

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, JUNE 26, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

[It's Official: The Army Is Getting Rid of Officer Promotion Photos to Help Eliminate Bias](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 25 June 2020]

Days after Defense Secretary Mark Esper proposed removing photos from officer promotion board packages as a way to eliminate unconscious bias in the process, the Army has moved to suspend its use of the photos. In a memo dated Wednesday and signed by Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, the service announced that use of the photos would be suspended as of Aug. 1. The memo added that the service would begin to evaluate the use of photos on warrant officer and enlisted soldier promotion considerations beginning in August, and would publish an Army directive no later than September 2021 making a policy change permanent regarding use of the photographs.

[SEE ALSO]

[Army Twitter poll respondents: Get rid of promotion board photos](#)
[Inside the Army's Decision to Eliminate Photos from Officer Promotion Boards](#)

[Proposed NDAA Provision Would Protect Sexual Assault Survivors at USAFA](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, *Air Force Magazine*, 23 June 2020]

A provision to the 2021 defense policy bill aims to create space between sexual assault survivors and their alleged attackers at the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy so the students can get the chance to finish their studies. The [markup proposed](#) by the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee would charge the Defense Secretary with consulting all service Secretaries and service academy superintendents to create a policy that would prevent cadets or midshipmen from having to take classes with or be “in close proximity to” their alleged attackers during activities they're required to attend at the schools.

[Protests force military reckoning on race](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*, 21 June 2020]

The U.S. military is grappling with race after early missteps in responding to the nationwide protests against racial injustice roiling the country. As the entire country reckons with race, military services are examining racial [disparities](#) in their justice systems, [removing Confederate symbols](#) and working to better [listen](#) to Black service members' experiences with prejudice.

CULTURE

[A Debate Over Identity and Race Asks, Are African-Americans “Black” or “black”?](#) [John Eligon, *The New York Times*, 26 June 2020]

It's the difference between black and Black. A longtime push by African-American scholars and writers to capitalize the word black in the context of race has gained widespread acceptance in recent weeks and unleashed a deep debate over identity, race and power. Hundreds of news organizations over the past month have changed their style to Black in reference to the race of people, including The Associated Press, long considered an influential arbiter of journalism style.

Far more than a typographical change, the move is part of a generations-old struggle over how best to refer to those who trace their ancestry to Africa.

[Disney announces major change to Splash Mountain ride after outcry](#) [Frank Pallotta, CNN, 26 June 2020]

Splash Mountain — one of Disney’s most popular but problematic rides — will be “completely reimagined,” the company announced on Thursday. The log flume ride — which is based on the controversial 1946 film “Song of the South” — isn’t going anywhere. Instead, it will be rethemed to star the characters from the 2009 animated film, “The Princess and the Frog,” which features Disney’s first Black princess. Splash Mountain has been a mainstay at Disney parks since its creation in 1989. The new changes to the ride will be implemented at Disneyland park in California and Magic Kingdom park in Florida.

[Army leaders hold off on banning Confederate symbols, renaming installations](#) [Kyle Rempfer, Army Times, 25 June 2020]

The Army announced several measures on Thursday to reduce the possibility of racial bias within its promotions and military justice systems, but banning Confederate flags and renaming posts bearing the names of Confederate military commanders will have to wait — possibly for a Pentagon-wide order. In the coming months, Army senior leaders will be visiting installations around the force to speak with soldiers and have “uncomfortable conversations” with troops about race, diversity, equity and inclusion, McCarthy said. Those talks will inform Army policies going forward.

[The Dixie Chicks officially change their name to The Chicks](#) [Kristin M. Hall, The Associated Press, 25 June 2020]

Grammy-winning country group The Dixie Chicks have dropped the word Dixie from their name, now going by The Chicks. The band’s social media accounts and website were changed on Thursday to refer to the new name for the band, which is made up of Martie Maguire, Natalie Maines and Emily Strayer. The band also recognized that the name was already in use by a band in New Zealand. The move follows a decision by country group Lady Antebellum to change to Lady A after acknowledging the word’s association to slavery. A statement on The Chicks’ website said “We want to meet this moment.” The term Dixie refers to Southern U.S. states, especially those that belonged to the Confederacy.

[Rhode Island Moves to Remove “Plantations” From Official State Name](#) [Emma Coleman, Route Fifty, 25 June 2020]

In the latest move by state leaders to reckon with historic legacies of racism, Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo announced that the state’s official name, The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, would be shortened to remove the part of the name that evokes connotations to slavery. “We have to acknowledge our history, that’s true, but we can acknowledge our history without elevating a phrase that’s so deeply associated with the ugliest time in our state and in our country’s history,” Raimondo said. The second half of the name—Providence Plantations—will no longer appear on executive documents, state employee paychecks, and executive agency websites.

