

# DEOMI NEWS LINKS, AUGUST 21, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

[Van Ovost Sworn in as AMC Boss, Becoming Military's Only Female Four Star](#) [Brian W. Everstine, *Air Force Magazine*, 20 August 2020]

*When newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost tossed her cover in the sky as the Thunderbirds roared over Falcon Stadium, she was graduating into an Air Force that would repeatedly tell her “no.” After a delayed entry to the Academy because of not doing enough pull-ups to meet the requirement, she graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering. Despite years of flying experience and taking a test pilot short course, the Air Force at the time still wouldn't put a woman in the cockpit of a combat jet. And after graduating from undergraduate pilot training and asking to fly every fighter in the fleet, she was told to fly an airlifter. She later became a test pilot anyway. Now sworn in, her first order of business is to go with AMC's new command chief on a listening tour. “We're carefully, but understandably, teeing up these difficult conversations at the wing level, these small group conversations to get feedback, to ensure that we're candid, [and] respectfully going after people's diverse and different ideas about how they're being treated,” she said.*

[To get more female pilots, the Air Force is changing the way it designs weapons](#) [Valerie Insinna, *Air Force Times*, 19 August 2020]

*Like the vast majority of the Air Force's aircraft and aircrew equipment, the F-15 was designed to meet the anthropometric specifications of a male pilot in 1967. But in an Aug. 4 memo, the Air Force mandated that future weapons programs use current body size data that reflects the central 95 percent of the U.S. recruitment population — a move meant to make pilot and aircrew jobs more accessible to women and people of color. The legacy design parameters — which stem from a 1967 survey of male pilots and measure everything from a pilot's standing height, eye height while sitting, and reach — have effectively barred 44 percent of women from being able to fly aircraft unless they receive a waiver, with women of color disproportionately affected, the Air Force stated. Even after a waiver is granted, the pilot will remain disqualified from certain platforms regardless of his or her aptitude. Then, when future requirements are defined for new platforms or equipment, the systems are usually designed to meet the existing pool of pilots, creating a self-perpetuating problem.*

[Chief JoAnne Bass becomes 19th chief master sergeant of the Air Force as Wright retires](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 15 August 2020]

*Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne Bass on Friday became the 19th chief master sergeant of the Air Force at a ceremony at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. Bass is the first woman to serve as the highest-ranking noncommissioned officer in any of the military services. She is also the first person of Asian-American descent to be the Air Force's top enlisted leader. She succeeded Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright, who served in that role since February 2017 and retired at the ceremony. In her remarks, Bass noted the historic nature of her appointment as chief master sergeant of the Air Force, which followed the Aug. 6 swearing in of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown as the first Black service chief in U.S. military history.*

## **SPECIAL: THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19th AMENDMENT**

[Advocates plan birthday gift for the 19th Amendment: The ERA](#) [Jocelyn Noveck, *The Associated Press*, 17 August 2020]

*“To call them suffragists, it sounds like they only wanted one thing,” says Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority, of Paul and her colleagues. “The vote was an important step, but they didn’t believe the vote alone would give women full equality.” “Basically, we want to finish this,” she says. “The women’s movement is not giving up until this thing is in the Constitution, period.” Polling has indicated public support for the amendment. A February [poll](#) by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed that roughly 3 in 4 Americans support the ERA. Another significant finding: Most Americans mistakenly thought such a provision already existed. Nearly the same amount that approved of the measure, 72%, incorrectly believed the Constitution now guarantees men and women equal rights under the law.*

[In Women’s Suffrage, a Spotlight for Unsung Pioneers](#) [Sarah Bahr, *The New York Times*, 13 August 2020]

*Dozens of editors, writers, designers and photographers from inside and outside The Times spent the past year researching women of diverse backgrounds who were largely unknown but whose achievements deserved to be emphasized along with Anthony’s and Stanton’s. Among them is Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, a Chinese-American woman who as a teenager helped the women’s movement in New York City coordinate one of the biggest suffrage parades in U.S. history. And Mary Church Terrell, a founder of the National Association of Colored Women. The notables also included Maria W. Stewart, who in 1832 was one of the first American women to speak publicly about politics to audiences of mixed races and genders, and Jovita Idár, a teacher and writer who promoted the rights of Mexican-Americans. “There are so many names we don’t know that we should,” Ms. Chambers said.*

[To celebrate 19th Amendment, Lexington breaks “Bronze Ceiling” with statue honoring women](#) [Beth Musgrave, *The Lexington Herald-Leader*, (Lexington, Ky.), 20 August 2020]

*It was shortly after the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council voted in August 2017 to move the statues of John C. Breckinridge and John Hunt Morgan that Councilwoman Jennifer Mossotti realized there were no statues of women in downtown Lexington. Media reports about the lack of statues or monuments honoring the achievements of women across the country plus the upcoming 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment spurred her into action. With the silhouettes of five 20-foot tall suffragists towering over him, Gov. Andy Beshear told a small crowd gathered in downtown Lexington on Wednesday night that it was long past time to honor the achievements of women but called on all Kentuckians to strive to make Kentucky a more inclusive and fair place for everyone. “We have 5,000 monuments in the United States and less than 7 percent of them are of women,” Beshear said. “I’m pretty proud that the city of Lexington built theirs big enough to be seen by everybody.”*

