

# DEOMI NEWS LINKS, JULY 24, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

[Confederate flag effectively banned from military installations](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 17 July 2020]

*The conversation around what the Confederate flag represents and whether it's appropriate to fly has been put to bed in the military, at least when it comes to displays on Defense Department installations. Rather than specifically target the Confederate flag, [Esper's guidance](#) narrows down the types of flags that can be displayed, effectively banning any that reflects pride or affinity for a movement, political cause or fandom, including Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ rights and any number of professional or college sports teams.*

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

[Poll: More voters acknowledge symptoms of racism but disagree about its causes](#) [Carrie Dann, *NBC News*, 21 July 2020]

*Amid a moment of national reckoning on racial issues and the mourning of one of the country's most revered civil rights leaders, new numbers from the [NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll](#) show that American voters have become significantly more aware of racial discrimination and more sympathetic to those protesting to end it, even as the country remains deeply divided over the prevalence of bigotry and its root causes. But at the same time, voters are deeply pessimistic about the current state of race relations, the country is sharply divided about whether racism is systemic or just perpetrated by "bad apples," and partisan identity remains an overwhelming predictor of how voters view the experiences of people of color and the current movement for greater racial equality.*

[A woman has been confirmed as the commander of the Army Reserve for the first time in history](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 22 July 2020]

*For the first time in U.S. military history, a woman has been confirmed as the commanding general of the Army Reserve. The Senate has confirmed that Maj. Gen. Jody J. Daniels will be promoted to lieutenant general and assigned as the chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, the service announced in a press release on Wednesday. Daniels has over 36 years of active and reserve military experience, having deployed to Iraq as the chief of plans and integrations and later served as the director of intelligence for the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. She also completed a civil affairs deployment to Kosovo.*

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## CULTURE

[Fight over Confederate base names unsettled even after lawmakers back changes](#) [Leo Shane III and Joe Gould, *Military Times*, 23 July 2020]

*Republicans and Democrats in both the House and Senate voted overwhelmingly this week to back legislation forcing the Defense Department to rename military bases honoring Confederate leaders, including Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Hood in Texas and Fort Benning in Georgia. Despite the bipartisan backing in Congress, however, the fate of the base names are still far from settled.*

*And it could be the defining issue for the entire \$740.5 billion defense authorization bill, which includes must-pass provisions like military pay hikes, defense equipment purchase plans and strategic posturing of forces in coming years.*

[To NBA coaches, racial equality is a priority of the restart](#) [Tim Reynolds, *The Associated Press*, 23 July 2020]

*Dallas' Rick Carlisle now starts every interview session by reading from a calendar that highlights something that happened on that day in the country's racial history. Toronto's Nick Nurse is often wearing shirts to practice proclaiming that Black Lives Matter. Orlando's Steve Clifford, in lieu of pre-practice film, showed his team a documentary on the life of John Lewis. Coaches around the NBA — where most players are Black and most coaches are White — have been active participants in the demand societal change around the league.*

[Robert E. Lee high school in Virginia to be renamed for late Rep. John Lewis](#) [Doaha Madani, *NBC News*, 23 July 2020]

*A Virginia high school named after Confederate war general Robert E. Lee is to be renamed to honor the late civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis. The Fairfax County School Board voted in favor of the change to go into effect for the 2020-21 school year, according to an announcement Thursday. Board members in the suburban Washington D.C., district voted June 23 to change the school's name but had been deliberating over a new name for the last few weeks. Board chair Ricardy Anderson said in a statement that the district wanted to choose a name that reflected the school's multiculturalism after concerns were raised by students, staff and the community over the old name.*

[MLB players taking visible stance on social justice](#) [David Brandt, *The Associated Press*, 22 July 2020]

*Major League Baseball hasn't always been at the forefront of the social justice movement in recent years, with leagues like the NBA and NFL usually taking center stage. But in the aftermath of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis — and because of the quirks of a coronavirus-altered sports schedule — baseball is in the position of having the American sports world largely to itself for the next week. Even before Thursday's opening day, players and coaches in the sport are taking a more active approach to supporting racial justice.*

[Sierra Club to remove monuments of founder John Muir over his racist history](#) [J. Edward Moreno, *The Hill*, 22 July 2020]

*The green group, (Sierra Club), which Muir founded in 1892, said that as the country begins to reassess the purpose and meaning of Confederate statues and memorials, "it's time to take down some of our own monuments, starting with some truth-telling about the Sierra Club's early history." Muir, who fought to preserve Yosemite Valley and Sequoia National Forest, made derogatory statements about Black and indigenous people. The Sierra Club said that as the "most iconic figure in Sierra Club history, Muir's words and actions carry an especially heavy weight."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Why "White" should be capitalized, too \[OPINION\]](#) [Nell Irvin Painter, *The Washington Post*, 22 July 2020]

