

# DEOMI NEWS LINKS, 9 OCTOBER 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

[DHS report cites White supremacists as most “persistent and lethal” U.S. terror threat](#) [Daniel Uria, *United Press International*, 6 October 2020]

*The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday said that White supremacist extremists remain the most “persistent and lethal” threat among Domestic Violent Extremists in the United States. The agency’s [Homeland Threat Assessment report](#) declares that White supremacists have conducted more lethal attacks in the United States than any other domestic terror movement since 2018. It further states White supremacist groups have “longstanding intent” to target racial and religious minorities, members of the LGBTQ+ community, politicians and those “they believe promote multi-culturalism and globalization” at the expense of their identity. “As secretary, I am concerned about any form of violent extremism,” acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf wrote in the report. “However, I am particularly concerned about White supremacist violent extremists who have been exceptionally lethal in their abhorrent, targeted attacks in recent years.”*

[First Female ANG Deputy Director: “There Isn’t a Ceiling”](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, *Air Force Magazine*, 5 October 2020]

*Maj. Gen. Dawne L. Deskins recently became the first woman and non-pilot to become the deputy director of the Air National Guard. But while she feels “very fortunate” for the chance to be a professional pioneer, her longtime priority has been doing the best possible job and being recognized for that effort—rather than for the boxes she might happen to check off in the process, she told *Air Force Magazine*. “Early on in my career, I remember just wanting to be judged on my abilities, my experience, and how well I did my job,” she said in a Sept. 23 [ANG press release](#). “I felt that my gender should be irrelevant.” With age, Deskins said she’s come to understand why her personal role in increasing female representation among ANG ranks matters. Giving women “a point—to be able to aspire to” is a responsibility she takes “quite seriously,” she said in the interview. “I know when I looked up, you know, long ago, there were nothing but men in the positions that I could tell, so I’m hoping that that maybe lets some women know that there isn’t a ceiling,” she added. “They can go as far as they wanna go.”*

[U.S. spy agencies face “shocking” lack of diversity](#) [Dan Dwyer and Cindy Smith, *ABC News*, 6 October 2020]

*As the Trump administration [rolls back](#) initiatives meant to bolster diversity and inclusion across the federal government, U.S. spy agencies are working to expand minority representation in their ranks and counter what some experts see as a looming threat to national security. For years, the intelligence community—made up of 17 federal agencies, including the CIA—has had one of the least diverse workforces in government, despite the fact that its mission is to analyze intelligence in dozens of languages and understand the nuances of diverse cultures in order to identify complex threats. “What was shocking to me was just the lack of representation of diversity in its senior ranks especially, but across the board in the (intelligence community),” said Rep. Terri Sewell of Alabama, an eight-year member of the House Intelligence Committee. “There’s a lot of lip service*

*that goes on with talking about diversity and not enough action, intentional action,” Sewell told ABC News, “especially when you think about the fact that there are some (minority recruits) that come in and get diverted to administration roles and not into mission critical.”*

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

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## CULTURE

[“Speak up!”—“Sesame Street” tackles racism in TV special](#) [Mark Kennedy, *The Associated Press*, 8 October 2020]

*“Sesame Street” has always pressed for inclusion. Now in the wake of the national reckoning on race, it’s going further—teaching children to stand up against racism. Sesame Workshop—the nonprofit, educational organization behind “Sesame Street”—will later this month air the half-hour anti-racist special “The Power of We” and hopes families will watch together. The special defines racism for younger viewers and shows how it can be hurtful. It urges children who encounter racism or hear someone else be the victim of it to call it out. “When you see something that’s wrong, speak up and say, ‘That’s wrong’ and tell an adult,” 6-year-old Gabrielle the Muppet advises. The special, composed of little skits and songs in a Zoom-like format, will stream on HBO Max and PBS Kids and air on PBS stations beginning Oct. 15.*

[“I won’t be used as a Guinea pig for White people.” Vaccine trials struggle to find Black volunteers](#) [Jan Hoffman, *The New York Times*, 7 October 2020]

*Recruiting Black volunteers for vaccine trials during a period of severe mistrust of the federal government and heightened awareness of racial injustice is a formidable task. So far, only about 3 percent of the people who have signed up nationally are Black. Yet never has their inclusion in a medical study been more urgent. The economic and health impacts of the coronavirus are falling disproportionately hard on communities of color. It is essential, public health experts say, that research reflect diverse participation not only as a matter of social justice and sound practice but, when the vaccine becomes available, to help persuade Black, Latino and Native American people to actually get it. (The participation of Asian people is close to their share of the population.) People of color face greater exposure to the virus, in part because many work in front line and essential jobs, and have high rates of diabetes, obesity and hypertension, all of which are risk factors for severe Covid-19. But even when those factors are accounted for, people of color still appear to have a higher risk of infection, for reasons researchers cannot yet pinpoint, said Dr. Nelson L. Michael, an infectious-disease expert at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.*

[Eskimo Pie is getting rid of its derogatory name](#) [Jordan Valinsky, *CNN*, 6 October 2020]

*Eskimo Pie has decided on a new name three months after it acknowledged its original name was offensive toward native arctic communities. Beginning early 2021, the chocolate-covered vanilla ice cream bar will be called Edy’s Pie, a nod to one of the company’s founders, Joseph Edy. It’s also a familiar name to many because its maker, Dreyer’s Grand Ice Cream, markets food under the Edy’s name on the U.S. East Coast. The ice cream manufacturer announced plans for the name change in June, saying it was “committed to being a part of the solution on racial equality,” and that it recognized the “Eskimo” term is derogatory.*

