

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, AUGUST 28, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

[Army policy changes focus on extremist activity and gun ownership by violent offenders](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 26 August 2020]

Soldiers can now face punishment for social media posts supporting extremist groups, under a major revision to the Army's policy guidance to its commanders. The first overhaul of Army Regulation 600-20 since 2014 includes more than 60 changes, from minor updates to a host of measures meant to ensure soldiers and civilians are treated with dignity and respect. Updates now bar online fundraising, promotion and advocacy of extremist causes or criminal gangs on social media. They follow several recent high-profile incidents of troops espousing support for such groups or taking part in their rallies.

[DOD Crowdsources Efforts to Promote Diversity, Inclusion](#) [Jim Garamone, *DOD News*, 25 August 2020]

For those not familiar with the concept, crowdsourcing is the practice of using the internet as a source of information and solutions. Service members and DOD civilians can participate through Oct. 16. "The [DOD] secretary wants to hear from all of our service members about what the DOD can do to improve diversity and inclusion," said Marine Corps Maj. Sharon A. Sisbarro, a member of the board's support office. The board members didn't want to do yet another survey, Sisbarro said. "We adopted a kind of crowdsourcing-like model, where we just said, 'Tell us what we need to do,'" she added. Personnel with a DOD common access card can [participate](#) in the crowdsourcing effort, she said. "Even though you need a CAC to get in, the comments are anonymous," she emphasized.

[Marine Corps officially removes photo requirements for promotion packages](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 26 August 2020]

Photos of Marines will no longer be sent to promotion boards or with packages sent for consideration of assignments, training, education or command, according to a [new administrative message](#) released by the Corps. The new policy will take effect Sept. 1, and includes official photographs from a Marine's personnel files along with any photographs sent "in correspondence by individual Marines," a Wednesday MARADMIN said.

CULTURE

[DC, Marvel Artists Create Graphic Novel About the Only Female Medal of Honor Recipient](#) [Bing Xiao, *Military.com*, 27 August 2020]

The latest graphic novel presented by the Association of the United States Army is all about Mary Walker, the U.S. military's first -- and only -- recipient of the Medal of Honor. The graphic novel, part of a Medal of Honor series produced by AUSA, was created in collaboration with some of the top comic book writers and artists in the field, including Chuck Dixon, who has worked on Marvel's

“The Punisher” and other projects; Peter Pantazis, a Marvel colorist; Karl Moline, an artist who has worked on the Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Fray comics; and Troy Peteri, an award-winning letterer. Dixon, who wrote the text of the new graphic novel, said he learned about a new piece of history in the process. “It surprised me that, despite reading a lot of books on the American Civil War, I had never heard the story of Mary Walker, a woman of courage and well ahead of her time,” said Chuck Dixon, the scriptwriter of Medal of Honor: Mary Walker. “I appreciate the chance to make the life of America’s only female Medal of Honor winner known to a larger audience. Including me!”

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[In Conversation About Race, Air Force Warns Troops to Avoid Microaggressions](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 26 August 2020]

*As part of efforts to continue discussion of race and inequalities across the force, the U.S. Air Force has launched a new series of educational videos designed to promote understanding and meaningful dialogue. In its first video installment of the new [“Seek to Understand”](#) series, Air Education and Training Command last week featured a senior enlisted leader discussing microaggressions -- seemingly innocent comments that contain an offensive message. While the concept of microaggressions is increasingly part of conversations on inclusion and diversity that take place on college campuses and in corporate settings, it remains controversial in some sectors, with critics saying it be applied to a wide range of innocently intended remarks as well as true offenses. “The microaggression concept is so nebulously defined that virtually any statement or action that might offend someone could fall within its capacious borders,” *The Scientific American* [wrote](#) in 2017.*

[Ida B. Wells gets her due as a Black suffragist who rejected movement’s racism](#) [DeNeen L. Brown, *The Washington Post*, 25 August 2020]

Her image is arresting. Hundreds of people walking through Washington’s Union Station this week paused to look at the huge photo mosaic of anti-lynching crusader and suffragist Ida B. Wells-Barnett on the marble floor. The portrait, designed by visual artist Helen Marshall using thousands of smaller photos of women who fought for the right to vote, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920. Colleen Shogan, vice chair of the [Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission](#), which organized the display, said it was “a strategic decision” to highlight Wells-Barnett. “She was a suffragist, a civil rights activist, an anti-lynching journalist who help spawn the anti-lynching movement in the United States,” she said. “We hope people will learn not only about Ida B. Wells - her story is impressive - but also learn the story of the thousands of other women depicted in the mosaic.”

[Soldier-Scholar \[Pick One\]: Anti-Intellectualism in the American Military \[COMMENTARY\]](#)

[James Joyner, *War on the Rocks*, 25 August 2020]

On the surface, anti-intellectualism is an odd critique to apply to the American military. Outside academia, it is hard to think of a profession that values schooling more. With rare exception, a four-year university degree is a baseline requirement for commissioning. Indeed, the nation has funded service academies for that purpose going back to 1802 and established a bevy of land grant colleges across the country starting in 1862 partly with an eye to training future military officers. While each of the four longstanding services values intellect, they are wary of intellectuals. This tendency is reinforced by a stultified personnel bureaucracy that requires officers to successfully navigate a

series of wickets to remain competitive for advancement. The result is to reward tactical expertise while capping the careers of the best strategic minds.

