

# DEOMI NEWS LINKS, 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

[Space Force aims to set standard for diversity, inclusion](#) [Dan Boyce, *The Associated Press*, 6 September 2020]

*Nina Armagno was recently promoted as its [U.S. Space Force] first female three-star general. As the director of staff for the office of the Chief of Space Operations, she will oversee the day-to-day happenings at Space Force headquarters. And in June, the head of the branch, Gen. John Raymond, addressed the topic in a letter he wrote in response to national uproar over the death of George Floyd. He called racism one of the enemies that service members swore an oath to defend the country against and added the Space Force must be founded on dignity and respect. “We have an opportunity to get this right from the beginning and we are committed to doing so,” Raymond wrote. “We must build diversity and inclusion into our ‘cultural DNA’ — make it one of the bedrock strengths of our service.” Some critics worry these public steps only serve to obscure larger systemic problems the Space Force has inherited from the branch of the military it grew out of, the U.S. Air Force.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Trump targets “White privilege” training as “anti-American”](#) [Zeke Miller, *The Associated Press*, 4 September 2020]

*President Donald Trump has directed the Office of Management and Budget to crack down on federal agencies’ anti-racism training sessions, calling them “divisive, anti-American propaganda.” OMB director Russell Vought, in a [letter](#) Friday to executive branch agencies, directed them to identify spending related to any training on “critical race theory,” “White privilege” or any other material that teaches or suggests that the United States or any race or ethnicity is “inherently racist or evil.” The memo comes as the nation has faced a reckoning this summer over racial injustice in policing and other spheres of American life. Vought’s memo says additional federal guidance on training sessions is forthcoming, maintaining that “The President, and his Administration, are fully committed to the fair and equal treatment of all individuals in the United States.”*

[SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#).]

[White supremacy is “most lethal threat” to the U.S., DHS draft assessment says](#) [Geneva Sands, *CNN*, 8 September 2020]

*White supremacists will remain the most “persistent and lethal threat” in the United States through 2021, according to Department of Homeland Security draft documents. The most recent draft report predicts an “elevated threat environment at least through” early next year, concluding that some U.S.-based violent extremists have capitalized on increased social and political tensions in 2020. The recently released draft reports, which were [made public](#) by Lawfare Editor in Chief Benjamin Wittes and [first reported](#) by Politico, asses a host of threats, including cyber, foreign influence and irregular migration. All three drafts state that White supremacist extremists are the deadliest threat. However, the placement and language about White supremacy in three versions of*

*the DHS draft documents differ slightly. The earliest available version of the “State of the Homeland Threat Assessment 2020” drafts reads: “We judge that ideologically-motivated lone offenders and small groups will pose the greatest terrorist threat to the Homeland through 2021, with White supremacist extremists presenting the most lethal threat.”*

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## CULTURE

[Chiefs nix headdresses, face paint to start NFL season](#) [Heather Hollingsworth, *The Associated Press*, 10 September 2020]

*Kansas City Chiefs fans who file into Arrowhead Stadium Thursday for a masked and socially distanced start to the NFL season won't be wearing headdresses or face paint amid a nationwide push for racial justice following the police-custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The move by the reigning Super Bowl champions has pleased Native Americans as a good first step, but frustrated some of the 17,000 fans who will be in the stands as the team becomes the first to take the field in front of a crowd — albeit a smaller than normal one — during the coronavirus pandemic. Enforcing the new restrictions also comes as the team tries to require masks, which has proven challenging at some public practices. NFL teams with Native American mascots are facing increased scrutiny after the team in Washington chose to drop Redskins as its nickname after a long and often contentious dialogue with fans and the public. The Chiefs also announced last month that the team was discussing the future of its tomahawk chop celebration amid complaints that it's racist.*

[The Oscars announce new representation and inclusion requirements for Best Picture eligibility](#) [Li Cohen, *CBS News*, 9 September 2020]

*The Oscars have come under fire the past few years for lacking in diverse nominees across its categories. On Tuesday, however, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that movies will now have to meet new representation and inclusion standards in order to be eligible to be nominated for Best Picture — one of the “Big Five” categories of the annual event — which may make #OscarsSoWhite a trend of the past. The [new standards](#) are a part of the Academy Aperture 2025 initiative, and were “designed to encourage equitable representation on and off screen in order to better reflect the diversity of the movie-going audience,” the Academy said in a statement. The changes will be phased in starting with the 94th Oscars in 2022.*

[From Racism to Russia, Top General Says Army Must Change](#) [Keven Baron, *Defense One*, 8 September 2020]

*After a contentious summer of nationwide social unrest that thrust the military into uncomfortable spotlights, the Army's top general said his branch is working hard to maintain the trust of the American people and build a force free of racism, extremism, and other influences that could hurt the unity of its soldiers, from Confederate flags to QAnon conspiracy theorists. The sum of it all, or at least the intent, according to Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, is to maintain a service ready to defend the nation and hold its qualitative edge over China and Russia. “I think any type of racism or extremism in the U.S. Army needs to be totally eliminated,” McConville said, in a wide-ranging [online interview](#) with *Defense One* on Tuesday. A virtual audience member*

asked about QAnon conspiracy theorists in the ranks. “Racism and extremism — we just cannot have that in the United States Army,” McConville answered. “There’s just no room for that. It breaks down cohesion in our Army. Any type of extremism, any type of racism, any type of people that aren’t willing to treat their fellow soldiers with dignity and respect and not willing to take care of each other cannot serve in our Army.”

