

# DEOMI NEWS LINKS, JULY 31, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

[Coast Guard Makes History with First Female Gunner's Mate Master Chief](#) [*Coast Guard News*, 24 July 2020]

*The gunner's mate rating in the Coast Guard has been around for 230 years and has never had a female in the senior-most leadership position. That is until now. Laurie A. Kennedy became the first-ever female to become a master chief in the gunner's mate rating and the rating force master chief, the primary advisor and advocate for the job field, on July 21, 2020. Known to be exceptional marksmen and firearms instructors, gunner's mates work with all types of ordnance, from handguns and rifles to shipboard cannons, and have been a part of Coast Guard history since the very beginning. "When I joined I just wanted to be impactful," said Kennedy. "I never would have imagined that I would be pinning on master chief and breaking a ceiling. I've worked with those who believed that women shouldn't be allowed to work in the Coast Guard but I also know that there have been women before me that have helped pave this path."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Gen. Berger: Marine Corps looking to make the force more diverse](#) [Caitlin M. Kenney, *Stars and Stripes*, 24 July 2020]

*The Marine Corps must listen more to Marines when it comes to issues of diversity and inclusion amid the ongoing national conversation about systemic racism that erupted a few months ago, said Gen. David Berger, the service's commandant. "I'll never have lived the life of an African-American officer in the Marine Corps, I will not have lived that life. What I can do? Listen, understand, try to empathize, so that we can make adjustments within our service to change the way that some people view... either a conscious bias or an unconscious bias, either way," Berger said Thursday. "We got to change the way that we discuss things, the way that we understand them. And that means a lot more listening." The Marine Corps is focused on looking into the deeper reasons why certain groups of people are not as represented in specific career fields, such as in combat arms or aviation.*

[Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation \[OPINION\]](#) [John Lewis, *The New York Times*, 30 July 2020]

*While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.*

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## CULTURE

[Domino's New Zealand drops "free pizza for Karen" offer after backlash](#) [*BBC News*, 30 July 2020]

*A giveaway, titled "Calling all (nice) Karens" was posted on the pizza chain's Australian and New Zealand pages. It asked those named Karen to tell Domino's in 250 words how they were one of the*

*“nice ones”. “The name ‘Karen’ has become synonymous with anyone who is entitled, selfish and likes to complain,” Domino’s chief marketing officer in the region, Allan Collins, said while introducing the offer. The offer was immediately criticised, with many arguing “Karen negativity” was an issue that affected mostly “privileged White women”. “If a few people actually called Karen can’t handle the meme they should try handling 400 years of oppression,” said one user on Twitter. Even before the offer, the term “Karen” has proved controversial online. Many have argued using the name as an insult is itself racist and misogynistic.*

[Advocates Rally to Tear Down Highways That Bulldozed Black Neighborhoods](#) [Caitlin Dewey, Stateline, 28 July 2020]

*As protesters in cities from Richmond, Virginia, to San Francisco toppled statues last month, urban planner Amy Stelly allowed herself to hope that New Orleans might soon fell its own worst “racist monument.” For much of her life, Stelly, who is Black, has lived in the shadow of the Claiborne expressway, an elevated freeway built through the Tremé, Tulane/Gravier and 7th Ward neighborhoods. She has fought to tear down the highway and restore this commercial corridor at the heart of Black New Orleans, but faced skepticism, indifference and inertia.*

[Cosmetology students, hairstylists describe a race divide](#) [Leanne Italie, The Associated Press, 28 July 2020]

*After repeatedly being denied service by high-end salons because her hair was perceived as “too difficult” to style, Kanessa Alexander took an unusual step. She opened a shop of her own in a predominantly White Boston neighborhood with four Black stylists serving all hair textures. “I wanted to be someplace where we existed but were not represented,” the African American cosmetologist said of her decision five years ago to set up Perfect 10 in West Roxbury, near where she grew up. “So many salons were just seeing a Black person.” The lack of experience, or interest, is particularly acute when it comes to hair worn naturally, a growing trend among African American women who want to celebrate both personal identity and Black culture. “They didn’t learn Black hair. They’ve been taught Black hair is difficult,” Alexander said. “Nobody will come in here and hear that their hair is too difficult.”*

[Preferred gender pronoun primer \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Edgar Allen Beem, The Portland Press Herald, (Portland, Ore.), 28 July 2020]