[Olympic high jumper pressured to “perform better” and lose a few pounds](#) [Noura Abou Zeinab, CNN, 6 October 2020]

*At the age of 16, Priscilla Frederick-Loomis attended a model agency casting session in New York City where she was told that she was “too heavy.” Even now at the age of 31, those two words still play on the Olympic high jumper’s mind. Loomis remembers a conversation she had with her college nutritionist, asking: “How can I be anorexic and be an athlete?” When I said to my nutritionist that I want to be anorexic, never did I mean I want to have an eating disorder. “According to a [U.S. study](#)—Prevalence of Eating disorders among Blacks in the National Survey of American Life—anorexia was the rarest eating disorder among African American adults and adolescents, while binge eating was the most prevalent eating disorder among adults and adolescents. According to U.S.-based eating disorder expert Dr. Gayle Brooks our culture emphasizes and overvalues thinness as the health and beauty ideal. “We are really understanding more and more that eating disorders are not just a White, suburban women’s disease, and that, you know, for a long time the belief was that women of color, particularly Black women, were protected culturally from developing eating disorders,” said Dr. Brooks.*

[Mattel adds Susan B. Anthony to its Barbie lineup](#) [Kate Gibson, CBS News, 5 October 2020]

*Susan B. Anthony once decried the limited life choices for women of her day, saying that it was their fate to become either a “drudge” if they married poor or a “doll” if they married rich. More than a century after the suffragist leader’s death, she’s joining the ranks of the latter — but for her singular personal achievements. Toymaker Mattel is adding Anthony to their doll line of other historical female figures, which also includes jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, tennis pro Billie Jean King, nurse Florence Nightingale, civil rights activist Rosa Parks and astronaut Sally Ride. Decked out in a floor-length black dress with lace at the sleeves and bodice, the Susan B. Anthony Barbie retails for \$29.99. Anthony is among those who helped pave the way for the 19th Amendment to the Constitution that gave women the right to vote in 1920, an event that she did not live to see. Born in 1820, Anthony died in 1906.*

[Mellon foundation pledges \\$250m to “reimagine” U.S. monuments](#) [BBC News, 5 October 2020]

*The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation said it would spend \$250m (£193m) over five years to build monuments, add context to existing ones and relocate others. The project aims to “celebrate and affirm America’s diverse histories”. It comes amid fierce public debate about monuments in the U.S., sparked by the Black Lives Matter movement. The charity said its pledge was the result of “years of discussion, research and intellectual exploration.” Mellon has already spent \$25m on monument-related projects during the last two years. One of its grants gave \$5m towards the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, which is dedicated to enslaved people and lynching victims.*

[“Terminal Lance” author returns with graphic novel featuring “indomitable” Marine hero](#)

[Matthew M. Burke, *Stars and Stripes*, 5 October 2020]

*Maximilian Uriarte has spent the past 10 years bringing the realities of Marine Corps service to life. In 2010, he debuted the comic strip [“Terminal Lance,”](#) which became a cultural phenomenon, illuminating the humor and daily absurdities of the grunt existence. He became a *New York Times**

bestselling author in 2016 with the release of “*The White Donkey: Terminal Lance*,” a graphic novel examining the realities of war and its effects on the psyche. Now, the 33-year-old is back with another graphic novel, “*Battle Born: Lapis Lazuli*,” and a new archetype that mines the “indomitable” Marine hero. “*Battle Born*” follows the exploits of the sensitive-yet-Herculean, African American squad leader Sergeant King, as he deftly attempts to win hearts and minds in the mountains of Afghanistan while combating the Taliban and the conflict mineral trade. This mysterious new character without a first name also faces issues like racism and sexism within his squad.

[The “ABC Travel Green Book” aims to redefine Black tourism in a modern way](#) [Nicollette Higgs, CNN, 3 October 2020]

Wanderluster Martinique Lewis has achieved a holy grail of sorts: She turned her passion for travel into a full-blown career. Lewis, who works as a content creator and diversity consultant, noticed a lack of diversity in the travel industry and grew determined to change the status quo. Travel publications and companies weren’t doing enough to appeal to African American tourists, Lewis realized, and she knew she had a problem worth solving. Her latest effort, the [“ABC Travel Green Book,”](#) is a self-published directory that lists Black-owned businesses, restaurants, communities, tours and festivals in the U.S. and abroad. For two years, she curated the guide based on research and personal travel experience. Lewis describes it as a source to “connect the African diaspora globally from A-Z.”

[Black singer of regional Mexican music sparks buzz, emotion](#) [Russell Contreras, *The Associated Press*, 3 October 2020]

Sarah Palafox, an African American woman raised by a Mexican immigrant family, has generated excitement online with her versions of [regional Mexican music](#). Born in Southern California but raised in the Mexican state of Zacatecas, 23-year-old Palafox, who goes by the stage name Sarah La Morena, has sparked emotions following a [series of viral videos](#) on social media. However, as Palafox has been stroking a frenzy with her voice, she’s also been to the target of a racist backlash online over her love of Mexican music. A few Black social media users accuse of her being ashamed of her Blackness. Some Latino users sling racist slurs and accused her of appropriation. The insults come in English and Spanish. In an interview with *The Associated Press*, Palafox said the scorn is similar to what she faced after her family returned to Southern California when she was in middle school. That has led to bouts of depression and a suicide attempt in 2018, she said.

