

# DEOMI NEWS LINKS, 30 OCTOBER 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

### [Chief Bass speaks: Enlisted promotions, developing leaders and creating a culture of respect](#)

[Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 29 October 2020]

*Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass has already made history as the first woman to serve as a top enlisted adviser in the military. And now, Bass is planning to put an even bigger mark on the Air Force. In an Oct. 26 interview with Air Force Times, Bass said she's working on a series of short, medium and long-term plans to improve how the Air Force manages its enlisted airmen. Bass' historic appointment as CMSAF—her mother is Korean and she is also the first person of Asian-American descent to serve in the role—is the culmination of a career that began in 1993. Bass said the top three areas she wants to focus on as top enlisted leader are people, readiness and culture. That also means ensuring airmen feel “valued and empowered,” she said, and that the Air Force has a culture that values diversity and embraces inclusion.*

### [VA failing to track health issues for LGBT vets: report](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 23 October 2020]

*Veterans Affairs physicians may be missing significant medical issues among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender veterans because they do not have any standard approach to tracking them, according to a [new report](#) released by the Government Accountability Office this week. “With inconsistent data and limited information on health outcomes, (health officials) may not be able to fully identify and address any health disparities faced by LGBT veterans, or provide them clinically appropriate, comprehensive care,” the GAO report states. VA researchers have already seen indications that LGBT veterans may face “significant disparities in depression and suicide ideations” compared to the rest of the veteran population. However, they lamented that finding clear results and solutions cannot happen without better tracking data.*

### [This Air Force Unit Will Be the First to Get Better-Fitting Security Forces Body Armor](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 27 October 2020]

*The U.S. Air Force is finally ready to begin fielding body armor specifically designed for female airmen in Security Forces units. The service on Monday said Security Forces airmen, sometimes called defenders, will soon start receiving the updated, tailored gear to wear while guarding bases worldwide. The 23rd Security Forces Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia will be the first to receive the latest attire in the next two weeks, according to Air Force Materiel Command spokesman Brian Brackens. The service launched a project in 2019 within AFLCMC focused on gathering female perspectives to deliver better uniforms, including maternity uniforms and flight suits.*

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## CULTURE

[Coronavirus dims Mexico's bright Day of the Dead celebration](#) [Mark Stevenson and Diego Delgado, *The Associated Press*, 30 October 2020]

*Mexico's Day of the Dead celebration this weekend won't be the same in a year so marked by death, in a country where more than 90,000 people have died of COVID-19. Many of those had to be cremated rather than buried, and even for those with gravesides to visit, the pandemic has forced authorities in most parts of Mexico to close cemeteries to prevent the traditional Nov. 1-2 observances when entire families clean and decorate tombs, cover them with orange marigolds, light candles and chat with their deceased relatives, perhaps over a glass of their favorite beverage. "A lot of people came to fix up their (relatives') graves before the Day of the Dead," said José Juan Rivera Almazán, the cemetery manager. "On a normal Day of the Dead, you can't even walk through here, it is so full, people, visitors, vendors' stands." This year, though, the cemetery will be quiet.*

[Two same-sex couples in military marry in first for Taiwan](#) [Huizhong Wu, *The Associated Press*, 30 October 2020]

*Two lesbian couples tied the knot in a mass wedding held by Taiwan's military on Friday in a historic celebration with their peers. Taiwan is the only place in Asia to have legalized same-sex marriage, with more than 4,000 such couples marrying since the legislation passed in May 2019. The mass wedding with 188 couples was the first time same-sex couples have been wed and celebrated at a military ceremony. Both couples viewed their ceremonies with a sense of responsibility towards representing the LGBT community. "We are hoping that more LGBT people in the military can bravely stand up, because our military is very open-minded. In matters of love, everyone will be treated equally," said Chen Ying-hsuan, 27, an army lieutenant who married Li Li-chen, 26.*

[Montana judge grants petition to change offensive lake name](#) [*The Associated Press*, 28 October 2020]

