

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS, JULY 10, 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

[For the first time, a woman graduates as an Army Green Beret](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 9 July 2020]

*An Army National Guard soldier graduated Thursday from Special Forces training in North Carolina and became the service's first female Green Beret. Or the second, depending on who's counting. The woman received the Special Forces Tab and donned her green beret alongside fellow graduates of the 53-week Special Forces Qualification Course, U.S. Army Special Operations Command said in a statement. "Thankfully, after today, our Green Beret men and women will forever stand in the hearts of free people everywhere," Army special operations commander Lt. Gen. Fran Beaudette, who presided over the graduation ceremony, said in the statement. The beret signifies members of the Army's elite units that specialize in unconventional warfare, counterinsurgency and other often-secretive missions.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Transgender murders are "rampant" in 2020: Human Rights Campaign counts 21 so far, nearly matching total of a year ago](#) [Elinor Aspegren, *USA Today*, 9 July 2020]

*The Human Rights Campaign has been [tracking transgender homicides](#) since 2013. This year is worse than all of them so far. At least four transgender people have been murdered in the past week, including at least three Black transgender women, bringing the HRC's yearly count to 21 — nearly matching 2019's total of 27. But the number could be much higher as few transgender people report such incidents, Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, told *USA Today* last month, because of "a combination of stigmatization, marginalization and criminalization." That anti-transgender stigma, especially transphobia towards Black transgender women, has roots in systemic racism and anti-transgender legislation, Brown said. "The end result is Black trans people are denied access and protections within the justice system, housing system, healthcare system and employment," he said.*

[U.S. government launches campaign to reduce high suicide rates](#) [Hope Yen, *The Associated Press*, 7 July 2020]

*The federal government launched a broad national campaign Tuesday aimed at reducing high suicide rates, urging the public to reach out to others, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, and acknowledge daily stresses in people's lives. Currently, about 20 veterans, guardsmen and reservists die by suicide each day, about 1.5 times higher than those who have not served in the military. The government says about 14 of those 20 were not under the care of the Department of Veterans Affairs, pointing to a need for improved community outreach. With the coronavirus still raging across communities, officials expressed hope that the message of suicide prevention can aid the public more widely, not just veterans.*

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### CULTURE

[Asian American girls saw pivotal icon in “Baby-Sitters Club”](#) [Terry Tang, *The Associated Press*, 9 July 2020]

*Author Ann M. Martin had no master plan when she decided to make one of the core members of “The Baby-Sitters Club” a Japanese American girl named Claudia. Claudia Kishi happened to be everything the “model minority” stereotype wasn’t. She got bad grades. She thrived in art and fashion. She wasn’t struggling to belong. For those reasons and more, Asian American girls in the ’80s and ’90s idolized Claudia and felt seen in teen fiction. Some of those now grown fans concede the books fall short dealing with race, but a new [Netflix](#) adaptation is bringing Claudia (and her pals) into the modern age.*

[“Black Lives Matter” Gets Indians Talking About Skin Lightening And Colorism](#) [Lauren Frayer, *NPR*, 9 July 2020]

*“Can Indians support Black Lives Matter, when we are ourselves have so many prejudices?” asks activist Kavitha Emmanuel, founder of a women’s charity in southern India called Women of Worth. “A woman’s dark skin can preclude her from entering positions such as news anchor, sales associate, flight attendant and even receptionist because these jobs require exposure to and interaction with the public, who will judge her as unattractive, unworthy and incompetent. So it may be no wonder that about half of all skincare products in India, [according to the World Health Organization](#), are lighteners designed to “brighten” or “lift” – essentially to whiten – a user’s skin color.*

[Black Troops Bear a Cost on Bases Named for Confederates, Milley Says](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 9 July 2020]

*Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley made a forceful case Thursday for changing the names of bases honoring Confederate generals, citing the particular burden African American troops bear when they serve at these installations. Milley said he had in mind “those young soldiers who go onto a base, a Fort Hood [Texas] or a Fort Bragg [North Carolina] or a fort wherever, named after a Confederate general.” I had a Staff Sergeant when I was a young officer [at Fort Bragg],” Milley said. “He said he went to work every day on a base that represented a guy who enslaved one of his ancestors.” The base was named for Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg.*

[Confederate flags draw differing responses](#) [Jay Reeves, *The Associated Press*, 9 July 2020]

*Public pressure amid protests over racial inequality forced Mississippi to furl its Confederate-inspired state flag for good, yet Georgia’s flag is based on another Confederate design and lives on. Why the difference? The Confederacy used more than one flag while it was fighting the United States to preserve slavery, and most of the designs are largely forgotten more than 150 years after the Civil War ended. Here are some facts about the flags of the Confederacy and how those symbols are viewed today.*