*Though I have written for publication since 1965, I had never run into the use of gender-neutral pronouns until a couple of weeks ago and then I blew it. To begin with, I was not told that the subject of my article used “they/them/theirs,” not “she/her/hers,” but when we did try to make the requested corrections I still messed up and referred to the person as a “gay woman.” “I am not a gay woman, nor am I any kind of woman,” they wrote back. “I am a queer person who identifies as non-binary. I would appreciate these changes being made immediately and respected in the future.” “Frankly, this is incredibly upsetting,” they complained as I struggled to get it right. “This kind of ignorance surrounding the queer community is very hard to deal with.”*

[SEE ALSO] [What Are Personal Pronouns and Why Do They Matter?](#)

[Arkansas senator describes slavery as “necessary evil”](#) [BBC News, 27 July 2020]

*In a local newspaper interview, Republican Tom Cotton said he rejected the idea that the U.S. was a systemically racist country to its core. Senator Cotton told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette: “We*

*have to study the history of slavery and its role and impact on the development of our country because otherwise we can't understand our country. "As the Founding Fathers said, it was the necessary evil upon which the union was built, but the union was built in a way, as [Abraham] Lincoln said, to put slavery on the course to its ultimate extinction." On Thursday Senator Cotton introduced the [Saving American History Act](#), aimed at stopping funding for 1619, an initiative which bases U.S. history teaching around the first arrivals of slave ships in the U.S. in August of that year. The project won the Pulitzer prize for commentary for its founder, the New York Times journalist Nicole Hannah-Jones, but it has been criticised by many U.S. conservatives, with Senator Cotton describing it as "left-wing propaganda".*

[Black soldiers' monument faces scrutiny amid racial reckoning](#) [Philip Marcelo, *The Associated Press*, 27 July 2020]

*For L'Merchie Frazier, the towering bronze relief in downtown Boston captures the stirring call to arms answered by Black soldiers who served in the state's famed Civil War fighting unit, which was popularized in the 1989 Oscar-winning movie "Glory." But the longtime Boston artist says she understands how the imagery of the Robert Gould Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial can conjure mixed feelings as the nation takes another hard look at its monuments and memorials in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. "Whose story is being told with this monument?" said Frazier, who is the education director at the nearby Museum of African American History. "The hierarchy is very evident. White commander out front; Black soldiers in the background. It's the first thing you see."*

[House approves bill to create Latino museum on National Mall](#) [Matthew Daly, *The Associated Press*, 27 July 2020]

*The House has passed a bill to establish a Smithsonian museum for American Latinos that would showcase Latino history, art and culture. The bill was approved Monday by a voice vote and now goes to the Senate, where it has bipartisan support. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus hailed the bill's passage, noting that a museum honoring Latinos has been under consideration for more than 15 years. "The Latino story is an American story, and our history is a central thread in the history of our nation," said Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, the group's chairman.*

["Whitening" creams undergo a makeover but colorism persists](#) [NBC News, 27 July 2020]

*The world's biggest cosmetics companies have been selling a fairy tale that often goes something like this: If your husband's lost interest in you, if your colleagues dismiss you at work, if your talents are ignored, whiten your skin to turn your love life around, boost your career and command center stage. No company has had greater success peddling this message across Asia, Africa and the Middle East than Unilever's Fair & Lovely brand, which sells millions of tubes of skin lightening cream annually for as little as \$2 a piece in India. Following decades of pervasive advertising promoting the power of lighter skin, a rebranding is hitting shelves. But it's unlikely that fresh marketing by the world's biggest brands in beauty will reverse deeply rooted prejudices around "colorism," the idea that fair skin is better than dark skin.*

[Everywhere and nowhere: The many layers of "cancel culture"](#) [Hillel Italie, *The Associated Press*, 26 July 2020]

*So you've probably read a lot about "cancel culture." Or know about a new poll that shows a plurality of Americans disapproving of it. Or you may have heard about a letter in Harper's Magazine condemning censorship and intolerance. But can you say exactly what "cancel culture" is? Some takes: "It seems like a buzzword that creates more confusion than clarity," says the author and journalist George Packer, who went on to call it "a mechanism where a chorus of voices, amplified on social media, tries to silence a point of view that they find offensive by trying to damage or destroy the reputation of the person who has given offense." In tweets, online letters, opinion pieces and books, conservatives, centrists and liberals continue to denounce what they call growing intolerance for opposing viewpoints and the needless ruining of lives and careers. A [Politico/Morning Consult poll](#) released last week shows 44% of Americans disapprove of it, 32% approve and the remaining 24% had no opinion or didn't know what it was.*

[Racial justice turns to Navy ships named for Confederate battles, segregationists](#) [John Wilkens, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 26 July 2020]