[Trump honors 100th anniversary of 19th Amendment by announcing pardon for Susan B. Anthony](#) [David Jackson and Michael Collins, *USA Today*, 18 August 2020]

*President Donald Trump paid tribute Tuesday to the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by announcing he would grant a pardon to suffragist Susan B. Anthony. Anthony, one of the leading figures in the movement to secure voting rights for women, was arrested for voting in Rochester, New York, in 1872, violating the laws that said only men could vote. She was convicted the following year...with first lady Melania Trump at his side, Trump signed a proclamation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the amendment, which was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920, giving women the right to vote.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The problem with celebrating the 19th Amendment \[OPINION\]](#) [Treva B. Lindsey, CNN, 18 August 2020]

*On August 18, 2020, many across the nation will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution; on that date, the state of Tennessee became the 36th and final state to vote in the amendment's favor. Often heralded as the historic moment in which American women were finally granted the right to vote, these centennial celebrations will honor almost a century of suffrage activism that led to such a significant, legal victory. And while those celebrations will rightfully encompass tales of heroism, persistence, mass protests, formidable allies and powerful solidarities, far too many will overlook the virulent racism, classism and xenophobia that plagued a storied movement for women's right to the elective franchise.*

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## CULTURE

[How do we save prisoners of the cultural war within our military? \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Sherman Gillums, Jr., *Military Times*, 21 August 2020]

*While it wasn't obvious to those who heard these words spoken by high school senior Thae Ohu during her Ted Talk on bullying, what was clear is she spoke with a sense of authority. What no one in the audience could've known is she was a survivor who'd seen her share of hardship, which, like many in search of a stronger self-identify, is why she joined the Marine Corps. Knowing that gives context to why Ohu, an intel school admin specialist, now sits in a military brig in Chesapeake, Virginia. The charge stems from an incident where a mental breakdown she suffered had escalated into an altercation with her boyfriend in the home they shared. As the facts of the case are unraveled, it appears to lend itself to a classic causality dilemma — the “chicken or the egg” metaphor, in lay terms — where the co-occurring legal and medical problems she faced made it hard to determine whether she broke the law or the system broke her first. this legal-medical entanglement is typical in such cases. Beneath the allegations in Ohu's case lies an unresolved sexual assault by a fellow Marine, a post-traumatic stress diagnosis along with a history of suicidal behavior, and attempts to separate her rather than take responsibility for her mental wellness.*

[Cincinnati Reds broadcaster Thom Brennaman suspended after on-air homophobic slur](#) [CBS News, 20 August 2020]

*Reds broadcaster Thom Brennaman has been suspended from working Cincinnati's games after using an anti-gay slur on the air Wednesday night, prompting the team to apologize for the “horrific, homophobic remark.” Brennaman used the slur moments after the Fox Sports Ohio feed returned from a commercial break. Brennaman didn't seem to realize he was already on the air.*

*Brennaman opened the fifth inning with an apology spoken directly to camera before handing off play-by-play duties. “I made a comment earlier tonight that I guess went out over the air that I am deeply ashamed of,” he said. “If I have hurt anyone out there, I can’t tell you how much I say from the bottom of my heart, I am very, very sorry.”*

#### [Kansas City Chiefs to ban fans from wearing headdresses and Native American-themed face paint](#)

[David Close and Nicole Chavez, CNN, 20 August 2020]

*“While we have discouraged fans from wearing headdresses for several years, effective immediately,” the NFL team said in a [statement](#), fans will be banned from entering Arrowhead Stadium if they wear headdresses. Fans will also be asked to remove face painting that is “styled in a way that references or appropriates American Indian cultures and traditions” to enter the stadium, the team said. The Chiefs are one of several American sports teams that have appropriated Native American imagery and traditions. On Thursday, it became the latest team to announce changes after years of criticism.*

#### [At Theaters, Push for Racial Equity Leads to Resignations and Restructuring](#) [Michael Paulson, *The New York Times*, 19 August 2020]

*Fifteen years ago, Paul Kuhn co-founded Philadelphia’s Curio Theater Company. Now, having reached the conclusion that his leadership is part of a racist power structure, Kuhn says he is relinquishing all authority to choose plays, directors and designers to a new co-artistic director, Rich Bradford, who is Black. And in New York City, William Carden is planning to leave Ensemble Studio Theater — a company he joined in 1978. All four people on its artistic staff are White, and Carden, who has been the artistic director since 2007, said he believes his departure is the way to prompt change. “The key to antiracism is sharing power,” Carden said. “It takes a lot of work and a lot of humility, and it requires that White people step aside.” The outcry over racial injustice this summer was followed at first by a wave of statements in which American theatrical institutions, with a flurry of news releases and website postings, declared themselves allies of the Black Lives Matter movement. Now there is a second wave: changes to leadership and practices at a handful of theaters around the country.*

#### [Major fantasy \[football\] sites replace terms such as “owned” and “auction” to be more inclusive](#)

[Des Bieler, *The Washington Post*, 19 August 2020]