*A Montana judge has granted a petition to rename a small lake near Whitefish because its name includes an offensive term referring to a Black person. District Judge Dan Wilson approved the petition Tuesday to change the name of "Lost Coon Lake" to "Lost Loon Lake," the Flathead Beacon reported. The city of Whitefish filed the petition in August on behalf of residents who live around the lake. The city is known as the part-time home of White nationalist Richard Spencer and has dealt with racist issues. The renaming effort comes during a national reckoning over racism. It's not clear when the Montana lake got its name; previously its name included the N-word, residents have said. Under state law, the lake's name change will become official in January.*

[Virginia Governor Can Remove Robert E. Lee Statue, but Not Yet, Judge Rules](#) [Azi Paybarah, *The New York Times*, 28 October 2020]

*A towering statue of Robert E. Lee in Virginia's capital that survived a summer of Confederate monument toppling can be removed, a state judge ruled on Tuesday. The judge, W. Reilly Marchant of Richmond Circuit Court, affirmed orders issued in June by the state's Democratic governor, Ralph Northam, directing the removal of the 21-foot statue, which sits on a 40-foot base. But the judge stayed his decision, allowing the monument to remain in place pending an appeal from the plaintiffs who had challenged the governor's order. Patrick McSweeney, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, a group of residents who live near the statue's Monument Avenue location, told Politico that his clients planned to appeal the decision. Still, the decision was celebrated by officials in*

Virginia who have tried to remove the statue and other symbols linking the state to the Confederacy.

[FA launches diversity code to increase BAME and female representation](#) [BBC Sport, 27 October 2020]

*Football clubs will be required to meet a recruitment diversity target of 15% in new executive jobs and 25% in coaching roles under a code devised by the Football Association (FA). The Football Leadership Diversity Code aims to tackle racial inequality in the English game. It also hopes to increase the number of female coaches in women's football. Paul Elliott, head of the FA's inclusion advisory board, says the new code will "hold football to account". At present, only five of the 92 Premier League and English Football League (EFL) managers or head coaches are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME). Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) equalities coach Iffy Onuora said the target of 15% in new executive jobs and 25% in coaching roles would be a "massive step forward" from the current situation.*

[New "Day of the Dead" Barbie reignites debate over cultural appropriation](#) [Coby Zucker, *The National Post*, 27 October 2020]

*A new Day of the Dead Barbie is reigniting arguments over whether the Mexican-themed doll is a tasteful ode to the country's traditions, or a cheap commercial grab. Conversation began last year with the first entry in the "La Catrina" series. Now, the debate is bubbling back to the surface, with the release of the second installment. Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a holiday celebrated in Mexican where families gather to remember those who have died. The multi-day holiday begins in early November and is marked by visits to graveyards—not in mourning, but in celebration. In 2019, toy company Mattel began its "La Catrina" collection of Barbies, named for the decorated skeletons created by Mexican illustrator José Guadalupe Posada. Barbie is dressed in frilly white and pink lace, her face painted to look like a skeleton in the "calavera" or "skull" style. The doll also bears a slight resemblance to Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Sisters start company to create designer wheelchair covers](#) [Caitlin O'Kane, *CBS News*, 27 October 2020]

*Izzy and Ailbhe Keane used to love playing dress up when they were younger. Izzy, who has spina bifida, uses a wheelchair and she and her sister would decorate the chair for holidays and birthdays. Now, the two sisters from Ireland are helping other wheelchair users express themselves that way. Ailbhe, who is now 27, went to The National College of Art and Design in Dublin and was allowed to do anything she wanted as a final project one year. She decided to create wheel covers for her sister's chair. The pair put photos of the colorful wheels online, and the project started snowballing. "It just went totally viral and we started getting messages from artists and designers from all over the world, who wanted to create wheels for our project," Ailbhe told CBS News. In 2016 she decided to start a company, [Izzy Wheels](#).*

[World Rugby's transgender ban a "dangerous precedent," critics say](#) [Alex Berg, *NBC News*, 27 October 2020]