[A Texas high school faces criticism after its Cotton Pickers team name gains attention](#) [Michael Errigo, *The Washington Post*, 6 September 2020]

On Friday night, Chris Thomasson — a reporter for KIII, a Corpus Christi, Tex., TV station — posted a pregame clip with the caption, “The Robstown Cotton Pickers come out before their season opener against London tonight.” Yes, the Cotton Pickers, a name that for many brings forth thoughts of slavery in America. The public high school, located in a suburb of the South Texas town, has had this team name since the early 1900s. Thomasson’s tweet, which unintentionally brought attention to it, quickly went viral. By Sunday, the video had been viewed more than 2.5 million times. Many viewers expressed outrage or confusion, asking whether they had read the name correctly. Former Chicago Bears defensive back Charles Tillman called it “so offensive on so many levels.”

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[How a New Jersey community responded after a shop owner’s “Speak English or pay \\$10” sign](#) [Mat Fagan and Monsy Alvarado, *USA Today*, (*Northjersey.com*), 9 September 2020]

Two weeks ago Dave Feinberg, owner of Cutters Edge, a knife and blade sharpening shop in Clifton, New Jersey, posted a sign — really a handwritten note — that read “Speak English or Pay \$10 Extra.” “I did it out of frustration,” Feinberg said. “I had something to get off my chest.” Then, on Saturday, someone tweeted a picture of the sign with the comment, “How do we feel about Cutter’s Edge?” When Feinberg got to his shop Tuesday, the phone was ringing almost non-stop. Most of the calls were hateful, he said, but there was a sprinkling of support as well.

[Affluent White student-athletes are profiting from the labor of their poor Black peers, study says](#) [Alisha Ebrahimji, *CNN*, 8 September 2020]

A new study of the economics of college sports found that affluent White students are profiting off the labor of poor Black students. The [study](#) from the National Bureau of Economic Research, published August 31, analyzed revenue data for all 65 athletic departments in the Power Five conferences, home to the NCAA’s top Division I men’s football and basketball programs, from 2006 to 2019. The researchers also collected data from student rosters across all sports in those departments in 2018, including data on the players’ ethnicity and hometowns. The report found that the money generated by football and basketball programs -- whose majority of players are Black -- pays for the salaries of coaches and administrators, is used to upgrade facilities the teams use, and finances non-revenue sports played mostly by affluent White student athletes.

[“Discriminatory” dress codes must end at hundreds of Texas school districts, ACLU says](#) [Dawson White, *The Star-Telegram*, (*Fort Worth, Texas*), 8 September 2020]

*The American Civil Liberties Union sent letters to 477 Texas school districts urging them to change their dress and grooming policies. The [letters](#), sent Sept. 2, warn schools that they're receiving the correspondence because their dress and grooming policies contain rules that are "unconstitutional and discriminatory." "While school districts throughout the country have removed policies that were based on antiquated sex stereotypes, many school districts in Texas still have policies that treat students differently on the basis of their gender, such as requiring different hair and dress standards for male and female students," Brian Klosterboer, attorney for ACLU of Texas, said in a [news release](#).*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Citigroup's Jane Fraser to become first woman to head a Wall Street bank](#) [C. Nivedita and Anirban Sen, *Reuters*, 10 September 2020]

*Citigroup Inc. (C.N) on Thursday named consumer banking head Jane Fraser to succeed Michael Corbat next year as the bank's chief executive officer, making her the first woman to lead a major Wall Street bank. Fraser, 53, has been a rising star in the financial industry, with a career spanning investment banking, wealth management, troubled mortgage workouts and strategy in Latin America – a key business for Citigroup. Her promotion to CEO was widely expected since being elevated to Citigroup president last year, and was celebrated as a step in the right direction for an industry that has few women or diverse executives in its top ranks. "Great news for the company and for women everywhere!" tweeted Bank of America Corp (BAC.N) operations and technology chief Cathy Bessant. "A big and fantastic moment."*

[It's time to be honest as American airmen \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Alan Werdehoff, *Air Force Times*, 10 September 2020]

*Coming from a more rural upbringing, serving on active duty taught me culture, diversity and, most importantly, inclusion. The culture of diversity and acceptance within the Air Force and military in general inspired me to serve openly; a decision welcomed and embraced by my supervisors. These lessons of inclusion didn't just come from my base or squadron, but from the highest offices in the Pentagon. Serving under the first openly gay undersecretary and later acting secretary of the Air Force was empowering and reaffirmed a sense of belonging. After transferring to the Air National Guard, the biggest challenge I found in being an American airman wasn't the airman part, but being American. Being an openly serving airman in a Guard unit located in a more conservative area comes with its challenges and can make one feel outnumbered. The sense of family found on active duty appeared to be replaced by politically charged workplace discussions that went as far as questioning the very patriotism and loyalty of liberal-minded Americans — American's like me.*

["I think it's a great honor": Arizona teen among first to become female Eagle Scout](#) [Jamie Yuccas, *CBS News*, 9 September 2020]

*A teenager from Arizona is about to join a very exclusive club as one of the few female Eagle Scouts. Victoria Rader, 17, always looked up to her Eagle Scout father and brother. So, when the more-than-100-year-old organization Boy Scouts of America allowed girls in, she joined. "I was really excited about it," said Rader. "Girls being able to do the same activities, the same merit*

*badges, the same amount of work.” It not only paved her way into a troop in 2019 but allowed Rader to be part of the inaugural class of females to qualify to earn the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. It’s an honor only 6% of members have been able to achieve. When asked what obtaining the Eagle Scout title means to her, Rader responded, “I think it’s a great honor to be able to do it. Being able to get to that rank means that you’ve really fully completed the program and you’ve gotten everything you could out of it.”*