[Backing anti-racism protests, renowned intellectuals lament intolerance “on all sides”](#) [Kanishka Singh, *Reuters*, 8 July 2020]

*More than 150 world renowned academics, writers and artists signed a letter published on Tuesday expressing support for global anti-racism protests while lamenting an “intolerant climate that has set in on all sides”. American linguist and activist Noam Chomsky, veteran women’s rights campaigner Gloria Steinem, authors J.K. Rowling and Salman Rushdie, and journalist Fareed*

*Zakaria were among the signatories. The letter on “justice and open debate” was published by Harper’s Magazine and will appear in many leading global publications.*

[Scrabble Association Bans Racial, Ethnic Slurs From Its Official Word List](#) [Scott Neuman, *NPR*, 8 July 2020]

*The word “slur” has a number of meanings in English, but the one that has concerned Scrabble aficionados and Hasbro, which owns the U.S. and Canadian trademark for the popular board game, means “a derogatory or insulting term applied to particular group of people.” On Wednesday, the North American Scrabble Players Association announced that derogatory language would be removed from the game’s official word list. The decision follows an [online poll](#) conducted by NASPA that elicited impassioned responses, the organization’s CEO, John Chew, said in a [statement](#) on Wednesday.*

[Was This Ancient Taoist the First Philosopher of Disability?](#) [OPINION] [John Altmann and Bryan W. Van Norden, *The New York Times*, 8 July 2020]

*In one of his philosophical parables, the Taoist philosopher Zhuangzi (fourth century B.C.) describes a man he calls Splay-limb Shu. This man’s “chin is sunk in his belly,” Zhuangzi writes. “His shoulders are above his head, and pinched together so they point to the sky. His five organs are on top, his thighs tight against his ribs.” In Zhuangzi’s era as in our own, most people would consider Splay-limb Shu to be unfortunate. But Zhuangzi, whose work frequently challenged society’s norms, sees things differently. He notes, for instance, that Shu is in no danger of being conscripted into the military or pressed into forced labor. Instead, he lives contentedly in his community, supporting himself by “plying a needle and taking in laundry.” Shu, Zhuangzi concludes, is “able to keep himself alive and to live out the years Heaven gave him” precisely because he is different from others. Even today, this insight is striking. Zhuangzi poses the idea that Shu’s difference — one we would classify today as a disability—is not a misfortune, and in doing so challenges an assumption that has existed in cultures of all kinds for millennia.*

[Another Confederate statue in Richmond, Va., comes down along Monument Avenue](#) [Ryan W. Miller, *USA Today*, 7 July 2020]

*Another Confederate statue on Richmond’s iconic Monument Avenue was removed Tuesday, the third in a week and the final one owned by the city that was once the capital of the Confederacy. The bronze monument to Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart on horseback was hoisted from its granite base as crowds cheered early Tuesday. The statue was one of dozens around the United States that have come down in the wake of protests following the death of George Floyd and other Black Americans in police custody. Across the nation, citizens have been taking to the streets to protest for racial justice and against police brutality. During some protests, demonstrators have torn down statues of prominent Confederate leaders or other historic figures with known racist pasts.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Lawmakers consider spending \\$1 million to strip all Confederate names from U.S. Army bases](#) [David Choi, *Business Insider*, 7 July 2020]

*House lawmakers are attempting to allocate \$1 million in a defense spending bill to rename U.S. Army bases that honor Confederate leaders during the Civil War. Ten U.S. Army bases across the U.S. are named after Confederate leaders, including the infamous Fort Bragg in North Carolina,*

*named after Confederate general Braxton Bragg; and Fort Benning in Georgia, which is named after Gen. Henry Benning. Countless roads and streets within U.S. bases are named with military themes in mind. A bipartisan group of lawmakers from both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees have agreed to debate on making the changes within one or three years.*

[The WNBA is making a social justice push. A franchise-owning U.S. senator wants focus on games.](#)

[Kareem Copeland, *The Washington Post*, 7 July 2020]

*The WNBA, which has embraced social activism this summer with more vigor than at any other point in its 23-year history, found itself at odds with one of the co-owners of the Atlanta Dream on Tuesday over its decision to dedicate this season to social justice. The league announced its activism policies last month in the wake of protests around the country after George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis. A Social Justice Council was created, uniforms will be worn seeking justice for women and girls, and warmups will be worn with “Black Lives Matter” and “Say Her Name” printed on them. There will also be “Black Lives Matter” decals on the courts. Georgia Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R), who is in a tight race to keep her seat in November, sent a letter to WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert on Tuesday stating that politics has no role in sports. “Now more than ever, we should be united in our goal to remove politics from sports,” Loeffler wrote.*

