

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, 2 OCTOBER 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

[A Military 1st: A Supercarrier Is Named After An African American Sailor](#) [Jay Price, NPR, 29 September 2020]

A supercarrier now on the drawing boards will be christened the USS Doris Miller. It's the first supercarrier to be named for an enlisted sailor and the first to be named after an African American. Most supercarriers are named for U.S. presidents — the USS John F. Kennedy. USS Ronald Reagan. USS Abraham Lincoln. Henry Kissinger called them “100,000 tons of diplomacy,” and that power has long been reflected in the Navy's conventions for naming them. The decision to name the new supercarrier for Miller was made by Thomas Modly, who was acting secretary of the Navy until April. “I think it was probably long overdue,” Modly said. He said he asked a small group of retired Black admirals he had met to recommend a name. It simply seemed like the right thing to do given the U.S. Navy's diversity, he said, especially compared with the navies of other nations. Miller didn't live to see the lasting effects of his heroics. He went back to sea in the Pacific, and in 1943, his ship was torpedoed and sank. Miller was among the hundreds of sailors who died.

[Suicide rate among active duty troops jumps to six-year high, COVID-19 stress could make it even worse](#) [Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today, 1 October 2020]

Last year, the rate of suicide among active-duty troops was 25.9 per 100,000 troops, according to the Pentagon's annual report on suicide. The rate was 24.9 per 100,000 people in 2018, and 21.9 per 100,000 troops in 2017. The rate has showed a steady increase from 2014, when the rate was 18.5 per 100,000 service members. The suicide rates in the National Guard and reserve components of the military remained stable last year, according to the report. In all, 498 troops died by suicide in 2019. Among all Americans, the suicide rate has increased 35% over the past 20 years, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. The suicide rate among all Americans was 14.2 per 100,000 in 2018, but the Pentagon's report states that after controlling for differences in age, suicide rates among troops are roughly equivalent or lower than the U.S. population. Young enlisted troops are the primary concern. They account for 43% of the military population but 61% of deaths by suicide. Personally owned firearms, not military weapons, were the primary cause of death. “None of us has solved this issue,” said Karin Orvis, director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. “There is no quick fix.”

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

[Trump, Pentagon collide over anti-diversity training push](#) [Rebecca Kheel, The Hill, 27 September 2020]

The conflict has been prominent this week, as Trump signed an executive order that extended his administration's ban on training involving race- and sex-based discrimination to include the military, federal contractors and grant recipients. Days later, top Pentagon officials were extolling the virtues of diversity to service members at a virtual town hall and touting the department's efforts to fight racial bias. It's unclear exactly what effect Trump's order will have on the

military's plans to address racism and discrimination in the ranks, but the messaging coming from the White House and the Pentagon stand in stark contrast to one another. Two days later, Esper, Milley and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman Ramón Colón-López held a virtual town hall where they spoke about forging ahead on the department's diversity initiatives. None directly addressed the executive order, but they all spoke about the importance of the Pentagon's efforts. "It's not just diversity for diversity's sake," Milley said. "It's diversity to improve the system, improve the military, improve our problem-solving capabilities and improve our warfighting readiness in order to protect and defend the Constitution.

[SEE THE DIVERSITY SECTION BELOW FOR MORE ON THE SUBJECT]

CULTURE

[San Diego Loyal forfeits match after opposing player allegedly directed homophobic slur at Collin Martin](#) [Chris Bumbaca, *USA Today*, 1 October 2020]

The San Diego Loyal, coached by former U.S. men's national team star Landon Donovan, forfeited its USL Championship match Wednesday night after players believed a member of the opposing Phoenix Rising FC directed a homophobic slur at one of their players. "Our guys, to their immense credit, just said, 'we're not going to stand for this,'" Donovan said. "They were very clear in that moment that they were giving up all hopes of making the playoffs, even though they were beating one of the best teams in the league, handily. But they said that doesn't matter. There's things more important in life and we have to stick up for what we believe in. And so they made the decision to walk off.

[U.S. ends Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands military adviser program](#) [J.P. Lawrence, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 October 2020]

A military program that gave troops advising and language training in an effort to develop cultural experts in Central Asia shut down Wednesday, the Pentagon said. The Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program closed after more than a decade of training advisers in languages such as Dari, Pashto or Urdu, said Richard Osial, spokesman for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. At its inception, the initiative reflected "the notion that peace in Central Asia will not likely be achieved down the barrel of a gun, but rather through the lens of understanding," said retired Adm. James Stavridis, who oversaw operations in Afghanistan as NATO's supreme allied commander from 2009 to 2013. Some who joined the AfPak program said they believed troops speaking local languages and more closely advising partners could help turn the tide in the war.

[The Air Force is letting you grow your hair out a bit more](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 30 September 2020]

In a Sept. 15 update to dress and appearance regulations, the Air Force outlined four changes to the rules governing how airmen wear their hair. Two of those changes will allow airmen to have a little more bulk in their hair. Men, whose hair previously could be no more than 1¼ inches from their scalp, can now have a hair bulk of 2 inches. Women's hair bulk standard also increased from 3½ inches to 4 inches. In a Tuesday release, the Air Force said that the changes take effect immediately, and are part of the service's effort to create a more inclusive and diverse

environment. The service previously lengthened the medical shaving waivers, primarily used by Black men, from one year to five years, and revised the dress and appearance regulations to remove subjective language such as “faddish” and references to complexion, among others.

[25 Live Performances To Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month](#) [Bruce Warren, NPR, 29 September 2020]

World Cafe celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. In doing so, we look back to some of the incredible live performances from artists that have been featured on World Cafe, Latin Roots and WXPB's XPoNential and Nuevofest music festivals. Check out this 25-song video playlist, featuring a studio performance from Chicano Batman, a festival performance by Xenia Rubinos and much, much more.