*Four of the biggest fantasy football websites in terms of both content and league-hosting announced Wednesday that they were making changes to their fantasy-related terminology with a goal of greater inclusion. As [specified by Yahoo Sports](#), among the changes is replacing “owner” with “manager.” Instead of saying a given player is “owned,” the player will now be described as “rostered.” “Auction,” as a variety of league or draft, has been replaced by “Salary Cap.” An attempt to acquire a player in such a draft is now called an “offer,” instead of a “bid.” Yahoo Sports, ESPN Fantasy, CBS Sports Fantasy and NFL Fantasy said in a joint statement provided to *The Washington Post*: “The changes made to our games are part of an ongoing effort to improve the industry’s top fantasy games in ways that are more inclusive and better reflect the sense of community at the heart of fantasy sports. The updates replace outdated terminology used in past fantasy games with more appropriate language to describe the functions of day-to-day game play.”*

### [On remote Japanese isle, old bonds with America stir modern questions over race and identity](#)

[Simon Denyer, *The Washington Post*, 19 August 2020]

*Six hundred miles from Tokyo, on a Pacific island that takes 24 hours to reach by ship, live the remnants of a unique culture descended from American, European and Polynesian settlers who sought a new life almost 200 years ago. On the quiet streets of Chichijima walk Japanese people with foreign-looking faces, and names like Savory, Washington and Gonzalez. A few still speak a disappearing island dialect that mixes Japanese, English and the occasional Hawaiian word. It has been buffeted by winds of colonialism, nationalism and warfare, but survives as a melting pot of ethnicities, cultures and languages - a legacy that carries added resonance today in a world facing reckonings over identity and race.*

### [There's A Better Way To "Dub" Movie Audio For Visually Impaired Fans](#) [Jason Strother, *NPR*, 19 August 2020]

*Most people never have to explain why they enjoy going to the movies. But, Denise Decker sometimes needs to do that. The retired federal worker, who lives in Washington, D.C., says some sighted people don't understand how someone who is blind can appreciate watching film. Decker says she enjoys all types of movies, as long as it's a "good story." But, foreign language films that are only subtitled are not an option. And dubbing wouldn't solve the problem. The solution, Decker says, is [audio description](#): an embedded voice that translates visual imagery and action on the screen into spoken word. And since 2017, the Americans With Disabilities Act has required movie theaters to provide audio description services when available. So, now in many cinemas, a visually impaired customer can request a headset and transmitter box that plays the descriptive track in sync with the film.*

### [High school students are demanding schools teach more Black history, include more Black authors](#)

[Hannah Natanson, *The Washington Post*, 17 August 2020]

*Students have advocated for curriculum reform before in American history. But this moment is unique in several ways: For one thing, it's taking place in the midst of a pandemic that has plunged the nation into crisis. Still, the shifting of human interaction online has actually played into students' hands — more adept at social media than adults, teens are making canny use of sites such as Facebook and Instagram to plan reforms, put pressure on school officials and draw inspiration from other activists. This effort is also being led by a younger cohort than previous pushes, many of which took place on college campuses. But what's most striking, historians said, is the scope of the movement — while past advocacy focused on a particular high school or district, today groups of students are popping up everywhere. Although no one is tracking exact numbers, [#DiversifyOurNarrative](#), a California-based initiative that helps students push for curriculum reform by offering them email templates and suggestions for anti-racist texts, said it has signed up more than 3,500 students in 250 U.S. school districts since its founding in June.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

### [In "The 24th," police brutality and unrest, 103 years ago](#) [Jake Coyle, *The Associated Press*, 17 August 2020]

*The sole photograph related to the [Houston Riot of 1917](#) shows 64 Black soldiers sitting with arms folded and legs crossed behind a rope. Their sheer number, in a courtroom otherwise populated by White men, suggests they're part of the audience but they're not. They're the defendants in what's*

*considered the largest murder trial in American history. When the writer-director Kevin Willmott first came upon the photo 30 years ago, he was mystified by it. What was the story behind it? And how had he never heard of the Houston Riot before? That led, ultimately, to [“The 24th,”](#) Willmott’s dramatization of one of the bloodiest and most tragic chapters in the dark history of Jim Crow America.*

[“Latinx” not a preferred term among Hispanics, survey says](#) [Rachel Hatzipanagos, *The Washington Post*, 17 August 2020]

*Despite the increasing use of “Latinx” in the news media and by some politicians, the gender-neutral word to describe people of Latin American descent is not the preferred term among that group. Less than a quarter, 23 percent, of those who identify as Hispanic or Latino have even heard of the term “Latinx,” a new Pew Research Center [survey](#) found. Some groups within those who identify as Latino are more likely to use the term than others, said Mark Hugo Lopez, the director of global migration and demography research at Pew. “Younger people, college-educated Hispanics and notably young Hispanic women were the ones most likely to say that they used the term ‘Latinx’ themselves to describe their identity,” Lopez said.*

[Unilever to rename German “gypsy sauce” after complaints](#) [Reuters, 16 August 2020]