## DISCRIMINATION

[Supreme Court rejects appeal from county clerk who wouldn’t issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples](#) [Pete Williams, *NBC News*, 5 October 2020]

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from Kim Davis, the former Kentucky county clerk who gained national attention five years ago when she cited her religious beliefs in refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Although the court was apparently unanimous in refusing to hear her appeal, two of the conservative justices said the 2015 ruling making same-sex marriage the law of the land amounted to a “cavalier treatment of religion.” Davis “may have been one of the first victims” of the decision, “but she will not be the last,” wrote

*Clarence Thomas for himself and Samuel Alito. After the marriage ruling, gay couples sued Davis for refusing to issue them marriage licenses, and she was briefly jailed for contempt when she continued to refuse after a court ordered her to grant them. Kentucky later changed state law so that marriage licenses were no longer issued in the name of the county clerk.*

[Sexual, gender minorities much likelier to be crime victims](#) [Astrid Galvan, *The Associated Press*, 2 October 2020]

*The first study of its kind found that people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or gender non-conforming are nearly four times as likely to be victims of violent crime than those outside such communities. Although other research has long shown that LGBTQ people and gender minorities are disproportionately affected by crime, the [study published in Science Advances](#), a multidisciplinary journal, on Friday looked at data that has only been collected since 2016, making for the first comprehensive and national study to examine the issue. It found that members of such communities, referred to as sexual and gender minorities, experienced a rate of 71.1 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons a year, compared with 19.2 per 1,000 a year among non-sexual and gender minorities.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[How diversity training for health care workers can save patients' lives \[OPINION\]](#) [David J. Skorton, *USA Today*, 7 October 2020]

*In recent weeks, the topic of diversity training—typically an internal matter for organizations—has generated front-page news. The spark was an executive order banning certain racial sensitivity training programs for federal grantees and contractors—and extending similar restrictions for federal agencies issued earlier last month. I and my colleagues at the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#) believe these restrictions are deeply problematic, in no small part because of the threat they pose to the health of our nation. In the medical community, DEI programs help reduce the prevalence of racial bias and discrimination, bigoted comments, mistreatment and harassment. This training gives medical professionals the techniques and insights they need to build relationships of mutual respect with each other and with those they serve.*

[Missouri board approves plan for nation's first police academy at historically Black college](#) [Erin Heffernan, *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 6 October 2020]

*The board tasked with overseeing police training in Missouri voted Monday to approve initial plans for the first police academy at a historically Black college or university in the country at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. The Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training, or POST, Commission, unanimously approved the proposal from the university designed with the mission to recruit more minority students into law enforcement in Missouri. “At many police departments now, there is a shortage in minority recruiting and that is what we are really focusing on,” Lincoln professor Joseph Steenbergen, a retired St. Charles city police officer, said Monday while presenting the proposal to the commission. None of the 107 associated Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs, in the country has had a police academy in the curriculum, he said.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Gov. Newsom's nominee for California state Supreme Court would make history](#) [Winston Gieseke, *USA Today*, 5 October 2020]

Gov. Gavin Newsom [nominated former civil rights attorney](#) Martin Jenkins, 66, to the California Supreme Court on Monday. If confirmed, he would be the court's first gay member and the third Black person to serve on it. Jenkins called the appointment "surreal" during an interview with *The Associated Press*. He said his sensibilities and experiences as a gay Black man would strengthen the court. "At times those sensibilities are relevant to the resolution of a case and at times they are not," he said. "I think having a Supreme Court that has a range of voices that arise from a range of different experiences, I think, produces a better end product, a fuller end product, a more robust and well-considered end product."

[Meet the Black woman advocating for greater disability visibility](#) [Donna Owens, *NBC News*, 5 October 2020]

Andraéa LaVant wants you to know that she's many things, a living snapshot of humanity's vast kaleidoscope. She's a Black woman. A native Midwesterner. A college graduate and business owner. A daughter, sister and friend. LaVant is also among the estimated 61 million people in the U.S., according to federal data, living with a disability—in her case, a form of muscular dystrophy called spinal muscular atrophy, or SMA for short. Today, LaVant is the founder and president of LaVant Consulting Inc., an Arizona-based social impact communications firm that specializes in helping brands "speak disability with confidence." This year is the 30th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (or ADA), a comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities. LaVant is part of a long line of advocates who are reframing the way individuals with disabilities center themselves, and the way the larger society views them.

[New California law, the first of its kind, requires racial diversity on corporate boards of directors](#) [Jessica Guyunn, *USA Today*, 5 October 2020]

California Gov. Gavin Newsom [signed a law](#) requiring publicly traded corporations headquartered in California to appoint directors from underrepresented communities to their boards, the first law in the country to dictate the racial makeup of corporate boards. It was inspired by first-of-its-kind legislation in 2018 that requires publicly held corporations headquartered in the state to diversify their all-male boards. It has faced legal challenges from conservative groups. "When we talk about racial justice, we talk about power and needing to have seats at the table," the governor said during a press conference on Wednesday. "The new law represents a big step forward for racial equity," one of the bill's authors Assemblyman Chris Holden, a Democrat from Pasadena, said in a statement. "While some corporations were already leading the way to combat implicit bias, now, all of California's corporate boards will better reflect the diversity of our state."