[The Interior Department celebrated European Heritage Month in August, an unusual move that has caused some employees to feel uneasy.](#) [Eric Katz, GovExec, 29 September 2020]

The Interior Department celebrated European Heritage Month in August, an unusual move that has caused some employees to feel uneasy. Interior published an [online monthly magazine](#) as part of that celebration, which highlighted the history and accomplishments of various European cultures in the United States. While the same publication put out previous issues that focused on other groups such as LGBTQ and Asian Americans, the publication caused a stir among some employees who saw the celebration as insensitive and improperly promoting ideals related to White pride. Some Interior workers who were aware of the publication became annoyed and angry about it, one employee said. The message appeared to promote a “White lives matter” ideology, said the individual, who requested anonymity out of fear of retaliation, and was especially troubling “during a time of civil awakening.”

[Asian Americans most likely to live in multigenerational homes. How Covid has taken a toll](#) [Celeste Katz Marston, NBC News, 28 September 2020]

“When you live in a mixed-generation household, or even a household with folks who are considered higher risk, [it’s] very different than if you are just social distancing, being careful, but you don’t have a grandma who could die if she caught the virus. So there’s a lot more at stake,” says Sung Yeon Choimorrow, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, a nonprofit focused on policies to help women and girls. A [Pew Research study](#) found 29 percent of Asian Americans lived in a home with two or more adult generations or grandparents and grandkids under 25 in 2016 — more than other ethnic groups. By comparison, 27 percent of Hispanics, 26 percent of Blacks and just 16 percent of Whites had that kind of setup. The numbers tell a painful story: Data analyzed by [The Marshall Project](#) shows Covid-19 has had a disproportionate effect on the mortality rate among Asian Americans:

[British Museum “won’t remove controversial objects” from display](#) [BBC News, 28 September 2020]

The British Museum says that it has “no intention of removing controversial objects from display”. It comes after the museum and other cultural institutions received a warning letter from the government over the issue. Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said that government-funded museums could lose taxpayer support if they remove artefacts. But the British Museum says it will

instead “contextualize” such items. The British Museum recently re-displayed a bust of its slave-owning founding father Hans Sloane in the Enlightenment Gallery. It was juxtaposed with objects to reflect the fact that Sloane’s collection was created in the context of the British Empire and the slave economy. However, he was also a slave owner, and the presence of his bust among the other objects highlights complexity and ambiguity of this period, the British Museum says.

[Chicago’s LGBTQ neighborhood “Boystown” changes its nickname after petition alleges exclusion](#) [Jessica Flores, USA Today, 28 September 2020]

The famed LGBTQ neighborhood “Boystown” in Chicago is changing its nickname after an online petition claimed it wasn’t inclusive of women, gender nonbinary individuals and people of color. The Northalsted Business Alliance announced last week that it would no longer use “Boystown” in marketing after an activist wrote in an online petition that the neighborhood’s street signs were a reminder that it is “for the boys.” It will now be advertised as Northalsted, with the slogan “Chicago’s Proudest Neighborhood.” “The Castro, Greenwich Village, West Hollywood, and many more. LGBTQ neighborhoods exist for all intersections of queer identity. Chicago’s is the only gendered nickname,” activist Devlyn Camp wrote in the petition. In response to the petition, the alliance launched an eight-week online survey to gather community input, according to its website. Of the 7,890 surveyed, 20% said they felt unwelcomed by the moniker, while 58% favored keeping the “Boystown” name.

[Sex ed mandate sparks bitter Washington state ballot fight](#) [Sally Ho, The Associated Press, 28 September 2020]

Democrats in the Washington state Legislature thought they had passed a routine sex education requirement for public schools earlier this year. But a coalition of Republicans and religious conservatives launched a swift, historic backlash that’s led to a bitter partisan fight and an effort to overturn the measure on the November ballot. Democrats in the famously liberal state say they want to protect young people from sexual abuse, diseases and infections. But the increasingly outnumbered and aggrieved Republicans have taken issue with the content of the standards as they rally for local control. The resulting referendum on the November ballot marks the first time in the country that such a decision on sex ed will be decided by voters. Under the wide-ranging bill, kindergarteners would be taught how to manage feelings and make friends, while older kids will learn about consent and how to respond to violence. The curriculum must also address issues faced by LGBTQ students.

[Two female coaches and a female official make NFL history by being on the field at the same time](#) [Lauren M. Johnson, CNN, 27 September 2020]

For the first time in the NFL’s history, three women were on the gridiron Sunday in an official capacity during a regular-season game. A female coach was on each sideline and a female official was on the field when Washington Football Team faced off against the Cleveland Browns at FirstEnergy Stadium in Cleveland. Callie Brownson is the Browns’ chief of staff, Jennifer King is Washington’s full-year coaching intern, and Sarah Thomas is an NFL official. Two of these women are no strangers to breaking the glass ceiling. Thomas has made history several times as she was the first woman to officiate a college bowl game and was the first female official ever in the NFL

five years ago. Brownson was the first full-time female coach at college football's Division I level when she was named an offensive quality control coach for Dartmouth in 2018.

[Yara Shahidi will be the first Black actor to play Tinker Bell in the live-action "Peter Pan" remake](#) [Darcy Shild, *The Insider*, 26 September 2020]

Yara Shahidi will make history as the first person of color to play the Tinker Bell character in Disney's famous "Peter Pan" fairytale. The actress, 20, stars in the Freeform TV series "Black-ish" and "Grown-ish." She'll play the fairy character Tinker Bell in the live-action movie "Peter Pan and Wendy," a remake of the original animated movie from 1953, [Deadline first reported](#) on Friday. Last year, Disney announced that the actress Halle Bailey will play Ariel in the upcoming, live-action remake of "The Little Mermaid," which also sparked divided reactions — some fans thought that an actor of color playing a fictional character was long-overdue, while others expressed confusion over the casting choice.

[The Navy is considering opening tattoo parlors on its bases in Hawaii and Guam](#) [Paul Szoldra, *Task & Purpose*, 25 September 2020]

The Navy is considering opening tattoo parlors on its bases at "multiple locations," including Naval Base Guam and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, a Navy official said Friday. News of the plan comes a few weeks after the official opening of a tattoo studio on Nellis Air Force base in Las Vegas, the first on a U.S. military base. "The Navy Exchange Service Command has never operated or provided a vendor space for a tattoo parlor," said spokeswoman Courtney Williams. "However, over the past couple of years, NEXCOM has been diligently researching and working closely with [Navy medical officials] to identify appropriate protocols and locations for potential tattoo parlors on Navy installations."