*Statues have been toppled. Flags have been lowered. America's reckoning with its history of racism has spread across the country and is now casting its eyes toward the sea. Recent media reports say Navy leaders privately have been discussing what to do about the ships amid a broader Department of Defense review of names and symbols that honor those who fought to preserve slavery or uphold White supremacy. Both the U.S. Senate and House passed \$741 billion defense-authorization bills last week that include language calling on the Pentagon to strip its property of ties to the Confederacy. Although most of the attention so far has been on the 10 Army bases that are named after Confederate officers, including Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Hood in Texas, and Fort Benning in Georgia, the bills include provisions that apply to ships, too.*

[Effort to Change VA Motto Triggers Heated Exchange in Hearing](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 24 July 2020]

*The Department of Veterans Affairs' No. 2 [Pamela Powers] official outlined steps aimed at "changing the culture" of the VA to curb sexual harassment of employees and patients, but said she drew the line at changing the agency's iconic motto quoting President Abraham Lincoln. Powers engaged in testy exchanges with Rep. Kathleen Rice, D-New York, who has sponsored a bill to change the VA's motto, taken from Lincoln's majestic Second Inaugural Address: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." The message from Powers is that the "service and experience of women didn't matter to you or the VA," Rice charged. The motto can have the effect of keeping women from seeking health care at the VA, Rice said. "You immediately feel like you don't belong there."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[New Army Assessment Aims to Reduce Bias When Choosing Colonels for Command](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 24 July 2020]

*A new Army program to assess whether rising colonels are ready for brigade command and other key assignments will feature safeguards to reduce bias against minority groups. In September, the Army will hold its first Colonels Command Assessment Program (CCAP), a four-day assessment to determine officers' readiness for command and their strategic potential, according to a service news release. In addition to undergoing a series of assessments, participants will go through an Army Comprehensive Talent Interview that features built-in mechanisms to reduce conscious and*

*unconscious bias, according to the release. Each interview panel will include diverse representation to provide multiple, independent perspectives, including race, gender, branch category and military experience, the release states.*

[How the autobiography of a Muslim slave is challenging an American narrative](#) [Amna Nawaz and Leah Nagy, *PBS*, 23 July 2020]

*Omar Ibn Said was 37 years old when he was taken from his West African home and transported to Charleston, South Carolina, as a slave in the 1800s. Now, his one-of-a-kind autobiographical manuscript has been translated from its original Arabic and housed at the Library of Congress, where it “annihilates” the conventional narrative of African slaves as uneducated and uncultured.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Searing Heat Will Make COVID-19 Racial Disparities Worse](#) [Teresa Wiltz, *Stateline*, 30 July 2020]

*The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting the next three months will be [hotter than normal](#) for much of the country; 2020, it says, likely will rank as one of the hottest years on record. Communities of color, particularly lower-income Black and Latino neighborhoods, will be particularly affected. Extreme heat likely will push more residents into crowded cooling centers, where they may be exposed to the virus, and worsen breathing problems and other underlying health conditions that already disproportionately affect people of color, researchers say. “Both short- and long-term approaches are needed,” said Dr. Caren Solomon, a physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. Solomon is a co-author of an article published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) that said extreme heat poses additional challenges to COVID-19 mitigation efforts, as cooling centers may become crowded from households lacking air conditioning or facing heat-related electrical blackouts.*

[Virtual Learning Means Unequal Learning: It’s harder for younger, special needs children.](#) [Elaine S. Povich, *Stateline*, 29 July 2020]

*Karen Reyes, who teaches deaf and hard-of-hearing children in Austin, Texas, worries about her first-grade pupils who will be learning online this fall. She’s concerned that virtual learning is harder for younger, special needs children, especially those who may not have as much support at home as students in more affluent communities. “It has brought out a lot of the inequities in our district, especially in special education,” Reyes said of the distance learning program. In her school, 93% of the students are considered economically disadvantaged, according to a city estimate. “Either one or both of the parents have to work,” said Reyes, 31, who also is a leader in the local American Federation of Teachers chapter, in a phone interview. “That makes it even harder because small children need adults with them when they are learning.”*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Air Force allows pregnant service members to take professional education courses without waiver](#) [Brian Ferguson, *Stars and Stripes*, 30 July 2020]

*Pregnant and postpartum service members can now attend professional military education courses without an exception to policy or a current passing fitness assessment, the Air Force said Wednesday. The previous policy prevented pregnant women and those within their one-year*

*postpartum deferment period from attending the courses, creating an obstacle to reaching their career milestones, a service statement said. “Empowering women to make a decision about the right time to attend PME, especially during or after pregnancy, is the right thing to do,” said Gwendolyn DeFilippi, assistant deputy director of Air Force manpower, personnel and services. The policy change was introduced through the Women’s Initiative Team, which was created to address barriers for women in the Air Force.*