*On Oct. 9, World Rugby, the sport's governing body, released new guidelines that bar transgender women from playing rugby internationally because of "player welfare risks." The updated regulations are among the most exclusionary policies for transgender athletes instituted by an international federation to date. They are a departure from major governing bodies' policies on trans inclusion, including the International Olympic Committee's rules that permit trans women to compete in the Olympics provided they maintain a certain testosterone level for 12 months prior to competition. However, in the days since the new rugby guidelines were published, a chorus of athletes, national rugby governing bodies and researchers who have spoken out to say that the regulations do not reflect the culture of women's rugby, that scientific evidence does not support the restrictions and that the guidelines perpetuate pernicious myths about transgender women in sports.*

[Ida B. Wells was driven out of Memphis in 1892. She might soon have her own statue on Beale Street](#) [Katherine Burgess, *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, (Memphis, Tenn.), 26 October 2020] *By 2021, Memphis could have its own statue of Ida B. Wells, the African American civil rights advocate and journalist who fought against racism, segregation and lynching. She left Memphis in 1892, forced to stay away from the city after threats were made on her life and her office was destroyed. Now, the Memphis Memorial Committee, in partnership with the Neshoba Community Resource Center, is seeking to—in a way—bring Wells back to the city where she taught school and then co-owned and wrote for the Memphis Free Speech and Headlight newspaper.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[PrettyLittleThing features its first model to wear a hijab](#) [Alaa Elassar, *CNN*, 24 October 2020] *Black, Muslim plus-size model is breaking barriers in the fashion industry after being chosen by PrettyLittleThing to model its new line of modest clothing. Billy Marsal, 21, is a London-based influencer who regularly posts photos of herself wearing trendy and modest outfits on Instagram. The online retail giant scouted her on social media shortly after entering the Middle East market. Marsal's work with PrettyLittleThing marks the first time the brand has featured a model wearing a hijab or headscarf, the UK-based company confirmed. Marsal said she's happy to see the industry change to include more Muslim women, and looks forward to the day when it's no longer surprising to see a model wearing a hijab.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Fair housing groups: Redfin "redlines" minority communities](#) [Gene Johnson, *The Associated Press*, 29 October 2020]

*Several fair housing organizations accused Redfin of systematic racial discrimination in a lawsuit Thursday, saying the online real estate broker offers fewer services to homebuyers and sellers in minority communities—a type of digital redlining that has depressed home values and exacerbated historic injustice in the housing market. In a [complaint filed](#) in U.S. District Court in Seattle, the organizations said that during a two-year investigation they documented the effect of Redfin's "minimum price policy," which requires homes to be listed for certain prices to reap the benefits of Redfin's services. The company was vastly less likely to offer realtor services, professional*

*photos, virtual tours, online promotion or commission rebates for homes listed in overwhelmingly minority neighborhoods than it was in overwhelmingly White ones, the investigation found.*

[Most Americans believe LGBTQ people are legally protected from discrimination. They're not.](#)

[Joshua Bote, *USA TODAY*, 29 October 2020]

*As protections for LGBTQ people enter the domain of the United States' highest court, the vast majority of non-LGBTQ Americans believe that discrimination against LGBTQ should be illegal. The catch, according to GLAAD's 2020 edition of its [annual Accelerating Acceptance survey](#): An overwhelming number of Americans, regardless of sexuality or gender identity, believe LGBTQ people have federal protections against discrimination that are, in reality, not available to them. That includes discrimination in housing, public spaces, employment benefits and the military. LGBTQ advocates have repeatedly emphasized the importance of the Equality Act, a comprehensive bill that would explicitly deny legal discrimination on the basis of sexuality and gender identity by updating the Civil Rights Act.*

["A big win for justice!": Texas officials scrap rule that would allow social workers to deny LGBTQ, disabled clients](#) [Jessica Flores, *USA TODAY*, 28 October 2020]

*Texas officials on Tuesday reversed a rule that would have allowed social workers to turn away clients who are LGBTQ or have a disability. Lawmakers and advocates last week criticized the Texas State Board of Social Workers and the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council for unanimously voting on Oct. 12 to remove disability, sexual orientation and gender identity from the nondiscrimination clause of its code of conduct. The board made its decision based solely on a recommendation from Republican Gov. Greg Abbott and without seeking input from social workers. Will Francis, director of the Texas chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, told *USA TODAY* that the board "made the right decision."*