*Let's talk about that lowercase "white." Restructuring policing in ways that matter will take years, and many more Confederate monuments remain standing than have come down. But in these past few earth-shaking months, one change has advanced with startling speed: All this social upheaval has suddenly and widely restored a capital B to the word "Black." I say "restored," because that capital B appeared in the 1970s. I used it myself. Then editors, uncomfortable with both the odd combination of uppercase "Black" and lowercase "white," and the unfamiliar, bumpy "Black and White," took off both capital letters. "Black" returned to "black."*

[AP says it will capitalize Black but not white](#) [David Bauder, *The Associated Press*, 20 July 2020]

*After changing its usage rules last month to capitalize the word "Black" when used in the context of race and culture, The Associated Press on Monday said it would not do the same for "white." The AP said white people in general have much less shared history and culture, and don't have the experience of being discriminated against because of skin color.*

[REPRINT]

[3,000 Aviano airmen stand down for "raw" discussions on racism](#) [Norman Llamas, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 July 2020]

*Staff Sgt. Kourtney L. Rollins tried to talk to her co-workers about their inappropriate racial comments, but nothing changed. "The work environment continued to be a toxic one, where racial comments were an acceptable form of speech," said Rollins, a special victims paralegal for the 31st Fighter Wing. Rollins told her story to about 20 airmen of different backgrounds, while similar stories were shared in other small groups on this U.S. base in northern Italy on Friday. In all, about 3,000 31st Fighter Wing airmen and civilians shut down most operations and discussed the racial disparities African Americans and other people of color face in the Air Force and in U.S. society as a whole. Much of the conversation in one group revolved around whether bias forms more as a product of the environment people grow up in, or whether it's acquired based on life experiences and interactions with others.*

[Alyssa Nakken made MLB history as the first woman to coach on the field during a major league game](#) [Jill Martin, *CNN*, 21 July 2020]

*Alyssa Nakken, the first female coach on a Major League Baseball staff in league history, became the first woman to coach on the field during a major league game on Monday. Nakken, a four-time Academic All American softball player for Sacramento State, joined the Giants in 2014, and is currently responsible for developing, producing and directing a number of the organization's health and wellness initiatives and events, including coordinating the Giant Race series. She joined the organization in 2014 as an intern in the baseball operations department where she worked on a variety of special projects related to the amateur draft, international operations and player development.*

[Death of John Lewis Fuels Movement to Rename Edmund Pettus Bridge](#) [Allyson Waller, *The New York Times*, 21 July 2020]

*The death of Representative John Lewis on Friday has renewed interest in a campaign to rename the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., the site of a turning point in the fight for civil rights. Named after a former Confederate general and Ku Klux Klan leader, the bridge became the focus of*

*national attention on March 7, 1965, when Alabama state troopers beat demonstrators who were marching for Black voting rights in what became known as Bloody Sunday. An [online petition](#) created last month to rename the Edmund Pettus Bridge after Mr. Lewis has garnered over 400,000 signatures, including that of the director Ava DuVernay, whose Oscar-nominated film “Selma” recreated the Bloody Sunday confrontation.*

[NFL planning to allow social justice decals on helmets](#) [Barry Wilner, *The Associated Press*, 21 July 2020]

*The NFL is planning to allow players to have decals on the back of their helmets bearing names or initials of victims of systemic racism and police violence. The league has been in talks with individual players and their union since June about somehow honoring such victims. The initiative will be done leaguewide, with each team deciding who it will honor and how to display the names or initials. Unlike the NBA, which is allowing players to wear slogans on their jerseys, the NFL will stick to names and initials once a final agreement has been reached with the players’ association.*

[Trader Joe’s to change product branding after petition calls it “racist”](#) [Bill Hutchinson, *ABC News*, 19 July 2020]

*Grocery store chain Trader Joe’s says it is changing its ethnic food packaging after more than 1,400 people signed a [petition](#) describing brands as racist. The popular food store is the latest U.S. company to announce changes in product labeling that critics say are akin to racial stereotyping. Trader Joe’s packages its Chinese, Mexican, Italian and Middle Eastern foods under the brands “Trader Ming’s,” “Trader Jose” “Trader Giotto” and “Arabian Joe.” In the petition, Bedell wrote that some of the company’s ethnic food labels “belies a narrative of exoticism that perpetuates harmful stereotypes.” The company acknowledged that the product naming may have had the “opposite effect” of its intent.*

[The Real White Fragility: Does the White upper class feel exhausted and oppressed by meritocracy?](#) [OPINION] [Ross Douthat, *The New York Times*, 18 July 2020]