[SEE ALSO]

[Fact check: Rhode Island may change its full name, removing “Providence Plantations” Rhode Island to cut word “plantations” from some documents](#)

[Rhode Island to Remove “Plantations” Reference From Documents](#)

[U.S. public more aware of racial inequality but still rejects reparations: Reuters/Ipsos polling](#)

[Katanga Johnson, *Reuters*, 25 June 2020]

Americans are growing increasingly aware of racial inequality in the United States, but a large majority still oppose the use of one-time payments, known as reparations, to tackle the persistent wealth gap between Black and White citizens. According to [Reuters/Ipsos polls](#) this month, only one in five respondents agreed the United States should use “taxpayer money to pay damages to descendants of enslaved people in the United States.” Calls are growing from some politicians, academics and economists for such payments to be made to an estimated 40 million African Americans, amid an expanding discussion about race in America. Any federal reparations program could cost trillions of dollars, they estimate.

[Baptists and Walmart criticize rebel-themed Mississippi flag](#) [Emily Wagster Pettus, *The Associated Press*, 24 June 2020]

The Confederate-themed Mississippi flag drew opposition Tuesday from two big forces in the culturally conservative state: Southern Baptists and Walmart. Walmart said it will stop displaying the Mississippi flag while the state debates whether to change the design. The Mississippi Baptist Convention said lawmakers have a moral obligation to remove the Confederate battle emblem from the state flag because many people are “hurt and shamed” by it. “We believe it’s the right thing to do, and is consistent with Walmart’s position to not sell merchandise with the confederate flag from stores and online sites, as part of our commitment to provide a welcoming and inclusive experience for all of our customers in the communities we serve,” company spokesperson Anne Hatfield said.

[Navy Ship Names Could Fall Under Pentagon’s New Diversity Review](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 24 June 2020]

The names of U.S. warships could face new scrutiny in coming months as the Pentagon moves forward with a military-wide effort to target racial bias and prejudice in the ranks. A Defense Department-wide review to improve inclusion and diversity will likely not only look at military installation names, but those of Navy vessels too. Like Army installations named for Confederate leaders, the names of at least two Navy ships have been called into question in recent weeks as the country grapples with ongoing protests for an end to racism and police brutality.

[Air Force Academy’s Association of Graduates apologizes for insensitive comment that angered Chinese-Americans](#) [Kent Miller, *Air Force Times*, 23 June 2020]

The Air Force Academy Association of Graduates and one of its class correspondents have apologized for offending Chinese-American alumni, students, faculty, staff and parents. In an off-hand remark that appeared in the June issue of “Checkpoints,” a quarterly magazine produced by the Association of Graduates, an independent nonprofit, a class correspondent mentioned the effect the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the Air Force community.

[Civilian Federal Buildings Are Named After Confederates, KKK Members and Segregationists, Too](#) [Eric Katz, *GovExec*, 22 June 2020]

In a partial review of buildings operated by the General Services Administration, the agency that serves as the federal government’s real estate and property management arm, Government

Executive has found at least a dozen named after Confederates, Ku Klux Klan members and staunch segregationists. GSA did not respond to a request for comment on the civilian buildings or the possibility of renaming them, which would likely require an act of Congress. Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., who oversees GSA and federal buildings as chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee’s panel on Government Operations, called for a change. “The federal government must be a beacon of inclusivity,” Connolly said. “Having federal buildings named after Confederate generals and members of the KKK is shameful and they must be renamed.”

[Theodore Roosevelt statue will be removed from the front steps of the Museum of Natural History](#) [Ganesh Setty and Hollie Silverman, CNN, 22 June 2020]

A statue of President Theodore Roosevelt in front of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City will be removed, a statement from New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio’s office said Sunday. “The American Museum of Natural History has asked to remove the Theodore Roosevelt statue because it explicitly depicts Black and Indigenous people as subjugated and racially inferior,” de Blasio’s office said in a statement to CNN. “The city supports the museum’s request. It is the right decision and the right time to remove this problematic statue.”

[Plane flies Confederate flag over NASCAR race at Talladega](#) [Des Bieler, *The Washington Post*, 21 June 2020]

An airplane flew a Confederate flag over Alabama’s Talladega Superspeedway on Sunday to protest the ban recently placed on the symbol by NASCAR. The plane, spotted shortly before a Cup Series race got underway, also pulled a banner reading, “DEFUND NASCAR.” NASCAR allowed 5,000 people to attend Sunday’s race, making it the first major sports event in the United States with a sizable contingent of fans on hand since widespread shutdowns in March to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. That also made the event at Talladega the first test of NASCAR’s ban on the Confederate flag, including on clothing and other forms of merchandise. There were no reports of issues in the stands, but in addition to the airplane, a rolling protest was held outside the Superspeedway grounds that featured numerous Confederate flags.

[Eskimo Pie no more: Ice cream owners will drop “derogatory” name](#) [Alta Spells and Jay Croft, CNN, 20 June 2020]

After nearly 100 years, Eskimo Pie ice cream will get a new name. “We are committed to being a part of the solution on racial equality, and recognize the term is derogatory,” Elizabell Marquez, head of marketing for parent company Dreyer’s Grand Ice Cream, told CNN in a statement. The chocolate-covered vanilla ice cream bar joins brands such as Aunt Jemima and Uncle Ben’s in overhauling long-used names and marketing strategies considered racially offensive. The name “Eskimo” is commonly used in Alaska to refer to Inuit and Yupik people, according to the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska. “This name is considered derogatory in many other places because it was given by non-Inuit people and was said to mean ‘eater of raw meat.’”