[Sotheby's changes beat with first hip-hop auction](#) [Jill Serjeant, *Reuters*, 25 August 2020]

It is the first auction staged by an international house anywhere devoted entirely to hip-hop, and will trace the impact of the musical genre from the late 1970s through to the mid-1990s, Sotheby's said on Tuesday. Notorious B.I.G.'s signed crown, worn in the 1997 "King of New York" photograph and offered on sale for the first time, could fetch \$200,000 - \$300,000 at the Sept. 15 auction. "I expect that the crown could sell for a lot more because it's so recognizable," Cassandra Hatton, the senior Sotheby's specialist in the books and manuscripts department who put the auction together, told Reuters. Hatton said the decision by Sotheby's to devote an entire auction to hip-hop reflects its impact over 40 years on fashion, design, art and pop culture.

[This slide from an Air Force brief shows airmen what White privilege looks like](#) [Jared Keller, *Task & Purpose*, 21 August 2020]

Personnel at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia were recently treated to a training brief which included a slide that instructed airmen to "take a moment and understand" several examples of White privilege, which broadly refers to the social, economic, and political circumstances that frequently benefit White Americans over other citizens of different races and ethnicities. One slide in the training material noted how the news media often portrays White people much more sympathetically than people of color, especially in stories that deal with crime. "The need to have candid, respectful dialogue with colleagues about racial bias has never been more crucial," a spokesman for the 633rd Air Base Wing told Task & Purpose. "The slide was created by a unit at Joint Base Langley-Eustis as a conversation starter in a larger discussion on race in America."

DISCRIMINATION

[Teacher reinstated after parents complained about Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ posters](#) [Tim Fitzsimons, *NBC News*, 27 August 2020]

A Texas school district has reversed its decision to place a teacher on leave over Black Lives Matter, feminist and pro-LGBTQ posters displayed on the walls of her virtual classroom. Taylor Lifka, an English teacher at the Roma High School in Roma, a border town of about 10,000 people, was placed on administrative leave Sunday after parents complained about the posters. This week, an online petition was started urging the school district to reverse its decision and reinstate Lifka. "Please sign this petition to let the school district know that inclusivity and acceptance are not taboo ideas that deserve censorship; that high school students can and should be allowed to discuss the realities of the world instead of being sheltered inside a sanitized bubble; and that by reprimanding the teacher for trying to create a safe space for her students, the school is not being neutral, but is actively taking a stance that is antithetical to justice," the petition states.

[Black Former N.F.L. Players Say Racial Bias Skews Concussion Payouts](#) [Ken Belson, *The New York Times*, 26 August 2020]

The players say doctors use two scales -- one for Black athletes, one for White -- to determine eligibility for dementia claims. Two retired players have accused the N.F.L. of "explicitly and deliberately" discriminating against hundreds if not thousands of Black players who filed dementia-

related claims in the landmark concussion settlement reached in 2013, making it harder for them to qualify for payouts worth as much as \$3 million. In two legal actions filed Tuesday in United States District Court in Philadelphia, the players asked that the judge stop the league from insisting that race-based benchmarks be used to evaluate players' claims. They also asked that the scores on Black players' neurocognitive exams be recalculated using "race-neutral" scales that would put them on an even footing with White players.

[Black Workers Are More Likely to Be Unemployed but Less Likely to Get Unemployment Benefits](#) [Ava Kofman and Hannah Fresques, *ProPublica*, 24 August 2020]

More people than ever became eligible for unemployment benefits after Congress included part-time and gig workers, but the data shows that hasn't solved a huge racial disparity. "In every recession, we see these same disparities," said William Spriggs, a Howard University economist who analyzed the data. After the 2008 financial crisis, for example, 23.8% of jobless Black workers received unemployment vs. 33.2% for White workers, according to a 2012 [study](#) of national claims data by the Urban Institute. The inequity in unemployment benefits is all the more damaging because Black workers have been more likely to be unemployed in both the [current downturn](#). Even when the economy is healthy, Black unemployment is dramatically higher—often double—that of White workers. The gap cannot be explained by gender, age or education level. (Were it not for the fact that Black workers are [overrepresented](#) in transit and service industry jobs currently deemed "essential," the rate of Black unemployment today would be even worse.)

[Court finds parts of anti-riot law violate free speech](#) [Denise Lavoie, *The Associated Press*, 24 August 2020]

A federal appeals court on Monday upheld the convictions of two members of a White supremacist group who admitted they punched and kicked counter-demonstrators during the 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, but found that part of an anti-riot law used to prosecute them "treads too far upon constitutionally protected speech." The 4th Circuit's ruling is the first time a federal appellate court has found parts of the law unconstitutionally overbroad. While the court was critical of those portions, it left most of the law intact. The court said it upheld the convictions [of Miselis and Daley] because their conduct falls squarely under conduct prohibited by the law, including committing acts of violence in furtherance of a riot and participating in a riot.