[House passes amendment barring funding for transgender troops ban](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*, 30 July 2020]

*The House on Thursday passed an amendment aimed at overturning the Trump administration’s transgender military ban. The measure, from Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) and 28 Democratic co-sponsors, was approved by voice vote as part of a group of a few dozen amendments passed while the House considers a \$1.3 trillion spending package that includes the fiscal 2021 defense appropriations bill. The amendment would block the use of funds to implement the Pentagon’s transgender service policy, which says transgender people can only serve in the military if they do so in their biological sex or get a waiver.*

[“The Jet Doesn’t Care:” 1st Female F-35 Demo Pilot Says She's Focused on Excellence](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 30 July 2020]

*Capt. Kristin “Beo” Wolfe, the new face of the U.S. Air Force’s F-35 Joint Strike Fighter demonstration team, is “used to” being outnumbered as a female pilot. Wolfe, of the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, has served in the Air Force for nearly a decade. But now, as the first woman ever to hold her job, she knows there’s an additional expectation to perform with superiority and excellence.” A lot of people have [misconceptions] still about either females flying or females being fighter pilots, all the way from little kids ... to adults,” she said in a recent interview with *Military.com*. “So that’s probably the most important part, is that they get to see it ... for them to see that anything’s possible.” At the same time, she said, “the jet doesn’t care if you’re a male or female.”*

[Record number of Black women set to run for U.S. Congress](#) [Makini Brice, *Reuters*, 27 July 2020]

*Joyce Elliott, an Arkansas state senator who is seeking a U.S. congressional seat in November, was the second Black student to attend her local public high school; the first was her older sister. If elected in November, she will be the first Black lawmaker in Congress from Arkansas, ever. As the United States grapples with a deadly coronavirus pandemic that has disproportionately sickened and killed Black Americans and recent upheaval over police brutality, a record number of Black women are running for Congress. Elliott is one of at least 122 Black or multi-racial Black women who filed to run for congressional seats in this year’s election; this figure has increased steadily since 2012, when it was 48, according to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP).*

[When it comes to congressional oversight of our military, the U.S. has a serious diversity problem](#) [OPINION] [Brian Greer, *The Washington Post*, 27 July 2020]

*The House and Senate Armed Services Committees are two of the most powerful standing committees in Congress. They provide oversight and set funding levels for the Department of Defense and portions of the Department of Energy -- nearly half of the government’s discretionary budget. The Senate Armed Services Committee has the distinguished mission of advising and*

*consenting on the nominations of both senior military and civilian nominees for the Defense Department. But African American voices are almost nowhere to be found on those critical committees.*

[Asian American/Pacific Islander Team joins the Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, 15 July 2020]

*The Department of the Air Force’s [Diversity and Inclusion Task Force](#) achieved another milestone June 30, when the Department’s Barrier Analysis Working Group (DAFBAWG) was expanded to include an Asian American/Pacific Islander Team. This is the sixth team to be established, joining the Senior Leader Advancement Team and four other affinity-based teams: Black/African American Employment Strategy Team, Hispanic Employment Analysis Team, Women’s Initiatives Team and Disability Team. “Many Asian American/Pacific Islander Air Force members have little awareness of the true size and scope of our demographic in the services, and I believe the DAFBAWG team can energize these Airmen through exposure to individuals with similar backgrounds, experiences and challenges,” said Capt. Moses Lee, operations officer of the 10th Security Forces Squadron at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and a member of the newly formed DAFBAWG team.*

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[“Success Addicts” Choose Being Special Over Being Happy](#) [COMMENTARY] [Arthur C. Brooks, *The Atlantic*, 30 July 2020]

*The pursuit of achievement distracts from the deeply ordinary activities and relationships that make life meaningful. American culture valorizes overwork, which makes it easy to slip into a mindset that can breed success addiction. Many scholars, such as the psychologist Barbara Killinger, have [shown](#) that people willingly sacrifice their own well-being through overwork to keep getting hits of success. I know a thing or two about this: As I once found myself confessing to a close friend, “I would prefer to be special than happy.” He asked why. “Anyone can do the things it takes to be happy—going on vacation with family, relaxing with friends ... but not everyone can accomplish great things. “But if you’ve seen yourself in my description, don’t lose hope. There is plenty you can do to retrain yourself to chase happiness instead of success, no matter where you are in your life’s journey.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

[“Brandon Act” to Give Troops Confidential Mental Health Treatment Gets Senate Boost](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 29 July 2020]