*Part of this ideology’s appeal is clearly about meaning and morality: The new anti-racism has a confessional, religious energy that the secular meritocracy has always lacked. But there is also something important about its more radical and even ridiculous elements — like the weird business that increasingly shows up in official documents, from the New York Public Schools or the Smithsonian, describing things like “perfectionism” or “worship of the written word” or “emphasis on the scientific method” or “delayed gratification” as features of a toxic Whiteness.*

[The Army could block you on Twitch for asking about war crimes, and that could be a violation of free-speech laws](#) [OPINION] [Brian Feldman, *Business Insider*, 17 July 2020]

*The U.S. Army has launched a Twitch channel as a means of recruitment, and the streams have opened a dialogue between the military and civilians. But the dialogue has mostly been “How do you feel about war crimes?” After viewers mentioned U.S. wars and events such as My Lai, Haditha, and Abu Ghraib, the Army started blocking commenters on its Twitch channel. Some civil-rights lawyers say the Army’s blocking of commenters in the Twitch chat may have violated the posters’ free-speech rights.*

[Promotion packet photos are out. Name and sex could be next.](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 17 July 2020]

*In an effort to level the promotion playing field, the Defense Department is considering stripping out identifying details from packets put together for board consideration. Following a directive from Defense Secretary Mark Esper, to remove photos from that paperwork, top Pentagon leadership Friday discussed the possibility of further streamlining the information available to promotion boards, to focus on accomplishments and experience. Beyond that top-down guidance, Esper directly encouraged leadership during the town hall to open up discussions in their units about diversity and inclusion. The discussion came in response to a video message from a Black Army first sergeant, an immigrant.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[North Dakota governor blasts party's anti-LGBTQ resolution](#) [James McPherson, *The Associated Press*, 23 July 2020]

*North Dakota's Republican governor on Thursday blasted an anti-LGBTQ resolution that was passed by hundreds of his party's delegates, calling it insulting and divisive. The resolution — one of dozens of party policy statements in a passed by this spring by mail-in ballot — states that many “LGBT practices are unhealthy and dangerous, sometimes endangering or shortening life and sometimes infecting society at large.” Gov. Doug Burgum issued a statement Thursday denouncing the resolution. “As I've long said, all North Dakotans deserve to be treated equally and live free of discrimination,” Burgum said. “There's no place for the hurtful and divisive rhetoric in the NDGOP resolutions.”*

[Pentagon report: Military has considered two waivers for transgender troops since ban started](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*, 23 July 2020]

*Three transgender U.S. troops have been to subject to processing for involuntary separation and two have been considered for waivers as of February under the Trump administration's transgender military policy, according to a recent Pentagon report to Congress. The report also says no waivers have been denied, nor has anyone been discharged as of February. The report, a copy of which was obtained by *The Hill*, prompted a letter from 12 House Democrats to Defense Secretary Mark Esper demanding to know why more waivers were not considered or granted.*

[Facebook ignored racial bias research, employees say](#) [Olivia Solon, *NBC News*, 22 July 2020]

*In mid-2019, researchers at Facebook began studying a new set of rules proposed for the automated system that Instagram uses to remove accounts for bullying and other infractions. What they found was alarming. Users on the Facebook-owned Instagram in the United States whose activity on the app suggested they were Black were about 50 percent more likely under the new rules to have their accounts automatically disabled by the moderation system than those whose activity indicated they were White, according to two current employees and one former employee, who all spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk to the media. Facebook did not deny that some researchers were told to stop exploring racial bias but said that it was because the methodology used was flawed.*

[Study finds Black and Latino students face significant “funding gap”](#) [Laura Meckler, *The Washington Post*, 22 July 2020]

*School districts with large numbers of Black and Hispanic students need more money to help students succeed but get less. That’s one conclusion of a [new study](#) that attempts to calculate how much money it would take to bring all students to the national average in performance. Overall, the study found districts serving nearly two-thirds of all public school students face a “funding gap,” defined as the amount of money needed to bring students to the national average performance, as measured by test scores. The study, from the Century Foundation, a liberal think tank, calculates a target funding level for every school district in the country. The formula assumes that more money is needed for places with large numbers of children in poverty, with disabilities and who are learning English. It also takes into account the cost of living, teacher wages and the size of the district to account for economies of scale.*

[Survey: 80% of Older Adults Have Faced Ageism](#) [Kara Gavin, *Futurity*, 14 July 2020]