[As restaurants take over sidewalks to provide pandemic-safe dining, people with disabilities encounter barriers.](#) [Erika Mailman, *The Washington Post*, 23 August 2020]

Many restaurants have added sidewalk seating during the pandemic to take advantage of the open air when indoor dining is considered risky because of less ventilation and difficulty in following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to keep people at least six feet apart. Doing so, however, may put up barriers for people with disabilities and come into conflict with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The ADA requires that sidewalk width must be a minimum of 36 inches for wheelchair access. Many cities have drawn up new guidelines to help restaurateurs keep sidewalks ADA compliant. San Francisco's [reopening guidance](#) for outdoor dining lists a multitude of requirements including "Avoid blocking anyone's ability to pass safely, including avoiding blocking ADA-compliant sidewalk access."

DIVERSITY

[Air Force Considers Allowing Ponytails, Other Hairstyles for Women](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 27 August 2020]

In July, Defense Secretary Mark Esper put out a military-wide directive ordering the development of new hair and grooming standards with an eye to eliminating bias and inequity. The directive requires the services to “make appropriate policy modifications” no later than Sept. 15. During a Q&A segment during the Air Force Sergeants’ virtual symposium, Chief of Staff Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown teased the possibility of allowing women to wear ponytails in uniform. “I just got a package [proposal] yesterday about ponytails for women,” Brown said Wednesday. “So we’re looking at a number of different things that we’ve got to work through, [where there are] second-order impacts associated,” he said. The [review](#) is part of an ongoing effort to “improve dress and appearance policies,” where applicable, added Capt. Leah Brading, a service spokeswoman.

[The Marine Corps is still looking for more female officers to attempt its infantry course](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 27 August 2020]

*The [MARADMIN](#) was directed at active duty female company grade officers who joined the Corps before the infantry field was opened to women in 2016. It looks to give early career officers a chance to lateral move from their current military occupational specialty into the infantry field, in the hopes of boosting the number of female infantry captains and lieutenants. Since 2016 only 11 female Marine officers have attempted the arduous 13-week infantry officer course and only two have passed, one earning the 0302 military occupational specialty and the other going on to become an 0203 ground intelligence officer, Yvonne Carlock, spokesperson with the Marine Corps Manpower and Reserve Affairs, told *Marine Corps Times*. The first female Marine to pass the course, Marina Hierl, already has the left the Marine Corps as a captain, leaving it with no active female platoon leaders, *Marine Corps Times* previously reported.*

[Air Force offers cash for better system allowing female pilots to relieve themselves in flight](#) [Jennifer H. Svan, *Stars and Stripes*, 26 August 2020]

The Air Force is offering at least \$100,000 to whomever comes up with a way for female pilots to answer the call of nature while strapped into the cockpit of a jet. “Let’s develop an improved, reliable and effective system to enable female air crew to relieve themselves while flying sky high,” said a document announcing the “Sky High Relief Challenge” this month. The Air Force “needs an improved bladder relief system that allows female aviators to hydrate adequately and relieve themselves during flight without interfering with operations or compromising flight safety,” the document said. Solving the problem has become urgent, with flight times running up to 16 hours, it said.

[U.S. Forces Korea launches diversity webpage to help fight racism](#) [Kim Gamel, *Stars and Stripes*, 26 August 2020]

As part of efforts to fight racial injustice in the ranks, U.S. Forces Korea launched a new [“Strength in Diversity”](#) webpage Wednesday to provide resources on how to deal with discrimination and an easy way to report it. The site is the latest in a series of steps by USFK, which commands some 28,500 troops on the divided peninsula, to address widespread anger that extended to the military following the May 25 killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, under the knee of a White Minneapolis police officer. The new webpage, which is linked to the main command site, provides a

form for reporting abuses to USFK with just one click, either with identification or anonymously, along with educational tools and other resources.

[“Take the Tough Job.” History-Making Army Leaders Share Insights with Female Soldiers](#)

[Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 25 August 2020]

Army Command Sergeant Major Lynice Thorpe-Noel says she has seen her share of bias coming up through the ranks as a Black woman in the military. “Sometimes maybe I thought it would have been because of color; maybe it might have been my perception that it might have been because of me being a female – I’m not absolutely sure. And to be honest with you, I didn’t let that be an obstacle for me,” Thorpe-Noel, the senior enlisted adviser for U.S. Army Human Resources Command, told said during a [virtual discussion](#) with Army women hosted by the Association of the United States Army. Thorpe-Noel was one of four senior women in the Army who participated in the event that came two days before the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[The military taught me the power of positive, singular interactions \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Chad Storlie, *Military Times*, 28 August 2020]

Today, more than ever, we face a challenge of how to have positive interactions with others, especially strangers. Many people either disregard or do not understand the importance of these singular interactions to our own well-being as well as the well-being of others. These singular interactions clearly define the people we are and the type of person we aspire to become. In the military, events like this are common, unspoken, and far from unusual. In the military, every interaction that you have with any person is an opportunity to help another person, make them better, and demonstrate yourself as a leader.

[Is it possible to rid police officers of bias?](#) [Tiffanie Wen, *BBC News*, 27 August 2020]

While some people mistake racism as being only overt prejudice, there is another crucial component that affects our decisions and actions towards others: implicit bias. An implicit bias is any prejudice that has formed unintentionally and without our direct knowledge – and it can often contradict our explicit beliefs and behaviours. Usually, it reflects a mixture of personal experience, attitudes around us as we have grown up, and our wider exposure to society and culture – including the books we read, television we watch and news we follow. Many police departments in the U.S. have pointed to schemes aimed at tackling implicit bias as evidence of their attempts to root out racism from their ranks. It is an appealing approach – police forces face many challenges when it comes to tackling racism among their officers. Dealing with these systemic issues often requires major structural and institutional change, while training individuals to recognise their own unconscious biases can seem relatively easy to implement by comparison.