*A bill that would give service members a way to get mental health treatment without going through their chains of command received a boost Tuesday after being introduced in the Senate by Arizona Republican Martha McSally. Named for a Navy sailor who died in June 2018 by suicide after he was bullied and harassed by his supervisors, the Brandon Act passed the House last month as an amendment to the fiscal 2021 defense policy bill. Aircrew Aviation Electrician’s Mate Striker Brandon Caserta’s experience was first reported in an [award-winning](#) article on *Military.com*.*

[Experts worry about errors if census schedule is sped up](#) [Mike Schneider, *The Associated Press*, 29 July 2020]

*Census Bureau officials had warned as recently as early July that it was already too late to have the numbers ready without an extension. And outside experts predicted Tuesday that speeding up the timetable would lead to an inaccurate head count that misses people in hard-to-count minority communities. More than 62% of households had responded to the census as of Sunday, leaving about 55 million households that will require visits by census takers. A Pew Research Center survey taken in June highlights the difficulties already facing census takers, with 40% of adults who say they have not yet responded to the census answering that they wouldn't be willing to open their door for a census taker.*

[Holocaust survivors urge Facebook to remove denial posts](#) [David Rising, *The Associated Press*, 29 July 2020]

*Holocaust survivors around the world are lending their voices to a campaign launched Wednesday targeting Facebook head Mark Zuckerberg, urging him to take action to remove denial of the Nazi genocide from the social media site. Coordinated by the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the #NoDenyingIt campaign uses Facebook itself to make the survivors' entreaties to Zuckerberg heard, [posting one video per day](#) urging him to remove Holocaust-denying groups, pages and posts as hate speech. Videos will also be posted on Facebook-owned Instagram, as well as Twitter.*

[At 88, he is a historical rarity — the living son of a slave](#) [Sydney Trent, *The Washington Post*, 27 July 2020]

*The whipping post. The lynching tree. The wagon wheel. They were the stories of slavery, an inheritance of fear and dread, passed down from father to son. The boy, barely 5, would listen, awed, as his father spoke of life in Virginia, where he had been born into bondage on a plantation during the Civil War and suffered as a child laborer afterward. As unlikely as it might seem, that boy, Daniel Smith, is still alive at 88, a member of an almost vanished demographic: The child of someone once considered a piece of property instead of a human being. Long after leaving Massies Mill, Va., and moving up North as a young man in his 20s, Smith's father, Abram Smith, married a woman who was decades younger and fathered six children. Dan, the fifth, was born in 1932 when Abram was 70. Only one sibling besides Dan — Abe, 92 — is still alive.*

[Body of civil rights icon John Lewis crosses Selma bridge](#) [Kim Chandler, *The Associated Press*, 27 July 2020]

*The late U.S. Rep. John Lewis crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, for the final time Sunday as remembrances continue for the civil rights icon. The bridge became a landmark in the fight for racial justice when Lewis and other civil rights marchers were beaten there 55 years ago on "Bloody Sunday," a key event that helped galvanize support for the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Lewis returned to Selma each March in commemoration. As the black wagon pulled by a team of dark-colored horses approached the bridge, members of the crowd shouted "Thank you, John Lewis!" and "Good trouble!" the phrase Lewis used to describe his tangles with White authorities during the civil rights movement.*

[Without water: The Navajo Nation occupies nearly 30,000 square miles of territory across parts of three Western states, bountiful in its beauty but often barren of the most basic needs.](#) [CBS News, 26 July 2020]

*COVID hit this community especially hard; infections per capita were higher than even New York's at its peak. While health officials warned the nation to wash our hands frequently, here that basic protection is a luxury. In more than a third of the homes, the taps are bone dry. Not a drop. No one even knew just how bad the problem was – no government agency keeps track – so DigDeep, along with the U.S. Water Alliance, conducted their own survey. The results showed that two million Americans – and probably more – are suffering today with no safe running water, or even plumbing, in their homes. “Most Americans take it completely for granted; they thought this problem was solved a long time ago,” said George McGraw, founder and CEO of the non-profit DigDeep. “These communities are our invisible neighbors,” said McGraw, “the ones that for whatever reason their neighbors around them didn't want to see, didn't want to look at, didn't want to acknowledge. But I see that changing.”*

[For Latinos, Coronavirus Risks Tied to Everyday Life](#) [Gaby Galvin, U.S. News and World Report, 24 July 2020]

*As of June 8, 33% of COVID-19 cases with known race and ethnicity in the U.S. had been among Latinos, according to the study, published in the journal [Annals of Epidemiology](#). Latinos make up approximately 18% of the U.S. population, and also account for about 1 in 5 deaths from the disease. Yet while infection disparities have been stark in the Northeast, Midwest and the West, coronavirus risks among Latinos varied by region, the study shows. And factors tied to exposure to the virus, such as housing and employment, have generally played a bigger role than health status. “Latinos in different areas of our country are having different experiences in the pandemic,” says Carlos Rodríguez-Díaz, the study's lead author and an associate professor at George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health. “We need to understand the heterogeneity or the diversity within the Latino community before describing the pandemic in the United States among Latinos.”*