[Soldiers celebrate “breaking the chains” at inaugural Juneteenth celebration at Camp Humphreys](#) [Matthew Keeler, *Stars and Stripes*, 20 June 2020]

Nearly 1,000 people turned out for a celebration here Friday that aimed to raise awareness about the day the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas, to tell African Americans slaves they had been

freed. The festival was attended by garrison commander Col. Michael Tremblay and Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Lemon Jr., who recited General Order No. 3 of 1865 to the crowd.

[Congressman: Remove Confederate traces from West Point](#) [The Associated Press, 19 June 2020]
The U.S. Military Academy has been asked again to rename buildings honoring Confederate officers like Robert E. Lee by the Democratic congressman who represents the area. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney sent a letter co-signed by 21 other members of Congress to the secretaries of the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense on Thursday saying there shouldn't be facilities at West Point named for those who "betrayed their Country during the Civil War."

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Ban "racist Black Pete" Jesse Jackson writes Dutch PM Rutte](#) [Anthony Deutsch, Reuters, 18 June 2020]

U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson has written Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte asking him to end the use of the pre-Christmas character "Black Pete," which Jackson called a racist relic of colonialism. The debate about Black Pete has gained momentum in the Netherlands in recent weeks as tens of thousands of anti-racism demonstrators protested the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and discrimination at home. In the Dutch tradition, St. Nicholas arrives on Dec. 5 bringing gifts to children accompanied by numerous "Petes", clownish servants usually portrayed by White people in black face paint wearing frizzy wigs and red lipstick.

DISCRIMINATION

[Nearly 30 years after ADA, nation's transit agencies report successes and shortfalls](#) [Matt Alderton, The Washington Post, 26 June 2020]

A retired clinical neuropsychologist, Scott Crawford relocated from Miami to his hometown of Jackson, Miss., in 2006, seven years after developing primary progressive multiple sclerosis. When his illness put him in a wheelchair, the bus became his lifeline — that is, when it didn't leave him in the dust, which happened often and sometimes still does. "Many of our buses were decades old with nonfunctioning wheelchair lifts, so I was frequently being left on the side of the road," said Crawford, 54. The Americans With Disabilities Act, or ADA, requires government agencies with 50 or more employees to designate an ADA coordinator to oversee compliance. When a frustrated Crawford called city hall to speak with Jackson's coordinator, he discovered that the city didn't have one. He subsequently rallied the local disability community and became the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the city, which he won in 2010 when a federal judge ordered Jackson to comply with the ADA'S transportation provisions.

[Detroit police challenged over face recognition flaws, bias](#) [Matt O'Brien, The Associated Press, 24 June 2020]

A Black man who says he was unjustly arrested because facial recognition technology mistakenly identified him as a suspected shoplifter is calling for a public apology from Detroit police. And for the department to abandon its use of the controversial technology. The complaint by Robert Williams is a rare challenge from someone who not only experienced an erroneous face recognition hit, but was able to discover that it was responsible for his subsequent legal troubles. The Wednesday complaint filed on Williams' behalf alleges that his Michigan driver license photo —

kept in a statewide image repository — was incorrectly flagged as a likely match to a shoplifting suspect. That led to what Williams describes as a humiliating January arrest in front of his wife and young daughters on their front lawn in the Detroit suburb of Farmington Hills.

[Army starts “comprehensive” look at racial disparity in its justice system](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 19 June 2020]

An Army assessment began last week to examine racial disparity within its justice system, the service’s judge advocate general said Tuesday during a [congressional hearing](#). The Army’s own evaluation joins that of the other armed services following the release of a Government Accountability Office report last year that found Black or Hispanic service members are more likely to face a trial than their White counterparts.

DIVERSITY

[In a first, two openly gay Black men are probably headed to Congress](#) [Eugene Scott, *The Washington Post*, 25 June 2020]

Mondaire Jones, a lawyer, won the Democratic primary in New York’s 17th Congressional District with nearly 45 percent of the vote as of Wednesday evening. And Ritchie Torres, a New York City Council member, is leading his opponents in the Democratic primary for New York’s 15th Congressional District with more than 30 percent of the vote. Both seats are safe Democratic ones, so the winner of the primary is likely to be the next congressman. They are on their way to being the first openly gay Black men in Congress. Jones, 33, is African American, and Torres, 32, was born to an African American mother and a Puerto Rican father.