[Dads need to give sons the same compassion and nurturing they give their daughters](#)

[[COMMENTARY](#)] [Andrew Reiner, *The Washington Post*, 25 August 2020]

While researching my book about the crisis of resiliency facing boys and men, I sometimes watched online commercials. After watching a few, I noticed a disparity: Fathers wore tutus and danced with their daughters, polished their fingernails and showered them with hugs and kisses during

graduations. Meanwhile, fathers raced Go-Karts or playfully arm-wrestled their sons and occasionally hugged - but didn't kiss - them. My son observed: "Why aren't those daddies giving boys the same love they're giving girls?" For all of the progress we're making in the conversation about what masculine identity should look like in such commercials, as well as in the larger conversation about masculinity, there's still a glaring blind spot. Boys today are more [anxious, depressed and suicidal](#) than any previous generation. They are also desperately struggling to find their way toward adulthood. The widely perceived gaps in depression and anxiety between boys and girls are closing, as researchers realize that the scales previously used account for the ways that women typically experience these forms of mental illness. What's more, far more males of all ages are less likely to seek help and treatment than are women.

[Dubai company introduces colour-coded bracelets for workers to show how they want to be greeted](#) [Marcus Parekh, *The Telegraph*, 24 August 2020]

Employers worldwide face many difficult conversations with employees on how to successfully reintegrate them back into office life, but one media company in Dubai has devised a simple solution to get around the issue of greeting your co-workers - colour-coded bracelets. As almost 100 staff return to Create Media Group, they can choose between three different colours in a traffic light system which alert their colleagues on their comfort level with being greeted. Green signifies they are comfortable with a fist bump, yellow indicates they are up for a chat, but no touching while red alerts others to keep their distance. Tom Otton, managing director of Create, told Reuters the purpose of the scheme was to give individuals autonomy in how they react to the pandemic.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Family Photos at Work Curb Fraud and Unethical Activity](#) [Jill Young Miller, *Futurity*, 21 August 2020]

Displaying family photos in the workplace cuts down on employee fraud and other unethical behavior, new research finds. For instance, in one study the researchers conducted, participants who looked at pictures of family or friends filed expense reports claiming about \$8 less on average than workers without pictures. "If numerous employees submit monthly expense reports to a company, it's easy to imagine the financial impact of the reduction in unethical behavior over time," says Ashley Hardin, assistant professor of organizational behavior at the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis and the lead author of the [paper](#) in *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*. More than 70% of workers display photos in their workspace, and people have a great deal of choice in what they put up, Hardin says. "Whereas some organizations encourage segmentation of work and life by penalizing those who bring outside topics into work, our findings suggest that this segmentation may have an unexpected downside in terms of unethical behavior.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[Army OKs Push-Ups, PT as Punishment for Minor Infractions](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 27 August 2020]

The Army recently published an update to its command policy that encourages sergeants to drop soldiers for push-ups or order extra physical training to correct minor screw-ups as an alternative

to stiffer non-judicial punishments. Last updated in 2014, the 213-page Army Regulation 600-20 is designed to offer command guidance for commanders across the Army includes updates to corrective training, sexual harassment reporting and extremist activity on social media, according to an Army release. The regulation includes “specified authority” for noncommissioned officers to correct minor soldier infractions with “brief forms of exercise.” “The changes empower NCOs to lean on non-punitive measures as a form of corrective training to address minor deficiencies,” Sgt. Maj. Jasmine Johnson, the command policy sergeant major, said in the release.

[David Galante, Who Spoke Belatedly About Auschwitz, Dies at 96](#) [Daniel Politi, *The New York Times*, 25 August 2020]

It took David Galante 50 years to speak publicly of the horrors he witnessed at Auschwitz. But once he did, he made it his life’s calling to make sure that people did not forget the Holocaust, traveling and speaking about the crimes perpetrated by the Nazis. The event that changed him was the release of the movie “Schindler’s List” in 1994. The realization that people would want to hear his story, he often said, was his “true liberation.” “The feeling of having kept quiet for 50 years was also a type of prison,” said Martín Hazan, Mr. Galante’s godson, who wrote a 2007 book about Mr. Galante called “Un Día Más De Vida” (“One More Day of Life”). Mr. Galante died of complications of Covid-19 on July 27 at Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Mr. Hazan said. He was 96.

[“This feels different”: Black postal workers on the USPS’ fate](#) [Curtis Bunn, *NBC News*, 25 August 2020]

In his long ties to the Postal Service, Josh Dubose and his family represent a small slice of the [nearly 21 percent of postal workers who are Black](#), according to the Postal Service. And those workers are waiting to learn their fates as the federal government weighs sweeping changes to the mail system that could cut jobs and services. Philip F. Rubio, a history professor at North Carolina A&T State University, wrote the book “There’s Always Work at the Post Office: African American Postal Workers and the Fight for Jobs, Justice, and Equality,” published in 2010. Not only has the post office “been vital to Black community development, but Black postal worker activism changed the Post Office and its unions,” Rubio wrote. “This is a dynamic history, one that involves narratives of migration, militancy, community, and negotiation — and all at a workplace that African Americans saw as being inclusively, not exclusively, theirs.”