DISCRIMINATION

[Wedding photographer, ministries challenge Virginia's new LGBT rights law](#) [Laura Vozzella, *The Washington Post*, 30 September 2020]

A wedding photographer and a group of Christian ministries have filed separate lawsuits against a new Virginia law that bans discrimination against lesbian, gay and transgender people — and, the plaintiffs say, forces them to violate their "core convictions." Early this year in a newly blue state Capitol, Virginia became the first Southern state to pass sweeping LGBT rights legislation that bans discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) signed the Virginia Values Act into law, and it took effect July 1. In a case filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Loudoun County photographer Bob Updegrave asserts that the law could force him to photograph a same-sex wedding despite his personal opposition to same-sex marriage. "The government cannot demand that artists create content that violates their deepest convictions," Jonathan Scruggs, a lawyer with the Alliance Defending Freedom, a religious-liberty group representing plaintiffs in both cases, said in a statement.

[Divided Californians will vote again on affirmative action](#) [Jay Matthews, *The Washington Post*, 27 September 2020]

California will have a decision to make in November beyond who will be the next president: how to remove racial barriers to getting the most challenging schooling for disadvantaged students. Proposition 16 would repeal Proposition 209, which passed in 1996 with 54.6 percent of the vote. Prop 209 amended the state constitution to prohibit government institutions from considering race, sex or ethnicity in public employment, public contracting or public education. It banned what is usually called affirmative action, which means favoring groups that have suffered discrimination. Nine other states similarly restrict such programs. White Californians, who tend to oppose affirmative action, made up more than half of the population in 1996 but are now down to 37 percent. Polling of Hispanics, now 39 percent of the population, as well as Asians at 15 percent and Blacks at 6 percent, indicated support for affirmative action.

[A more conservative Supreme Court could bring drastic changes for LGBTQ+ Americans](#) [Kate Sosin, *The 19th News*, 25 September 2020]

In uncertain moments like these, LGBTQ+ advocates typically reassure their communities that, even in a worst case scenario, the law will protect them. But Carl Charles isn't just another queer person trying to read the tea leaves. He's a staff attorney at Lambda Legal, the nation's largest LGBTQ+ legal organization. He's among the legal team battling Trump's military ban. With a 6-3 conservative court, he thinks some of the hardest-won gains for equality could be on the chopping block. "I think what's plausible, and will probably be first and foremost, is marriage equality," Charles said. "But I don't think that will be a one track attack for them. I think they'll be doing all of this simultaneously," adding that a number of trans rights cases are currently making their ways through the courts. "There are many threats in the legal realm to the rights of LGBTQ people," said Lambda Litigation Director Diana Flynn. "But perhaps the most eminent one is the assertion of religious objections to compliance with the civil rights laws. What I do see is the risk that the court could allow individuals on the guise of religious liberty to discriminate against gay couples, as they exercise their fundamental rights in marriage,"

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DIVERSITY

[CNP: Diversity efforts don't mean officers will promote based on their race or gender](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 1 October 2020]

As the U.S. Navy continues its latest effort to increase diversity and inclusion in the ranks, the chief of naval personnel said this week that better representation doesn't mean officers will be tapped for promotion based on their race or gender, in the name of checking off some diversity box. Vice Adm. John Nowell made his remarks Wednesday at an event held by the [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#) think tank, where he spoke about why Task Force One Navy — stood up this summer to assess Navy equality in response to the nationwide racial reflection prompted by the death of George Floyd in police custody — won't be a token effort. His remarks on promotions came at the end of the event, when a written question, sent in by someone who described himself or herself as a Black Navy officer, expressed concern about advancing in rank based solely on skin color. Nowell said he had heard similar concerns from African American shipmates about being promoted in the name of diversity and not based on their naval bearing and other qualifications.

[Hotline is Open to Report Contractors' Defiance of New EO on Diversity Training](#) [Courtney Publé, *GovExec*, 29 September 2020]

The Labor Department launched a hotline on Tuesday to report any non-compliance by federal contractors with the Trump administration's recent ban on certain employee diversity and inclusion training. The hotline can be used for the recent executive order as well as the [Equal Employment Opportunity executive order](#), signed in 1965, which prohibits federal contractors from discriminating on the basis on sex, race, skin color, religion, gender identity, national origin or sexual orientation. The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will investigate complaints and "take appropriate enforcement action and provide remedial relief, as appropriate," said Trump's directive last week.

[Navy updates SEAL ethos with gender-neutral language](#) [Paul Szoldra, *Task & Purpose*, 29 September 2020]

The Navy has modified its SEAL ethos and creed for special warfare combatant crewmen to remove references to "man" and "brotherhood" in favor of gender-neutral language, a Navy official said Monday. "The previous versions of the SEAL Ethos and [SWCC Creed](#) were written prior to the law allowing women to serve as operators in Naval Special Warfare," said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Stroup, a spokesman for Naval Special Warfare Command. "Updates were overdue," Stroup added, noting that the changes were "favorably endorsed" by each of the unit's major commanders and command master chiefs. The changes were first reported by American Military News. Adjustments were made to just a handful of words. The SWCC creed, which originally mentioned an "elite brotherhood of sailors" standing ready in our nation's time and need, was changed to an "elite group of maritime warriors."

SEE ALSO

[Trump tweets that he will overturn recent changes to the Navy SEAL ethos](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 1 October 2020]

[White House Threatens Discipline for Employees Engaging in "Divisive" Training, Calls for Political Watchdogs](#) [Eric Katz, *GovExec*, 28 September 2020]

The White House on Monday outlined specific steps agencies must take to comply with directives instructing them to eliminate certain diversity training initiatives, and threatened to discipline federal workers who violate the orders. Agencies should take "immediate and substantive action" to implement President Trump's executive order and White House guidance issued earlier this month to curb some diversity and inclusion efforts underway at federal agencies, Office of Management and Budget Russ Vought said in a [memorandum](#) Monday. Agencies must tap a senior political appointee to approve any spending on diversity and inclusion expenses, while all training programs must be reviewed by the Office of Personnel Management to check for possible violations. Agencies will have to report to OMB on their progress in identifying newly prohibited practices. Vought also told agencies to encourage their employees to [report](#) any violations of Trump's orders to their inspector general.