[LGBTQ Pride at 50: Focus shifts amid pandemic, racial unrest](#) [Jeff McMillan, *The Associated Press*, 25 June 2020]

LGBTQ Pride is turning 50 this year a little short on its signature fanfare, after the coronavirus pandemic drove it to the internet and after calls for racial equality sparked by the killing of George Floyd further overtook it. Activists and organizers are using the intersection of holiday and history in the making — including the Supreme Court’s decision giving LGBT people workplace protections — to uplift the people of color already among them and by making Black Lives Matter the centerpiece of Global Pride events Saturday. The first Pride march took place June 28, 1970, a year after the 1969 uprisings at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar, which were led by trans women of color.

[Mary Jackson: NASA to name HQ after first Black female engineer](#) [BBC News, 25 June 2020]

NASA is to name its headquarters in Washington DC after its first Black female engineer, Mary Jackson. NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine said Jackson had helped to break down barriers for African Americans and women in engineering and technology. The story of Mary Jackson was told in the 2016 film *Hidden Figures*. Born in Hampton, Virginia, she died in 2005. Last year, NASA renamed the street outside its headquarters as Hidden Figures Way. “Hidden no more, we will continue to recognise the contributions of women, African Americans, and people of all backgrounds who have made NASA’s successful history of exploration possible,” Mr. Bridenstine said in a [statement](#).

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Air Force Takes First Step to Buy Maternity Flight Suits](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 24 June 2020]

The U.S. Air Force has taken the first step in seeking new female maternity flight suits. Last year, the Air Force announced it had begun allowing some female pilots to stay in the cockpit longer while pregnant without need of a medical waiver. The change applied to remotely piloted aircrew, missile operations duty crews and certain fully qualified pilot positions without additional restrictions put on their time in service, the Air Force said last September. Previously, all female Air Force pilots were removed from flight duty after they confirmed their pregnancy, according to spokeswoman Capt. Carrie Volpe. That included drone pilots who work in operations facilities on the ground.

[“No heterosexuals were kicked out due to sexuality”: Corps celebrates LGBT Marines](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 24 June 2020]

At the beginning of June the Marine Corps issued a forcewide message in recognition of [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride month](#). “During the month, we take the opportunity to recognize our LGBT Service Members and reflect upon the past,” the MARADMIN [message](#) states. In December 2010 President Barack Obama signed into law the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, and in September 2011 service members no longer faced discharge based on their sexual orientation. The direction to celebrate the Corps’ growing diversity came into the spotlight Monday when the [Facebook page](#) for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, posted a picture to honor pride month and LGBT Marines. The post attracted attention, and as of Tuesday afternoon had more than 1,800 comments and 1,500 shares.

[Sex Does Not Mean Gender. Equating Them Erases Trans Lives. \[OPINION\]](#) [Devin Michelle Buntin, *The New York Times*, 23 June 2020]

“Sex” is a biological framework, a panoply of possibility on its own. “Sex” needs precise words like “male” and “female” and “intersex” to describe the origins, components and functions of bodies. But we can’t maintain this precision if we use words about sex to describe gender — the social and political roles and possibilities we take on as women, as men, as something else or none of the above. That is to say: Stop using “male” and “female” to refer to men and women. In fact, stop using sex-based words to refer to people at all. They’re words for bodies, not for people with hearts and souls and minds.

[We Can Find Common Ground on Gay Rights and Religious Liberty \[OPINION\]](#) [Jonathan Rauch and Peter Wehner, *The New York Times*, 22 June 2020]

Now might seem like a particularly unsuitable moment to suggest that the two sides make a deal. But we believe an opportunity beckons. In an era when Americans are deeply polarized and angry at one another, convinced that those on the other side politically are wicked and unreasonable, there is a better way forward on the fraught issue of gay rights and religious liberty — a path that could build on the protections the Supreme Court has provided L.G.B.T. Americans, while affording important new safeguards to those who believe the Court’s decision will pressure religious institutions to abandon their views on sexual ethics. It holds out the prospect of a positive-sum resolution for both sides, with each side getting something it considers essential and neither side getting everything it wants.

[Exhibit celebrating the only woman to receive Medal of Honor to open Saturday at Medal of Honor Heritage Center](#) [Ben Benton, *The Chattanooga Times Free Press*, (Chattanooga, Tenn.), 19 June 2020]

The only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor had it taken away more than a century ago just before she died, then posthumously restored by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 in a back-and-forth not unlike the pitched battles she waged on the front lines for equal rights. The Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga, beginning Saturday, will feature a new exhibit honoring the contributions of Dr. Mary Walker. The exhibit recognizing Walker's life and accomplishments is fitting for a celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, center officials said.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“I had to be on”: A look inside the career of the Corps' first female Marine ground combat battalion commander](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 18 June 2020]

While the rule against women in combat roles did little to keep Macander out of combat, it did limit the jobs she was able to take and the units she was able to be assigned to. Macander recalled a story from earlier in her career where she was checking out of her unit and her commander who had been a “long-time” combat engineer gave her some career advice. “He told me to go to a combat engineer battalion afterward,” Macander recalled. “I said, ‘I can't sir ... I'm not allowed.’ “He said ‘that's stupid.’”