*German food company Knorr will rename its popular “Zigeuner” - or gypsy - sauce as Hungarian-style paprika sauce after complaints that the name is offensive, becoming the latest brand to shift after a wave of protests over racism. Romani Rose, head of the German Council of Sinti and Roma, welcomed the move, reported by the Bild am Sonntag newspaper, although he said he was more worried about rising racism, such as shouts of “gypsy” or “Jew” in soccer stadiums. The Nazis subjected Sinti - the name used by ethnic Roma based in Germany for centuries - to forced sterilization under “racial purity” laws and Roma were deported to death camps, where they wore uniforms bearing a “Z” for “Zigeuner”.*

[Disney confirms its first bisexual lead character, who is also multi-cultural](#) [Adrienne Morales, CNN, 15 August 2020]

*Diversity is making its way onto the Disney Channel. Disney has confirmed it has a bi-sexual lead character on “The Owl House” series. The 14-year-old Dominican-American girl, Luz Noceda, is not Disney’s first LGBTQ+ character. Pixar featured a gay main character in a short film on Disney Plus, but Luz is the first bisexual character to make a Disney debut on a television series. At first, “certain Disney leadership” was not too fond of the idea of having an LGBTQ+ character, said the series’ creator, Dana Terrace, in a tweet. “I was very open about my intention to put queer kids in the main cast. I’m a horrible liar so sneaking it in would’ve been hard,” she says in her tweet. “I was told by certain Disney leadership that I could not represent any form of bi or gay relationship on the channel. Luckily my stubbornness paid off, and now I am very supported by current Disney leadership,” she said. Terrace encourages others to fight for what they want to see represented in the media and society. “Representation matters!” she says.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Why are there still so few Black executives in America?](#) [Jessica Guynn, and Brent Schrottenboer, *USA Today*, 20 August 2020]

*This year, after George Floyd, a Black man, died under the knee of a White policeman in Minneapolis, Nike announced a \$40 million commitment to the Black community, declaring that it will “never stop striving to role model how a diverse company acts.” Nike even has three Black directors on its governing board of 12. But all of those external signals stand in stark contrast to the complexion of the power players at the top of the company. All five of the top executive officers are White, a common reality in corporate America more than 55 years after the Civil Rights Act.*

[Arkansas governor, lawmakers unveil hate crimes proposal](#) [Andrew De Millo, *The Associated Press*, 19 August 2020]

*Arkansas’ Republican governor, attorney general and a bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled legislation Wednesday that would impose harsher penalties for crimes motivated by the victim’s race, ethnicity or sexual orientation, an effort that would end the state’s distinction as one of three without a hate crimes law. Arkansas, South Carolina and Wyoming are currently the only states without a hate crimes law. [Georgia](#) in June became the latest state to enact a hate crimes measure. The Anti-Defamation League praised the “clear sense of urgency” from Hutchinson and lawmakers for the measure. Past hate crimes proposals have faltered in Arkansas because of opposition to the inclusion of sexual orientation in the measure. A conservative group in the state opposed the latest push on the same grounds.*

[Black women are promoted at far lower rates than White men, report finds](#) [Chabeli Carranzana, *19th News*, 13 August 2020]

*The [report](#), one of the most extensive analyses of Black women in corporate America, looks at the topic of pay inequality in the way most companies don’t: at the intersection of racism and sexism. The result is persisting barriers to entry for many Black women who find themselves underrepresented, undervalued and, often, disrespected at work. The report draws on Lean In and McKinsey & Company’s annual Women in the Workplace study, which has surveyed more than 590 companies employing more than 22 million people since 2015. The key issue is what’s known as the “broken rung,” or that first crucial step to becoming a manager. Black women are less likely to move into that position, which creates larger disparities as you move up in the leadership chain.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Texas Rangers name first female captains and first captain with a doctorate](#) [Kelsie Smith, *CNN*, 18 August 2020]

*After nearly 200 years, the Texas Department of Public Safety promoted their first female captains, Rangers Wende Wakeman and Melba Saenz. Ranger James Thomas was also promoted to the rank of captain, making him the first known Ranger in modern history to hold a doctorate degree, according officials. The Texas Rangers, an elite law enforcement division in the state, consists of nearly 170 Rangers. The group specializes in investigating some of the state’s major crime incidents including, officer-involved shootings, crimes against children, border security and public corruption.*

[Air Force Veteran May Become New Mexico’s First Black State Senator](#) [Milan Simonich, *The Sante Fe New Mexican*, (*Sante Fe, N.M.*), 16 August 2020]

*Harold Pope Jr., a Black military veteran with bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry, is the Democratic nominee in Senate District 23 in northwest Albuquerque. Pope, 46, said he hadn't thought about the Legislature's ethnic makeup until Democratic Congresswoman Deb Haaland's staff mentioned that no Black person has ever served in the state Senate. "I don't want folks to think it's why I'm running. It's not. But it's history," Pope said. Even so, race is an unmistakable part of this year's campaign in New Mexico, a state with a Black population of only about 2.5 percent.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[The untold story of women who risked their lives to do good -- and get their rights \[OPINION\]](#) [Kate Clarke Lemay, CNN, 16 August 2020]

*Today, women are fighting in combat and earning the title of Green Beret alongside men. It is not uncommon to see a woman soldier cited for valor in the military or otherwise recognized as civilians who demonstrated courage by the American government or other organizations. But a century ago, during World War I, women mostly were limited from the theatre of war, even as medical professionals. Suffragists, however, seized on the war as an opportunity to bolster their cause, and in 1918, organized the [Women's Oversea Hospitals Unit](#) to serve in France. They were responding to the powerful antisuffragist argument that declared that women should not have the right to vote because they could not prove themselves as full citizens -- by fighting for their country*