*An offhand remark by an acquaintance about using a smartphone. A joke about someone losing their memory or hearing. An ad in a magazine focused on erasing wrinkles or gray hair. An inner worry that getting older means growing lonely. All of these kinds of everyday ageism, and many more, are common in the lives of Americans over 50, a [new poll finds](#). In fact, more than 80% of those polled say they commonly experience at least one form of ageism in their day-to-day lives. The poll even shows relationships between experiencing multiple forms of everyday ageism and health. In all, 40% of all poll respondents said they routinely experience three or more forms of ageism—and these older adults were much more likely to have poor mental and physical health.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **DIVERSITY**

[A medical student couldn’t find how symptoms look on darker skin. He decided to publish a book about it.](#) [Sydney Page, *The Washington Post*, 22 July 2020]

*Malone Mukwende, a 20-year-old medical student, found himself repeatedly asking the same question: “But what will it look like on darker skin?” He’s publishing a book to answer that question. Since his first class at St George’s, University of London, “I noticed a lack of teaching about darker skin tones, and how certain symptoms appear differently in those who aren’t White,” said Mukwende, who recently completed his second year of study in the medical program. Not only was there an absence of imagery to highlight the difference, but students were not instructed on the correct terminology to describe conditions that appear on darker skin, Mukwende said.*

[Pentagon’s No. 2 Officer Says Military Must Do Better On Diversity](#) [Tom Bowman, *NPR*, 22 July 2020]

*The No. 2 American military officer, Air Force Gen. John Hyten, says the Pentagon must do more to create a diverse force and also must deal with the rising problem of sexual misconduct by looking for answers outside the military. Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made his remarks in a wide-ranging interview with Steve Inskeep on *NPR’s Morning Edition*.*

[These Black female soldiers brought order to chaos and delivered a blow against inequality](#) [Channon Hodge and Tawanda Scott Sambou, *CNN*, 20 July 2020]

*Only four women rest under the long rows of white marble headstones at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, where nearly 9,400 other Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country are buried. Three of the women are African American. In February 1945, the 6888th -- commanded by Maj. Charity Adams (later Adams Earley), was sent to England, where a shortage of personnel was wreaking havoc with the mail system. Like much of the country, the military was segregated throughout World War II. Black service members faced continuous racism, and the women of the 6888th have sharp memories of being segregated on trains, spat at and demeaned by White men and women. Even the battalion's boss was not exempt. Adams Early wrote that a general told her: "I'm going to send a White first lieutenant down here to show you how to run this unit." Her response? "Over my dead body, sir."*

[Female military pilots see the next barrier to break: Getting more Black women to fly](#) [Tara Copp, McClatchy, 20 July 2020]

*The women who were the first to break gender and race barriers as military pilots understand the isolation that comes with being the only female in their squadron. They have spent years encouraging more women to fly, but as new data obtained by McClatchy shows, there are still few in the ranks, and even fewer who are Black. Women comprise just 7 percent of the 48,308 active duty, National Guard and reserve pilots now serving in the military. Of those 3,314 female pilots, only 72 identified as African American or Black, according to military data obtained by McClatchy.*

[Blacks in Government President Seeks to Boost Recruiting, Mentoring and Advocacy at Federal Agencies](#) [Courtney Bubl , GovExec, 17 July 2020]

*As the country is in a moment of reckoning for its systemic racism following the death of George Floyd in police custody in May and the resulting nationwide protests, [Doris Sartor](#)—president of the organization Blacks in Government—is continuing her work advocating for diversity at federal agencies and drawing attention to racial inequalities. Government Executive spoke with Sartor about changes in government she's observed over the years, the importance of diversity in the workplace, recent protests for racial justice, how the federal government can better address health disparities during the novel coronavirus pandemic and more.*

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[The Holocaust survivor hoping to change American police culture. Psychologist has pioneered active bystander training to limit violence between police and the public.](#) [Caroline Modarressy-Tehrani, NBC News, 19 July 2020]

*Ervin Staub, 82, [a professor emeritus](#) of psychology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has spent decades not only studying violence, genocide and reconciliation around the world and back at home in the United States, but also actively working to thwart violence before it begins. He has written a shelf of books which peel away the scaffolding that allows mass atrocities, both past and present, how to heal after genocide, and the very important impact a bystander can make. "There were important bystanders in my life who showed me that people don't have to be passive in the face of evil," he explained ahead of a conference at the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh scheduled for September. A Christian woman risked her own life to shelter Staub and his younger sister. His father and other family members received protective identity papers from the Swedish*

*diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, saving them from becoming one of the six million murdered Jews of Europe.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[German court convicts former concentration camp guard, 93](#) [David Rising, *The Associated Press*, 23 July 2020]

*A German court on Thursday convicted a 93-year-old former SS private of being an accessory to murder at the Stutthof concentration camp, where he served as a guard in the final months of World War II. He was given a two-year suspended sentence. Bruno Dey was convicted of 5,232 counts of accessory to murder by the Hamburg state court, news agency DPA reported. That is equal to the number of people believed to have been killed at Stutthof during his service there in 1944 and 1945. He also was convicted of one count of accessory to attempted murder. “How could you get used to the horror?” presiding judge Anne Meier-Goering asked as she announced the verdict.*