HUMAN RELATIONS

[How Managers Can Keep Employee Morale High Right Now](#) [Angela Cotellessa, *GovExec*, 24 June 2020]

The world has changed tremendously over the last few months. As of mid-June, more than 120,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. The global pandemic has forced millions to shelter in place in their homes. With unemployment soaring and civil unrest widespread, many are struggling to cope right now. What can federal managers do to support their employees during this difficult time, when many federal employees have become full-time teleworkers? Here are six ideas for federal executives to uplift beleaguered staff during this challenging time.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Shirley Siegel, Leading New York Civil Rights Lawyer, Dies at 101](#) [Sam Roberts, *The New York Times*, 23 June 2020]

Shirley A. Siegel, a lawyer who challenged racial discrimination by construction unions, landlords and developers and became the first woman to serve as New York State's solicitor general, died on Monday at her home in Manhattan. She was 101. Ms. Siegel organized New York State's newly created Civil Rights Bureau in 1959 under the newly elected State Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz. Ms. Siegel regarded as one of her greatest accomplishments the blow she made in the Civil Rights Bureau against discrimination by organized labor in the building trades. Until then an applicant for union membership first had to have worked as an apprentice, a position typically granted on the basis of nepotism.

[Chicago teen allegedly killed woman, 37, after learning she was transgender](#) [Phil McCausland, *NBC News*, 20 June 2020]

A Chicago teenager faces a charge of first-degree murder in the death of a 37-year-old woman, whom he allegedly killed after learning she was transgender. Orlando Perez, 18, was taken into custody by Chicago police after admitting to shooting Selena Reyes-Hernandez in the head and back on May 31. Perez allegedly was upset to discover Reyes-Hernandez was transgender after he went home with her, police said.

MISCONDUCT

[Pentagon Quietly Moves to Make CBD Use a Criminal Offense for Troops](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 24 June 2020]

U.S. troops can now be punished for using products that contain hemp or cannabidiol, according to a Defense Department memo recently made public. Troops [have known since last year](#) that most products containing cannabidiol, or CBD, were off-limits, with two of the four DOD services issuing guidance restricting use of any form of CBD, including in supplements, creams, ointments and tinctures. But the new orders make use of hemp and CBD punitive across all DOD active-duty and reserve component personnel, including the Navy and Marine Corps, whose members were allowed under the Department of the Navy to use topical products like shampoo, lotions and creams.

[Naval Academy Rescinds Offer of Appointment for Student who Wrote Racist Messages](#) [Heather Mongilio, *The Capital Gazette*, (Annapolis, Md.), 22 June 2020]

The student, who attended a Montgomery County high school, made racist, transphobic and sexist statements on chat platform Discord, including one that included saying he would make someone in the group chat his next rape victim. After evaluating the “racist and inappropriate” messages made by the student, the Naval Academy Admission’s Character Review Committee recommended that the academy withdraw its offer of appointment for the student, said Dean of Admissions Bruce Latta in a statement.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[U.S. soldier plotted with Satanic neo-Nazis to ambush his own unit overseas, feds say](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 22 June 2020]

A U.S. soldier assigned to an installation in Europe has been charged with trying to plan a deadly ambush on members of his own unit during an upcoming deployment with the help of an “occult-based neo-Nazi” group known as the “Order of the Nine Angles,” according to an indictment unsealed Monday. Melzer was arrested on June 10 by the FBI. During an interview, Melzer called himself a traitor against the United States and admitted that he intended to cause as many deaths among his fellow service members as possible, according to the indictment.

[Navy to Punish Fired Captain of the USS Theodore Roosevelt](#) [Bradley Peniston, *Defense One*, 19 June 2020]

In a reversal, Capt. Brett Crozier will not be reinstated as commander of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt. Instead, he, the ship’s air wing commander, and its chief of medical operations will be punished for their failure to properly react to the spread of COVID-19 aboard the ship earlier this year, the Navy’s top officer said Friday.

RACISM

[Nooses, hangings and cross burnings: Imagery of America's dark racial history sparks fear nationwide](#) [Miranda Green, Derek Hawkins and Scott Wilson, *The Washington Post*, 25 June 2020]
Some of the ugliest, most resonant symbols of the nation's history of racial violence have returned after more than half a century to galvanize national demonstrations in recent weeks driven by the Black Lives Matter movement. On both coasts, Black men have been found hanging from tree branches, suspected suicides that have revived the images of lynchings. Cross burnings are under investigation in at least two Southern states. And nooses have been reported in places as varied as the Sonoma Raceway in California and a construction site in Portland, Ore.

[Soldiers' cases highlight reach of White supremacy in U.S. military](#) [Dan Lamonthe and Souad Mekhennet, *The Washington Post*, 25 June 2020]
As Ohio National Guard soldiers were dispatched to help quell unrest in Washington, D.C., one was keeping a secret from his commanders: He had frequently espoused neo-Nazi views among like-minded friends. Pfc. Shandon Simpson had participated in a White supremacist channel on the Telegram messaging app called RapeWaffen Division, according to the SITE Intelligence Group. The channel's members have touted the rape of female police officers, posted images with Confederate battle flags and swastikas and called White women who have children with men of other races "traitors."