[This Rural Town Swelled With Immigrants. But Will Census Count Them?](#) [April Simpson, *Stateline*, 25 August 2020]

In 2002, Gabriel Elias was among the first people from the Federated States of Micronesia to move to Milan, Minnesota, the self-proclaimed Norwegian capital of the United States. Milan’s population had been declining when the first sprinkling of Micronesian newcomers arrived. Then more came. Ten years ago, Micronesians made up a fifth of Milan’s population, then 369 souls. Now, it’s estimated that more than half the town’s 360 residents are native Pacific Islanders or their children. Without them, Milan might have dried up and blown away. “They’ve saved our community,” Milan Mayor Ron Anderson said of the Micronesians. “They’ve also made us vibrant. We were losing our vibrancy because we were getting old.” Milan’s growing Micronesian population has bolstered the town’s faltering economy. The Micronesians also could bring federal help — but only if they are counted in the 2020 census.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Families confront New Zealand mosque shooter at sentencing](#) [Nick Perry, *The Associated Press*, 24 August 2020]

Families and survivors had their first chance to confront the White supremacist who slaughtered 51 worshippers in a mass shooting at two New Zealand mosques as his four-day sentencing hearing began Monday. “You killed your own humanity, and I don’t think the world will forgive you for your horrible crime,” said a tearful Maysoon Salama, the mother of 33-year-old Atta Elayyan, who was killed in March 2019 attacks. “You thought you can break us. You failed miserably.” The gunman, 29-year-old Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant, pleaded guilty in March to 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and one count of terrorism — the first terrorism conviction in New Zealand’s history. He could become the first person in New Zealand to be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, the toughest sentence available.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[TikTok creators are pretending to be Holocaust victims in heaven in a new trend dubbed “trauma porn”](#) [Sophia Ankel, *The Business Insider*, 23 August 2020]

A new disturbing TikTok trend involves young people pretending to be Holocaust victims in heaven. In the videos, creators appear to be wearing makeup that imitates burns or bruises while explaining how they died in Nazi-run death camps. Other versions show people acting out representations of the genocide of Jewish people during the World War II, in some cases using the background image of the Auschwitz concentration-camp network. The TikTok videos could be an ill-informed attempt to raise awareness around the Holocaust and teach others about its history. But others view the trend as “trauma porn” and say it’s offensive for people with family members who survived or died in the war.

[Angela Buxton, who won Wimbledon doubles title with Althea Gibson, dies at 85](#) [Matt Schudel, *The Washington Post*, 22 August 2020]

Angela Buxton, who broke racial barriers in the 1950s by forging a friendship and a formidable tennis partnership with Althea Gibson, the first Black player to win a championship at a major international tournament, has died at her home in Pompano Beach, Fla. She was 85. Gibson and Ms. Buxton were an early example of interracial harmony in sports, creating a dominant team to win the women’s doubles titles at the French and Wimbledon tennis championships in 1956. Both women were considered outcasts in the genteel, mostly White sport of tennis. Ms. Buxton, who was British, had been denied membership and practice time at tennis clubs from London to Los Angeles because she was Jewish.

[Deidre Davis Butler, Who Fought for Disability Rights, Dies at 64](#) [Neil Genzlinger, *The New York Times*, 21 August 2020]

Ms. Davis Butler held strong views and wasn’t shy about voicing them. In one instance she called out the broader Black community, saying that it sometimes turned its back on Black people with disabilities. A wheelchair user herself, she helped draft a landmark law and held government posts championing people with disabilities, especially those of color. “You’re ostracized by your own community because of a lack of understanding that disabilities rights are civil rights,” she told NPR in 2010. Ms. Davis Butler went to Washington in 1987, first heading the Department of Education’s independent living program, then moving to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She was an important figure during the development of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990,

which she helped draft, and in the years immediately after its passage, when attention turned to carrying out its guarantees.

RACISM

[“I Have A Dream”: New march on Washington to mark fraught anniversary of King’s speech](#)

[Makini Brice, *Reuters*, 28 August 2020]

Tens of thousands of people were expected to march in Washington, D.C. on Friday to denounce racism, protest police brutality and commemorate the anniversary of the march in 1963 where civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr made his “I Have a Dream” speech. Its 57th anniversary comes at the end of a summer of racial unrest and nationwide protests, sparked by the death of George Floyd, an unarmed African American, after a Minneapolis police officer kneeled on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Friday’s protest, called “Commitment March: Get Your Knee Off Our Necks,” was planned in the wake of Floyd’s death by civil rights activist Reverend Al Sharpton’s National Action Network.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Bucks \[Milwaukee\] players boycott Game 5 vs. Magic \[Orlando\] in wake of Jacob Blake shooting](#)

[Jason Owens, *Yahoo Sports*, 26 August 2020]

The Milwaukee Bucks did not take the floor for Wednesday’s playoff game against the Orlando Magic and are boycotting in the wake of the shooting of Jacob Blake. The Magic initially took the court for pregame warmups, but left after Bucks players didn’t show up. Talks of a boycott surfaced after the shooting of Blake, a 29-year-old Black man and father of three. Video surfaced late Sunday of police in Kenosha, Wisconsin shooting Blake in the back multiple times, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down, according to his father. Sources told Yahoo Sports’ Chris Haynes that a sizable faction of players are psychologically distraught by the shooting. The shooting has led to days of unrest and protest in Kenosha that have resulted in two shooting deaths. A White 17-year-old named Kyle Rittenhouse of Antioch, Illinois was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of first-degree intentional homicide.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Anger Can Build a Better World \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Myisha Cherry, *The Atlantic*, 25 August 2020]

Racism is alive in our society. It lives in store aisles, discriminatory 911 calls, policing, the racial wealth gap, and asymmetrical government responses to communities afflicted by COVID-19.