[Nazi eagle in Uruguay auction “should go to museum”](#) [BBC News, 22 July 2020]

*A large bronze eagle with a swastika under its talons soon to be auctioned in Uruguay should go to a museum or educational institute, a US Holocaust research centre is urging. It should not be allowed to fall into the hands of White supremacists, the Simon Wiesenthal Center warns. The 350-400kg eagle, salvaged from a German World War Two warship, could be worth about \$26m (£21m). Last year, a court in Uruguay ruled that the eagle should be auctioned off. Now, the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles is urging Uruguay to instead use the object to serve “as a warning to future generations”.*

[Feds probe men’s rights lawyer in 2nd killing](#) [Michael Balsamo and Stefanie Dazio, *The Associated Press*, 21 July 2020]

*The federal agents are trying to determine whether Roy Den Hollander, who was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound the day after an attack that killed the judge’s son and wounded her husband, had any role in the killing earlier this month of Marc Angelucci. Angelucci, like Den Hollander, was involved in lawsuits alleging gender discrimination against men. He was shot to death July 11 at his home in San Bernardino County, California. Den Hollander, 72, described himself as an “anti-feminist” attorney who filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of “ladies night” promotions at bars and nightclubs, sued Columbia University for providing women’s studies classes, and sued news organizations over what he said was biased coverage.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Navigating the Hatch Act During the Current Era \[AUDIO\]](#) [Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune, *GovExec*, 21 July 2020]

*“Black Lives Matter” is a phrase that has resonated throughout the protests that have gone on for the past three months. As the issue of racial equality moves to the forefront of the national conversation, there are federal employees who would like to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter issue, but want to make sure they stay on the right side of the Hatch Act. But some of our listeners have been asking about issues like Blue Lives Matter. Last week, the Office of Special Counsel released a specific guidance on Black Lives Matter and our Courtney Bubl  is covering the*

story. She joined the podcast on how to talk about the Hatch Act, Blue Lives Matter and what feds need to know going forward.

[“My Nigerian great-grandfather sold slaves”](#) [BBC News, 19 July 2020]

*Amid the global debate about race relations, colonialism and slavery, some of the Europeans and Americans who made their fortunes in trading human beings have seen their legacies reassessed, their statues toppled and their names removed from public buildings. Nigerian journalist and novelist Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani writes that one of her ancestors sold slaves, but argues that he should not be judged by today’s standards or values. My great-grandfather was renowned for his business prowess, outstanding boldness, strong leadership, vast influence, immense contributions to society, and advancement of Christianity. “He was respected by everyone around,” my father said. “Even the White people respected him.”*

[Remembering John Lewis, rights icon and “American hero”](#) [Calvin Woodward, *The Associated Press*, 18 July 2020]

*People paid great heed to John Lewis for much of his life in the civil rights movement. But at the very beginning — when he was just a kid wanting to be a minister someday — his audience didn’t care much for what he had to say. A son of Alabama sharecroppers, the young Lewis first preached moral righteousness to his family’s chickens. His place in the vanguard of the 1960s campaign for Black equality had its roots in that hardscrabble Alabama farm and all those clucks. Lewis, who died Friday at age 80, was the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists who organized the 1963 March on Washington, and spoke shortly before the group’s leader, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., gave his “I Have a Dream” speech to a vast sea of people.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## **RACISM**

[150 members of Congress demand Justice Department action against anti-Asian, COVID-19 racism](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 22 July 2020]

*About 150 members of Congress called on the Justice Department to take action against COVID-19-related anti-Asian racism this week. The bipartisan group, led by Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Calif., demanded that Attorney General William Barr publicly condemn attacks targeting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, as well as provide status updates on the steps the department is taking to combat acts of anti-Asian bias. “We appreciate the op-ed the Department placed in the Washington Examiner generally stating that hate crimes will be investigated and prosecuted,” the letter read, referring to an [opinion piece](#) written by Eric Drieband, the assistant attorney general for civil rights. “However, the dangers faced by the Asian American community today are very real and deserve a strong and specific response by our government.” The Justice Department did not respond to a request for comment.*

[Black start-up founders say venture capitalists are racist, but the law protects them](#) [Reed Albergotti, *The Washington Post*, 22 July 2020]

*In tightknit social media groups and private email chains, Black entrepreneurs share their Silicon Valley stories. It often starts with a racist comment from a venture capitalist or a subtle jab that reveals a deep bias. The stories usually have the same ending: a decision to pass on investing. If*