[OPM Memo Puts Pause on Diversity Training Across Government](#) [Erich Wagner, *GovExec*, 5 October 2020]

The Office of Personnel Management told agency heads on Friday that they need to submit all materials used in diversity and inclusion training courses to the federal government's HR agency for approval in light of President Trump's controversial executive order banning training that it claims is "un-American." In a [memo](#) to agency heads, OPM Associate Director for Employee Services Dennis Kirk effectively halted all diversity training at federal agencies as the

*administration works to implement the executive order. The memo confirms that all executive branch agencies are subject to the new diversity training rules, and the ban on “divisive” materials extends to all forms of training, whether they are administered by federal employees or contractors and whether it is conducted in-person, via tele- or video-conference or in webinar form.*

[SEE ALSO]

[OPM places all diversity training on hold, pending review](#)

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Science untangles the elusive power and influence of hope in our lives](#) [Richard Miller, *The Conversation*, 28 September 2020]

*On Erin Gruwell’s first day as a high school English teacher, she faced a classroom of 150 “at risk” freshmen. Most of these kids, statistically, were going to fail. They were tough, their young lives already defined by poverty, gangs, violence and low expectations. These students, she wrote, knew nearly every “four-letter word” except one: hope. Although hope is a common theme in mythology, philosophy and theology, it wasn’t a subject of psychological research until University of Kansas psychologist Richard Snyder began his [pioneering study](#) in the 1990s. His work paved the way for science to measure, teach and distinguish hope from other psychological disciplines. His research recognized hope as a cognitive function, an emotional state accompanied by action. To better understand how hope theory could be translated into practice, in 1993 I enlisted a group of seven researchers, practitioners and graduate students to participate in a seven-year literature review. In 2000, our team shared its conclusions, launching a new initiative called [Kids at Hope](#). The Kids at Hope strategy, at its core, promotes the practices and belief that [all kids are capable of success](#)—no exceptions.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[3 research-based ways to cope with the uncertainties of pandemic life](#) [Bethany Teachman, *The Conversation*, 22 September 2020]

*As a psychologist, I’m interested in how people think differently when they’re anxious. That means I study what happens when people don’t handle uncertainty well and get lost in that bottomless pit of currently unanswerable questions. If you’re having trouble handling pandemic uncertainty, psychology research can offer tips on how to deal with these unprecedented times. So, what do you do with the anxiety this uncertainty naturally evokes? If you get stuck replaying the unanswered questions over and over and let anxiety guide your thinking, you’re likely to fill in the gaps with worst-case scenarios. A tendency to catastrophize and assign negative and threatening interpretations when situations are uncertain or ambiguous is a hallmark of anxiety disorders. In fact, “intolerance of uncertainty,” the tendency to fear the unknown and find the lack of certainty highly distressing and uncomfortable, is a strong predictor of anxiety in both adults and children and adolescents.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Appeals Court Rejects Trump Administration's Renewed Efforts to End Census Early](#) [Eric Katz, *GovExec*, 7 October 2020]

*A federal appeals court rejected the Trump administration's attempt to end the Census Bureau's decennial count of everyone in the country before Oct. 31, setting up a potential fight before the Supreme Court. The judges in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit avoided throwing a new wrench into a decennial count that has already endured a series of disruptions in the form of deadline changes and a global pandemic. They did grant a stay on part of a lower court's previously issued injunction, blocking an order that would have required Census to deliver data after its statutory deadline of Dec. 31. A federal judge in September blocked the Commerce Department and White House from ending the census on Oct. 1, as it had planned to do since August, while putting an injunction on its effort to turn over apportionment data by the end of the year. Census then announced it would end the count by Oct. 5, but the judge blocked that effort as well. The back and forth created confusion and chaos among the hundreds of thousands of Census employees in the field, who reported receiving divergent messaging that may have conflicted with the court's order.*

[Canada's Supreme Court to consider whether Native Americans in U.S. have rights north of the border](#) [Amanda Coletta, *The Washington Post*, 7 October 2020]

*It was a frosty October morning when Richard Desautel aimed his Mauser 98 bolt-action rifle at a cow elk in the Arrow Lakes area of British Columbia, shot the animal dead and phoned wildlife conservation officers to report what he'd done. That call, made a decade ago this month, set into motion a plan that was years in the making. Authorities charged Desautel, a U.S. citizen and member of the Lakes Tribe of the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington state, with hunting without a license and hunting big game while not a resident of British Columbia. It was what Desautel wanted. It gave him the opportunity to argue that he was exercising his right under Canada's constitution to hunt for ceremonial purposes on the traditional land of his ancestors, the Sinixt, an Indigenous group that Canada declared extinct more than 60 years ago. Shelly Boyd, a member of the Lakes Tribe who says she is descended from the Sinixt, remembers what it was like as a young girl to learn that Canada considered her "extinct." "I thought, 'That doesn't make sense. That's what happens to dinosaurs. That's what happens to animals,' " Boyd said.*

[Blazing a trail: How a Black Navy SEAL boosted his success through online learning](#) [COMMENTARY] [Ty Smith, *Military Times*, 6 October 2020]