[Native American groups ask NFL to force Redskins name change](#) [Stephen Whyno, *The Associated Press*, 6 July 2020]

*More than a dozen Native American leaders and organizations sent a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Monday calling for the league to force Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder to change the team name immediately. The letter was signed by 15 Native American advocates and obtained by *The Associated Press*. It demands the team and the NFL cease the use of Native American names, imagery and logos — with specific importance put on Washington, which last week launched a [“thorough review”](#) of its name.*

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

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[House Democrats call on military to end ban on transgender service](#) [Harm Venhuizen, *Military Times*, 8 July 2020]

*In a [letter sent Wednesday](#) to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Attorney General William Barr, 116 lawmakers urged the DOD to update its policies, removing the ban in light of the Supreme Court ruling on *Bostock v. Clayton County* protecting LGBTQ people from workplace discrimination. Under the new DOD rules put in place in March, 2019, currently serving transgender troops and anyone who has signed an enlistment contract by April 12, 2019, may continue with plans for hormone treatments and gender transition if they have been diagnosed with gender dysphoria. But after that date, no one with gender dysphoria who is taking hormones or has transitioned to another gender was allowed to enlist. And any currently serving troops diagnosed with gender dysphoria after April 12, 2019, had to serve in their birth gender and are barred from taking hormones or getting transition surgery. “This policy is an attack on transgender service members who are risking their lives to serve our country and it should be reversed immediately,” the letter stated.*

[Military families with disabled members need more accessible homes, survey finds](#) [Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 8 Jul2020]

*Some military families with disabled family members “are being forced to live in homes that hinder their quality of life and in many cases are just unsafe for them,” concludes a new report. The report is based on a small [online survey](#) of special needs families living in privatized housing, conducted by the Military Housing Advocacy Network. Half of the respondents reported their ADA-compliant homes were missing accessibility features such as proper flooring, ramps, grab bars, and properly sized doorways and hallways. Two-thirds said their requests for those features were not responded to appropriately. In one case, a family requested ADA-compliant flooring in their home, but the housing company repeatedly refused. The disabled family member fell, and a spinal injury required hospitalization and surgery.*

[Former DOD official who claimed fraud in suicide prevention office wins whistleblower retaliation case](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 6 July 2020]

*More than half a decade after she publicly accused the Defense Department’s suicide prevention office of fraud and conflicts of interest, its former director has come out on top in a whistleblower retaliation case. Jackie Garrick, a career social worker, civil servant and former Army officer, had been fighting for her federal retirement benefits after being removed from her job at DOD. On May 11, a judge with the Merit Systems Protection Board ruled that she had been subjected to a hostile work environment. Garrick served in the Defense Suicide Prevention Office from 2011 to early 2015, when she left the job after raising concerns both within the department, and then publicly, about fraud, waste and abuse in the organization tasked with bringing down the military’s rising suicide rate.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Here’s how the Air Force is remembering its first female pilots](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Air Force Times*, 9 July 2020]

*Retired Lt. Col. Kathy LaSauce got “hooked on airplanes” when she became one of the Air Force’s first female officers in aircraft maintenance — a field previously barred to women in the service — after joining the service in 1972. LaSauce, originally from New York, also became one of the first female pilots in the Air Force after the service unveiled a test program in 1975 that allowed her to complete undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. To recognize these pioneers’ accomplishments, the Air Force Education and Training Command renamed the Martin Hall Conference Room to the Trailblazer Room at the AETC headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in Texas last month. “The women of Class ’77-’08 truly broke barriers,” Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander, said during a virtual ceremony on June 29, according to an [Air Force news release](#). “They lived the fact that glass ceilings were a reality simply because they were women. These trailblazers paved the way for future generations of female pilots and their influence on our Air Force is still felt today.”*

[Raising the age of military enlistment \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Peter Polack and Jack McCain, *Military Times*, 8 July 2020]

*Lack of employment opportunity, drug use or gang activity cannot be a stanchion in the age enlistment debate. There can be no reasonable objection for a widening of the Peace Corps or*