[Why the Navy Must Embrace Diverse Backgrounds and Experiences \[OPINION\]](#) [Frances Salazar, *Military.com*, 28 September 2020]

In 2018, Hispanics accounted for [15%](#) of active-duty Navy sailors; women accounted for only [19%](#). I proudly represent both of those demographics and used my diversity to craft noteworthy experiences during my time of service. But my story is not unique. Every warfighters upbringing and future aspirations directly affect their time of service. While my story is just one of thousands, it's a real-world example of how a diverse background serves as a central tenet to military experiences, and how embracing personal experiences helps servicemen and women hone skills for success.

[Army Leaders Want to Keep Pace with Diversity in Changing U.S. Population](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 27 September 2020]

Army personnel officials have unveiled a new plan to build diversity across the force, on the heels of a White House order that bans certain types of diversity training in the Defense Department. The Army People Strategy: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Annex lays out the service's plan to promote diversity through 2025 in an attempt to adapt to the country's shifting demographics. The new DEI annex comes just two days after President Donald Trump issued an executive order that bans the Pentagon from using diversity training programs that might suggest an ideology that a specific group in society is viewed as the oppressors and that "racial and sexual identities are more important than our common status as human beings and Americans."

["Here we go again": Tampa Bay vets say diversity talks strike familiar chord](#) [Ileana Najarro, *The Tampa Bay Times*, 27 September 2020]

In the wake of George Floyd's death in May — and the ensuing national protests and conversations about race — the U.S. Department of Defense pledged to improve how it manages diversity and inclusion within its ranks. But the promise sounds all too familiar to local Black and Hispanic veterans who spoke with the Tampa Bay Times in recent weeks. They've been living with the problem for decades, they say. Individual branches of the military announced their own initiatives. And at the local level, MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa created a 6th Air Refueling Wing diversity and inclusion working group. Veterans who spoke with the Times shared stories of their time on active duty. And many came back to one primary concern: too few people of color advancing up the ranks.

[One of first females to join the silent service: "I'm excited to see the day when women being on submarines is not a surprise to people."](#) [Julia Bergman, *The New London Day*, (New London, Conn.), 26 September 2020]

In the spring of 2010, toward the end of her [Jeanne Van Gilder] freshman year of college, the U.S. Navy announced it was lifting its ban on women serving on submarines, first allowing female officers to begin their training. At that point Van Gilder knew "it came down to making sure I had the qualifications." Female officers like Van Gilder, a lieutenant commander assigned to the fast attack submarine USS Minnesota based in Groton, have served aboard submarines since 2011. Enlisted women began their training in 2015 and started reporting to submarines a year later. Previously, the Navy had dedicated windows for female sailors to apply to convert their careers into submarine ratings. Now, new volunteers are able to apply on a continuous basis, just like men. Starting in 2021, Virginia-class attack submarines will have "gender neutral accommodations,"

separate chiefs' quarters and berthing for men and women. Currently, 335 women — 97 officers and 238 enlisted sailors — are serving on submarines, making up about 5% of the silent service. [\[REPRINT\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[If you're tired take a nap, according to new Army field manual focused on holistic health](#) [Corey Dickstein, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 October 2020]

The Army on Thursday released its new field manual, and has officially embraced an afternoon snooze for tired soldiers unable to maintain full nights of sleep during training exercises or other operations. Entitled Holistic Health and Fitness, FM-22 outlines coming changes to how the Army intends to use more holistic health approaches to help improve a soldier's performance. The update is the first revamp of the service's health and fitness approach since 2012, and it intends to build more resilient, healthy soldiers by concentrating on their individual wellness instead of the service's decades-old focus on the health of whole units.

[Study: Sleeping in Shifts More Likely To Lead to Neurological Disorders](#) [Patrick Tucker, *GovExec*, 1 October 2020]

A study published earlier this month in the journal [Nature](#), and funded in part by the Army, has found that sleeping at off hours — like many in the military and intelligence fields, not to mention millions more in all sorts of jobs — can have bad neurological effects later. The Army Research Office, part of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Army Research Laboratory, is in a unique position to fund basic research into the area, said officials who spoke to Defense One. "We're trying to de-risk the idea of even trying to address this system because there's so little understood about it. There really wasn't a lot of federal funding put behind this topic besides some at NIH that specifically focuses on the clinical issues," said Frederick Gregory, program manager of neurophysiology of Cognition at the Army Research Office. What the research has revealed is that the glymphatic system is deeply connected to circadian rhythms. Travel and shift work create what Gregory calls "circadian arrhythmia, for lack of a better term. It leads to some kind of desynchronization. We don't even know what those processes are yet... Those are some of the fundamental questions that we are looking to address in this project."

[Bill is introduced to rename Houston post office in honor of Spc. Vanessa Guillen](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 30 September 2020]

Legislation to rename a Houston post office after slain Fort Hood soldier Spc. Vanessa Guillen was introduced in the House on Wednesday, the same day that would have been the soldier's 21st birthday. Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas, filed the legislation to rename the post office located at 5302 Galveston Rd. in south Houston in honor Guillen, a native of the city. "This post office is located just a few blocks away from Vanessa's high school, and it is my hope that her memory will inspire future generations of students for years to come," Garcia said in a statement. "Vanessa's tragic death has been a wake-up call for the country regarding what has to be done to protect our young soldiers from potential harassment and sexual assault. Renaming this post office won't bring Vanessa back, but it will serve as a constant reminder of her legacy for her family and the Houston region," Garcia said.