*As a young Black American growing up in East St. Louis, people told me I would never go to college—that it wasn't for me. My own teachers even told me I wasn't smart enough to go. That mentality stuck with me through my early adult years. At 33, I had 15 years of service in the Navy under my belt. I had my sights on retiring from the military, but not necessarily setting foot inside a classroom. I began seeking advice from my mentors in the Navy, and made my way through several jobs fairs. While people lauded my military experience, one thing became clear: I would need a four-year degree to be competitive.*

[Trump Orders Agencies to Tackle Coronavirus-Related Mental Health Challenges](#) [Courtney Bubl , *GovExec*, 6 October 2020]

*President Trump issued an executive order on Monday to establish a multi-agency working group to address mental health issues resulting from the novel coronavirus pandemic. According to a [poll](#) from the Kaiser Family Foundation in mid-July, 53% of U.S. adults said their mental health was harmed by worry and stress over the coronavirus, compared to 32% in March. The pandemic and the resulting economic recession have “disproportionately” affected young adults (ages 18-24), racial and ethnic minorities, unpaid adult caretakers and essential workers in terms of mental health challenges, substance abuse and thoughts of suicide, according to a [report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in September. The president issued the [order](#)—that included a “national call to action” to remedy these issues—before leaving Walter Reed National Military Medical Center where he was being treated for coronavirus.*

[UNH prof accused of posing as immigrant woman on Twitter](#) [Michael Casey, *The Associated Press*, 5 October 2020]

*A White University of New Hampshire chemistry professor is accused of posing as an immigrant woman of color on Twitter to make racist and sexist comments and attack users who supported racial justice and other progressive causes. The university has not named the professor whom it said was being investigated related to allegations on social media. A spokesperson said that the person “is on leave and not in the classroom.” “We are deeply troubled by what we’ve learned so far and immediately launched an investigation,” University spokeswoman Erika Mantz said. Toby Santamaria, a graduate student studying plant biology at Michigan State who identifies with the gender-neutral term Latinx, was attacked online by followers of the Twitter account. “It just wanted to silent dissent,” said Santamaria, recalling how the user would often suggest trans people didn’t exist and that sexism and racism in STEM was not an issue.*

[Parents: Online learning program has racist, sexist content](#) [Jennifer Sinco Kelleher, *The Associated Press*, 4 October 2020]

*Zan Timtim doesn’t think it’s safe for her eighth-grade daughter to return to school in person during the coronavirus pandemic but also doesn’t want her exposed to a remote learning program that misspelled and mispronounced the name of Queen Lili ‘uokalani, the last monarch to rule the Hawaiian Kingdom. Timtim’s daughter is Native Hawaiian and speaks Hawaiian fluently, “so to see that inaccuracy with the Hawaiian history side was really upsetting,” she said. Even before the school year started, Timtim said she heard from other parents about racist, sexist and other concerning content on Acellus, an online program some students use to learn from home. Parents have called out “towelban” as a multiple-choice answer for a question about a terrorist group and Grumpy from “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” described as a “woman hater.” Some also say the program isn’t as rigorous as it should be.*

## **MISCONDUCT**

[Lawyer in Midshipman Lawsuit Has a Long History in Naval Academy Culture Wars](#) [Heather Mongilio, *The Capital Gazette*, (Annapolis, Md.), 4 October 2020]

*The attorney representing a California midshipman facing expulsion over racist tweets has a long history with the Naval Academy, including previously defending a midshipman separated over racist language. Midshipman 1st Class Chase Standage’s lawsuit against the Naval Academy*

*superintendent and secretary of the Navy may only list two defendants, but in trying to prove Standage's First and Fifth Amendment rights were violated, attorney Jeffrey McFadden has brought in several members of the Naval Academy community. That includes the commandant's daughter, as evidence of a "culture war" that sees the academy adopting tenets of Black Lives Matter and anti-racism. Superintendent Vice Adm. Sean Buck and Commandant of the Midshipmen Thomas R. Buchanan have made several public statements encouraging midshipmen to reflect on their actions and educate themselves about systemic racism, including at the academy, since the police killing of George Floyd over the summer. McFadden, who is the lead attorney on the case, is a Naval Academy alumnus, a 1979 graduate. Over the years, he has stayed connected to his alma mater, often criticizing what he sees as the changing culture.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Coast Guard Investigating Alleged Hazing Incident Involving Men's Cross Country Team](#) [Julia Bergman, *The Day*, (New London, Conn.), 3 October 2020]

*The Coast Guard is investigating members of the Coast Guard Academy's men's varsity cross country team for a potential hazing incident that reportedly occurred during a recent practice. The academy through a spokesman declined to provide details about what happened but said there were no reported injuries as a result of the incident. The team, which has 25 men on its roster, is suspended until the investigation into the alleged hazing is complete. "The Coast Guard Academy Superintendent received a report of alleged hazing among a group of cadets connected with the men's varsity cross country team," Cmdr. Dave Milne, academy spokesman, said in a statement Friday. "The Coast Guard Academy takes all reports of this nature very seriously. We are encouraged that those individuals involved in making the report to Coast Guard Academy leadership felt confident in doing so. The Coast Guard immediately commenced an investigation into the allegations."*

[Marine general under investigation for allegations he used a racial slur, Corps confirms](#) [John Vandiver, *Stars and Stripes* 2 October 2020]