[SEE ALSO]

[White supremacists openly organize racist violence on Telegram, report finds](#)
[Meet the "Boogaloo boys," the violent extremists attracting members of the U.S. military](#)
[Far-right groups like the "Boogaloo" and "O9A" continue to attract troops and veterans](#)

["We are just gonna go out and start slaughtering them": Three cops fired after racist talk of killing Black residents](#) [Tim Elfrink, *The Washington Post*, 25 June 2020]
Sitting in his patrol car in Wilmington, N.C., Officer Michael "Kevin" Piner predicted Black Lives Matter protests would soon lead to civil war. "I'm ready," Piner told another officer, adding that he planned to buy an assault rifle. "We are just going to go out and start slaughtering them f----- n-----," he said. The shocking threat came amid extended, openly racist conversations between Piner, 44, and two other police officers, 50-year-old Cpl. Jesse E. Moore II, and 48-year-old Officer James "Brian" Gilmore. In the discussions, taped by accident on a patrol car camera and released Wednesday by the department, the men freely drop racial slurs, suggest killing Black residents and deride protesters.

[SEE ALSO] [Cops fired over violent, racist talk about Black people: We are going to "start slaughtering them"](#)

[Air Force to survey airmen on race](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 23 June 2020]
The Air Force is about to start surveying airmen about race and their experiences in the service as part of a broader review of racial equality, opportunities and injustice. In a release Monday, the Air Force said airmen and space professionals — including officers, enlisted and civilians — will receive an email survey in the next few days that will allow them to respond anonymously. This survey, conducted by the Air Force Survey Office, will tie in to the inspector general's two-phase review of racial disparities in the service, concentrating on Black airmen. The Air Force said in the

release that it wants to give airmen the chance to make their own voices heard, share their experiences regarding race in the service, and suggest solutions.

[SEE ALSO] [IG plans quick moves on racial inequality review](#)

[Nebraska worker fired after noose left on colleague's chair](#) [The Associated Press, 23 June 2020]

An employee at the Oriental Trading Co. who left a noose on the chair of a Black colleague has been fired and authorities are looking into whether hate crime charges should be brought in the case.

“We are saddened and angry that a member of our Oriental Trading family was recently targeted in a racial incident. We absolutely do not tolerate hate or racism in our company,” Oriental Trading President and CEO, Steve Mendlik said. After learning about “this cowardly act” at its office in La Vista, Nebraska, Mendlik said in an emailed statement that the company launched an internal investigation and filed a report with local law enforcement, the Omaha World-Herald [reported](#).

[U.S. Forces Korea Announces Survey to Name New Campaign Against Racism](#) [Richard Sisk, Military.com, 23 June 2020]

U.S. troops stationed in South Korea will get to choose from four options to name the command's new diversity campaign, intended to promote unity and eradicate racism in the ranks. The survey, announced Sunday in a USFK Twitter post, will last through Thursday, the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, the command said. The survey is part of the aggressive steps taken by Army Gen. Robert Abrams -- who wears three hats as head of USFK, United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command -- in line with the Pentagon's guidance on diversity.

[Kellie Chauvin and a history of Asian women being judged for whom they marry](#) [Kimmy Yam, NBC News, 22 June 2020]

As more details around the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died at the hands of White former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin, are revealed, other developments, including the Hmong American identity of Chauvin's wife, Kellie, have also come to the fore. The interracial nature of the Chauvins' marriage has also stirred up some strong feelings towards Kellie Chauvin from many, including Asian American men, for her relationship to a White man, including accusations of self-loathing and complicity with White supremacy.

[“White Lives Matter” banner condemned by English Premier League team](#) [Des Bieler, The Washington Post, 22 June 2020]

English Premier League team Burnley condemned a “White Lives Matter” banner that was flown over Manchester City's stadium during a match between the clubs Monday. “This, in no way, represents what Burnley Football Club stands for and we will work fully with the authorities to identify those responsible and issue lifetime bans,” Burnley said in a [statement](#). The banner, which read in full, “White Lives Matter Burnley,” was flown over Etihad Stadium at the start of the match.

[A Racist Attack on Children Was Taped in 1975. We Found Them.](#) [Sarah Maslin Nir, The New York Times, 21 June 2020]

The [video rolls](#) on a sunny suburban street, and a group of Black children bike toward what looks to them like a parade — there's a small crowd, and an American flag. Suddenly, they're swarmed by a group of White children, who hurl racial epithets and rocks. Adults gathered nearby do nothing. The Black children had bicycled straight into a White supremacist rally. The scene captured in 1975 by

[“Bill Moyers Journal”](#) a PBS documentary series, has echoes of the racist clashes more than a decade earlier in places like Selma, Ala., Birmingham, Ala., and Little Rock, Ark. But it unfolded in New York City, in the bedroom community of Rosedale in Queens, nearly a dozen years after the Civil Rights Act was made law.