[The rise of female commanders in combat arms](#) [Steve Beynon, Stars and Stripes, 15 August 2020]

*The Army has been slowly integrating women into ground combat units since the Defense Department opened all military jobs to all troops in 2015. The initiative garnered a good deal of media attention for female "firsts" throughout the force. Now, five years later, women have expanded their footprint in combat arms and are taking command of units that have been exclusively male for centuries. Women are still a minority in the Army, and especially in combat arms. But some women are concerned that a sizable chunk of men are not ready for female leadership in combat, saying the masculine culture prevalent in the Army has vastly outdated views on women.*

[Diversity pledges alone won't change corporate workplaces – here's what will \[OPINION\]](#)

[Kimberly A. Houser, *The Conversation*, 13 August 2020]

*While commendable, to me it feels a bit like déjà vu. Back in 2014, a host of tech companies made similar commitments to diversify their ranks. Their latest reports – which they release annually – show they've made little progress. Why have their efforts largely failed? Were they just empty promises? As a gender diversity scholar, I explored these questions in my recent [paper](#) published in the Stanford Technology Law Review. The problem is not a lack of commitment but what social scientists call "unconscious bias." Companies have also committed at least US\$1 billion in money and resources to fight the broader societal scourge of racism and support Black Americans and people of color more broadly. Unfortunately, if past experience is any indication, good intentions and public pledges will not be enough to tackle the problem of the underrepresentation of women and people of color in most companies.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[Instead of lockdowns, teach people how to socialize safely in the time of coronavirus \[OPINION\]](#)

[Jason Bae, *STAT News*, 13 August 2020]

*I empathize with the urgency in their plea for people to stay home. I felt helpless watching patient after patient die from Covid-19 while working in a New York hospital in April. In the Northern California Covid-19 clinic I work in, I continue to see patients infected with and harmed by the virus. I, too, am desperate for this pandemic to end. But I believe that telling people to stay home and avoid all nonessential social interactions is the wrong way forward. We should instead focus on educating people and helping them socialize safely. Lessons from sex education indicate that this will be a more effective approach.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Army investigating soldiers' appearance during Democratic convention over concerns of rule violations](#) [Leo Shane III and Kyle Rempfer, *Military Times*, 19 August 2020]

*The Army is investigating a pair of reservists from the 9th Mission Support Command who appeared to run afoul of Defense Department rules concerning political campaigning while in uniform after they appeared on camera during the Democratic Party's convention on Tuesday. The pair, who were not identified in the segment, were part of a brief presentation by delegates from American Samoa during the convention's roll call of states. A man and a woman wearing camouflage uniforms and specialist rank patches stood behind local party leaders Aliitama Sotoa and Patti Matila as they voiced their support for former Vice President Joe Biden, the party's presidential nominee.*

*American Samoa has among the highest rate of military enlistment of any U.S. state or territory and significantly higher casualty rates per capita in the recent wars than most other parts of America.*

[Seven months later, what we know about Covid-19 — and the pressing questions that remain](#)

[Andrew Joseph, Helen Branswell and Elizabeth Cooney, *STAT News*, 17 August 2020]

*The "before times" seem like a decade ago, don't they? Those carefree days when hugging friends and shaking hands wasn't verboten, when we didn't have to reach for a mask before leaving our homes, or forage for supplies of hand sanitizer. Oh, for the days when social distancing wasn't part of our vernacular. In the time since Chinese scientists confirmed the rapidly spreading disease in Wuhan was caused by a new coronavirus and posted its genetic sequence on line, an extraordinary amount has been learned about the virus, SARS-CoV-2, the disease it causes, Covid-19, and how they affect us. Here are some of the things we have learned, and some of the pressing questions we still need answered.*

[DOD Mental Health Care Programs Leave Thousands of Families in Need, IG Finds](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 14 August 2020]

*"An average of 53% (4,415 of 8,328 per month) of all active-duty service members and their families, identified as needing mental health care and referred to the [Tricare] purchased care system, did not receive care and the MHS did not know why," according to a report, released Wednesday. In addition, seven of 13 military treatment facilities (hospitals and clinics) and their supporting Tricare network programs "did not meet the specialty mental health access to care standard each month," the report states. Overall, "We determined that the DOD did not consistently meet outpatient mental health access to care standards for active-duty service members and their families, in accordance with law and applicable DOD policies," it adds.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Former sailor details misconduct by SEALs pulled from Iraq](#) [James Laporta and Julie Watson, *The Associated Press*, 21 August 2020]