[Tips for the 2 Kinds of People Who Work from Home](#) [Allison Clark, Futurity, 23 July 2020]

*Research suggests there are two types of employees who work from home: segmenters and integrators. Segmenters like to keep work at work and home at home, unlike integrators, who are content to bounce back and forth between home and work obligations, polishing a project at 10 PM and folding laundry between meetings. But both types need recovery time to stay healthy and productive. In a 2019 analysis of 198 studies published in the [Journal of Management](#), Swider and colleagues found that recovery time led to better job performance as well as better sleep, less fatigue, and improved mental wellbeing and life satisfaction. “Being able to recover away from work is beneficial, and that's so much harder when work is in your home. It's important to take that time to separate, but how you do that while working from home is going to be different for everyone.”*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **MISCONDUCT**

[Senators Demand “Immediate Action” After Explosive Report on Navy Sex Trafficking Scandal](#) [Gina Harkins, [Military.com](#), 29 July 2020]

*Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten Gillibrand and Tammy Baldwin sent a letter to Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite on Tuesday, calling on him to respond to a host of questions about how the service is responding to charges that sailors in the Middle East were attempting to [recruit and harbor women](#) for commercial sex acts. Navy Times recently [published a series of stories](#) that detailed the Naval Criminal Investigative Service probes into sailors trafficking Thai women to work as prostitutes in Bahrain. The senators said they're concerned the problems uncovered by the NCIS investigation in Bahrain mean the problem isn't limited to that location. "Even the perception that Navy personnel could be involved in trafficking is damaging to the local and global perception of Navy forces," they wrote. "... We strongly encourage the Navy to tailor training for locations where human trafficking is more prevalent, as it did in ... 5th Fleet."*

[Senior chief facing court-martial for sexual assault and other charges](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, Navy Times, 27 July 2020]

*A Mississippi-based U.S. Navy senior chief is facing court-martial over allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman and threatened to distribute nude photos on social media, among other alleged crimes, according to charge sheets. Assigned to the Seventh Naval Construction Regiment in Gulfport, Mississippi, the senior chief also faces a charge for threatening to distribute nude photographs of a woman on social media in September, according to charge sheets. He is also charged with disobeying a senior officer when he communicated with "a named protected person in a Military Protective Order" in September and October, after a superior officer told him not to communicate with the individual, according to his charge sheet.*

## **RACISM**

[Anti-Asian racism during COVID-19 has historical ties in United States](#) [Chelsea Davis, Iowa State University News Service, (Ames, Iowa), 29 July 2020]

*Anti-Asian hate crimes during health crises are unfortunately not new, according to a new academic paper examining the history of this phenomenon. The paper, published recently in the peer-reviewed [American Journal of Criminal Justice](#), was co-authored by Shannon Harper, assistant professor of criminal justice at Iowa State University; Angela Gover, professor of criminology and criminal justice at University of Colorado Denver; and Lynn Langton, senior research criminologist at RTI International. The team looked at how anti-Asian hate crimes – including verbal harassment and physical violence – during the COVID-19 pandemic have furthered the historical "othering" of Asian Americans and reproduced inequalities.*

[Jihadist plots used to be U.S. and Europe's biggest terrorist threat. Now it's the far right.](#) [Willem Marx, NBC News, 27 July 2020]

*The threat of terrorism — particularly from the far right — should be a major concern for governments on both sides of the Atlantic as coronavirus restrictions continue to ease, according to multiple experts and former law enforcement officials who have experience monitoring violent extremist activity. High unemployment levels due to the pandemic, poor economic prospects and the spread of disinformation through the internet and social media could accelerate radicalization, they said. And after a major drive by law enforcement agencies to disrupt the organizing potential of violent Islamist movements in the United States and in Europe, where hundreds of people have*

*returned from the battlefields in Iraq and Syria, recent analysis suggests far-right groups now pose the most significant threat to public safety.*

[The Air Force Wanted Feedback on Racial Injustice. The Response Was Overwhelming](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 25 July 2020]

*When the U.S. Air Force introduced a new survey earlier this month that asked airmen to describe racial injustice or bias they'd witnessed or experienced during their careers, leaders figured they'd get a lot of feedback. Now, the survey -- part of a larger intraservice study -- is on track to shatter response rate records, according to the Air Force's top general. Goldfein said the response is timely; the service is addressing racial disparities across the force as the entire nation grapples with the realities of systemic racism and injustice. "There's a lot of frustration -- a lot of it's been pent up over many years," Goldfein said. "And we're not going to wait until the end [of the study] before we put out what we're hearing."*