Through protest, diverse voices are boldly standing up to racial injustice. And they are expressing anger while doing it. This rage is not a distraction, nor is it destructive to American ideals. It is playing a crucial role, politically and morally, in helping us build a better country.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Civil rights leaders demand accountability in Kenosha police shooting](#) [Doha Masani, *NBC News*, 24 August 2020]

Anger boiled overnight into the streets of Kenosha, Wisconsin, where local civil rights leaders and citizens are demanding transparency from police and other officials following the police shooting of a 29-year-old Black man Sunday. Jacob Blake, 29, was in serious condition at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee on Monday after being shot by officers in what police said was a response to a

“domestic” incident report. Few details about Blake’s shooting have been released but bystander video posted on social media enraged local residents, who took to the streets Sunday night to demand answers. It appeared in the video that Blake was walking in front of a vehicle to try to get into the driver’s seat when officers fired their weapons, shooting Blake in the back several times.

[Right-Wing Extremism and Islamic Extremism Spreads Online In Similar Ways, New Study Says](#) [Patrick Tucker, *Defense One*, 24 August 2020]

*Those crazy memes you keep seeing? Hate groups are using them to attract online recruits into small, intense groups — and beat Facebook’s censors. Right-wing American extremists and White supremacist groups are adopting the same ISIS-favored ways to attract and radicalize their members online, according to a new study. “While ISIS is a well-established and centralized group with a hierarchical organizational structure, the [tactics, techniques, and procedures] they leverage to organize, recruit, incite action, and disseminate information online appear to have been adopted by several emergent radical domestic groups in the United States,” says the [new report](#) from data analytics company Babel Street, obtained exclusively by *Defense One*.*

[Suffrage anniversary commemorations highlight racial divide](#) [Susan Haigh and Suman Naishadham, *The Associated Press*, 24 August 2020]

As the U.S. marks the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, many event organizers, mindful that the 19th Amendment originally benefited mostly White women, have been careful to present it as a commemoration, not a celebration. The amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920, but many women of color were prevented from casting ballots for decades afterward because of poll taxes, literacy tests, overt racism, intimidation, and laws that prevented the grandchildren of slaves from voting. Much of that didn’t change until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

[An exclusive park in the heart of Silicon Valley faces a racial justice reckoning](#) [David Ingram, *NBC News*, 23 August 2020]

Foothills Park is a city-owned park that homeowners have fought for decades to keep closed to outsiders. A sign out front reads “residents and accompanied guests only,” and rangers check IDs at the park’s entrance, turning away about 3,100 vehicles a year that don’t qualify. Breaking the rule is a misdemeanor, although the city said it hasn’t charged anyone for the crime in at least 20 years. Now, a debate over the municipal code is boiling over, with new attention from Black Lives Matter demonstrators, civil rights lawyers and people who live in neighboring towns who argue the restrictions on a public space reek of racism and segregation. “You don’t see that many Black and brown faces in Foothills Park,” Anjali Ramanathan, 17, said. She and her family live within walking distance of the preserve but can’t legally go on their own because they live on the other side of the city line.

[United Nations removes survey asking staff if they are “yellow”](#) [Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*, 19 August 2020]

*The “U.N. Survey on Racism” was sent to thousands of staff on Wednesday. An email accompanying the survey said it was being carried out as part of U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ “campaign to eradicate racism and promote dignity.” But the first question, on how staff identify themselves, itself reflected an historic Western racist view of Asians by listing “yellow” as an option, several U.N. staffers told *Reuters*. Other categories offered were Black, brown, White,*

mixed/multi-racial and any other. “The first question is insane, deeply offensive and hard to fathom how in an organization as diverse as the United Nations this question was approved for release in a system-wide survey,” said one U.N. staff member, speaking on condition of anonymity.

SEXISM

[The most ridiculous historical arguments denying women the right to vote](#) [A.J. Willingham, CNN, 26 August 2020]

Today, women being able to vote is a given. A no-brainer. A natural, non-negotiable insurance of a Constitution designed to provide equality for all people. But before [the 19th Amendment was ratified 100 years ago in 1920](#), ensuring all women the right to vote, people invented all sorts of reasons why they didn’t belong at the polls. (*Assuming you weren’t [Black](#) or [disabled](#).) Women were seen as somehow too fragile and too powerful at the same time, liable to burst into hysterics or upend the entire family unit just by casting a ballot. Here are a few examples of these arguments, from the absurd to the downright depressing.*

[VA Secretary Moves to Block Gender-Neutral Change to Motto](#) [Richard Sisk, Military.com, 26 August 2020]

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie went to President Abraham Lincoln’s hometown of Springfield, Illinois, Wednesday to double down on his opposition to a gender-neutral update to the agency’s iconic motto, taken from Lincoln’s second inaugural address. Wilkie dedicated a plaque at the VA’s Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield with the existing motto: “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.” The VA secretary made his purpose in the visit clear in remarks that followed. “The words that brought us here should not be diluted, parsed or canceled,” Wilkie said, according to a VA release. The Department of Veterans Affairs “welcomes all veterans, including the 10% of all veterans who are women,” Wilkie said. But, he added, “The words that brought us here ought to be preserved as they were spoken and displayed so every generation understands the origin of America’s progress in becoming the most tolerant nation on earth.”