[Professor who told student to “anglicize” her name placed on leave](#) [Gwen Aviles, *NBC News*, 19 June 2020]

A California college professor was placed on leave after he allegedly asked a Vietnamese college student to “anglicize” her name because it “sounds like an insult in English.” “This teacher had the ignorance and audacity to tell my sister to anglicize her name is disgusting,” wrote a person who identified herself as the student’s sister on social media, alongside screenshots of her sibling’s correspondence with the instructor on Thursday. “As a professor, he should be trying to learn her name and culture and not try to white wash her name.” According to a [statement](#) from Tammieil Gilkerson, president of Laney College, the school is “aware of the allegations of racist and xenophobic messages from a faculty member at our college with a student about the pronunciation of their name” and has placed Hubbard on administrative leave pending an investigation.

RELIGION

[Black Catholics: Words not enough as church decries racism](#) [David Crary, *The Associated Press*, 22 June 2020]

Black Roman Catholics are hearing their church’s leaders calling for racial justice once again after the killing of George Floyd, but this time they’re demanding not just words but action. As protests against racism and police brutality continue nationwide, there are rising calls for huge new investment in Catholic schools serving Black communities; a commitment to teach the complex history of Black Catholics; and a mobilization to combat racism with the same zeal the church shows in opposing abortion. “As a church, we’re very good with words. The church has made clear it stands against racism,” said the Rev. Mario Powell, a Black priest who heads a Jesuit middle school in Brooklyn.

[Newspaper investigating “horrific” ad claiming “Islam” was going to bomb Nashville](#) [Joseph Guzman, *The Hill*, 22 June 2020]

Tennessee’s largest daily newspaper is investigating how a full page advertisement from a “fringe” religious group predicting “Islam” was going to detonate a nuclear device in Nashville next month was published Sunday. The group’s website warns of so-called end-of-the-world Bible prophecies whose fulfillment “is no longer future for it is taking place before our eyes.” The Gannett-owned paper on Sunday ran an article in [response](#) apologizing for the ad and announcing an investigation is underway. [The Council on American-Islamic Relations \(CAIR\)](#) offered to aid the outlet in making sure this type of incident doesn’t take place again.

[Saudi Arabia Announces This Year’s Hajj Will Be “Very Limited”](#) [Rachel Treisman, *NPR*, 22 June 2020]

Countries around the world have placed restrictions on public gatherings, and Saudi Arabia said on Monday that this year’s hajj is no exception. Officials announced in a statement that the pilgrimage, which is set to begin at the end of July, will be “very limited” in size and restricted to Saudi

residents only. Millions of Muslims typically make the pilgrimage to Mecca every year, with nearly 2.5 million doing so in 2019. The hajj is one of Islam's most important religious requirements as well as a major source of revenue for Saudi Arabia.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Gaming companies are responding to a wave of sexual misconduct allegations](#) [Shannon Liao, CNN, 25 June 2020]

More than 100 people in the gaming industry, most of them women, have publicly alleged they were sexually assaulted, harassed or discriminated against on the basis of their gender by fellow gamers. Many posted longform accounts using the platforms TwitLonger or Medium to explain events that may have occurred years ago. Many named their alleged abusers. The floodgates opened over the weekend, after a Twitch streamer Hollowtide tweeted that a well-known "Destiny 2" streamer was "scum." One by one, gamers posted on social media their accounts of encountering people -- mostly men -- who were manipulative and influential in the gaming industry, and who allegedly used their positions of power to coerce illicit photos, take advantage of them, or commit sexual crimes.

SUICIDE

[Lawmaker introduces Brandon Act to improve troops' access to mental health care](#) [Nikki Wentling, Stars and Stripes, 25 June 2020]

Over the past two years, Patrick and Teri Caserta have tried to create a positive legacy for their son, a 21-year-old sailor who died by suicide June 25, 2018, after throwing himself into the spinning tail rotor of a MH-60s helicopter at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. A command investigation into Brandon Caserta's death determined that belligerent and brash leadership of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28 contributed to his decision to end his own life. He felt alone, stuck and afraid of retaliation, his parents said. On Thursday, the two-year anniversary of Brandon Caserta's death, Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., introduced a bill in his name: the Brandon Act. The underlying goal is to create a pathway for service members to seek mental health care in confidence, without disclosing it to their command. It would create a safe word that, when said, would trigger an immediate, confidential mental health evaluation.

[House Legislators Push for More Detail in DOD Suicide Reporting](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, Air Force Magazine, 23 June 2020]

The House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee wants to require the Defense Department to include more detail in its annual military suicide reports to Congress, including what steps military departments are taking to make it feel less controversial for troops to ask for help if they're struggling with issues of mental health or considering suicide. The subcommittee's [proposed markup of the fiscal 2021 NDAA](#) adds a third item to that breakdown: How many of these events occurred within one year of a service member returning from a deployment.