[Is the Air Force survey on race biased? \[OPINION\]](#) [Lt. Col. Tibebu Tsegga, *Air Force Times*, 25 July 2020]

*I recently completed the Independent Racial Disparity Review conducted by the Air Force Inspector General. The intention of the review seemed amicable, the layout was concise and the questions were straightforward. However, after I completed the first few questions of the review, I found it evident that the pathology (institutional racial disparity) and the etiology (White airmen with fiduciary or supervisory roles) were both predetermined, leading to the main thrust of the investigation: to elicit the severity of the pathology in order to suggest and then presumably institute a commensurate therapy.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## **RELIGION**

[Air Force Special Operations Approves First Beard, Turban Waiver for Sikh Airman](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 30 July 2020]

*In a first for the command, Air Force Special Operations Command has granted a religious accommodation waiver to a Sikh airman. Senior Airman Dominic Varriale was granted the waiver last month, according to an Air Force release. He serves as a geospatial intelligence analyst with the 11th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron. With the help of his command leadership and the Sikh American Veterans Alliance (SAVA), an advocacy organization, Varriale was able to expedite the approval process, which normally takes up to three years, to only three months, the release states.*

[Sailor gets OK to grow 4-inch beard, pushes Navy to grant career-length waiver](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 28 July 2020]

*Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Leo Katsareas can, for the first time in his Navy career, wear a beard consistent with his religious beliefs while in uniform -- at least for now. The Navy's personnel chief granted Katsareas, a Muslim sailor, a special grooming accommodation to grow his facial hair up to 4 inches long. Katsareas, who converted to Islam at age 16, believes his faith requires him to wear a fist-length beard. "The ongoing threat of being required to immediately shave places pressure on my religious beliefs," Katsareas told *Military.com*. "Across the board, an*

*accommodation geared toward a career rather than a single duty would better recognize the importance of religion to many sailors.”*

[Pilgrims arrive in Mecca for downsized hajj amid pandemic](#) [Aya Batrawy, *The Associated Press*, 27 July 2020]

*Muslim pilgrims have started arriving in Mecca for a drastically scaled-down hajj, as Saudi authorities balance the kingdom’s oversight of one of Islam’s key pillars and the safety of visitors in the face of a global pandemic. The hajj, which begins on Wednesday, normally draws around 2.5 million people for five intense days of worship in one of the world’s largest gatherings of people from around the world. This year, Saudi Arabia’s Hajj Ministry has said between 1,000 and 10,000 people already residing in the kingdom will be allowed to perform the pilgrimage. Two-thirds of those pilgrims will be from among foreign residents in Saudi Arabia and one-third will be Saudi citizens.*

[Supreme Court Rejects Nevada Church’s Challenge to Coronavirus Restrictions](#) [Brittany Bernstein, *The National Review*, 27 July 2020]

*In a 5-4 decision Friday, the Supreme Court denied a request from a Nevada church to block enforcement of state restrictions on attendance at religious services due to the coronavirus pandemic. The church argued that the policy, which limited in-person church attendance to 50 people, violated the constitution by treating church services differently than other large gatherings such as casinos, gyms and restaurants. Attorneys for Nevada argued that the state’s policy — which Democratic governor Steve Sisolak extended through July last month when he paused the state’s reopening in Phase 2, limiting mass gatherings to 50 people — must be different from policies for “individual engagement in commerce.” “Temporarily narrowing restrictions on the size of mass gatherings, including for religious services, protects the health and well-being of Nevada citizens during a global pandemic,” the state said.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[House women veterans caucus wants action on Vanessa Guillen murder, sexual misconduct reforms](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 30 July 2020]

*The [House women veterans caucus](#) is demanding congressional hearings into the killing of Fort Hood soldier Spc. Vanessa Guillen and broader inquiries into solutions to the military’s problem of sexual assault. “For too long, sexual assault has been a shameful and unacceptable part of our military. As former service members, we have experienced and witnessed sexual harassment in our own careers and know firsthand that it is past time for serious change,” the women wrote in a letter to the leadership of both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees late Wednesday. They are calling for the military oversight committees to schedule hearings.*

[Army says Fort Hood sex assault-harassment program meets service standards, but lawmakers argue changes must be made](#) [Caitin M. Kenney, *Stars and Stripes*, 29 July 2020]