[First Woman to Vote in U.S. Gets Misspelled Tombstone Corrected at Arlington](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 30 September 2020]

For more than 80 years, the name of the first woman ever to vote in an American election was misspelled on her tombstone at Arlington National Cemetery, where Seraph Young Ford was buried alongside her Union soldier husband. At her graveside Tuesday, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, White House National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien and others gathered to honor a forgotten pioneer in the women's suffrage movement, whose first name was mistakenly spelled "Serath" when she died in 1938. "Now Seraph's story can be told" for her contributions to women's rights, said Utah State Sen. Deidre Henderson, who attended the ceremony at the now corrected tombstone. Henderson said Seraph Young was a 23-year-old schoolteacher who was on her way to work in Salt Lake City on Feb. 14, 1870, when she made what would become a historic turn into the Council Hall and cast a vote in a municipal election.

[Helen Reddy, Feminist Icon and Singer of Anthem "I Am Woman," Dies at 78](#) [Georgia Slater, *People*, 30 September 2020]

*Helen Reddy, the hitmaker behind the feminist anthem "I Am Woman," died Tuesday in Los Angeles. She was 78. The Australia-born singer released the pro-feminist track in 1971, which peaked at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart the following year and became an unofficial anthem for the women's rights movement in the 1970s. She won her first Grammy for the hit song in 1973 and went on to become the world's top-selling female singer in 1973 and 1974, *Entertainment Tonight* reported. The singer's life was recently honored in the biopic *I Am Woman*, starring Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Danielle Macdonald, and Evan Peters. The film tells the story of Reddy, who broke barriers as a single mother in New York City and defied the odds to become a hit singer.*

[A troubled sailor was "underdiagnosed" by mental health officials before mass shooting](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 29 September 2020]

*It only took Machinist's Mate Auxiliary Fireman Gabriel A. Romero a few seconds to fatally shoot two Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard workers and injure another before turning his service-issued M-9 pistol on himself last December. But signs of the 22-year-old's mental health issues, and the Navy's failure to help him, were months in the making, according to [an investigation](#) into the shooting obtained by *Navy Times*. The investigation suggests troubling deficiencies with a premier mental health resource for submariners in the U.S. Navy, while showcasing an array of warning lights around Romero that Navy leaders only recognized after the fact. Led by Rear Adm. Scott D. Jones and featuring a multidisciplinary team of investigators, the investigation report showcases how a troubled sailor's chain of command and medical providers failed to combine efforts to keep everyone safe.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Federal Government Promised Native American Students Computers and Internet. Many Are Still Waiting.](#) [Alden Woods, *ProPublica*, 28 September 2020]

Native American students in BIE operated schools were forced to start the school year without adequate technology, sometimes sharing a single computer among siblings, because the agency disbursed funding late and failed to purchase equipment in time. Aubrie Sloan expected to start

sixth grade in a virtual classroom where she would learn from her teacher each day and engage with classmates for the first time since the coronavirus forced her school to close in March. Instead, she marks her attendance at Kaibeto Boarding School, on the western side of the Navajo Nation, by texting or calling her teacher each morning. Then she dives into paper packets the school delivers to her home, breezing through assignments that her mother says aren't a challenge because she already knows the material. Aside from two phone calls from her teacher, the 11-year-old has received little instruction from the federally-operated school since classes started nearly two weeks ago.

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[California will house transgender inmates by gender identity](#) [Adam Beam, *The Associated Press*, 27 September 2020]

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law on Saturday requiring California to house transgender inmates in prisons based on their gender identity — but only if the state does not have “management or security concerns.” The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation houses men and women in separate facilities. Transgender inmates are often housed based on their sex assigned at birth. Advocates say this is dangerous, particularly for transgender women housed in facilities for men. The law Newsom signed Saturday says officers must ask inmates privately during the intake process if they identify as transgender, nonbinary or intersex. Those inmates can then request to be placed in a facility that houses either men or women. The law says the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation cannot deny those requests solely because of inmates’ anatomy, sexual orientation or “a factor present” among other inmates at the facility.

[Mauldin budgets \\$50K for diversity training after summer of backlash over councilman’s posts](#) [Gabe Cavallaro, *The Greenville News*, (Greenville, S.C.), 25 September 2020]

The city council of Mauldin, unanimously approved the funding at its meeting this week, with \$25,000 to go toward council training and initiatives “related to diversity and inclusion” and another \$25,000 to go toward staff training “related to civility, diversity, and inclusion.” Mauldin has had a summer of protests and calls for Councilman Dale Black to resign after he shared several posts on social media, including one that equated Black organizations to the Confederate flag. The South Carolina city approved a resolution in July directed at developing diversity-related training and initiatives in the wake of this situation and with this move Mauldin now has a funding mechanism for those efforts. The allocation of funding for diversity training was viewed as a positive step by some members of the community that have been critical of the city’s reaction to Black’s social media posts so far.

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MISCONDUCT

[New Fort Hood Commander Orders Training Pause to Rebuild Soldiers’ Trust](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 26 September 2020]

The new senior commander at Fort Hood, Texas, has ordered a training stand-down for all units as the first step in repairing the “erosion of trust” between soldiers and leaders that likely set the conditions for the disappearance and murder of Spc. Vanessa Guillen, a high-profile case that has

attracted national scrutiny. Just two weeks after taking over as the deputy commander of III Corps on Sept. 2, Maj. Gen. John Richardson IV has launched a yearlong effort to heal the base's deeply scarred image and begin rebuilding unit cohesion. The effort starts next week with Operation Phantom Action, a week-long training stand-down to give leaders time to start earning back the trust of their soldiers.

RACISM

[58 years ago, James Meredith broke the color barrier at Ole Miss. Here's how the Air Force and Army shaped that battle](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 1 October 2020]

On Oct. 1, 1962, a 29-year-old Black student and activist named James Meredith, flanked by federal marshals, stepped onto the campus of the University of Mississippi. He walked a gauntlet of racial slurs and taunts hurled by angry crowds, and became the first Black person to register for classes at the school, striking a blow against racial segregation. But Meredith's path toward breaking that color barrier started more than a decade earlier — when he first put on Air Force blues. Meredith was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi, in 1933, one of 10 children. He joined the Air Force in 1951 right out of high school and attended basic training at the now-shuttered Sampson Air Force Base in New York. In his 2012 memoir, [“A Mission from God,”](#) Meredith wrote that he joined the Air Force because it had a reputation for treating Black troops as full American citizens. But the Air Force was also where his resolve to fight for equality truly took form.