*The two-star general in charge of U.S. Marines in Europe and Africa is under investigation for allegations that he used a racial slur during a recent training event with his troops, the Corps said Friday. "We are aware of the allegations," said Capt. Joseph Butterfield, a Marine Corps spokesman. "The Marine Corps takes all allegations of misconduct seriously, regardless of rank, and appropriate actions will be taken if the allegations are substantiated." The Marine Corps confirmation came in response to questions from Stars and Stripes about whether Maj. Gen. Stephen Neary, who commands Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa, used a derogatory term for Blacks in the presence of other Marines. "When allegations are made against a Marine, each Marine is afforded due process," Butterfield said. "There is no additional information available at this time pending the conclusion of the investigation."*

## **RACISM**

["My life as a hater": The dire warning from a White power leader's son](#) [Alex Hosenball, Evan Simon and Mike Levine, *ABC News*, 6 October 2020]

*Kevin Pierce was raised to be a bigot. Like so many other American children, when he was young he often dreamed of visiting the nation's capital—but his dreams were far different than those of most kids. "I remember fantasizing about going into Washington, D.C., standing on a street corner holding a machine gun, and mowing down Black people with that machine gun," Pierce told ABC News in his first TV interview. "I used to actually fantasize about doing that." When Pierce was in college, his father published the novel "The Turner Diaries," which experts describe as the White power movement's "bible" with its depictions of a violent campaign against the U.S. government and a global race war that leads to the eradication of Jews, Black people and other non-Whites.*

[Addressing Race in Therapy \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Navy Lt. Cmdr. Courtney A. Pollman-Turner, Psy.D., *Psychological Health Center for Excellence*, 5 October 2020]

*Providers in minority groups [remain underrepresented](#) in the field of psychology, meaning that individuals in minority groups will most likely see a non-minority therapist when they seek psychological help. How do we, as clinicians, make a safe space for service members to discuss their experiences of racism in a therapeutic capacity? Initially, I was afraid to start conversations about race with my patients. I was afraid of saying the wrong thing, being offensive, and that they wouldn't come back to therapy. What I found over time, though, was that most of my patients appreciated the opportunity to openly discuss this with me, and it led to more meaningful and productive therapy sessions. I often see a notable change in patients' non-verbal communication when I invite race into the room; they seem relieved.*

[Behind the armor: Men seek "purpose" in protecting property despite charges of racism](#) [Robert Klemko, *The Washington Post*, 5 October 2020]

*They'd already spent a full night—from dusk until dawn—defending a Shell gas station, standing behind concrete barriers at each street entrance with fatigues on and AR-15s at the ready. More than 100 protesters—some wearing all black and carrying pistols—marched up to the approximately 20 people who had gathered on the evening of Sept. 24 awaiting instructions from the Oath Keepers, a heavily armed civilian group that has guarded private businesses during racial justice demonstrations this year. The man leading the protesters, Chris Will, 34, criticized the people in fatigues for showing up to defend property but not the life of the 26-year-old Black woman who was killed by Louisville police in her apartment in March. Oath Keepers is one of numerous vigilante groups that have flocked to cities where police killings and protests have sometimes been followed by property damage and violence. Its members travel from across the country equipped with long guns and protective gear to stand in plain view of demonstrators or loom over them from the edges of rooftops, unauthorized—and frequently unquestioned—by law enforcement.*

[Decades after Klansmen and Nazis killed five, NC city to consider official apology](#) [Simone Jasper, *The News Observer*, (Raleigh, N.C.), 5 October 2020]

*Decades after five people died at the hands of Nazis and Klan members, a North Carolina city is considering a formal apology. A [proposed resolution](#) posted to the city of Greensboro website calls on leaders to apologize to the victims, families and community members impacted by the violent 1979 clash known as the Greensboro Massacre. In addition to addressing the attacks, the proposal would create scholarships in the victims' memories, according to an agenda for Tuesday's virtual*

city council meeting. In recent years, the city council says it passed a “statement of regret” about the massacre, voted in support of a historic marker at the site and supported an “impromptu” apology introduced by council member Sharon Hightower. “I felt like we needed to make the effort,” Hightower said, according to the *News & Record*. “This takes it a step further. It really is intentional and focused on the areas of hurt that really will speak to the concerns that the participants had from 1979.”

[Hotter Days Widen Racial Gap in U.S. Schools, Data Shows](#) [Christopher Flavelle, *The New York Times*, 5 October 2020]

Rising temperatures are widening the racial achievement gap in United States schools, new research suggests, offering the latest evidence that the burdens of climate change fall disproportionately on people of color. In a [paper published Monday](#) in the journal *Nature Human Behavior*, researchers found that students performed worse on standardized tests for every additional day of 80 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, even after controlling for other factors. Those effects held across 58 countries, suggesting a fundamental link between heat exposure and reduced learning. But when the researchers looked specifically at the United States, using more granular data to break down the effect on test scores by race, they found something surprising: The detrimental impact of heat seemed to affect only Black and Hispanic students.