[Report: Black girls are five times more likely than White girls to be suspended](#) [Ashley Schwartz-Lavares, Janai Norman and Allie Yang, *ABC News*, 28 October 2020]

*Black girls are five times more likely than White girls to be suspended from school and four times more likely to be arrested, according to [a 2020 study](#) by The Education Trust and National Women's Law Center. "Black girls are experiencing this reading of their behaviors as more adult when they're as young as age five, and that it peaks when they're between the ages of 10 and 14," said Dr. Monique W. Morris, the founder of National Black Women's Justice Institute and an author who has written about the damaging effects of over disciplining young Black girls. "Adults are then engaging with Black girls as if they are Black women, which means that we're more likely to have this perception about Black girls needing less protection, less comfort, less nurturing."*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Why Diversity Training Has Been Suspended At USAID](#) [Joanne Lu, *NPR*, 27 October 2020]

*The Trump administration issued an executive order and memorandum in September, prohibiting any discussion in the federal workforce of concepts such as systemic racism, White privilege and unconscious bias during workplace diversity training. The overall message: Such trainings must stop in federal agencies, contractors or any other institution that receives federal grants;*

*otherwise, they may lose their funding. In part the memo said these parties must certify that they will “not use Federal funds to promote the divisive concepts set forth in the E.O.” and that “noncompliance by continuing with prohibited training will result in consequences.” Experts in international aid contend these trainings provide important context that can lead to institutional culture shifts “This kind of executive order means that we’re refusing to acknowledge history and the current reality that so many people are impacted by.” said Megan O'Donnell, assistant director for gender and a senior policy analyst at the Center for Global Development.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[What the Air Force Can Teach the Country About Trust and Inclusion](#) [Anne I. Harrington, *War on the Rocks*, 26 October 2020] **[COMMENTARY]**

*One of the problems with separating discussions of diversity from listening as an act of inclusion is that this produces a “curio cabinet” dynamic in which leaders assess their success in diversity initiatives by pointing to all of the individuals in their commands from historically marginalized groups. Instead of assessing whether or not there is a culture of inclusion, they can claim that they are “good” on diversity because they hired the first female or picked up an overlooked Black officer for command. But objectifying people by labeling them as “diverse” is its own form of exclusion. It can add insult to injury by reinscribing the power dynamics that conversations about diversity are meant to overcome. Rather than humanizing airmen of color and other minorities, this approach can create a dynamic in which minorities are seen, but never really hear—where they feel used by a power structure seeking to legitimate itself, rather than acknowledged and included.*

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

[The pandemic’s impact on kids in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community](#) [Danielle Garrand, *CBS News*, 29 October 2020]

*This spring, millions of children across the country went from seeing their peers and teachers each day in-person, to largely interacting behind a computer screen. For many kids in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, their families and educators, the pandemic brought about a unique set of challenges—many centered around access. American Sign Language (ASL), just like any other language, can take years to learn. Since over 90% of children who are deaf being born to hearing parents, there can be a language gap at home. The switch to remote learning and the need for social distancing continues to limit many kids’ ability to interact with their peers in-person. And that lack of in-person engagement has had a social impact on many students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, Nancy Hlibok Amann, Ph.D, the superintendent of California School for the Deaf, Riverside (CSDR), told CBS News.*

[Coronavirus: The possible long-term mental health impacts](#) [Maddy Savage, *BBC News*, 28 October 2020]

*Covid-19 has increased anxiety for many of us, and experts warn a sizable minority could be left with mental health problems that outlast the pandemic. Steven Taylor, author of *The Psychology of Pandemics*, and professor in psychiatry at the University of British Columbia, argues that “for an unfortunate minority of people, perhaps 10 to 15%, life will not return to normal”, due to the impact of the pandemic on their mental wellbeing. [Australia’s Black Dog Institute](#), a leading*

independent mental-health research organisation, has also raised concerns about “a significant minority who will be affected by long-term anxiety”. In the UK, a group of leading public health specialists recently warned in the [British Medical Journal](#) that “the mental health impact of the pandemic is likely to last much longer than the physical health impact”.

