would cancel all trips to the nation’s capital through the end of 2020. Under normal circumstances, the network would have transported about 20,000 to Washington this year, the group estimated. It was on track to reach the milestone of providing 250,000 trips to veterans in the 15 years since Honor Flight was founded.

[“A Slap in the Face”: Black Veterans on Bases Named for Confederates](#) [Jennifer Steinhauer, *The New York Times*, 11 June 2020]

When Timothy Berry was recruiting Black students for West Point, where he served as class president in 2013, he often reflected on his senior year, when he lived in the Robert E. Lee barracks. It bothered him then; it bothers him now. For many Black service members, who make up about 17 percent of all active-duty military personnel, the Pentagon’s decision to consider renaming Army bases bearing the names of Confederate officers seems excruciatingly overdue. Generations of Black service members signed up for the military to defend the values of their country, only to be assigned to bases named after people who represent its grimmest hour. “It is really kind of a slap in the face to those African-American soldiers who are on bases named after generals who fought for their cause,” said Jerry Green, a retired noncommissioned officer who trained at Ft. Bragg, N.C., which is named for a Confederate general, Braxton Bragg. “That cause was slavery.”

[Army’s XVIII Airborne Corps Highlights Black D-Day Hero Denied Medal of Honor](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 7 June 2020]

The Army element known as “America’s Contingency Corps” marked the 76th anniversary of D-Day by telling the story of a Black veteran of that battle who died without ever receiving the full hero’s recognition he deserved. The XVIII Corps is the same unit from which some 1,600 soldiers were ordered to the Washington, D.C. region this week to stand on alert for protest control. They ultimately returned home without entering the district. Woodson was one of roughly 2,000 Black American soldiers who landed at Normandy on June 6, 1944. A member of the all-Black 320th Anti-Aircraft Barrage Balloon Battalion, he worked for 30 hours to triage the wounded after getting hit by a German shell himself, according to the [tweet thread](#). In all, he treated more than 200 soldiers.