[Cities declare racism a health crisis, but some doubt impact](#) [Sophia Tareen, *The Associated Press*, 5 October 2020]

Local leaders say formally acknowledging the role racism plays not just in health care but in housing, the environment, policing and food access is a bold step, especially when it wasn't always a common notion among public health experts. But what the declarations do to address systemic inequalities vary widely, with skeptics saying they are merely symbolic. Kansas City, Missouri, and Indianapolis used their declarations to calculate how to dispense public funding. The mayor of Holyoke, Massachusetts, a mostly White community of roughly 40,000, used a declaration to make Juneteenth a paid city employee holiday. The Minnesota House passed a resolution vowing to “actively participate in the dismantling of racism.” Wisconsin's governor made a verbal commitment, while governors in Nevada and Michigan signed public documents. “It is only after we have fully defined the injustice that we can begin to take steps to replace it with a greater system of justice that enables all Michiganders to pursue their fullest dreams and potential,” Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II said in a statement.

[Union officials praise plans for investigation into accusations of racism at Veterans Affairs](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 2 October 2020]

Officials from the largest federal workers union on Friday hailed news of an upcoming investigation into problems of racism within the Department of Veterans Affairs, saying that attention on the problem is overdue. “For far too long, VA leadership has turned a blind eye to employee claims of racism, disparaged their credibility in the media, and refused to meet with the union to discuss this serious issue,” said Everett Kelley, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said in a statement. AFGFE has about 270,000 VA employees among its members. The union has fought bitterly with the past several administrations and VA officials over a host of workplace issues.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## RELIGION

[Mormon president calls on members to help end racism](#) [Brady, McCombs, *The Associated Press*, 4 October 2020]

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' president issued another plea for members to help end racism, saying Sunday at the faith's signature conference that God loves people of all races equally and that it pains him to see Black people suffer prejudice. Russell M. Nelson's comments followed similar speeches by other top leaders Saturday at the conference that comes as many members live through a reckoning over racial injustice, especially in the U.S. following the May police killing of Black man George Floyd. "God does not love one race more than another. His doctrine on this matter is clear," Nelson said. "I assure you that your standing before God is not determined by the color of your skin." Members believe church presidents are living prophets who receive revelations from God. Like the leaders who spoke on Saturday, Nelson didn't mention the church's past ban on Black men in the lay priesthood. The prohibition — which stood until 1978 — was rooted in the belief that Black skin was a curse. It remains one of the most sensitive topics in the faith's history.*

## SEXISM

[Are some languages more sexist than others?](#) [Nayantara Dutta, *BBC Culture*, 6 October 2020]

*The world has historically prescribed the male gender as default, a construct that is reinforced through language. As humans, our collective identity is understood as masculine – we use 'man' to describe our species and 'mankind' as a way to unify us. In her book *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*, Caroline Criado Perez writes that: "Seeing men as the human default is fundamental to the structure of human society." Our culture and language follow a generic masculine framework where, she explains, "male bias is so firmly embedded in our psyche that even genuinely gender-neutral words [like doctor or actor] are read as male". Global languages fall into three categories with respect to gender: gendered languages like Spanish (where nouns and pronouns have a gender), genderless languages such as Mandarin (where nouns and pronouns don't have a marked gender), and natural gender languages like English (with gendered pronouns and genderless nouns). The gender structure of the language we're speaking will have the effect of making us more or less aware of gender. With gendered languages, we have to think of gender while conjugating a verb or using a noun, so is it possible that gender-based stereotypes and gendered power structures are more likely to influence our thoughts and opinions about the sexes?*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Virus Moved Female Faculty to the Brink. Will Universities Help?](#) [Jillian Kramer, *The New York Times*, 6 October 2020]

*The pandemic has laid bare gender inequities across the country, and women in academia have not been spared. The outbreak erupted during universities' spring terms, hastily forcing classes online and researchers out of their laboratories. Faculty with young or school-aged children—especially*

women—had to juggle teaching their students with overseeing their children’s distance learning from home. Many universities struggled to put meaningful policies in place to help faculty, especially caretakers and women. But the issues that women in academia are now facing are not new. Instead, they are more severe versions of longstanding gender gaps that already cause universities to hemorrhage female faculty, particularly women of color, and will require measures that go beyond institutional responses to the pandemic.

#### [Senator calls on Army secretary to give new West Point cadets access to uniforms that fit women](#)

[Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 5 October 2020]

*Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., has asked Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy to review a “gender-neutral” policy of issuing all West Point cadets unisex Army Combat Uniforms because it then forces women entering the academy to purchase better-fitting uniforms designed for female bodies. “While on its face, the uniform policy may appear to be a gender-neutral policy, it does not appear to be so in effect. As the academy celebrates 40 years since its first female cadets graduated, it is past time to ensure that female cadets have equal access to uniforms that fit,” Hassan wrote in a letter sent Monday to McCarthy. “The disproportional impact of this policy on female cadets may unintentionally send a message to female cadets that they are second-class citizens.” When the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., issues full sets of gear to incoming cadets, that gear includes five sets of unisex Army Combat Uniforms, known as ACUs. This distribution does not include alternate sizes of the uniform, which are called the ACU-Female, according to Hassan’s letter. Any cadet wishing to wear the ACU-Female must purchase it on their own, with their own money.*

#### [Women on Arctic research mission told not to wear tight-fitting clothing](#) [Bradlyn Oakes and John Last, *CBC News*, 28 September 2020]