*AmeriCorps to an extended and expanded non-combat military cadet corps that would provide a ready pool of informed volunteers in that event and at a proper age. The surprise may be a possible massive recruitment from such a new paradigm of millennials or boys from the U.S. northern states hereto before the glaring hole in U.S. military enlistment or properly, the elephant in the Pentagon. One realistic point of view is that a large majority of potential underage recruits fail early for health, academic or criminal history reasons. A senior military officer put the actual recruitment pool at less than five percent of the available under twenty-five year olds and even down from that for deduction of failures in the Armed Forces Qualification Test.*

[USAF's Diversity Task Force is Already Making Changes](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Magazine*, 8 July 2020]

*The Department of the Air Force is tackling the issue of systemic racism in the same way as it does many others: by standing up a task force. The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, created June 9, will look at how racial, ethnic, and other demographic disparities affect the Air Force and Space Force, [USAF said in a July 8 release](#). A group of Airmen from various demographic groups and at different ranks are mulling the policies, procedures, and other barriers that keep minority Airmen from advancing through the ranks and from feeling included in their units. Members are focusing on five areas: culture and policy; education, training, and testing; recruiting and accessions; workforce diversity; and aircrew diversity.*

[2 female firsts at the Supreme Court announce retirements](#) [Jessica Gresko, *The Associated Press*, 7 July 2020]

*The Supreme Court said Tuesday that the first-ever women to hold two prominent positions at the court, handling the justices' security and overseeing publication of the court's decisions, are retiring. Pamela Talkin's most public role in nearly two decades as the court's marshal has been opening court sessions by announcing the justices' entrance into the courtroom and banging a gavel before court begins. She noted in 2005: "I'm the only person in the courtroom with a gavel." But her responsibilities as marshal's job were vast. She served as the court's general manager and chief security officer, managing approximately 260 employees, including the Supreme Court's police force.*

[Navy's New Effort to Crack Down on Racism, Sexism Won't "Fizzle Out," Admiral Says](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 7 July 2020]

*[Task Force One Navy](#) was established last week at the direction of Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday. The move followed Gilday's order to create a policy banning the Confederate flag from public workspaces, ships, aircraft and subs as the nation grapples with conversations about racism following the deaths of several Black Americans at the hands of police officers. The Navy's task force will examine policies in nine areas: recruiting; pre-accession mentoring and scholarship opportunities; talent management; training and education; detailing; fitness reports and evaluations; promotions; military justice; and health care. The task force -- which includes Black, Hispanic, White, and male and female members -- will report their findings to Gilday through Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. John Nowell.*

[Two Female Airmen Reclassify After Attempting to Complete Special Ops Training](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 7 July 2020]

*Two women who had been attempting to enter the U.S. Air Force's combat controller and pararescue career fields since last fall were recently reclassified into other jobs after not meeting the rigorous battlefield airman standards. Military.com reported in March that the two women, not identified for privacy reasons, had completed the Special Warfare Preparatory Course and were eligible for the next Assessment and Selection (A&S) course. But they were not selected to continue, according to 1st Lt. Jeremy Huggins, a spokesman for Air Education and Training Command's Special Warfare Training Wing. Since the Defense Department opened combat career fields to women in December 2015, few female airmen have qualified for Air Force special warfare training. Some have self-eliminated or sustained injuries; others have not met the standards of a particular program.*

[First Black Man Nominated to Lead Air Force Academy](#) [The Associated Press, 3 July 2020]

*The Air Force announced Thursday that President Donald Trump nominated Lt. Gen. Richard Clark to be the school's next superintendent, [The Gazette reported](#). Clark is currently the deputy chief of staff for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration at the Pentagon. Clark is expected to take command in August if the Senate confirms the nomination, becoming the second Black general to head up a service academy, officials said. He would replace Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria.*

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[Effective Anti-Racist Education Requires More Diverse Teachers, More Training](#) [Alisa Chang, Jonaki Mehta and Christianna Silva, NPR, 8 July 2020]

*Petitions are circulating all over the country in support of creating anti-racist education. One petition, [written by alumni of Xavier College Preparatory](#) in Phoenix, Ariz., calls on the district to "review and advance its curriculum, goals, and objectives as they related to social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion." "Education is the most valuable tool to dismantle racism and create a more equitable society," the petition reads. "These are longstanding issues that need urgent solutions," DeLane says. "It needs to be total transformation versus reform." Palmer says she doesn't think there can be "a truly anti-racist curriculum unless the teachers have gone through that same sort of training themselves."*

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

[U.S. Supreme Court deems half of Oklahoma a Native American reservation](#) [Lawrence Hurley, Reuters, 9 July 2020]