[When will the country music industry end the myth that fans don’t like ballads by women?](#) [Emily Yahr, The Washington Post, 24 August 2020]

When country star Maren Morris was debating whether to release the melancholy track “I Could Use a Love Song” as a single about four years ago, a country radio programmer offered her some advice: “For the love of God, don’t make that a single – it’s a ballad,” he said, according to Morris. “No one wants to hear a bunch of sad women on the radio.” Morris told this anecdote in front of a sold-out crowd at Radio City Music Hall in New York last summer. In the end, she didn’t listen to the programmer. And “I Could Use a Love Song” became her first No. 1 hit on country radio. So while ballads can be a tough sell for any act, it’s particularly difficult for women, who only make up [about 10 percent](#) of country radio airplay; in mainstream country music, radio is still the primary driving force to build a career. Studies show when female artists do get on the air, their songs typically face a longer climb up the charts. Plus, some programmers abide by the [dubious unwritten rule](#) that they can’t play two women back to back.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Army Special Forces colonel acquitted of sexual assault charges](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 27 August 2020]

Army Special Forces Col. Kevin Russell, who was on trial this week after being charged with five counts of sexual assault, was acquitted of all charges on Thursday afternoon. According to his attorney Michael Waddington, Russell was “acquitted of all charges after about an hour and 15 minutes of deliberations.” During his court-martial at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, it was revealed that a woman who was an Air Force captain at the time of the alleged assault had accused Russell of raping her, according to the Observer. The woman was deployed in 2015 to Pakistan at the same time that Russell was deployed there. She told the court that she was friendly with Russell and another captain when the two men worked and lived together for a brief time during 2015.

[Congresswomen press National Guard on harassment allegations](#) [The Associated Press, 25 August 2020]

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, a former Air Force officer, and U.S. Rep. Madeleine Dean, whose district includes the air base, wrote Friday that they were troubled by allegations reported by the newspaper last month. The Inquirer’s investigation included allegations of rampant sexual harassment and discrimination within the base’s 111th Attack Wing and a pattern of reprisal against those speaking out about misconduct. The letter to Maj. Gen. Anthony Carrelli from the freshmen Democrats says the National Guard “is not immune from the cultural challenges facing our military, especially when it comes to sexual harassment, misconduct, and retaliation.”

[Mishandling of misconduct reports, retaliation a pattern across the National Guard](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 24 August 2020]

“The National Guard is aware of stories from the California, Wisconsin and Florida concerning sexual assault allegations and whistleblower retaliation,” spokeswoman April Cunningham told Military Times. “While we are unable to discuss details on individual sexual assault reports, we are deeply disturbed by any allegations that undermine the National Guard’s core values and violates our standards of conduct.” However, years of allegations, investigations and evidence shared with Military Times by survivors of assaults paint a picture of an organization struggling to hold its people accountable.

[Missing Fort Hood soldier was victim in “abusive sexual contact” investigation, Army says](#) [Dakin Andone, *CNN*, 21 August 2020]

A Fort Hood soldier who has been missing since Monday had been transferred to a different unit because he was the victim in an “abusive sexual contact” investigation, the Army said. Lt. Col. Chris Brautigam, a 1st Cavalry Division public affairs officer, told CNN in a statement that there is an “open investigation of abusive sexual contact” involving Sgt. Elder Fernandes and confirmed that Fernandes was the victim in the investigation. The unit sexual assault response coordinator has been working closely with Sgt. Fernandes, ensuring he was aware of all his reporting, care, and victim advocacy options,” Brautigam said. “The unit also facilitated his transfer from a unit who has recently deployed to a different unit within the brigade to ensure he received the proper care and ensure there were no opportunities for reprisals.”

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

SUICIDE

[CSAF Brown: Air Force Suicides on Pace to Reach 2019 Level](#) [Brian W. Everstine, *Air Force Magazine*, 26 August 2020]

The Air Force is on a path to match its 2019 suicide level, despite a service-wide tactical pause and efforts to curb the spread, as stresses related to COVID-19 have added to the problem, the service's top officer said Aug. 26. Research has shown that relationship problems often are a key factor, and the Air Force is trying to determine the best way to address that. An unnamed major command has been establishing a way for Airmen to seek help from a chaplain or mental health professional at a separate base to make the process more anonymous, and Brown said USAF also is looking at possible outside agencies to provide help. Brown told Airmen watching, "I'll be honest with the collective, we're struggling to figure out how to deal with this."