[Diane di Prima, feminist poet of the Beat Generation, dies at 86](#) [Emily Langer, *The Washington Post*, 27 October 2020]

*Diane di Prima, a poet and writer who was regarded as the most significant female member of the Beat Generation, the male-dominated countercultural movement of the 1950s to which she lent her feminist, sometimes anarchist sensibility, died Oct. 25 at a hospital in San Francisco. She was 86. For di Prima, the author of more than 40 works of poetry, prose and theater, writing was “like being a hermit or a samurai. A calling. The holiest life that was offered in our world.” By her actions, she declared herself a conscientious objector to the bourgeois life of her childhood, quitting college because it distracted her from her artistic pursuits and making a name for herself, first in New York and later in San Francisco, amid the tumult of the counterculture. Her work “is the expression of a strong, sensitive, intelligent woman during more than two decades of social and artistic ferment,” reads an entry in the Dictionary of Literary Biography. “Unfettered by the conventions of academia or society, she speaks of life outside the mainstream of middle-class America,” charting “the shifting streams of America’s fringe culture.”*

[Retired Marine’s nonprofit offers adapted wheelchairs for disabled marathoners](#) [Jared Morgan, *Marine Corps Times*, 25 October 2020]

*With almost 25 years in the Marine Corps behind him and a promotion dangling in front of him, Maj. Kim Rossiter decided to take the right fork in the road and retire. He wanted to focus on a new venture, a nonprofit offering assistance to disabled people in order to empower them to participate in athletic competitions. The nonprofit’s participants have ranged in age from a 14-month-old special needs child to a 108-year-old senior. Ainsley’s Angels does just that. “So, we got an active duty, soon-to-be-retired master gunny pushing the private first class from Iwo Jima,” Rossiter said. “That’s a beautiful thing.”*

[A Virginia state senator found headstones on his property. It brought to light a historic injustice in D.C.](#) [Gregory S. Schneider, *The Washington Post*, 25 October 2020]

*Richard and Lisa Stuart were walking beside the Potomac River when they noticed an odd rock in the riprap on the water’s edge. “I think that’s a headstone,” Richard Stuart remembers saying to his wife that day four years ago. Once they started looking, they saw another. And another. With horror, Stuart discovered that a two-mile stretch of erosion control along the riverfront farm he had just purchased was full of grave markers. A state senator, Stuart enlisted Virginia historians to figure out where they came from. The trail led upriver to the nation’s capital, and illuminated a dark truth about how Washington became the city it is today: The headstones were from Columbian Harmony Cemetery, a historic African American burial ground that was dug up and relocated in 1960 to make way for commercial development.*

**MISCONDUCT**

[Naval Academy Superintendent, Navy Secretary Ask Federal Judge to Dismiss Midshipman’s Lawsuit](#) [Heather Mongilio, *The Capital Gazette*, (Annapolis, Md.), 29 October 2020]

*Attorneys for the Navy secretary and the Naval Academy superintendent have asked a federal judge to dismiss a midshipman’s lawsuit against them, saying the court doesn’t have jurisdiction to rule on a recommendation that the mid is unfit for service because of racists tweets he sent last summer. The motion to dismiss and a response, standard initial steps in a lawsuit, spelled out additional arguments in the dispute just before a hearing Friday in U.S. District Court. A federal judge will consider Midshipman 1st Class Chase Standage’s request to block the Navy’s steps to dismiss him until his lawsuit can be heard.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Former Army Reserve MP gets 40 years in prison for running “sex trafficking enterprise”](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 23 October 2020]

*A former Army Reserve military policeman convicted of running a sex trafficking enterprise in North Carolina for five years was sentenced Thursday to four decades in prison. Xaver M. Boston, 31, coerced victims struggling with opioid addictions to become prostitutes for his profit between 2012 and 2017, except for a brief period when he was deployed to Afghanistan, according to the Justice Department. “It takes an especially heinous person to physically, psychologically and sexually abuse someone,” said Robert R. Wells, special agent in charge of the FBI’s Charlotte field office, in a press release.*