*The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday recognized about half of Oklahoma as Native American reservation land and overturned a tribe member's rape conviction because the location where the crime was committed should have been considered outside the reach of state criminal law. The justices ruled 5-4 in favor of a man named Jimcy McGirt and agreed that the site of the rape should have been recognized as part of a reservation based on the historical claim of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation - beyond the jurisdiction of state authorities. Conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch joined the court's four liberals in the majority. The ruling means that for the first time much of eastern Oklahoma is legally considered reservation land. More than 1.8 million people live in the land at issue, including roughly 400,000 in Tulsa, Oklahoma's second-largest city.*

[Red Sox dogged by claims of racism, sexual abuse](#) [Michael Rezendes, *The Associated Press*, 7 July 2020]

*Last month, when former Major League All-star Torii Hunter said he'd been called the N-word "a hundred times" at Boston's storied Fenway Park, the Red Sox were quick to back him up with a promise to fight racism. But those words rang hollow for more than a dozen Black men who have spent the last several years trying to get the Red Sox to listen to their claims that they were sexually abused by a former Red Sox clubhouse manager who died in 2005. Gerald Armstrong, 65, said he believes the team knew that Fitzpatrick, who worked for the Red Sox for decades, was molesting youngsters hired as bat boys, ball boys, and club house attendants. "You can't tell me that you can have 30 or 40 guys traveling around with him and observing his behavior and not know what he was doing," Armstrong said. Armstrong said that former Red Sox first baseman George Scott, known as the "Boomer," frequently told him to "stay away from Fitzy." Scott died seven years ago.*

[Census Workers to Resume In-Person Visits to Boost Response Rate](#) [Andrea Noble, *Route Fifty*, 2 July 2020]

*Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Census Bureau workers may have to visit as many as 56 million homes to collect responses to the 2020 survey from people who have not completed questionnaires. In-person visits from census workers are typically the norm. But the pandemic has complicated the 2020 survey process and led the bureau to suspend field operations in March. Now the bureau is looking to resume these visits to homes that have not provided either online or written responses. Across the United States, approximately 62% of households have responded to the count. [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)*

## MISCONDUCT

[Army investigates handout suggesting Trump campaign slogan constitutes "covert White supremacy"](#) [Howard Altman, *Military Times*, 9 July 2020]

*The Army Wednesday night announced it has launched an investigation into how a presentation on racism and discrimination included a handout suggesting President Donald Trump's campaign slogan "Make America Great Again" is considered "covert white supremacy." The investigation was launched after a complaint from an Alabama congressman. Mo Brooks, a Republican who represents the district where the handout was distributed at the Redstone Arsenal, called the handout a "violation of the Hatch Act" designed to keep the military out of partisan politics. Brooks sent a letter to Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, copied to Trump, Attorney General William Barr and others. He "demanded an investigation into Army personnel illegally using federal government resources to distribute racist and partisan political propaganda in direct violation of the federal Hatch Act and any number of military regulations," according to a [statement on his website](#).*

[Paratrooper pleads not guilty to charges he plotted with satanic Neo-Nazis to ambush his unit](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 7 July 2020]

*An Italy-based paratrooper pleaded not guilty this week to charges he conspired with a satanic neo-Nazi group to help plot an ambush on his own unit during a planned deployment to Turkey. Ethan Melzer, 22, entered the plea Monday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn in Manhattan at a virtual hearing, court records show. The six charges he faces include conspiracy to kill U.S.*

*nationals and conspiring and attempting to murder U.S. service members, which each carry a maximum sentence of life in prison. He is also charged with providing support to terrorists.*

[Lawmaker wants investigator to look into White extremism and racial bias in the military](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 6 July 2020]

*A prominent Democratic lawmaker is calling on the Pentagon to create a special inspector general to investigate the extent of White supremacists within the ranks as well as racial disparities in the military's justice and promotion systems. "The department has been talking about these problems for decades, nibbling around the edges, while too little progress has been made too slowly," Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) told Task & Purpose. "Service members, such as one in Italy who plotted with neo-Nazis to attack his own unit, have been found to have White supremacist links. Racial disparities in representation among military personnel and in the military justice system have persisted for decades, with little or no progress." Racial disparities and White supremacists within the military have been long-standing problems. A [2019 Government Accountability Office report](#) noted that African American and Latino service members are more likely to be investigated and sent to court-martial than their White counterparts.*

## **RACISM**

[AP Exclusive: "Strike for Black Lives" to highlight racism](#) [Aaron Morrison, *The Associated Press*, 9 July 2020]