[The Met Hires Its First Full-Time Native American Curator](#) [Sarah Bahr, *The New York Times*, 9 September 2020]

*For the first time in its 150-year history, the Metropolitan Museum of Art has hired a full-time Native American curator: Patricia Marroquin Norby. Dr. Norby — who is of Purépecha heritage, an Indigenous population that primarily lives in Michoacán, Mexico — will assume the role of associate curator of Native American art on Monday. She most recently served as senior executive and assistant director of the National Museum of the American Indian in New York. “This is a time of significant evolution for the museum,” Dr. Norby said in a statement. “I look forward to being part of this critical shift in the presentation of Native American art.”*

[High schools must teach LGBTQ-inclusive sex education in England](#) [Elizabeth Kuhr, *NBC News*, 8 September 2020]

*LGBTQ-inclusive sex education is now mandatory in all of England’s high schools. Starting this month, all English teenagers will learn about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer sexual health and positive relationships. “We want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe,” a Department for Education spokesperson said in an email to NBC News. The inclusive sex-ed mandate is part of a broader set of [new guidelines](#) rolled out by the department that seek to teach high school students “what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage,” as well as provide information on contraception, consent and online safety. The curriculum aims to “teach young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others.”*

[How one airman’s experiences gave birth to new policy on maternity uniforms](#) [Harm Venhuizen, *Air Force Times*, 8 September 2020]

*When Senior Master Sgt. Genevieve, superintendent of the 13th Reconnaissance Squadron, 926th Wing, became pregnant in 2018, she discovered a problem: Maternity uniforms were in short supply both online and in stores. Genevieve, whose last name has been omitted due to security concerns related to her job and mission, refused to accept the typical solution: wearing tennis shoes and a physical training uniform in lieu of an Occupational Camouflage Pattern uniform. And wearing a uniform several sizes too big was not a viable solution either. “I had never felt compelled to be a part of a women’s specific group before, but I met a charismatic speaker at the 2018 Joint Women’s Leadership Symposium, Maj. Alea Nadeem, and was inspired by her story and wanted to be a part of the Women’s Initiatives Team,” Genevieve said in the release. Genevieve’s conversations with Senate committees also contributed to the birth of the [Rent the Camo: Access to Maternity Wear Act](#), according to the news release. The Rent the Camo program is modeled after Rent the Runway and offers maternity uniforms and related items to pregnant servicemembers free*

of charge. The uniforms are certified free of toxic materials that may harm the mother or child during pregnancy.

[“LGBTQ people are here”: Pennsylvania’s transgender health secretary on visibility](#) [Meghan Holohan, *NBC News*, 8 September 2020]

*The coronavirus epidemic has cast a spotlight on Pennsylvania’s secretary of health, Dr. Rachel Levine. During her frequent press briefings, the former educator at Penn State Hershey Medical Center explains complex scientific information in a user-friendly way. Her calm presence has quelled Pennsylvania residents, while her mere presence in the media has instilled hope for the LGBTQ community. “As an openly transgender woman and a proud member of our community, I hopefully educate people that LGBTQ people are here. We’re part of the community and we really try to work towards the common good,” Levine told Today. As one of only a handful of public officials who are openly transgender, her heightened visibility during the epidemic provides Levine with a chance to increase others’ understanding about transgender people and the LGBTQ community.*

[Black woman to lead police force reeling from Breonna Taylor](#) [*The Associated Press*, 7 September 2020]

*For the first time, a Black woman will lead Kentucky’s Louisville Metro Police Department, which has been heavily criticized since officers fatally shot Breonna Taylor in March. Mayor Greg Fischer announced on Monday that Yvette Gentry will serve as interim chief of the department, according to [The Courier-Journal](#). Gentry is a former Louisville Metro Police deputy chief who retired from the force in 2014. She will be the first woman and the third African American to serve as chief of the Louisville Metro Police. Gentry’s appointment comes at a low point in relations between police and Black residents in Louisville. Protesters have marched for more than 100 consecutive days since Taylor, a 26-year-old Black emergency medical technician, was shot and killed as officers attempted to serve a no-knock search warrant at her apartment. Protesters want serious changes to the city’s police and other systems they say have perpetuated systemic racism.*

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[Jerks Don’t Actually Get Ahead at Work](#) [Laura Counts, *Futurity*, 1 September 2020]

*Researchers tracked disagreeable people from college or graduate school to where they landed in their careers about 14 years later. “I was surprised by the consistency of the [findings](#). No matter the individual or the context, disagreeableness did not give people an advantage in the competition for power—even in more cutthroat, ‘dog-eat-dog’ organizational cultures,” says coauthor Cameron Anderson, a professor at the Haas at the University of California, Berkeley. The researchers conducted two studies of people who had completed personality assessments as undergraduates or MBA students at three universities. They surveyed the same people more than a decade later, asking about their power and rank in their workplaces, as well as the culture of their organizations. They also asked their coworkers to rate the study participants’ rank and workplace behavior.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Eisenhower memorial in DC to be unveiled next week](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 10 September 2020]