*The story of the platoon being pulled from Iraq has been previously reported, but documents obtained by The Associated Press through the Freedom of Information Act and interviews with nearly a dozen people give the first in-depth view into what led to the rare recall. The documents and interviews show that women deployed with the SEALs say they were ogled and sexually harassed during the deployment. Records obtained by the AP from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service also reveal a previously unknown reported allegation of sexual misconduct against the SEAL platoon chief, Special Warfare Operator Chief Nicholas Olson. Olson denies any wrongdoing. The Navy fired three SEAL leaders in the aftermath of the alleged rape on the Iraq air base and charged an enlisted SEAL with sexual assault, aggravated assault via strangulation and assault by battery for allegedly biting the victim on the face, among other counts, according to his charge sheet. He faces a court-martial in November. A hearing in the case will be held Friday at Naval Base San Diego.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“Satanist” ex-soldier sentenced to 2 1/2 years in bomb plot](#) [Joel Hanna, *The Associated Press*, 19 August 2020]

*An ex-soldier described by prosecutors as a Satanist and linked to a neo-Nazi group was sentenced Wednesday to 2 1/2 years in federal prison for distributing information through social media about building a bomb and making napalm. A federal judge rejected a request from Jarrett William Smith’s attorney for a lenient sentence of 15 months in prison followed by three years of supervised probation. U.S. District Judge Daniel Crabtree also ordered the three years of supervised probation for Smith after his release from prison. The judge said he was surprised that federal sentencing guidelines called for such a “low” prison sentence for “troubling and serious” criminal behavior, adding that Smith wanted to start a race war and shared on social media “multistep plans to create chaos.”*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Army Street Gang Activity Is Increasing, Internal Report Shows](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 17 August 2020]

*The Gang and Domestic Extremist Activity Threat Assessment from Army Criminal Investigation Command, or CID, is a regular report compiled at the behest of Congress. In fiscal 2018, the report found 83 law enforcement reports across the military with known or suspected gang or domestic extremist member involvement, a 66% increase from the previous year. Gang members increasingly communicate with each other on social media platforms ranging from SnapChat to TikTok, and have become more diverse, with “female gang associates [serving] in increasingly active roles in gang-related crimes.” Domestic extremism within the military has gotten the attention of Congress with several high-profile investigations into service members’ activities and the apprehension and trial of a Coast Guard lieutenant who espoused supremacist ideologies in writing and was accused of having a list targeting political leaders.*

[Maj. Gen. Dunlop created toxic environment in top secret program office, IG finds](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 17 August 2020]

*Dunlop is a groundbreaking fighter pilot who was the first woman to become a fighter test pilot, fly an F-22, and command a test wing. She is one of the highest-ranking female fighter pilots in the Air Force. But a few weeks after taking over the SAPCO office in August 2018, witnesses said Dunlop began treating subordinates there disrespectfully, according to the IG report. Dunlop commonly demeaned her subordinates when they failed to live up to her expectations, was unprofessionally insulting, and regularly implied they were stupid, said witnesses. Several of them used terms like “dictatorial” and “borderline abusive” to characterize her leadership style, and described her as treating subordinates like a “parent scolding a child.” Dunlop was removed from her position as director of the Special Access Programs Control Office, or SAPCO, on May 31, 2019, by Ellen Lord, the Pentagon’s top acquisition official, amid reports that she had created a toxic work environment.*

## **RACISM**

[The Untold Story of the Black Marines Charged With Mutiny at Sea](#) [John Ismay, *The New York Times*, 19 August 2020]

*One evening in late August 1972, as the American tank-landing ship U.S.S. Sumter was steaming off the coast of Vietnam, a Marine onboard dropped the needle on the turntable in front of him, sending music to the loudspeakers bolted to the bulkheads in the cavernous spaces where hundreds of sailors and Marines slept and hung out. Some members of the crew were not ready for what they heard. “Sun, up down. On the corner, uptown. I turn around and hear the sound. A voice is talking about who’s gonna die next. Cause the White man’s got a God complex.” Though nobody knew it at the moment, that song was about to set off a series of events that would leave three Black Marines facing charges of mutiny and the possibility of execution or lengthy imprisonment.*

[Institutional racism is boring \[OPINION\]](#) [Nathan Dial and Daniel Walker, *Air Force Times*, 16 August 2020]

*In the 21st century, institutional racism is boring and easy to miss. Our combined 18 years of experience as Air Force pilots has led us to conclude that racism, in an Air Force flying squadron, revolves around our inability to fully possess what we would call the “good dude factor” (GDF). In a flying squadron, the GDF is a three-part concept that requires an individual to blend in with the community socially, be operationally competent and positively impact the organization. The GDF is a necessary characteristic to maximize opportunities in the Air Force.*

## **RELIGION**

[Trump Administration Proposes New Rule to Protect Religion-Based Federal Contractors](#) [Courtney Bubl , *GovExec*, 14 August 2020]

*The Labor Department on Wednesday proposed a rule it said would clarify religious protections for federal contractors, but critics say it will open the door to discrimination. It sparked an immediate outcry from the American Civil Liberties Union. The [proposed rule](#) by Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs would ensure that “religious organizations may make employment decisions consistent with their sincerely held religious tenets and beliefs without fear of sanction by the federal government.” It also “reaffirms employers’ obligations not to discriminate,” [according](#)*

[to the Labor Department](#). But the American Civil Liberties Union in a [tweet](#) said the proposal is “taxpayer-funded discrimination in the name of religion.” It claims Labor would let government contractors with certain religious views fire LGBTQ, pregnant or unmarried employees.