## **RACISM**

[Feds arrest leader of White supremacy group who ran “hate camp” in Michigan](#) [Tresa Baldas, *The Detroit Free Press*, 29 October 2020]

*The leader of a national White supremacist group who ran a “hate camp” in Michigan and one of his cohorts were charged Thursday with multiple crimes, as extremist groups continue to land on the FBI’s radar across the country. Police identified the suspects as Justen Watkins, 25, and Alfred Gorman, 35—both members of The Base, a White supremacy organization that openly advocates for violence and criminal acts against the U.S., and purports to be training for a race war to establish White rule in areas of the U.S. The latest suspects were arrested at their homes at 6 a.m. Thursday for their alleged roles in a December 2019 incident—when police said a husband, wife and their infant child were terrorized by two White supremacists who showed up on their porch in the middle of the night and took photos of their house, thinking someone else lived there. The suspects, police said, were targeting a podcaster who is critical of the neo-Nazi movement and has expressed concern about the rise in White supremacy in the United States.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Maryland Receives \\$300,000 Grant to Investigate Lynchings](#) [Emma Coleman, *Route Fifty*, 29 October 2020]

*A Maryland commission focused on investigating unsolved lynchings in the state received a \$300,000 federal grant this week, allowing the group to look into at least 43 unsolved lynchings during the 1800s and 1900s. [The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) received the grant from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations*

*Program. Established by President Barack Obama in 2016, the program assists state, local, and tribal governments in investigating and prosecuting pre-1980 cold case murders associated with civil rights violations, including racist lynchings. The new federal funding will support a project called “Justice in the Aftermath: Documenting the Truth of Racial Terror Lynching in Maryland to Support Restorative Justice Among Affected Communities.”*

#### [Surgeon General Cites Horrific Tuskegee Experiment, Voices Vaccine Distribution Concerns](#)

[Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 27 October 2020]

*U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams is warning that some American populations may be reluctant to take a COVID-19 vaccine because of the nation’s dark history of racial discrimination. On an Oct. 23 conference call, he cited the infamous Tuskegee Institute syphilis experiments from 1932-1972, in which hundreds of African-American sharecroppers with the disease were studied and deceptively given ineffective treatments instead of penicillin. “The Tuskegee experiment is the standout example” of the historic mistrust that lingers in the Black community of government-run health care initiatives, said Adams, a vice admiral in the Public Health Service. “We know that lack of trust is the underlying cause for a lot of the reluctance, especially in communities of color.”*

#### [Marine Corps Boots Infantryman Investigated for Sharing Alleged White Supremacist Material](#)

[Paul Szoldra, *Task & Purpose*, 26 October 2020]

*The Marine Corps has kicked out an infantryman investigated earlier this year for allegedly sharing White supremacist material, one of more than two dozen Marines to come under suspicion for ties to extremist groups in recent years. Thomas Cade Martin was separated on Sept. 11, 2020, although officials declined to specify the type of discharge he received, citing privacy restrictions. According to reporter Andrew Dyer of the San Diego Union-Tribune, Martin posted what experts said displayed indicators of “White supremacist messaging” over a two-year period, though the 23-year-old Marine was far more subtle about it than others. As Dyer [reported in March](#), the material posted by Martin included a flyer with the White supremacist slogan “not stolen, conquered” over a map of the United States, which has been [associated with](#) the White nationalist group Patriot Front.*

#### [VMI board says “with deep regret” that superintendent is out](#) [The Associated Press, 26 October 2020]

*The superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute has resigned, the school’s board president announced in a statement Monday, a week after state officials ordered an investigation into what they characterized as a culture of “ongoing structural racism.” Retired Army Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III tendered his resignation Monday, and the Board of Visitors accepted it “with deep regret,” board President John William Boland said in a statement. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a VMI graduate, and other top Democratic elected officials sent a letter to the state-supported school’s board a week ago announcing an investigation into the school’s culture, policies, practices and equity in disciplinary procedures. That decision came on the heels of a Washington Post story that described Black cadets and alumni facing “relentless racism.”*