*A prominent Arctic research mission is coming under fire for a dress code policy that has highlighted concerns about systemic sexism in the polar sciences. The MOSAiC expedition, an international research mission led by Germany’s Alfred-Wegener-Institut, had polar researchers navigating Arctic sea ice for a full year collecting data about the Arctic climate and climate change. But shortly after the journey began, women on board a support vessel for the mission, the Akademik Fedorov, were told they could not dress in tight-fitting clothing due to safety concerns. Journalist Chelsea Harvey was on board the ship for six weeks in October 2019 when the policy was first disclosed. Halfway through her voyage, she said, passengers were told that “thermal underwear” was prohibited as outerwear in common areas. The next day, Harvey said the mission’s leaders elaborated to say that “no leggings, no very tight-fitting clothing—nothing too revealing—no crop tops, no hot pants [and] no very short shorts” would be allowed. “We were told there are a lot of men on board this ship ... and some of them are going to be on board this ship for months at a time,” Harvey told *CBC News*. “In my meeting—what we were told was this was a ‘safety issue.’” In fact, as Harvey later confirmed with the Alfred-Wegener-Institut and the mission’s chief scientist, Thomas Krumpfen, there had been allegations of sexual harassment aboard the Akademik Fedorov days before the policy was discussed.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[“The military’s #MeToo moment:” Fort Hood victims speak out](#) [Acacia Coronado, *The Associated Press*, 8 October 2020]

*Maria Valentine says she was just months into her training at Fort Hood, a U.S. Army base in Texas, in 2006 when a sergeant with a history of alleged harassment toward other soldiers wrote her up after she complained that she didn’t want him touching her during body mass measurements. She said authorities promised the disciplinary report would be wiped from her record if she didn’t make a formal complaint. Valentine’s decision not to file one would haunt her years later when she learned another woman had accused the same sergeant of rape. Valentine is one of five women—two active duty soldiers, two veterans and one civilian—who spoke to The Associated Press about experiencing harassment, assault or rape by soldiers at Fort Hood, the other four since 2014.*

[Five sailors granted immunity to testify in San Diego Navy SEAL sexual assault trial](#) [Andrew Dyer, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 6 October 2020]

*Five sailors, including three Navy SEALs, have been granted immunity to testify in the case of a SEAL charged with sexually assaulting a fellow sailor during a deployment to Iraq in 2019, prosecutors said during a motions hearing Tuesday. Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Adel Enayat, in his dress blue uniform, was in a Naval Base San Diego courtroom Tuesday morning for a hearing in his ongoing court-martial. His legal team, led by civilian attorney Jeremiah Sullivan, argued that previous SEAL cases involving Enayat’s SEAL Team 7 have tainted the Navy legal community and the investigative process. Enayat is charged with a sexual assault that prosecutors say occurred after an alcohol-fueled 4th of July party in Iraq in 2019 that left a female sailor with bruises on her face and body. According to the SEAL’s charge sheet, he strangled the woman, bit her face and penetrated her without consent. Enayat denies the charges.*

## SUICIDE

[Reasons for suicide differ between male and female veterans, study shows](#) [Elizabeth Howe, *Connecting Vets*, 7 October 2020]

*Male and female veterans differ in a number of important ways—including the narrative reasons behind their suicidal ideation and attempts. A [recent study published in “Social Science & Medicine”](#) honed in on what drives the mental health issues of veterans based on gender and how those specific drives might be used to help make mental health treatment more effective. As the rate of suicides increases—specifically among female veterans—understanding the narrative behind suicidal thoughts and attempts among veterans could help turn or mitigate the upward trend. The study’s researchers interviewed 50 veterans—25 women, 25 men—who made a suicide attempt in the prior six months. Veterans were recruited from Veterans Health Administration (VHA) healthcare facilities across the U.S. Each hour-long interview examined participants’ experiences with military service, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and healthcare following their attempt.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[A spouse’s take on the 2019 military suicide report \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Aleha Landry, *Military Times*, 7 October 2020]

*On Oct. 1, 2020, the 2019 annual suicide report quietly came out. For 2019, there were 498 active duty, reserve, or National Guard members who took their own lives. While the suicide rate for active duty increased over the last year, both the reserves and national guard saw decreases. I am an Air Force wife. My husband struggles with depression and suicidal ideation, so suicide in the military has become personal for me and my family. While the rate of suicide may be comparable to the civilian rates, civilian rates have been rising steadily since 1999. Just like the civilian rate, military rates of suicide have been rising over the years, as well. Prior to the beginning of the current wars, nearly 20 years ago, the suicide rate for the military was approximately half of what it currently is.*

## **VETERANS**

### [New Productivity Targets for Counselors Could Hurt Mental Health Care for Veterans: GAO](#)

[Arnab Mondal, *Medill News Service*, 5 October 2020]

*New productivity expectations for Department of Veterans Affairs mental health counselors requiring them to see more patients could be detrimental to the quality of care they deliver, a [GAO report](#) warns. The [Veterans Health Administration's Readjustment Counseling Service](#) provides care through 300 Vet Centers. In 2017, the agency changed how counselor productivity is assessed, setting expectations for the percentage of time spent with clients and the number of patient visits. For example, counselors are expected to achieve an average of 1.5 visits for each hour they provide direct services. Readjustment Counseling Service officials said in the report the individual expectations are incorporated into counselors' annual performance reviews, but claimed they are not used punitively. The counselors also expressed concern that they might be forced to hold more group counseling sessions to help meet productivity goals. But some clients, such as younger veterans from recent conflicts, may not be clinically ready for group counseling sessions or may not have time due to busy schedules.*