*A national coalition of labor unions, along with racial and social justice organizations, will stage a mass walkout from work this month, as part of an ongoing reckoning on systemic racism and police brutality in the U.S. Dubbed the "[Strike for Black Lives,](#)" tens of thousands of fast food, ride-share, nursing home and airport workers in more than 25 cities are expected to walk off the job July 20 for a full day strike. Those who can't strike for a full day will walk out for about eight minutes — the amount of time prosecutors say a White Minneapolis police officer held his knee on George Floyd's neck — in remembrance of Black men and women who died recently at the hands of police. According to details shared exclusively with *The Associated Press*, organizers are demanding sweeping action by corporations and government to confront systemic racism in an economy that chokes off economic mobility and career opportunities for many Black and Hispanic workers, who make up a disproportionate number of those earning less than a living wage.*

[Black Americans report hate crimes, violence in wake of George Floyd protests and Black Lives Matter gains](#) [Wenei Philimon, *USA Today*, 8 July 2020]

*Across the U.S., Black people have reported incidents of alleged hate crimes – criminal offenses motivated by bias. As the Black Lives Matter social justice movement has rallied demonstrators and gained support across racial groups, concerns have arisen about violent backlash targeting people of color, similar to the ones that have played out during previous movements against racism. The incidents have left many Black Americans fearing for their safety. "They feel afraid that there are violent racists who are going to go after them," says Roy Austin, a prominent Black lawyer who was the former deputy assistant attorney general of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.*

[We Are Repeating Discrimination Experiment Every Day, Educator Says \[AUDIO\]](#) [Rachel Martin, NPR, 8 July]

*NPR's Rachel Martin talks to Jane Elliott, who created the blue-eyes/brown-eyes classroom experiment in 1968 to teach students about racism. It was so enlightening, she repeated it for decades.*

[Recent West Point grads reveal racist incidents at academy](#) [Corey Dickstein, Stars and Stripes, 7 July 2020]

*In the June 25 [letter to West Point and Army leaders](#), nine graduates of the academy from 2018 and 2019, including the top ranking cadets and graduates from both classes, condemned racism at their alma mater and urged leaders to introduce a curriculum meant to address race and diversity directly. The now-Army lieutenants, in a 40-page policy proposal included with their letter, documented such racist incidents including a noose left on a Black cadet's dormitory desk "as a joke" by a White roommate, a top cadet leader's photo altered to portray her as a monkey, and reports by dozens of Black cadets subjected to racial slurs by their classmates in recent years.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

["Go look at my Purple Heart!" Miami man who went on racist tirade posed as Navy SEAL](#) [David O'valle, The Miami Herald, 6 July 2020]

*During a racist tirade caught on video, Joseph Fuchek waved a pistol around while yelling at a Black homeowner in North Miami-Dade. "Damn right, I carry a gun because I'm a 35-year former Navy SEAL!" he yelled. "Go look at my Purple Heart!" Detectives found that supposed Purple Heart when they raided Fuchek's Miami apartment, along with Navy certificates, dress uniforms and even portrait photos of Fuchek decked out like an admiral in front of an American flag. None of it was real. Fuchek remains jailed while charged with aggravated assault with prejudice, the so-called "hate-crime" enhancement that makes the crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison. "Based on the defendant's conduct, [he] is a danger to the Black community and to the Miami-Dade community at large," Assistant State Attorney Khalil Quinan wrote to the court.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## RELIGION

[Navy Ban on Sailors Worshiping Indoors at Off-Base Churches Stirs Controversy](#) [Richard Sisk, Military.com, 8 July 2020]

*Sailors can now worship at drive-in religious services off base but cannot go inside, according to COVID-19 restrictions the Navy reaffirmed Tuesday. The policy against attending indoor religious services off base to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus has brought complaints from chaplains and two House lawmakers, as well as the threat of a lawsuit. But the Navy is sticking with the restrictions that began in March. In a statement, Capt. Sarah Self-Kyler, spokeswoman for Fleet Forces Command, said the Navy "works to support every sailor's religious practices to the broadest extent possible within the bounds of military readiness, health and safety." She added that the restrictions on off-base, indoor religious services are "essential to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of our service members and ensuring the Navy's operational readiness."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Supreme Court sides with Catholic schools in employment suit](#) [Jessica Gresko, *The Associated Press*, 8 July 2020]