*The long-awaited presidential memorial honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower will be dedicated and unveiled in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 17 – more than 20 years after Congress commissioned it. The memorial – dedicated to the life, military service and presidency of Eisenhower – sits on four acres along Independence Avenue, just off the National Mall. It was designed by architect Frank Gehry, now 91, and went through various stages of redesign because of criticism from Eisenhower’s family. The memorial is located south of the National Air and Space Museum and surrounded on other sides by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Education. The location is symbolic, Reddel said. Eisenhower called for the creation of NASA in 1958, signed the legislation that formed the FAA and created the Department of Health, Education and Welfare as a Cabinet-level agency in 1953. Eisenhower is also celebrated for strengthening Social Security, forming the massive Interstate Highway System and working behind-the-scenes to discredit Sen. Joseph McCarthy. Carl Reddel, who has spent 19 years working to establish the memorial, said the former president “was worth all the time and effort.”*

[Here’s your chance to make a difference for the health of the force — for the next 50 years](#) [Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 10 September 2020]

*Service members, check your email for an invitation to participate in a survey that will help researchers track health risks of deployment, military occupations and general military service for decades. The emails were going out this week to the DoD-registered email addresses of 500,000 service members, as part of the [Millennium Cohort Study](#), the largest and longest running health study of military personnel across the services. Active duty, Reserve and National Guard are invited to take part in the survey, which takes about 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Those invited to participate are service members with one to five years of service. The study is part of the Deployment Health Research department, at the Naval Health Research Center. This is in addition to other DOD surveys that track similar issues through surveys with different random scientific samplings every several years. But the Millennium Cohort Study tracks health effects by following the same service members and veterans over the long term.*

[Jessica Krug, the professor who pretended to be Black, resigns from George Washington University](#) [Joshua Bote, *USA Today*, 9 September 2020]

*Jessica Krug, the embattled historian and African studies scholar who admitted last Thursday to impersonating a Black woman, has resigned from her post as an associate professor at George Washington University. Her resignation was announced by the university in a tweet Wednesday afternoon, explaining that her classes for this upcoming semester “will be taught by other faculty members.” Krug initially shared her story on the blogging platform Medium, where she confessed that she “built her life on a violent anti-Black lie” by claiming a multiplicity of Black identities over the course of her adult and professional life, including being Afro-Caribbean and North African. Krug is, in fact, a White Jewish woman. She attributed her appropriation of Black identities to “unaddressed mental health demons” from her childhood.*

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

[Sailors, Marines Can No Longer Use Hemp Products to Fight Frizz, Soften Skin, Navy Says](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 9 September 2020]

*The Navy has banned sailors and Marines from using shampoos, lotions and soaps made with hemp or cannabidiol, one of the main active compounds in cannabis plants, it said in a statement. At issue is the possibility that such products could contain too much of the psychoactive compound found in pot called tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, and their use could “negatively impact mission readiness and disqualify a sailor from continued service,” said the statement released Friday. The new rule still allows for the use of CBD-containing products that have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, if a service member has a valid prescription. The rules do not prohibit the use of “durable hemp goods” such as rope, twine or clothing.*

[Battered by the virus, tribes race to boost census count](#) [Matthew Brown, Iris Samuels and Lindsay Whitehurst, *The Associated Press*, 8 September 2020]

*When Lauri Dawn Kindness was growing up, her hometown on the Crow Indian Reservation had an arcade, movie theater, gas stations and family cafe along streets shaded by towering cottonwood trees near a bend in the Little Bighorn River. Today, there’s only a small grocer and a propane dealer among the deserted lots scattered through downtown Lodge Grass. Kindness is back here after more than a dozen years in the U.S. Army, including four combat tours, and she wants to help her people. One essential step, she said, is an accurate count on the once-a-decade U.S. census, which will determine how much federal money flows in for housing, schools, health care and other dire needs. So Kindness, an activist for a Native American nonprofit, spends her days sweating in a mask and face shield under the merciless summer sun, urging drivers to fill out the forms at drive-thru census sign-up stations, including in Lodge Grass, known among the Crow as Aashbacheeitché, or Valley of the Chiefs. “Our ancestors fought for a reason — for us to be here,” she said. “At the end of the day, if I’m tired and exhausted because I’ve made just a little bit of an impact on somebody ... then I feel good. The fight was worth it.”*

[Shortened Census Count Will Hurt Communities of Color](#) [Aggie Yellow Horse, *The Conversation*, 4 September 2020]

*In August, the Trump administration announced the plan to end the 2020 Census count a month early, on Sept. 30 instead of Oct. 31. With about a month left before that new end date, [fewer than two-thirds of U.S. households](#) have been counted so far. The result will be that the census will count fewer Black Americans, Indigenous peoples, Asian Americans and Americans of Hispanic or Latino origin than actually live in the U.S. That will mean less public money for essential services in their communities, and less representation by elected officials at the state and federal levels. Some people – including people of color, poorer people, rural residents and people who are not U.S. citizens – are [less likely to respond](#) to the census. In part, that’s because they have less convenient access to the mail, telephone and online services needed to respond to the survey. In addition, some communities [distrust the system](#). Among Japanese Americans, that distrust is because they recall how census data was used to round up Japanese Americans for internment during World War II.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

**MISCONDUCT**



[Demoted master sergeant with White nationalist ties is now out of the Air Force](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 9 September 2020]

*Technical Sgt. Cory Reeves, a Colorado airman who was found to have ties to a White nationalist group and demoted from master sergeant, has been discharged from the Air Force. Reeves, who the Office of Special Investigations last year confirmed was an active participant and fund-raiser for the White nationalist group Identity Evropa, was discharged Aug. 14, Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said in an email Monday. Reeves was an operations superintendent with the 2nd Space Operations Squadron, 50th Space Wing, at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs when allegations about his involvement with Identity Evropa surfaced last year. In April 2019, a group called Colorado Springs Anti-Fascists posted photographs allegedly of Reeves wearing Identity Evropa-branded clothing and taking part in one of its protests. The group also accused Reeves of distributing White supremacist propaganda on several occasions and being a “patron” member, who contributed more each month than typical members pay.*