## **RELIGION**

[France warns citizens to be cautious as anger seethes in Muslim world over cartoons](#) [Christian Lowe and Andrew Osborn, *Reuters*, 27 October 2020]

*France warned its citizens in several Muslim-majority countries to take extra security precautions on Tuesday as anger surged over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, and the head of Russia's Chechnya region said Paris was pushing people towards terrorism. The row has its roots in a knife attack outside a French school on Oct. 16 in which a man of Chechen origin beheaded Samuel Paty, a teacher who had shown pupils cartoons of Prophet Mohammad in a civics lesson. The caricatures are considered blasphemous by Muslims. The French government, backed by many citizens, saw the beheading as an attack on freedom of speech, and said they would defend the right to display the cartoons.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Pope names 13 new cardinals, including 1st Black U.S. prelate](#) [Frances D'Emelio, *The Associated Press*, 25 October 2020]

*Pope Francis on Sunday named 13 new cardinals, including Washington D.C. Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who would become the first Black U.S. prelate to earn the coveted red hat. In a surprise announcement from his studio window to faithful standing below in St. Peter's Square, Francis said the churchmen would be elevated to a cardinal's rank in a ceremony on Nov. 28. The selection of Gregory won praise from LGBTQ advocates in the United States, days after Pope Francis grabbed headlines for voicing support for civil unions for gay couples. While Gregory headed the Atlanta diocese earlier in his career, he wrote positively in a column about his conversations with Catholic parents of LGBTQ children. An advocate for LGBTQ Catholics, Francis DeBernardo, told *The Associated Press* that choosing Gregory for a cardinal's post signals Francis wants "LGBTQ people to be part of the church, and he wants church people to respect them."*

## **SEXISM**

[Women less likely to receive retention pay at NSA](#) [Jessie Bur, *Federal Times*, 28 October 2020]

*Female employees at the National Security Agency were less likely to receive individual retention incentives than their male colleagues during a 2019 audit, according to an [Oct. 28 report](#) issued by the agency's inspector general. NSA is authorized to offer certain employees additional compensation if managers believe that those employees perform unique, critical functions for the agency that might otherwise leave if not offered that money. Incentives can be offered on an individual or group basis. "We found that although the retention incentive program was not designed to be evenly distributed across directorate, gender and ethnicity, the individual retention incentives that were authorized based on management judgment were not evenly distributed across the Agency's directorates and did not reflect the agency's civilian population by gender, although it did represent the agency's civilian population by race/ethnicity," the IG reported.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Former Navy chief convicted for Bahrain sex crimes faces new rape allegations](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 28 October 2020]

*A former U.S. Navy chief convicted as part of a rash of sailor sex crimes in Bahrain is facing new stateside sexual assault charges, according to charge sheets obtained by Navy Times. Then-Chief Logistics Specialist Calvin Halfacre is charged with raping a woman in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on Feb. 3, 2019. At the time of the alleged rape, Halfacre had just signed a plea deal in January 2019 and was awaiting his day in court in March 2019 on a previous sex crime dating back to when he was assigned to Bahrain. Halfacre, 42, was sentenced last year to 30 months in the brig, a bad-conduct discharge, reduction in rank to E-1 and forfeiture of all pay and allowances during confinement. He remains incarcerated at the Naval Consolidated Brig Charleston, South Carolina.*

[Marines to charge corporal with attempted murder; family says she has PTSD after assault](#)

[Katherine Hafner, *The Virginian-Pilot*, (Norfolk, Va.), 28 October 2020]

*Cpl. Thae Ohu, 27, has struggled with PTSD and other conditions following a sexual assault by a fellow Marine years ago—trauma that led to a psychological break this spring, her family contends. Military prosecutors say that’s when she attacked her boyfriend, and have now formally referred nine violations of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice including aggravated assault on an intimate partner, burglary and communicating a threat. She will face a general court-martial in March. The victim, Ohu’s then-boyfriend, who’s also a Marine, previously asked officials not to pursue the charges, telling them he believed the incident could be tied to her service-related trauma.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Majority of women and men in Hollywood report being harassed over the past year: Survey](#) [Carly Mallenbaum, *USA TODAY*, 27 October 2020]