*those entrepreneurs were applying for a job, they might have a shot at a discrimination lawsuit, employment lawyers say. But in the rarefied world of white-collar dealmaking, legal protections born out of the civil rights movement effectively don't apply, thanks to court decisions that have watered down legislation. As recently as March, the U.S. Supreme Court further defanged a 150-year-old anti-discrimination law that required plaintiffs to prove defendants were not intentionally biased but also would have made different business decisions if race were not a factor.*

[In on the \(Racist\) Joke. Two Soldiers of Color Confront Their Own Participation in Military Racism \[OPINION\]](#) [Michael E. Flores and Nate Tilton, *The War Horse*, 22 July 2020]

*While some minority soldiers and a lot of White soldiers believe the military enjoys a post-racism world, the rest of us feel the pain of racism acutely. We all understand that the veterans of our great-grandparents' generation suffered from racism. Lawrence D. Reddick observed in 1949 that the Army had a stereotype of the "Negro" as "fearful, unreliable, and lacking in the manly virtues of a warrior." In fact, White leaders treated their Black subordinates more harshly, according to Margarita Aragon in "A General Separation of Colored and White." Other minorities felt the pain of racism in different ways. "In the service, we were all equal," Aragon quoted a Mexican American man as saying. "We were all Americans, but [we] turned into a Mexican as soon as we took our uniforms off."*

[When Feeling American Requires Leaving America \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Jennifer Koons, *The Atlantic*, 22 July 2020]

*As the U.S. once again wrestles—or attempts to avoid wrestling—with a legacy of racism and systematic discrimination, it's instructive to reflect on this unique world, and the circumstances in which those who have been marginalized both feel truly American and best represent America. What can we learn from their experiences, and what is lost when they are turned away? "It is only when I am overseas that I am truly and fully American," Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, the first woman to oversee the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and a former ambassador to Malta, told me. "When I am in the Middle East or in Asia or even in Europe, I am seen as nothing but a U.S. diplomat." Though she cautioned that not "everything was easy peasy, because racial and gender discrimination happens all over the world," she nevertheless talked about that particular American exceptionalism that has always been both envied and mocked. She described it to me as "an exuberant profile and that Americanness, which is the same whether you're White, Black, brown, or whatever."*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Un-HolyLand? An Arab Muslim Reckoning With Racism](#) [NPR, 21 July 2020]

*You may not have heard of Majdi Wadi, but he's pretty well known in Minneapolis, Minn. He's Palestinian American, a devout Muslim and the CEO of the HolyLand brand — a family owned grocery store, restaurant and hummus factory. But recently, Wadi's business received the kind of attention that's now threatening his business's existence. Just a few days after police in Minneapolis killed George Floyd and protests erupted, his daughter Lianne Wadi's anti-Black, anti-Semitic and anti-gay social media posts from 2012 and 2016 surfaced. The backlash was swift: Wadi fired his daughter from her position as the company's catering director, and HolyLand lost lucrative contracts that resulted in layoffs and a factory shutdown. They've also been evicted from one location and are the target of a boycott campaign.*

[Jackie Robinson's Inner Struggle](#) [Jon Meachum, *The New York Times*, 20 July 2020]

*To many White fans of the game, the tale of Jackie Robinson is redemptive and transporting. The number 42 is retired across the major leagues; Robinson is a secular saint, revered for his skill and his bravery in making what was known as the noble experiment of desegregating baseball before Brown v. Board of Education, before the Montgomery bus boycott, before the March on Washington, before Selma. The truth, as Robinson told it in his affecting and candid autobiography, is vastly more complicated, and the book repays attention as the nation grapples anew with race. "I Never Had It Made" offers compelling testimony about the realities of being Black in America from an author who long ago became more a monument than a man, and his memoir is an illuminating meditation on racism not only in the national pastime but in the nation itself.*

[The city where George Floyd was killed has declared racism a public health emergency](#) [Taylor Ardrey, *Insider Intelligence*, 18 July 2020]

*Racism in Minneapolis was declared a public health emergency on Friday. The Minneapolis City Council approved a [resolution](#) to "recognize the severe impact of racism on the well-being of residents and city overall." The resolution was created by council members Andrea Jenkins and Phillippe Cunningham as a call for action for the city government to end racism and build "an active, anti-racist culture in the City of Minneapolis." By declaring racism a public health emergency, the resolution said, Minneapolis is recognizing "the severe impact of racism on the well-being of residents and city overall" and plans to "allocate funding, staff, and additional resources to actively engage in racial equity in order to name, reverse, and repair the harm done to BIPOC in this City."*

[Why racism can have long-term effects on children's health](#) [A. Pawlowski, *NBC News*, 17 July 2020]