[Veterans Affairs to be investigated after allegations from staff of widespread racism](#) [Abbie Bennett, *Connecting Vets*, 1 October 2020]

The Department of Veterans Affairs will be investigated by a watchdog agency following allegations from VA staff that racism and discrimination are widespread at the department. In August, one of the largest unions representing federal employees, including hundreds of thousands of VA workers, released the results of a nationwide survey that showed 78% of VA staff reported that racism is a “moderate” to “serious” problem at the department. More than half -- 55% -- said they witnessed racial discrimination against veterans while at work. Following the release of those survey results, Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, on Thursday asked that the Government Accountability Office investigate the “culture, policies and practices” of VA to “determine the extent to which systemic racism” affects workers and veterans.

[White man seeks forgiveness in attack on Black family's home](#) [The Associated Press, 1 October 2020]

A White man accused of firing shots into the home of a Black suburban Detroit family who put a Black Lives Matter sign in their front window asked for forgiveness during a court hearing Thursday. Michael Frederick Jr., 24, made the remarks after being given a moment to speak about bond. He was appearing by video in Warren District Court for arraignment on charges including ethnic intimidation. Frederick told Judge Michael Chupa that he wanted Eddie and Candace Hall to forgive him. On Sept. 7, [shots were fired](#) at the Halls' home in Warren. Two days later, someone painted a swastika on one of their vehicles, slashed the tires and threw a large stone through their front window. Outside, they discovered the swastika and found that someone had written “terrorist Black Lives Matter,” “not welcome” and a phrase containing an expletive on their pickup truck.

[Black Appalachians find hope in national reckoning on race](#) [Piper Hudspeth Blackburn, *The Associated Press*, 29 September 2020]

Dayjha Hogg has known racism her entire life, but until recently she thought she and her family had to face it on their own. Hogg, 19, lives in Whitesburg, Kentucky, a town of 2,000 people in the heart of Appalachia. She is biracial — born to a Black father and a White mother — and can recall times when she and her brothers were targets of racial slurs, suspicious glances and rude comments. But in the wake of this year’s nationwide protests against institutional racism — sparked by George Floyd’s killing in Minnesota — Black Appalachians have found an opportunity for their history and struggles to be recognized more widely. Though the national reckoning on racism has raised awareness about the issue for many White Americans, that it is also echoing in the hills of Appalachia is particularly striking in a region that isn’t known for its diversity.

[Portuguese police told to remove racist tattoos within six months](#) [Reuters, 29 September 2020]

Portugal’s police force has ordered officers with tattoos bearing racist symbols or language to remove them within six months. The ban, which coincides with increasing ethnic tensions in the country, refers to “racist, extremist or violence-promoting symbols, words or drawings”, the force said in a statement. It also covers earrings, bracelets and rings, the force said in a statement. Police gave no estimate of how many officers might be affected, but European rights forum the Council of Europe referred in a 2018 report to numerous grave accusations of racist violence against Portuguese police, and complaints to the country’s anti-discrimination commission rose by a quarter last year. In August, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa declared “zero tolerance” of racism as authorities launched an investigation after several people, including two Black lawmakers, were the target of e-mailed threats allegedly sent by a far-right group.

[South Carolina city apologizes to Black residents for racial injustice resulting from its policies](#)

[Dustin Wyatt, *The Herald-Journal*, (Spartanburg, S.C.), 29 September 2020]

Brenda Lee Pryce has waited decades for an apology from the city of Spartanburg after her neighborhood was demolished during the city’s urban renewal efforts in the 1970s. Urban renewal efforts were meant to demolish blighted areas in cities and create better housing and more opportunities. In many areas, Black families and businesses were displaced and no opportunities were created. The loss of homes and businesses left Pryce feeling angry and disappointed. When City Council apologized for the failure of the redevelopment efforts Monday night, Pryce became so emotional that it brought her to tears. The city council unanimously approved a resolution that acknowledges systematic racism and includes an apology to Black residents like Pryce “for racial injustices and long-lasting inequities” that have resulted from past city policies.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Black doctors want to vet vaccine process, worried about mistrust from years of medical racism](#)

[Meryl Kornfield, *The Washington Post*, 26 September 2020]

The trust of a first-generation covid-19 vaccine is significantly less among Black Americans compared to White or Hispanic people: Less than 30 percent of Black people said they would be willing to take the vaccine, as opposed to 51 percent of White and 56 percent of Hispanic people, an [Axios-Ipsos survey](#) in August found. The gap waned when those surveyed were asked about getting a flu shot. To assuage fears within minority communities, a panel of Black doctors will vet

the federal review of companies' vaccines, said Leon McDougle, president of the National Medical Association, the largest and oldest group of Black physicians in the country. A complicated history with forced vaccinations and experiments had undercut trust of medical procedures and immunization within Black communities.