*Vanessa Guillen’s disappearance and death in April sparked an inspection of Fort Hood’s Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention program by investigators with the U.S. Army Forces Command. On Wednesday, Col. Patrick Wempe, the inspector general of the command, told House lawmakers that Fort Hood’s SHARP program meets the Army’s standard. “No single*

*inspection can be definitive. We believe our inspection results provide an accurate assessment of the SHARP program and climate at Fort Hood. While differences may exist in individual units, Fort Hood overall is meeting the standards prescribed by Army regulations and policies, and the FORSCOM team is committed to improvements,” he said.*

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

[At hearing on military harassment, concerns about sex abuse in Coast Guard are aired](#) [Kevin G. Hall, *McClatchy*, 29 July 2020]

*“In an institution that prides itself in cohesiveness, to leave no soldier behind, we are failing,” Rep. Jackie Speier, D-California, who heads the Military Personnel subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, said at the start of the emotional hearing she chaired. In Speier’s opening remarks she also cited the recent McClatchy-Miami Herald series [Silenced No More](#), which detailed retaliation for reporting incidents of sexual harassment and improper conduct. “The Coast Guard is outside this committee’s jurisdiction but the cultural rot is the same,” said Speier, citing the dozens of women who have stepped forward to tell their stories after the ongoing series began running on July 13. In that series, McClatchy and the Herald provided a survey for Coast Guard personnel past and present to reach out and tell their stories, either with their names attached or anonymously. The correspondence came from current and past service members who told of rape, harassment, verbal abuse and indiscipline.*

[REPRINT]

## SUICIDE

[IG report shows how VA doctor’s misconduct, patient abuse led to veteran’s suicide](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 28 July 2020]

*A veteran battling opioid withdrawal and suicidal thoughts begged to stay at the Washington veterans hospital one night in early 2019. Instead, a doctor had the veteran escorted out by police and said the patient could “go shoot [themselves]. I do not care.” Six days later, the veteran died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The incident was the subject of an investigative report released Tuesday by the VA Office of Inspector General. The IG’s office deemed the doctor’s behavior as misconduct and patient abuse. The report does not identify the doctor or patient and omitted identifying factors, such as gender. The doctor continued to treat patients for nine more months before being fired. At that point, there had been two more allegations of verbal misconduct against them.*

[SEE ALSO]

## VETERANS

[USS Indianapolis Crew Awarded Congressional Gold Medal on 75th Anniversary of Sinking](#) [Sam LaGrone, *The United States Naval Institute News*, 29 July 2020]

*The survivors of one of World War II’s worst naval disasters were awarded Congressional Gold Medals in a ceremony last Friday. In the virtual ceremony, House Speaker Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) presented the medal to the survivors from the crew of USS Indianapolis (CA-35) ahead of the 75th anniversary of the July 30, 1945, sinking of the heavy cruiser by a Japanese submarine in the closing months of the war. “On behalf of the 1,195 Sailors and Marines who served aboard USS*

*Indianapolis, it is an honor to receive a Congressional Gold Medal,” Harold Bray, 93, the youngest remaining survivor and chair of the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Survivors Organization, said in a Wednesday statement provided to USNI News. “Eight survivors remain today, and we are proud to represent our shipmates who are no longer with us. We are very grateful to Congress for this special recognition.”*

[Air Force Veteran Shot and Killed in Austin Protest Remembered for Devotion to Fiancé, Racial Justice](#) [Katie Hall and Danny Davis, *The Austin American-Statesman*, (Austin, Texas), 27 July 2020]

*Garrett Foster, who was shot to death during a downtown Austin protest Saturday night, was remembered as a man dedicated to exercising his Second Amendment rights, stamping out racial injustice and caring for his fiancé, according to family and friends. Foster grew up in Plano and had been living in Austin with his fiancé, Whitney Mitchell, for about two years. Mitchell was at the protest in a wheelchair with him at the time, and the two had been to such events in downtown Austin against police violence for months, according to protesters and Foster’s family. Mitchell is Black and Foster is White, and issues of racial injustice were incredibly important to him, his family said. “They’ve experienced so much hate just for their relationship in general,” said his sister, Anna Mayo. “From day one, he’s fought to end that.”*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Better-Fitting Prosthetics for Female Veterans Funded in \\$241 Billion VA Proposal](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 27 July 2020]

*A \$241 billion Department of Veterans Affairs funding bill passed by the House on Friday requires VA to buy prosthetics designed to fit women veterans and conduct research on medical devices more suitable for the female frame. The VA funding bill, which must be reconciled with the Senate before it moves to President Donald Trump for signature, includes other provisions to improve the lives of former service members, including funding to ensure that veterans unable to have children as the result of severe combat injuries have access to adoption services or advanced reproductive technologies.*