*Dr. Nia Heard-Garris was startled when her 4-year-old son came home from preschool one day and declared, "Mommy, sometimes I'm White." As a pediatrician who studies the impact of racism on children's health and the mother of a Black boy with caramel skin, she carefully inquired further. He told her one of his friends said he only played with White kids. As kids get older, these experiences get more intense, said Heard-Garris, who wrote about the incident in [JAMA Pediatrics](#). They may also do real damage. Racism is a core social determinant of health that has a profound impact on the health of children, adolescents, young adults and their families, the American Academy of Pediatrics said in its first policy statement on the subject, issued in 2019 and citing 180 studies and papers.*

## **SEXISM**

[Moms, not Dads, Lose Time to Work During Pandemic](#) [Sara Savat-Wustl, *Futurity*, 20 July 2020]

*There's early evidence that the pandemic has exacerbated—not improved—the gender gap in work hours, which could have enduring consequences for mothers who work outside the home. "Our findings indicate mothers are bearing the brunt of the pandemic and may face long-term employment penalties as a consequence," says Caitlyn Collins, assistant professor of sociology at Washington University in St. Louis and coauthor of the study. Between March and April, mothers' work hours fell four to five times as much as fathers' did, according to the study in [Gender, Work and Organization](#). While mothers scaled back their work hours by about 5%, or two hours per week,*

fathers' work hours remained largely stable. The impact was greatest among mothers of primary school-aged children or younger children for whom caregiving and homeschooling demands are most intense.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

### [Lawmakers blast VA for estimate of years needed to change “inconsistent” sexual harassment policies](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 22 July 2020]

*House lawmakers blasted the Department of Veterans Affairs on Wednesday after officials estimated it would take years to fix the way the VA handles allegations of sexual harassment among its workforce. The Government Accountability Office reported last week that an estimated 14% of male employees and 26% of female employees experienced sexual harassment from 2014 to 2016 – a “relatively high” percentage among federal agencies. The department has “inconsistent and incomplete” policies to prevent and address harassment, the GAO found, and the VA isn’t collecting enough data about allegations. Required training for VA employees lacks information about identifying and addressing sexual harassment.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

### [As Court-Martial Continues, Naval Academy Midshipman Found Not Guilty of Attempted Sexual Assault](#) [Heather Mongilio, *The Capital-Gazette*, (Annapolis, Md.), 21 July 2020]

*Naval Academy Midshipman 3rd Class Nixon Keago has been found not guilty of attempted sexual assault, stemming from a September 2018 incident. Keago, who is currently standing trial, still faces several charges including sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, obstruction of justice and burglary. Defense attorney Lt. Dan Phipps motioned Monday morning for the attempted sexual assault charge and one of the burglary charges, both connected to September 2018, be dismissed. The defense and government attorneys will make closing statements Tuesday morning. Rugh will also give the members instructions before they are sent to deliberate.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

### [Women veterans rally for change in military sex harassment response after Vanessa Guillen killing](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 21 July 2020]

*Women veterans advocates rallied on Capitol Hill Tuesday to call for systemic changes in how sexual harassment and abuse claims are handled by the military in the wake of the killing of Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen, saying her story has become too common in the ranks. Family members have said Guillen reported multiple instances of sexual harassment to them, but filed no official complaints because of a lack of trust that leadership would do anything to address the problem. Women who spoke at Tuesday’s event outside of the Capitol said that’s a common complaint among troops and veterans, one that has ruined careers and lives.*

### [Figure skating coach Richard Callaghan sued by former athlete, alleging sexual abuse and coverup](#) [David K. Li, *NBC News*, 20 July 2020]

*A former competitive figure skater on Monday filed a \$10 million lawsuit against one of the sport’s most celebrated coaches, accusing him of sexual abuse that dates back to the 1970s. The federal civil action, filed in Buffalo by Craig Maurizi, targeted renowned coach Richard Callaghan and three figure skating organizations that allegedly turned a blind eye to his rampant misconduct. And*

as far back as the 1970s, U.S. Figure Skating Association officials regularly warned young male skaters not to be alone with Callaghan, according to the lawsuit.