[A Year of Heartbreak and Bloodshed at Fort Hood](#) [Manny Fernandez, *The New York Times*, 9 September 2020]

*A 20-year-old soldier from the Fort Hood Army Base in Texas was shot at a strip club and died outside a convenience store on the first of March. Thirteen days later, another Fort Hood soldier was shot and killed in a triple homicide that also left his pregnant girlfriend and a former soldier dead. Then in May, a soldier was arrested and accused of breaking into her former boyfriend’s apartment, shooting him and attacking him with a hammer. Six days later, a soldier was shot to death and his Jeep Renegade was found engulfed in flames nearby. In June, the body of a soldier missing since 2019 was discovered in a field. The search for another missing soldier ended later that month when her dismembered body was found near a river. This has been a year of bloodshed and heartbreak at Fort Hood in the central Texas city of Killeen. A string of suicides, homicides, fatal accidents and criminal behavior has left residents at the base and its host city stunned and bewildered, and turned one of the country’s largest military installations into one of the most troubled.*

[Congressional Subcommittees Will Investigate Fort Hood’s Leadership After a String of Deaths](#) [Shawn Mulcahy, *The Texas Tribune*, (Austin, Texas), 8 September 2020]

*Two congressional subcommittees on Tuesday announced an investigation into the chain of command at Fort Hood following a recent spate of deaths at the Central Texas Army base. The House Oversight and Reform Committee’s Subcommittee on National Security and the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel said they are seeking documents and information about how Fort Hood’s leadership has responded to a series of deaths and instances of sexual harassment and abuse. “Where appropriate, we intend to seek justice on behalf of those in uniform, and their families, who may have been failed by a military system and culture that was ultimately responsible for their care and protection,” the committee chairs, U.S. Reps. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., and Jackie Speier, D-Calif., wrote in a letter to Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy. “While the Army has directed an independent review of Fort Hood, Congressional oversight is necessary to determine whether base leadership — by omission or commission — has allowed or enabled a culture to exist that undermines the values and traditions of the U.S. Army,” the committee chairs wrote.*

## RACISM

[Michigan university segregates White students and “people of color” for talks on race](#) [Chacour Koop, *The Miami Herald*, 9 September 2020]

*A Michigan university segregated students for discussions this week about race and racism. University of Michigan-Dearborn said Wednesday it regrets terms used to describe virtual “cafe” events that separated White students and “persons of color.” The events were intended to “allow students the opportunity to connect to process current events, share their experiences related to race, share knowledge and resources and brainstorm solutions,” according to the university. “The original intent was to provide students from marginalized communities a space that allowed for them to exist freely without having to normalize their lives and experiences, while also providing students that do not identify as persons of color the opportunity to deepen their understanding of race and racism without harming or relying on students of color to educate them,” the university said in a statement. The events quickly drew backlash.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Neo-Nazi pleads guilty over threats to journalists](#) [*The Associated Press*, 9 September 2020]

*Johnny Roman Garza, 21, of Queen Creek, Arizona, entered the plea by video conference Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Seattle to one count of conspiracy to mail threatening communications, to commit cyberstalking and to interfere with a federally protected activity. Garza was [one of four members](#) of the Neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division charged early this year with having cyberstalked and sent Swastika-laden posters to journalists and an employee of the Anti-Defamation League, telling them, “You have been visited by your local Nazis,” “Your Actions have Consequences,” and “We are Watching.” Garza admitted that as part of the conspiracy he located the Phoenix apartment complex where a member of the Arizona Association of Black Journalists lived and went there last January intent on leaving the threatening posters. Garza faces up to five years in prison when he is sentenced in December.*

[Researchers find racial disparities across court system](#) [Alanna Durkin Richer, *The Associated Press*, 9 September 2020]

*Harvard researchers found significant racial disparities in the handling of weapons and drug cases, crimes they noted “carry longstanding racialized stigmas.” The disparities remain even “after controlling for charge severity and additional factors,” according to the [report](#) from the law school’s Criminal Justice Policy Program. The researchers found that racial disparities in the length of sentences are driven largely by the fact that that Black and Latino defendants tend to face more serious initial charges than White defendants. That puts Black and Latino defendants at risk of harsher punishments and can influence their decisions in plea negotiations, they wrote. “The penalty in incarceration length is largest for drug and weapons charges, offenses that carry longstanding racialized stigmas. We believe that this evidence is consistent with racially disparate initial charging practices leading to weaker initial positions in the plea bargaining process for Black defendants, which then translate into longer incarceration sentences for similar offenses,” the researchers wrote.*

[Lawmakers Want to Know How the Military Is Fixing Its Racial Injustice Problem](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 4 September 2020]

*Lawmakers are pressing the Pentagon to show how the military services are creating more developmental opportunities for troops and working to fix the longstanding problem of racial disparities in the military justice system. Reps. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., and Jamie Raskin, D-Maryland, of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, sent a letter Thursday to Defense Secretary Mark Esper asking for evidence of the military's progress on addressing inequality in these areas. "While we appreciate Secretary Esper has announced steps to address racial inequalities across the Department of Defense, it is disappointing that the Department and military services have not provided our committee with basic answers to questions about the steps they are taking to address significant and disturbing disparities within the U.S. military justice system as required by last year's National Defense Authorization Act," the [lawmakers said](#).*

[Ahmaud Arbery's killing was met with silence. His high school football coach vowed to find justice.](#) [Roman Stubbs, *The Washington Post*, 3 September 2020]