*The Supreme Court sided with two Catholic schools in a ruling Wednesday underscoring that certain employees of religious schools, hospitals and social service centers can't sue for employment discrimination. The high court's ruling was 7-2, with two liberal justices joining the conservative majority for the schools. The justices had previously said in a unanimous 2012 decision that the Constitution prevents ministers from suing their churches for employment discrimination. The court said then that the required separation of church and state means that religious groups must be allowed to hire and fire individuals who serve as teachers or messengers of their faith, without court interference. But the court didn't rigidly define who counts as a minister.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## **SEXISM**

[Practicing What We Preach: Committing to the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy Here at Home](#) [OPINION] Mackenzie Eaglen, *Real Clear Defense*, 9 July 2020]

*The old adage "actions speak louder than words" is key to the global success of the [Women, Peace and Security \(WPS\)](#) strategy. Unfortunately, at the Pentagon right now, it's not looking too good. More politicians need to encourage this agenda, more men need to take it up as a top cause, and newly developed lines of effort need to be regularly assessed for improvement. Yet also last month, the [Women, Peace, and Security \(WPS\) implementation plans](#) were released across the U.S. government, signaling the United States' commitment to a policy agenda that prioritizes the integration of women and their interests into American foreign policy, aid, and national security. The Pentagon must lead by example in its own workforces to promote female viewpoints if the Women, Peace, and Security agenda is to be successful. If we want our partners and allies to meaningfully promote equality, what we do at home is more important than what we preach abroad.*

[Boeing communications chief resigns over decades-old article on women in combat](#) [Eric M. Johnson, *Reuters*, 2 July 2020]

*Boeing Co.'s communications chief Niel Golightly abruptly resigned on Thursday, following an employee's complaint over an article the former U.S. military pilot wrote 33 years ago arguing women should not serve in combat. "My article was a 29-year-old Cold War navy pilot's misguided contribution to a debate that was live at the time," Golightly said in a statement included in Boeing's announcement. "My argument was embarrassingly wrong and offensive. The article is not a reflection of who I am; but nonetheless I have decided that in the interest of the company I will step down," Golightly said. According to an excerpt on the U.S. Naval Institute website, the December 1987 article titled "No Right to Fight" said: "At issue is not whether women can fire M-60s, dogfight MiGs, or drive tanks. Introducing women into combat would destroy the exclusively male intangibles of war fighting and the feminine images of what men fight for - peace, home, family."*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Trial for midshipman charged with sexual assault to start with jury member selection](#) [Heather Mongilio, *The Capital-Gazette*, Annapolis, Md., 9 July 2020]

*The government attorneys prosecuting a midshipman charged with sexual assault will likely work to establish that 3rd Class Midshipman Keago has a pattern. Keago is charged with seven charges of violating articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including sexual assault, with specifications of asleep and bodily harm, attempted sexual assault, with specifications bodily harm, without consent and asleep, obstructing justice and burglary. According to charging documents, Keago allegedly sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault midshipmen while at the Naval Academy and also once in New York.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“We are all angry:” Female veterans take action after Spc. Vanessa Guillen’s death to stop discrimination in military](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 9 July 2020]

*No justice, no enlistment. That’s the call from a group of female veterans in the wake of the slaying of Fort Hood soldier Spc. Vanessa Guillen, whose remains were found mutilated and buried at the hands of another soldier miles from the central Texas base where she served. “We are all angry and we all want to see change,” said Stephanie Gattas, a Navy veteran in San Antonio. Gattas joined a group of 20 female veterans to write a [letter outlining demands](#) to improve the “systemic failures” that they claim led to a military in which victims of sexual harassment are afraid to report other service members and an Army in which a soldier can be murdered on base and it takes more than two months to solve the crime.*

[“The military’s #MeToo”: In wake of Vanessa Guillén death, servicewomen bear deep scars](#) [Alex Horton, *The Washington Post*, 7 July 2020]

*A grim but predictable story has played out for many servicewomen and female veterans, as a desperate search for Army Spc. Vanessa Guillén ended with confirmation of her death. Before she went missing in April, Guillén confided in her family that she had been sexually harassed but feared surfacing the incidents to her leaders, her sisters and mother have said. For some women in uniform, the case is emblematic of a military culture that they say has downplayed or ignored allegations of sexual harassment and assault and created an atmosphere that pressures men and women to keep accusations quiet. “You know if it’s not you, it’s one of your peers who has experienced it,” Chesonis said. “Her murder is rare, but the experiences of sexual harassment and being afraid of reprisal — that’s not unique.”*

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

[Victims Sue AFGE Over Former President’s Misconduct](#) [Erich Wagner, *Govexec*, 6 July 2020]