## **SEXISM**

[In the Work-From-Home Battle for Space, Women Are the Reluctant Nomads \[COMMENTARY\]](#)

[Elizabeth Patton, *The Conversation*, 17 August 2020]

*It’s just past 10 a.m. and my partner, on his third virtual meeting today, is working non-stop in our home office. My son has taken over the family room to attend a virtual science camp and video-editing classes and to play video games. I now realize that this will be his work space to attend distance learning classes in the fall. For this reason, each morning, I find myself carrying my laptop and tea around my house trying to find a quiet place to work. And as I explain in my recent [book](#) on the social history of the home office, historically, it’s been women who have been the ones left searching for space.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Stereotypes in Language May Shape Bias Against Women in STEM](#) [Stacy Kish, *Futurity*, 10 August 2020]

*A new study digs into 25 languages to explore the gender stereotypes in language that undermine efforts to support equality across science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers. Despite decades of positive messaging to encourage women and girls to pursue education tracks and careers in STEM, women continue to fall far below their male counterparts in these fields. The researchers set out to examine the effect of language on career stereotypes by gender. They found that the language we speak strongly predicts implicit gender associations. Their work suggests that linguistic associations may be causally related to people’s implicit judgement of what women can accomplish. The results appear in [Nature Human Behavior](#).*

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## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Is Boycotting Service the Right Response to the Military’s Sexual Assault Problem? \[OPINION\]](#)

[Amanda Huffman, *Military.com*, 19 August 2020]

*After the murder of Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen, a campaign was launched to bring awareness, not only Vanessa’s case, but also to stories of sexual harassment and assault among other military women. In July it grew into a movement calling out Vanessa’s chain of command; contacting politicians to demand change; spreading a petition to shut down Fort Hood, Texas, where her murder occurred; and asking women to boycott enlisting in the military. As a female veteran who advocates on behalf of both women who are still serving and those who have left the military, I do not support an enlistment boycott as a path to change. Instead, we must step up more than ever before to act for change.*

[No jail time for senior Air Force NCO convicted in sex case after San Antonio trial](#) [Sig Christenson, *The San Antonio Express-News*, 19 August 2020]

*A senior Air Force noncommissioned officer, on a list to be promoted to the service's highest enlisted rank, has been convicted of abusive sexual contact and dereliction of duty and will face a mandatory discharge proceeding — but no jail time. Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy M. Zier was sentenced Friday by a military jury at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph that reduced him one grade in rank. He had been selected to become a chief master sergeant, a rank achieved by just 1 percent of the enlisted force in any service, but he has not been promoted. An all-officer jury found Zier, 41, guilty of abusive sexual contact in an assault of a young female enlistee at a spa in Turkey in 2015, an encounter that began in a hot tub with other airmen. Later in the evening, he entered the hot tub nude with several airmen who were subordinates, a separate offense that constituted dereliction of duty, the jury found.*

[Army general loses star, retires over sexual misconduct complaint he disputes](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 18 August 2020]

*Brig. Gen. David Hamilton was relieved from his position as director of operations for NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in September and reassigned to the Pentagon while awaiting the Army's final decision. Hamilton eventually retired this summer at the rank of colonel. The reason for the dismissal was not explained by service spokespeople when it occurred last September. But a June 11 Army CID law enforcement report obtained through the Freedom of Information Act in August accused Hamilton of two offenses: abusive sexual contact, Article 120 of the UCMJ, and maltreatment, Article 93. The report said Hamilton "grabbed and tapped [the] buttocks" of a female soldier "without her consent" during temporary duty travel to Fort Hood, Texas, after dinner in the town of Killeen on April 10, 2019. Hamilton denied both accusations through his attorney, Franklin Rosenblatt, who provided a sworn statement the general made to investigators.*

[ICE Guards "Systematically" Sexually Assault Detainees in an El Paso Detention Center, Lawyers Say](#) [Lomi Kriel, *ProPublica*, 17 August 2020]

*Guards in an immigrant detention center in El Paso sexually assaulted and harassed inmates in a "pattern and practice" of abuse, according to a complaint filed by a Texas advocacy group urging the local district attorney and federal prosecutors to conduct a criminal investigation. The allegations, detailed in a filing first obtained by ProPublica and The Texas Tribune, maintain that guards systematically assaulted at least three people in a facility overseen by Immigration and Customs Enforcement — often in areas of the detention center not visible to security cameras. The guards told victims that no one would believe them because footage did not exist and the harassment involved officers as high-ranking as a lieutenant. In 2018, the most updated statistics available online, ICE reported 374 formal accusations of sexual assault, of which 48 were substantiated by the agency and 29 remained pending an investigation as of that year.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Silveria: More Work to Do to Curb Racism, Sexual Assault at USAFA](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, *Air Force Magazine*, 17 August 2020]

*The U.S. Air Force Academy must set a better example for students to discourage sexual assault, harassment, and other forms of discrimination on campus, the school's outgoing Superintendent Lt. Gen. Jay B. Silveria said on Aug. 17. Encouraging positive behavior among cadets is just as vital as calling out unacceptable ones, Silveria said. New cadets come to Colorado Springs, Colo., with perspectives influenced by people and experiences outside of the school's control, and students may*