*As some local leaders and institutions fell silent after Arbery's death — no arrests were made for more than two months — Jason Vaughn, a longtime assistant coach at Brunswick, helped amplify exposure around the case, which led to wider recognition and eventually the arrests of three men on murder charges. Vaughn, 39, has been racially profiled himself as a Black man in Brunswick, he said, and now he often wonders about his future in the community as a teacher and coach, because some in this small coastal town have warned him to tone it down. "People told me to stop stirring trouble. I became an agitator in my hometown, for talking about a guy who was murdered in his community," he said. "But one of the great things about coaching: I got more support from the community than I got threats." That support has deepened his resolve as a leading advocate for Arbery and victims of racial violence and as a mentor to teens at his school who represent a chance to change the town's leadership that he believes failed Arbery.*

[Critics fear NYPD Asian hate crime task force could have unintended consequences](#) [Kimmy Yan, *NBC News*, 2 September 2020]

*The New York Police Department's new anti-Asian hate crimes task force could inadvertently put Asian Americans in opposition to other communities of color, some activists fear. Leaders of Asian American community groups expressed concern about the task force, which was created [last month](#) in response to the growing number of attacks targeting Asian Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the recent police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, which has amplified calls for racial justice, some critics said such an initiative could have unintended consequences. "I think it's hard for us to fundamentally reconcile that that entity is going to protect our community, when, oftentimes, violence against people of color is coming from law enforcement," said Kham Moua, head of the policy portfolio at the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, a nonprofit civil rights organization.*

["You're disgusting" — Biracial military family in the Northland welcomed to Kansas City with racist attacks](#) [Melinda Henneberger, *The Kansas City Star*, (Kansas City, Mo.), 1 September 2020]

*It started as soon as her family, along with all of their belongings and their dog Kingston, arrived in Kansas City from Southern California not quite two months ago, Maureen Roland says: The*

*smiles that froze and then disappeared when her new Northland neighbors, near Parkville, caught a glimpse of her Black husband and biracial children. The woman down the street who put her hand up and said, “No, thank you,” when Maureen introduced herself. The slurs shouted from across the way, the pointing, the pretending to retch. The Rolands have lived all over the world, so it’s not a revelation that there’s racism in it. But “I have not experienced it to this degree,” she says. “I have not experienced it this much. I have not experienced it this vocally.” Her husband, Jamari Roland, is a 37-year-old U.S. Army veteran, originally from Los Angeles, who works for the State Department. A special agent to the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, he’s here for a year of training at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **RELIGION**

### [Navy Changes Course, Says Catholic Services Will Continue on Southern California Bases](#)

[Andrew Dyer, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 9 September 2020]

*Roman Catholic services will continue on board Southern California Naval bases at least for the next year, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, the commander of Navy Region Southwest, announced Tuesday, reversing a plan to suspend most contracts for priests in an effort to cut costs. That plan, first reported by the Union-Tribune Saturday, would have left base chapels at most installations in San Diego devoid of any Catholic services due to a shortage of priests in the active duty Chaplain Corps. The priests at these installations are civilians and work under contract. News of the canceled contracts led to a public outcry from religious and political leaders.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Previously: [Navy cancels Catholic Masses at area bases while other religious services continue](#) [or [here](#)]]

### [Unconscious learning fosters belief in God, study finds](#) [Brook Hays, *United Press International*, 9 September 2020]

*People who unconsciously predict complex patterns are more likely to hold a strong belief in God - a god who creates order in an otherwise chaotic universe -- according to [research published](#) Wednesday. “Belief in a god or gods who intervene in the world to create order is a core element of global religions,” Adam Green, an associate professor of psychology at Georgetown University, said in a news release. “This is not a study about whether God exists, this is a study about why and how brains come to believe in gods,” said Green, who also serves as the director of the Georgetown Laboratory for Relational Cognition. “Our hypothesis is that people whose brains are good at subconsciously discerning patterns in their environment may ascribe those patterns to the hand of a higher power.”*

### [Christian love wasn’t meant to be weaponized: A retired Air Force chaplain and rabbi’s message](#)

[\[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Chaplain, Col. Joel R. Schwartzman, USAF (Ret.), *Air Force Times*, 5 September 2020]

*When an anonymous Army officer’s wife sent an email to Mikey Weinstein and the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) Aug. 31, a supporter of the foundation, retired Air Force Col. (Chaplain) Joel R. Schwartzman, a Jewish rabbi, felt compelled to write back. The Army*

wife's letter, in which she asked MRFF to quit attacking Christians, admonished Weinstein and other Jews "to bend a knee" and accept Christ as their savior. It is typical of some of the mail that Weinstein receives, though many of those letters and emails are vile and despicable. Other supporters and board members of MRFF also responded, but the rabbi's Sept. 1 letter is particularly powerful.