[Mechanic dreamed of joining the Coast Guard. Then his wife was groped by his superior](#) [Kevin G. Hall, McClatchy, 19 July 2020]

*Sean Persinger dreamed of being a crewman on the daring rescues performed by the H-60 Jayhawk helicopter units, lowering baskets in rough weather to haul up distressed mariners from raging seas. His U.S. Coast Guard career as an Aviation Maintenance Technician at Air Station Kodiak, responsible for everything non-electrical on helicopters and aircraft, hit a series of setbacks after a barroom incident in 2007 involving inappropriate sexual behavior by an officer. The issue still haunts his family more than a decade later as he retired June 1, earlier than planned. Persinger's wife, Jacey, along with others who feel they are victims of harassment and assault, came forward to tell their stories to McClatchy in hopes that it would shine light on a branch of the military that until recently had escaped the glare of the growing #MeToo movement.*

[15 women accuse former Redskins employees of sexual harassment and verbal abuse](#) [Will Hobson and Liz Clarke, *The Washington Post*, 16 July 2020]

*A few months after Emily Applegate started working for the Washington Redskins in 2014, she settled into a daily routine: She would meet a female co-worker in the bathroom during their lunch breaks, she said, to commiserate and cry about the frequent sexual harassment and verbal abuse they endured. They cried about the former chief operating officer's expletive-laced tirades, Applegate said, when she recalled him calling her "f---ing stupid" and then requesting she wear a tight dress for a meeting with clients, "so the men in the room have something to look at." But most of all, Applegate said, they cried about the realization that their dream job of working in the NFL came with what they characterized as relentless sexual harassment and verbal abuse that was ignored — and, in some cases, condoned — by top team executives. Applegate is one of 15 former female Redskins employees who told *The Washington Post* they were sexually harassed during their time at the club.*

## SUICIDE

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 26: Barbara Van Dahlen, executive director for PREVENTS](#) [*Military Times*, 20 July 2020]

*Barbara Van Dahlen, named to *TIME* magazine's 2012 list of the 100 most influential people in the world, is the president of Give an Hour. A licensed clinical psychologist who has been practicing in the Washington, D.C., area for over 20 years, she received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Maryland in 1991. Concerned about the mental health implications of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Van Dahlen founded Give an Hour in 2005 to enlist mental health professionals to provide free services to U.S. troops, veterans, their loved ones, and their communities. In June of 2019, she was named the executive director of the Task Force to create the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS).*

[Will a new push to end veteran suicide have more success than past promises?](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 17 July 2020]

*According to VA department records, more veterans died by suicide from 2005 and 2017 (nearly 79,000) than the total number of U.S. troops who died in 30 years of war in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan (about 65,000). “I still talk to people who never heard that 20 veterans die by suicide each day,” said Danica Thomas, whose Army veteran husband, Allen, suffered from combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder and died by suicide in 2013. “It’s a shock to them that the problem is that large.” So for Thomas and Rasor-Cordero, the recent White House announcement of a [new nationwide awareness campaign](#) on veterans suicide prevention and intervention represents a new — and potentially lifesaving — opportunity to start an overdue public conversation on the issue. But they are also anxious to make sure that discussion goes further than just more talk.*

## **VETERANS**

[Report shows high demand for treating vets with substance abuse and mental health problems](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 22 July 2020]

*Rand Corp., a nonprofit think tank, [released findings](#) that show a high demand among the veteran population for treatment that concurrently targets substance abuse disorders and mental health problems. Veterans who served after the 9/11 terrorist attacks are at “particularly high risk” for having both, the report says. The most common combination is alcohol-use disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder or depression. The most common theory about the high prevalence of both problems is that veterans use drugs and alcohol to “avoid or numb themselves” to the symptoms, the report says. Veterans who suffer from both substance abuse and mental health problems are more likely to have poor relationships and physical and behavioral health problems.*

[Some Gold Star orphans left without any military assistance under current benefits rules](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 20 July 2020]

*After Gold Star wife Cheryl Lankford was diagnosed with cancer, she spent the final few months of her life working to make sure that military health and financial benefits for her 15-year-old son, Jonathan Jr., wouldn’t die with her. As the son of a fallen soldier — Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Lankford Sr. died of a heart attack in Iraq in 2007 — Jonathan Jr. is eligible for military health care, survivors’ payouts, education assistance and other Defense Department benefits. When his father died, the Army sent a casualty assistance officer to their house to help sort through all the confusing and copious paperwork. But when Cheryl died in May, no such assistance was offered. Since she was not an active military member, defense officials had no requirement to send assistance to help the orphaned minor, even though his mother’s death cut off his access to all of those military benefits.*

[Veteran Status Left Out of Census Count](#) [Megan Tomasic, *The Pittsburg Tribune-Review*, 12 July 2020]

*It’s not just a point of pride for those who have served. Data generated by the census determines state and federal funding, as government services are allocated according to demographics. Without such a designation, organizations that focus on helping veterans find jobs and housing may not receive enough funding to support the people they serve. Last year, the former head of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs pushed for the census to include a question about veterans, the Associated Press reported. Terry Schow, a Vietnam veteran, said the question would give states a*

*more accurate count of people with military service. The veteran question has not been on the census since 2000, spokeswoman Susan Licate said.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)