*not adapt well to their new home. His remarks come at the beginning of the first school year after protests and demonstrations calling for an end to systemic racism and police brutality roiled America earlier this summer. The discussion also follows a [January 2020 Pentagon report](#) that showed 40 sexual assaults were reported at USAFA during the 2018-2019 school year, up from 23 the year before.*

[Midshipman Guilty of Sexual Assault Gets 25 years, Dismissed from Service](#) [Heather Mongilio, *The Baltimore Sun*, 14 August 2020]

*Midshipman Nixon Keago will serve 25 years after a members panel found him guilty of sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, obstruction of justice and burglary. The charges stem from four separate incidents involving three women who were all Naval Academy midshipmen at the time of Keago's sexual violence against them. The members panel, the court-martial equivalent of a jury, also sentenced him to forfeit all pay and allowances as well as dismissed him from military service. Dismissal was the minimum sentence Keago faced. The maximum was 120 years confinement.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Survey: Nearly two-thirds of women experienced harassment working in NJ politics](#) [Dustin Racioppi, *North Jersey News*, (Trenton, N.J.), 14 August 2020]

*Nearly two-thirds of women said they have experienced harassment working in New Jersey politics, from unwanted touching to sexually suggestive comments to, in rare instances, sexual assault, according to a [survey released](#) Thursday. The "Survey on Misogyny & Sexual Misconduct in New Jersey Politics" also found that nearly two-thirds of respondents said they had witnessed misconduct. And the most common reports of harassment came from elected officials, the survey said. The misconduct extends beyond sexual harassment to abuses of power like favoritism and questionable hiring practices, according to the survey. "We have a culture issue in N.J. politics — a power structure based on preserving transactional relationships to the detriment of true access and equity," the survey said. "As one respondent articulated, 'Sexual harassment is a gateway to misogyny in lawmaking.'"*

## **SUICIDE**

[Anonymity Could Help Mitigate Military Suicide \[OPINION\]](#) [Kathy Roth-Douquet, *Military.com*, 18 August 2020]

*According to the most recent [U.S. Department of Defense Annual Suicide Report](#) (ASR) from 2019, 325 active-duty service members and one of 68 sailors who died by suicide in 2018. Governing bodies are trying to address the issue. In October 2018, the Defense Department enacted a requirement for the ASR to increase reporting, transparency and accountability for the department's suicide prevention efforts. Its goals included implementing policy guidance and a special governance body; standardizing and advancing data and research; and partnering with other groups across the nonprofit and private sectors. Military spouses are all too aware of the challenges that come with addressing mental health issues for service members. Part of what's missing from the federal response is anonymity -- an effective method for members to seek help without fear of retribution from their command units.*

[Roe, veterans groups urge vote on suicide bill when House returns this weekend](#) [Steve Beynon, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 August 2020]

*A top Republican lawmaker on veterans issues urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday to put a suicide prevention bill up for a vote when Congress reconvenes Saturday. In a letter to Pelosi, D-Calif., and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., Roe wrote the bipartisan bill would create a stronger support system for veterans at risk of suicide. He also wrote more veterans will die the longer it takes for the bill to reach Trump's desk for him to sign into law. "Every day we fail to act is another day in which twenty of the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform will lose their battle against suicide and self-harm," Roe wrote to Pelosi and Hoyer. Earlier this month, the Senate unanimously approved the [Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019](#), which would expand mental health care for transitioning service members and establish a grant program for local organizations who work with veterans. Roe now wants the House to pass the bill.*

## VETERANS

[WWII Hero's Incredible Medal of Honor Story Now to Be a Movie](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 17 August 2020]

*There was never any doubt that what Erwin did on April 12, 1945, deserved the Medal of Honor -- not among the other 11 crew members whose lives he saved and definitely not for LeMay, then-commander of the bombing campaign against Japan. As the radio operator, Erwin was also in charge of dropping white phosphorus charges down a chute to signal rallying points for other bombers in the formation to proceed to targets. On that day, something went terribly wrong with the "willy peter" charge. It either jammed in the chute or went off prematurely, bouncing back up and hitting Erwin in the face. He was blinded, part of his nose was burned off and his clothes were on fire. Flames were spreading through the aircraft. Erwin's story has become part of Air Force lore, but the effort to honor his legacy and preserve it for new generations has taken on a new form to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.*

[Montford Point Marine Rev. Archibald Mosley is remembered as hero, role model, friend](#) [Marilyn Halstead, *The Southern Illinoisan*, (Carbondale, Ill.), 14 August 2020]

*The Rev. Dr. Archibald Mosley is being remembered as a mentor and hero. Mosley, a Carbondale native, died at Aug. 6 at age 95 in Nashville, Tenn. Soon after President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order allowing Black Americans to join the Marine Corps in 1941, 18-year-old Mosley enlisted. He was one of the first Black Marines. Mosley was sent to Camp Montford Point, a segregated Marine camp adjacent to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. It lacked the comforts afforded to White Marines, such as hot water and adequate heat. He served as a weapons instructor before deploying to Guam and Iwo Jima, where he delivered ammunition to the front lines. In 1945, Mosley deployed to Nagasaki, Japan, where the Montford Point Marines were assigned to clean up after the atomic bomb was dropped.*

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