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 23: Tina Atherall, CEO of PsychArmor](#) [Military Times, 22 June 2020]

Tina Atherall is the chief executive officer for PsychArmor. She brings her vast experience and leadership in the military non-profit community and academia. In 2006, she co-founded Hope For

The Warriors, an organization dedicated to serving combat wounded servicemembers and their families. Scaling a grass-roots effort to a national platform, she worked extensively with various levels of military leadership, agencies, corporations, and communities educating and advocating for critical support for those who have served and their families.

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

VETERANS

[Marine veteran and paralympic legend Angela Madsen dies while rowing across the Pacific](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 24 June 2020]

*Marine veteran Angela Madsen, who won the bronze medal in shot put at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London, has died while trying to row solo across the Pacific, her wife Debra [announced on Facebook](#). Retired Marine Maj. Nico Marcolongo of the Challenged Athletes Foundation described Madsen as an “example of the human spirit and what one can accomplish when one puts their mind to it.” Marcolongo had known Madsen by reputation long before he first met her last year in California, he told *Task & Purpose* on Tuesday. His organization supported her latest effort to row across the Pacific.*

[Proposed overhaul of veterans preference in federal hiring includes time limits, reduced advantage](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 24 June 2020]

The idea of changing veterans preference rules has been controversial in recent years, with many outside groups arguing that erosion of the hiring policies could cut off a key employment opportunity for thousands of separating service members. Veterans make up about one-third of all federal posts. But the public service commission, established in 2017 and charged with finding ways to better engage citizens in government, said that reforming federal agency hiring processes are a key step in that effort, and that changes to veterans preference rules must be included.

[Okinawa marks Battle of Okinawa’s 75th anniversary with scaled-back ceremony](#) [Matthew M. Burke and Aya Ichihashi, *Stars and Stripes*, 23 June 2020]

Japan marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa on Tuesday with a scaled-down, pandemic version of the annual Irei no Hi ceremony that drew less than a tenth of the attendees of years past. The Battle of Okinawa began on April 1, 1945, and lasted 82 days. More than 14,000 Americans, about 110,000 Japanese troops and at least 140,000 Okinawan civilians were killed during or after the fighting, though the total number of civilian deaths may never be known. The battle rendered large swaths of Okinawa a scorched hellscape, more closely resembling the surface of the moon than the tropical landscape it is today. Reverberations are still evident in the island’s passionate anti-war movement.

[Senate passes bill to give millions more veterans free lifetime entry to national parks](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 23 June 2020]

The Senate approved a bill Monday to grant all veterans with service-connected disabilities free lifetime entry to America’s 419 national park sites. The Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, which now goes to the House for consideration, amends the current eligibility standards for national park passes. The bill would grant the passes to millions more U.S. veterans. Now, veterans must have a 100% permanent disability to receive free lifetime entry. If approved by the House, the bill would

grant a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass to any veteran with a disability rating through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[“It’s time for change:” Missouri Black veterans on bases named for Confederates \[OPINION\]](#)

[Austin Huguelet, *The Springfield News-Leader*, (Springfield, Mo.), 22 June 2020]

When Stephanie Starkey was serving at Fort Polk in the mid-2000s, she didn’t give much thought to the base’s name. At that point, she was just trying to survive in rural Louisiana, where she endured slights “for being Black, being a woman, being in an interracial marriage, for whatever my rank happened to be at the time” and taking care to avoid certain towns whenever she left base. But on Wednesday, Starkey, who retired as a captain and now lives in Springfield, described that treatment as of a piece with the fact that her post was named for Leonidas Polk, a Confederate general and slaveowner. “The armed forces may be diverse, but people are still not treated the same,” Starkey said. “And it doesn’t help to be surrounded by monuments to people who don’t think I have the right to exist.”

[Chinese-American Marines risked more than most on Korean War battlefields](#) [Seth Robson, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 June 2020]

The possibility of dying from friendly fire was a worry for Franklin Chang, one of a small group of Chinese American Marines who fought in the Korean War. The rifleman feared U.S. forces might mistake him for one of the communists, he said in a June 8 telephone interview from his home in Honolulu. Chang, the son of a Chinese immigrant and a San Francisco-born Chinese mother, enlisted in 1950. Seven decades after hostilities began — Thursday marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War — Chang recalls fighting in the mountains and manning observation posts near the front line that were hit by enemy fire each night. His final post in Korea was overlooking the village of Panmunjom, where an armistice agreement was reached July 27, 1953.

[Korean War veterans look back with pride](#) [Seth Robson, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 June 2020]

Retired Army Col. William Weber, a Chicago native and veteran of World War II, arrived in Korea in 1950 as a company commander with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team soon after the fighting started. By February 1951 he was headed home after being severely wounded by enemy mortar fire in a 12-hour battle to hold a hilltop position. “The first time I got hit I lost part of my arm,” he said. “A couple of hours later I lost part of my leg.” Weber was one of more than 5 million Americans who served in the Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953. Thursday marks the 70th anniversary of the day when the North Korean People’s Army crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea. More than two million Korean War veterans are still alive today. Here are some of their memories.