[COVID-19 surveys halted in Minnesota amid racism, intimidation](#) [Jeremy Olson, *The Star Tribune*, (Minneapolis, Minn.), 25 September 2020]

A door-to-door COVID-19 testing survey has been halted due to multiple incidents in greater Minnesota of residents intimidating and shouting racial and ethnic slurs at state and federal public health survey teams. The CDC pulled its federal surveyors out of Minnesota this week following reports of verbal abuse and intimidation, including an incident in the Iowa border town of Eitzen, Minn., in which a survey team walking to a house was blocked by two cars and threatened by three men, according to state health officials. One man had his hand on a holstered gun. Insults came at doorways, from angry people approaching the surveyors or just people walking their dogs on the other sides of the streets, said Stephanie Yendell, a state senior epidemiology supervisor. Most people were polite in all areas of the state, but there were "several" incidents and "a pattern emerged," said Dan Huff, assistant state health commissioner. The state ended the survey rather than continuing without the CDC workers, or sending only White surveyors in largely White rural communities.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

RELIGION

[Atheist advocacy group sues state over religious voter oath](#) [The Associated Press, 2 October 2020]

An atheist advocacy group has filed a lawsuit against Alabama's secretary of state, claiming a mandatory religious oath on voter registration forms is unconstitutional. A Wednesday [news release](#) from The Freedom From Religion Foundation said Alabama is the only state that requires voters to swear "so help me God" when signing the registration form. The Wisconsin-based group is filing the lawsuit against Secretary of State John H. Merrill on behalf of four Alabamians, who said their constitutional rights have been obstructed because "they are unable to swear a religious oath." "The secretary of state's official policy is to hinder the registration of voters who are unable to swear 'so help me God,'" the news release said. "This policy violates the rights of the plaintiffs and others under the First and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution."

[Review of Texas Tech softball program uncovers another issue: baptisms](#) [Josh Peter, *USA Today*, 1 October 2020]

With the resignation of Texas Tech softball head coach Adrian Gregory on Sept. 22, an internal review of the program was expected to examine allegations of player abuse and racial insensitivity. But another issue was revealed with the review's release Wednesday: baptisms. The review, initiated by Texas Tech's athletic department, noted that three baptisms took place within the team facilities. Treenity Edwards, the team's leading hitter in 2019, provided USA Today Sports video of her baptism that took place May 12, 2019, at the softball facility. "What brought me to Christ, honestly, was this team and Coach G," Edwards said in the video, referring to Gregory as she sat in a metal tub full of water during a baptism performed by Brandi Cantrell, a Fellowship of

Christian Athletes volunteer chaplain. On the same day, Edwards said, Texas Tech associate head coach Sam Marder was baptized at the softball facility. Marder, who was Jewish, declined comment.

[Don't say "Happy Yom Kippur": How to greet someone observing the Jewish Day of Atonement](#) [Carly Mallenbaum, *USA Today*, 28 September 2020]

Yom Kippur, which is observed from sundown Sunday to sundown Monday, is considered the holiest day of the year in Judaism. It's a high holiday that follows Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. But it's not exactly a "happy" holiday. So don't tell someone "Happy Yom Kippur." "This isn't a day of raucousness and partying," says Becky Sobelman-Stern, the chief program officer at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. "Yom Kippur is not about being happy. It's about thinking. It's about self-examination." Yom Kippur translates from Hebrew to English as Day of Atonement. Traditionally, Jews spend the holiday fasting and reflecting on sins committed over the past year. "G'mar chatima tova" is the customary greeting on Yom Kippur. In English, it means "May you be sealed in the Book of Life." According to Jewish tradition, one's fate is decided on Rosh Hashanah and sealed on Yom Kippur.

SEXISM

[No, military women are not getting pregnant to avoid deployment](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 29 September 2020]

By 2006, the Marine officer [Jennifer Haynie] had deployed three times, flown countless missions, and planned to keep flying on active duty for as long as she could. Kids were never part of the picture... until she got pregnant. At first, Haynie and her commanding officer kept the news quiet as they applied for a waiver so that she could continue to fly. But eventually, word got out that someone in the unit was pregnant, though Haynie's male peers were not sure who. What Haynie remembered most about that moment was the insinuation that the woman purposely got pregnant to avoid deployment and the gleeful, spiteful way that a group of fellow Marines were snickering at and attacking her. Haynie is not the only servicewoman made to feel like this: multiple government reports and interviews conducted by Task & Purpose show that women across the military are often bullied because of the stereotype that servicewomen get pregnant in order to avoid deployment, despite there being no substantial evidence that that actually happens. In fact, Haynie said she had it easy compared to what many enlisted servicewomen go through.

[Women's issues at UN: Still "too low down on the agenda"](#) [Jennifer Peltz, *The Associated Press*, 29 September 2020]

Addressing the UN General Assembly last week, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina noted a milestone: the 25th anniversary of the Beijing women's conference that produced a global roadmap for gender equality and a ringing rallying cry that became part of the event's official declaration: "Women's rights are human rights." The international community has "come a long way to ensure gender equality" since then, Hasina said, but "we need to strengthen our resolve and mutual cooperation." While the UN is preparing for a separate summit Thursday to mark the anniversary of the landmark female empowerment plan, women's rights were a steady thread but hardly a top theme of leaders' remarks at the world body's signature assembly.

[Mothers Are 3 Times More Likely Than Fathers to Have Lost Jobs in Pandemic](#) [Tim Henderson, *Stateline*, 28 September 2020]

Mothers of small children have lost work at three times the rate of fathers in the pandemic, a situation that threatens not only progress toward gender equity but middle-class income gains that have become increasingly dependent on working women. Even when moms and dads are both working from home, women tend to get the brunt of child-care duties, including the new online school hassles. A [July study](#) by Washington University in St. Louis found that mothers of young children have lost four to five times more work hours than fathers in the pandemic. Also, a third of working women said a spouse was not helping with child care during the pandemic, according to a [University of Southern California study](#), leading to higher levels of psychological distress among mothers than fathers or women without children. If working women continue to suffer losses, the current recession could mark a long-term setback. Just as the Great Recession forced older men into early retirement, this recession could be a setback for women with children, said Diane Lim, an economist and adjunct professor at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[If the Military Can't Handle Its Sexual Assault Problem, Congress Needs to Step In \[OPINION\]](#) [Katie Galgano and Emma Moore, *Military.com*, 1 October 2020]

Sexual misconduct is a pervasive problem in the military, with rates continuing to rise on a year-to-year basis. Instances of sexual assault and rape for service women increased from 4.3% in 2016 to 6.2% in 2018. This increase comes despite greater congressional, military and public attention and support to addressing sexual harassment in the ranks. As a result of sexual assault and harassment, as many as 25% of survivors leave the military. Publicly, the military says it views sexual assault as a readiness issue. But internally, it is not treated like one. Should the DOD continue failing at comprehensively and effectively addressing sexual violence, Congress must intervene more robustly.