*A group of former employees, members and contractors of the nation’s largest federal employee union have sued the American Federation of Government Employees and former National President J. David Cox over Cox’s alleged sexual abuse and harassment and the union’s inaction following internal complaints. Cox was placed on administrative leave last fall following a Bloomberg report outlining allegations from multiple former AFGE employees that he sexually harassed them. He was forced to resign in February, after Annette Wells, a dues-paying union member, accused Cox of engaging in nearly a decade of sexual abuse against her son, who served as his primary driver at a limo company contracted by the union for official travel.*

## SUICIDE

### [Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 25: Sue Freeth, Combat Stress U.K.](#)

[*Military Times*, 8 July 2020]

*Sue Freeth joined Combat Stress in 2016 as the first female chief executive in the charity's 100-year history. Since her arrival, the charity has increased its profile and contributes actively to veterans' mental health and military trauma healthcare. Sue has set out a new strategic direction in the face of growing demand for military trauma treatment and a changing landscape in the United Kingdom's National Health Service.*

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

### [Ohio Suicide Study Finds Alarming Rise Over Past Decade](#) [Laura Maggi and Emma Coleman, *Route Fifty*, 6 July 2020]

*A new evaluation of suicides in Ohio found that suicide deaths in the state increased by 34% between 2009 and 2018, with rural counties in particular facing serious mental health challenges. The [Ohio University analysis](#) found that 37 of Ohio's 88 counties have suicide rates above the national average. About five people die from suicide daily in Ohio. Mental health experts said the findings underscore that even as state and local governments need to cut budgets because of the coronavirus, they should maintain mental health treatment offerings. In fact, the pressures of the coronavirus, including people feeling isolated and stressed during prolonged unemployment, worry those experts. "If people start to lose hope if they lose jobs or homes ... we are quite concerned," said Tony Coder, the executive director of the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation.*

## VETERANS

### [The VA Is Seeking Input on Updating Eligibility Rules for Bad Paper Discharges](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 9 July 2020]

*In a [notice published in the Federal Register](#), the VA is proposing updating rules to clarify what is considered a dishonorable discharge for VA benefit eligibility purposes. This move is necessary because [federal law](#) specifically allows only veterans with an "other than dishonorable" discharge to receive VA benefits, but the Defense Department often characterizes discharges as "other than honorable." In these cases, the VA must determine whether the actual reason for discharge is considered "honorable" or "dishonorable." Specifically, the new rules will clear up the definitions of "willful and persistent misconduct," "offenses involving moral turpitude," and "homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty," as these types of discharges can often be considered either honorable or dishonorable depending on the severity of the offense.*

### [Why an Unemployed Veteran Memorized the U.S. Constitution](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 9 July 2020]

*A World War I veteran basically bet a U.S. congressman for a job. Harry Wilhelm was that veteran - and his plan worked too. By 1937, the Great Depression was in full swing, and it was more than just veterans who were facing unemployment. Wilhelm told Rep. Sol Bloom, D-New York, that he could recite the entire U.S. Constitution from memory. The veteran was known around his York,*

*Pennsylvania, hometown as a consummate salesman, so no one could be blamed for thinking it was nothing more than a scheme to get a government job. So the congressman tried to call his bluff.*

[Military Adaptive Sports Program aids with healing our Wounded Warriors](#) [*Military Health System Communications Office, 7 July 2020*]

*Retired Army Col. Michael Malone soldiered through combat deployments, traumatic brain injuries, and a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder. But after he became ill during a deployment in Kuwait, his military career ended. Malone was diagnosed with chronic multisymptom illness, and he credits the Department of Defense's Military Adaptive Sports Program, or [MASP](#), with giving him focus and direction for his post-service life. "When you end up in the Warrior Transition Program, as I did, it's because you're very sick or very injured," Malone said. "So you're in a really dark place. Adaptive sports allowed me to feel competitive again and build my athletic skills. And emotionally, the program really facilitated my recovery." MASP is part of the [DOD Warrior Care Program](#). It provides reconditioning activities and competitive athletic opportunities for wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans. The Military Health System is shining a spotlight on MASP for National Therapeutic Recreation Week, which highlights the importance of recreational therapy to enhance physical and emotional healing.*

[Military's Top Appeals Court to Consider Whether Retirees Can Be Court-Martialed](#) [*Gina Harkins, Military.com, 7 July 2020*]

*The case of a retired sailor who was court-martialed after leaving the Navy has reached the military's highest appeals court, potentially setting the stage for a U.S. Supreme Court battle on the matter. Stephen Begani, a retired Navy chief petty officer who was court-martialed after being picked up by federal agents about a month after leaving active duty, has taken his case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.*