[Huge slate of veteran suicide prevention measures set for debate next month](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 25 August 2020]

Democratic leaders of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee this week announced plans to mark up a hefty slate of suicide prevention bills early next month as Senate lawmakers and administration officials lament that already existing solutions to the problem aren't moving fast enough through Congress. "If we're serious about reducing veteran suicide, we need sweeping legislative action backed up by mental health experts and veteran stakeholders that addresses recommendations from the [PREVENTS](#) Task Force and Department of Defense," committee chairman Mark Takano, D-Calif., said in a statement.

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 31: "Fearvana" author Akshay Nanavati](#) [*Military Times*, 24 August 2020]

Akshay Nanavati is a Marine veteran, speaker, adventurer and entrepreneur. His new book "Fearvana" is an actionable guide on how to leverage fear to accomplish anything. The Dalai Lama said "Fearvana inspires us to look beyond our own agonizing experiences and find the positive side of our lives."

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Family Seeks Damages After Veteran's Suicide Inside VA Mental Health Unit](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 22 August 2020]

The family of Sgt. Brieux Dash, a veteran who died by suicide in a Department of Veterans Affairs mental health unit last year, filed a claim against the VA on Friday, arguing that the agency's "deliberate indifference" and "complete disregard for patient safety" contributed to Dash's death. Dash, 33, hung himself March 14, 2019, on a door in the locked mental health unit at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. His death prompted an investigation by the VA Office of Inspector General, which found unsafe practices in the unit. Managers of the unit didn't pay enough attention to training requirements, the IG's office wrote in its report. There was also a lack of oversight from regional and national offices, as well as staffing issues, inoperable cameras and too much time between nurses' safety rounds. In addition, no one had recognized the risk posed by corridor doors.

[OnStar Button Will Now Offer Support to Veterans Contemplating Suicide](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 19 August 2020]

Veterans with an active [OnStar](#) subscription will be able to reach VA's Veterans Crisis Line through the touch of a button in their vehicle or by using the smartphone app. The VA/OnStar partnership gives veterans confidential around-the-clock support from VA's Veterans Crisis Line when they use the emergency services button in an OnStar-equipped vehicle or OnStar Guardian smartphone app, the release said. "The VA-OnStar partnership aims to promote suicide prevention and reduce deaths by suicide by providing additional resources to veterans," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a statement. "This partnership will help veterans access suicide prevention support services and assistance directly and immediately."

VETERANS

[The VA Is Now Offering Transition Services Specially Tailored for Female Veterans](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 25 August 2020]

The voluntary training program is in addition to the normal Transition Assistance Program (TAP) that all separating military members are required to attend, and is not a substitute for TAP training. This training is only available to female service members and will be led by a woman veteran who actually uses VA health care. The training began as a pilot program in 2018 in response to reports that female veterans were not using their VA benefits as much as male veterans did, mainly because they didn't know what programs were available to them. Due to the great success of the pilot program, a joint VA/DoD Executive Committee voted to make this program a permanent offering by the VA. The VA says that women veterans have a higher prevalence of chronic pain, obesity, musculoskeletal issues and depression than their male counterparts. Further, since 2001, rates of suicide among women veterans has increased by 85.2%, versus 30.5% among men among the youngest age groups.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Why Veterans Are Quitting Federal Jobs at Higher Rates Than Non-Vets](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 25 August 2020]

Veterans leave their government jobs at higher rates than non-veterans due to a variety of issues, including dissatisfaction with the "meaningfulness" of the work, according to a new Government Accountability Office [report](#). The study examined employment data from 2014-2018, before the COVID-19 pandemic put retaining a job at a premium. It was conducted to gauge how well the government carried out then-President Barack Obama's 2009 executive order to increase veteran hiring for federal jobs. The 72-page report found that the executive order resulted in an increase of veterans in the federal workforce. "As of September 2017, almost 32% of the roughly two million federal employees are veterans, up from 26% percent in 2009," the report said, but "some agencies have challenges retaining veterans at similar rates as non-veterans."

[WWII surrender ceremony in Hawaii limited to local veterans](#) [Caleb Jones, *The Associated Press*, 25 August 2020]

A Pearl Harbor ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II — possibly the last opportunity for many aging U.S. veterans to commemorate the day — will be limited to survivors of the war living in Hawaii because of coronavirus concerns. The plan before Friday had

been to allow about 200 people, mostly WWII veterans, their families and government officials, to gather on the battleship USS Missouri, which hosted the Japanese surrender on Sept. 2, 1945 in Tokyo Bay. In a [story](#) published early Friday, WWII veteran Jerry Pedersen, who was aboard the USS Missouri and watched the Japanese surrender, told The Associated Press he had been looking forward to attending the event for years, but he understood the risks.

[She Was the Most Influential Nurse in U.S. Military History](#) [Blake Stillwell, *Military.com*, 24 August 2020]

Few military careers are as distinguished as Florence Blanchfield's. Not only was she a veteran of both World Wars, she was the first woman to achieve equal officers' rank with her male colleagues - and she ensured every nurse that came after her did, too. She purposely exposed herself to danger in order to broaden her education and the understanding of her profession. Although her rank and responsibility was that of a full-bird Colonel, she did not have a commission in the regular Army. It was her mission to get this full rank for the women serving in the service. They were granted the rank temporarily in 1944, and Col. Blanchfield used the rank to tour battlefields and track the needs and effectiveness of her nurses. Her dedication earned her the Distinguished Service Medal from the Army.