[Olympic figure skater under investigation for sexual abuse allegation retires](#) [Christine Brennan, *USA Today*, 29 September 2020]

Morgan Cipres, the French Olympic pairs skater who is under investigation from the U.S. Center for SafeSport and the Pasco County, Florida Sheriff's Office for allegedly sending two lewd photos to a 13-year-old American female figure skater, has retired from the sport. SafeSport opened an investigation into the allegation late last year, according to the girl, her parents and emails obtained by USA Today Sports. The girl and her parents also said Cipres' coaches, John Zimmerman, a 2002 Olympian and member of the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame, and Silvia Fontana, a 2002 and 2006 Olympian representing Italy, tried to keep the family from reporting the alleged incident to authorities by shaming and threatening the girl as Cipres, who then was 26, prepared for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

[Survey: In Hollywood, few believe harassers will be punished](#) [Jocelyn Noveck, *The Associated Press*, 29 September 2020]

Disgraced mogul Harvey Weinstein may well spend the rest of his life in prison. But that doesn't mean workers in Hollywood have faith that other harassers and abusers will be similarly punished.

Instead, three years after the explosive Weinstein scandal launched the #MeToo movement, a survey by the [Hollywood Commission](#), chaired by Anita Hill, finds a strong belief in the industry that sexual harassers will not be held to account. “Things have improved, but not nearly enough,” Hill said in an interview ahead of the survey’s Tuesday release. “People don’t believe their complaints will be taken seriously, they don’t believe that something will happen to people who are found to be harassers. And they DO believe there will be retaliation — whether you’re a victim or a bystander, there’s a belief you will be retaliated against if you complain.”

[Hundreds of stories of sexual assault at colleges around the world shared on anonymous Instagram accounts](#) [Haley Ott, CBS News, 28 September 2020]

As students return to college classes around the world, hundreds are sharing stories of alleged campus sexual assaults on Instagram. Anonymous accounts have been set up at more than two dozen academic institutions in the United States, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, and they’re being flooded with student allegations of rape, harassment, stalking, and other forms of sexual abuse by fellow students. “Our goal is to expose the reality of sexual abuse at our university as well as empower survivors to share their stories anonymously and safely,” read the first post on St. Andrews Survivors, an account run by current and former students at the Scottish university. On July 4, a similar account at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, called CWRU Survivors, posted its first story of alleged sexual misconduct on campus. Just 25 days later, it said it had shared over 400 allegations made by current and former students.

SUICIDE

[General’s Proposal to Curb Suicide: Require Every Soldier to Visit Behavioral Health](#) [Matthew Cox, Military.com, 29 September 2020]

Following reports of a significant uptick in military suicides, the general in charge of Army Training and Doctrine Command suggested that all soldiers be required to see a behavioral health professional once a year. “In my opinion, just like we have to go see the dentist, we all ought to have to see the behavioral health specialist once a year,” Gen. Paul E. Funk II told an audience at the Army’s 2020 Fires Conference. During his remarks, Funk said that Army leaders must work harder to build more trust inside units to ensure soldiers don’t feel isolated. “We’ve got to try to turn the corner on the suicide issue, and we’ve got to work hard to make people feel like they are part of our organization that can turn to us in times of need,” he said.

[Gauging Suicide’s Impact on USAF’s Total Force in 2020](#) [Jennifer Leigh-Oprihory, Air Force Magazine, 25 September 2020]

As of Sept. 16, 98 Airmen had taken their own lives in 2020—putting the service “almost exactly on pace” to hit the same number of suicides as it did in 2019, when it undertook a Resilience Tactical Pause to address the issue, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. told reporters during a media roundtable held as part of the Air Force Association’s virtual Air, Space & Cyber Conference. Brown said “probably about 45 percent” of Air Force suicides stem from relationship problems, so he also wants to increase the number of counselors who are able to “talk to our young Airmen about relationships,” advise them on how they can cultivate meaningful ones, and build resiliency so that relationship efforts don’t leave them feeling “crushed.” At the same

conference, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass said she's asked her team to work with the Surgeon General community and USAF resilience personnel to initiate working groups on mental health.

VETERANS

[Holocaust survivor, Korean War hero, and one-man wrecking crew: New comic celebrates MoH recipient Tibor Rubin](#) [James Clark, *Task & Purpose*, 28 September 2020]

As a child, Rubin was imprisoned at Mauthausen, a Nazi concentration camp in Austria, where he endured the worst of humanity for more than a year. After the camp was liberated by American soldiers, Rubin vowed that if he ever made his way to the United States, he would repay that debt. The free comic book series, including the latest installment featuring Tibor Rubin, [can be read online](#), here. The most recent comics to come out of AUSA follow a similar trend and focus on recipients whose actions were overlooked or discounted at the time. Some faced discrimination at home, and within their own ranks, and were treated as second-class citizens despite all they'd given and risked for their country. In Rubin's case, his Medal of Honor recommendation was repeatedly delayed due to anti-semitism, specifically on the part of his company's first sergeant, who frequently assigned the young soldier the most dangerous missions, and then defied orders to process Rubin's award paperwork, [reported the New York Times](#).

[Black, Hispanic veterans twice as likely as White vets to test positive for COVID-19, VA study finds](#) [Abbie Bennett, *Connecting Vets*, 25 September 2020]

Researchers sifted through records of more than 5.8 million veterans cared for at VA, finding 254,595 who were tested for COVID-19 at VA between Feb. 8 and July 22. Of those, 16,317 tested positive (6.4%) and 1,057 died (.4%) the study results released this week show. "There is accumulating evidence that racial and ethnic minority communities in the U.S. are experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19," researchers wrote in their report. The findings of the VA study "suggest a substantial excess burden of COVID-19 infection in U.S. minority communities" that is "not entirely explained by underlying medical conditions or where they live or receive care." Researchers said they accounted and adjusted their results for other demographics including where veterans lived (urban or rural), geographic region, location of care, pre-existing conditions, outbreak patterns and more.