## **SEXISM**

[Bianca Andreescu's open letter to Billie Jean King & Original 9 before 50th anniversary](#) [BBC Sports News, 10 September 2020]

*Fifty years ago, nine female tennis players - including Billie Jean King - risked their careers by signing up for a new tournament. Despite the threat of being banned from Grand Slams, they made the move to try to improve pay and opportunities in the women's game. Their actions on 23 September 1970 eventually led to the creation of the WTA Tour, and then later equal prize money at the Grand Slams and other events, making tennis one of the most equal sports. Here, 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu writes an open letter to those players, known as the "Original 9": Peaches Bartkowicz, Rosie Casals, Judy Dalton, Julie Heldman, King, Kerry Melville Reid, Kristy Pigeon, Nancy Richey and Valerie Ziegenfuss.*

["Why I Want a Wife": The overwhelmed working mom who pined for a wife 50 years ago](#) [Diane Bernard, *The Washington Post*, 5 September 2020]

*A half-century ago, thousands of women's liberation movement supporters packed into San Francisco's Union Square. They joined about 100,000 more in cities across the country on Aug. 26, 1970, celebrating the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage in a protest called the [Women's Strike for Equality](#). It was in that public space, during the first major demonstration of the modern women's movement, that the world first heard activist Judy Brady Syfers publicly long for a wife. "I want a wife who takes care of the children when they are sick, a wife who arranges to be around when the children need special care," the housewife from San Francisco read into the microphone, her hands shaking during her first time ever speaking in front of a crowd. Fifty years ago, "Why I Want a Wife" started simply as a housewife's complaints about the lack of recognition for women's work. The women's movement of the early 1970s "was an outgrowth of the civil rights movement," Syfers said. "But it was very much kind of sub rosa. And of course, it was treated scathingly by men and the media."*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[USAF Wants Airmen's Stories to Shape Harassment, Assault Prevention](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Magazine*, 4 September 2020]

*Starting the week of Sept. 7, the department plans to survey civilian and uniformed Air Force and Space Force members about sexual assault and abuse, domestic abuse, bullying, and stalking. "Survey data and the data gathered from reviewing past cases involving interpersonal violence will be used to identify any themes or areas for improvement," the department said in a Sept. 3 release. The Department of the Air Force's interpersonal violence task force is collecting anecdotes and other information to form an action plan with recommendations for senior leaders.*

*That task force stood up in July to look at the process, program, and leadership reforms that are needed to keep Airmen safe—particularly young ones. Anyone who fills out the anonymous survey can also join small focus groups to discuss the issues further. Command leadership is encouraged to offer their perspectives as well. Harassment and assault claims often involve abuses of power in a chain of command, as well as complaints that leaders do not take claims seriously or handle them properly.*

## **SUICIDE**

### [The ongoing tragedy of veteran suicide: Why legislation is needed now \[COMMENTARY\]](#)

[Anthony J. Principi, *Military Times*, 11 September 2020]

*Cmdr. John Scott Hannon, who had a distinguished career in U.S. Special Operations Command and as a leader of SEAL Team Two, took his own life. I never had the privilege of meeting this patriot, but as a Navy combat veteran who served during the Vietnam War, I am proud to have served in a branch that produces such fine men as Hannon. This nation is equally proud of his record of service in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. As a former secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, I am especially troubled by his passing, and I remain concerned about the ongoing tragedy of veteran suicide. Fortunately, before he left us, Hannon laid out a path this country would do well to explore in order to end this tragedy once and for all. He found comfort in working to improve the mental health of other veterans, even as he was working on his own recovery. In August, the Senate took an important step toward that vision by passing the [Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act](#). The Senate's unanimous vote shows how the power of a good idea can cut through the usual partisan divide and win quick support, and it's critical that the House take up this work and pass the bill as well.*

### [PREVENTS aimed at reducing Service Member and Veteran suicide \[Health.mil News, 9 September 2020\]](#)

*The second leading cause of death between ages 10 to 35 is suicide,” according to Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, executive director of the [President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide \(PREVENTS\)](#). In our nation, suicide has increased by 33% over the last 25 years across all demographics. These are challenging statistics that Warrior Care and PREVENTS are concerned about. Warrior Care Recovery Coordination Program provides our recovering service members, military caregivers, and their family/friends with the right knowledge to prevent these tragedies. Launched in June 2020, PREVENTS focuses on a holistic public health approach to suicide prevention. PREVENTS collaborates with 10 other Federal agencies to emphasize improved overall health and well-being. Veterans can lead this movement by setting an example to civilians, as they are one and a half times more likely to commit suicide, with women veterans being two and a half times more likely out of the Veteran population, compared to civilians.*

### [Tracking of Veteran Suicides at VA Facilities in Disarray, GAO Finds \[Richard Sisk, \*Military.com\*, 9 September 2020\]](#)

*The Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to track so-called “parking lot suicides” have been so riddled with errors that a living veteran was counted as dead, according to a Government*

Accountability Office report. In its review of suicides on the grounds of VA facilities, the [GAO report](#) issued Wednesday found “four missing cases that should’ve been counted and 10 cases that shouldn’t have been, including a veteran who was alive.” The live veteran had attempted suicide but survived, as later confirmed by officials at the unnamed VA medical facility where the attempt was made, the GAO report states. The report concluded, “The VA isn’t fully using data it already has to analyze these suicides,” recommending that the department “improve how it tracks and analyzes this data to better address and prevent on-campus veteran suicides.”

[“Do your part” — Joint Chiefs vice chair calls on leaders to end military suicide crisis](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 8 September 2020]

The second-most senior officer in the U.S. armed forces on Tuesday called on military leaders to help end an ongoing suicide epidemic by checking in with their subordinates and removing the stigma around seeking treatment for mental health issues. “There are no negative consequences to your career and only positive results for you personally, for your family and your friends,” said Air Force Gen. John Hyten, about seeking professional mental health treatment, in a video tweeted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Tuesday. “It’s important that the U.S. military brings light to this complex issue of suicide because regardless of which uniform we wear, we’re not immune from life’s challenges, including thoughts of suicide,” he added. September is Suicide Prevention Month, and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S., Hyten pointed out. Ending the crisis in the military starts “with our chain of command,” said the general, who urged leaders to check in on their subordinates.

[Missing Fort Hood Soldier Elder Fernandes Reportedly Died by Suicide](#) [Vincent Barone, *The New York Post*, 8 September 2020]

The body of Sgt. Elder Fernandes, who went missing on Aug. 19, was discovered near the railroad tracks in Temple, Texas, on Aug. 25. A Dallas medical examiner has ruled his death a suicide, NBC News reported. In the weeks leading up to his disappearance, an investigation had been launched at the base after Fernandes reported “abusive sexual contact.” “The chain of command takes all allegations of sexual harassment and assault seriously,” Lt. Col. Chris Brautigam, a Fort Hood spokesman, previously told KTRK. Fernandes had been transferred out of his unit after reporting the abuse, but the Army’s Criminal Investigation Division announced the day after his body was found that his allegations were “unsubstantiated.” An internal investigation at Fort Hood has been launched after Fernandes joins a growing list of soldiers who have died this year.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## VETERANS

[That day: Veterans share where they were on Sept. 11, 2001](#) [Sarah Sicard, *Military Times*, 11 September 2020]

For most Americans, the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, started off like any other — wake up, grab coffee, take the kids to school, head into work. But at 8:46 a.m., the whole world would change. It’s been 19 years since American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into floors 93 through 99 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center, United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower, American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into

*a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. That day, for many, is frozen in time. Much like Pearl Harbor or the Kennedy assassination, those who played witness to the events of 9/11 remember where they were, how they felt and who they were with the day of the attacks. These are seven stories of veterans who lived through the day.*

[Retired Navy captain and trailblazer for women’s equality in the service dies at 76](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 10 September 2020]

*Retired Navy Capt. Kathy Bruyere, a pioneer for women’s equality in the Navy, died Sept. 3 in San Diego following a battle with cancer, according to her family. Bruyere, 76, grew up in an Army family and joined the Navy in 1966 after graduating from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. In January 1976, she gained a measure of fame as one of 12 women featured on the cover of Time magazine for a “Women of the Year” (1975) issue — which was done in lieu of the annual “Person of the Year” issue. At the time, she was a lieutenant commander, and in 1975 had become the first woman tapped as a flag secretary and aide to an admiral, according to Time magazine. In the issue, she acknowledged that she was not thrilled about the potential for combat but said she “would not like to deny any woman the opportunity to do anything she is capable of doing, including firing a gun.” A year later, she and five other female sailors helped clear the path for women to serve on ships and aircraft engaged in combat — assignments previously barred to them under the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. The sailors, who claimed their careers and potential promotions were negatively impacted by the policy, filed a class-action lawsuit against the secretary of defense and secretary of the Navy in 1977, and U.S. District Judge John Sirica, of Watergate fame, determined the law was unconstitutional in 1978.*

[Why “The Wall” Will Send You a Rubbing of a Vietnam Veteran’s Name](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 10 September 2020]

*The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall has long been a gathering place for those affected by the war, those who lost a loved one fighting the war, and for veterans looking for comfort and fellowship. Also known simply as “The Wall,” the monument is etched with the names of 58,318 service members whose deaths were a result of the war. Visitors can find the name of a loved one and often use paper and charcoal to make a rubbing of the etching in The Wall’s surface. When someone can’t make it to The Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), the nonprofit that raised the funds to build the memorial, will send a volunteer to make a rubbing of the name. The organization temporarily halted the service due to the COVID-19 pandemic; for a time, no volunteers were available to make rubbings. Veterans and their families who can’t make a pilgrimage to The Wall or don’t want to risk being in large groups can once again get a rubbing of their loved ones’ names, just by making a [request online](#) at the VVMF website. As of Sept. 6, 2020, volunteers had made more than 400 of these solemn keepsakes.*

[This Black D-Day vet deserves the Medal of Honor, say legislators who are trying to make it happen](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 8 September 2020]

*Cpl. Waverly B. Woodson Jr., an Army medic who died in 2005, was originally awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his actions on June 6, 1944. Woodson’s supporters say a [memo unearthed](#) in 2015 indicates he was originally considered for the Medal of Honor, but ultimately did not receive it due to the color of his skin. A fire that destroyed veterans records in 1973 has*



*only complicated the matter. “One million Black Americans served during World War II — one in every 16 American service members,” Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D–Maryland, told reporters Tuesday. “Of the hundreds of Medals of Honor awarded at that time, not a single one went to a Black service member.”*

[In A Little-Discussed Program, The VA Is Helping Veterans Deal With Race-Based Stress](#) [Emily Elena Dugdale, *The American Homefront Project*, 3 September 2020]

*A group of VA psychologists across the country have formed [race-based](#) stress and trauma support groups for veterans of color. Jared McBride served in the Army for 22 years, rising to the rank of captain. But McBride, who is Black, said his race held him back from other opportunities in the military. For instance, McBride said that in 2009, he volunteered to become a commander for a unit headed to Afghanistan. But he said the position went to a White soldier who wasn’t as qualified. McBride said that - and other bad experiences - chewed away at him for years. “You’re held to this higher standard, which is sometimes impossible to reach,” he said. And sometimes his emotions got him in trouble on the job. [Studies](#) have shown that veterans of color have higher rates of mental health issues like PTSD, compared with White veterans, even when controlling for where they were deployed and the pressures of returning from war. McBride eventually left the military and sought mental health care at his local V.A. in St. Louis. He was diagnosed with depression and anxiety. And as his treatment continued, he was offered the chance to take part in one of the VA’s first programs that addresses how racism affects veterans’ mental health.*