*In the three years since the #MeToo movement took flight in the entertainment industry, has bad behavior been curbed in Hollywood? The answer, according to a recent study, is: a little, but not nearly enough. That’s what the fourth part of an industry-wide [survey](#) released by the Anita Hill-chaired Hollywood Commission has found. The national, anonymous survey collected responses from 9,630 people who said they are or have previously worked in the entertainment industry. Respondents shared that gender harassment—demeaning jokes, sexually crude terms or insults based on gender—has been experienced by 62% of males and 67% of females in the last year. The study also showed that one in 10 males and one in five females reported sexual assault in the workplace.*

[Goldman Sachs tried to cover up sexual misconduct by one of its top lawyers, according to a lawsuit from a former employee who says she was fired for speaking out](#) [Tyler Sonnemaker, *Business Insider*, 26 October 2020]

*A former Goldman Sachs employee alleged in a lawsuit filed Monday that she faced retaliation for attempting to speak up about allegations of sexual misconduct by the bank’s head of litigation, Darrell Cafasso, and that he and the bank’s general counsel, Karen Seymour, attempted to cover up Cafasso’s behavior. Marla Crawford, formerly an associate general counsel at Goldman, asserted in the lawsuit that Cafasso sexually harassed one of his former direct reports, referred to in the lawsuit as Jane Doe, ultimately pushing Doe to leave the company, and that Seymour and Cafasso tried to cover up the incident using the outside law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges.*

*Crawford said that, after she raised concerns internally about Cafasso’s conduct, he altered her performance review to include negative comments, and that when she complained that those actions were retaliatory, Cafasso and Seymour lowered her bonus for the first time in her 10 years at Goldman—and that shortly after, she was fired by the bank, which expedited her firing after she informed it of her plans to take legal action.*

## **SUICIDE**

### [Motor Neuron Drug Shows Promise as Treatment for PTSD Symptoms Linked to Suicide Attempts](#)

[Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, *Newswise*, 27 October 2020]

*A medication used to treat motor neuron diseases, like Lou Gehrig’s disease, might also have the potential to help treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), particularly the symptoms linked to suicide attempts, according to a study, “Randomized Controlled Trial of Riluzole Augmentation for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Efficacy of a Glutamatergic Modulator for Antidepressant-Resistant Symptoms,” [published Oct. 27](#) in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* by researchers at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). Currently, there are few medications recommended for treating PTSD, which can develop after experiencing or witnessing a terrifying event. The medications that are recommended are typically SSRI- and SNRI-type antidepressants that work by increasing levels of serotonin in the brain, explained Dr. Patricia Spangler, the study’s first author and a clinical research psychologist employed by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation in USU’s Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS). Those medications are limited in how well they work, particularly for combat-related PTSD.*

### [Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 40: David Bachmann—Peer Support in Suicide Prevention](#) [Military Times, 26 October 2020]

*David Bachmann is a Marine Corps infantry combat veteran. He served with E Co, 2nd Battalion 7th Marines from 2001-2005. After being discharged from the Marine Corps, he began to ride and build motorcycles. He currently resides in Texas where he raises cattle and quarter horses. Bachmann is active in an ongoing healing movement developed by Marines that brings the tribe of veterans together throughout the year for warrior reunions. He has also been an invited suicide prevention speaker at Marine reunions.*

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

## **VETERANS**

### [Veterans Have Higher Rates of Insomnia Than Non-Veterans](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 29 October 2020]

*Veterans experience insomnia at “alarmingly high” rates, according to a recent study from the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego. The rate, the study found, was especially high among veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and chronic pain. The report, which was first published in the [Oxford University medical journal “Sleep”](#) in June, found that in a seven-year-long study of over 5,500 Post-9/11 veterans, 57% of them had insomnia disorder. This rate was fairly consistent regardless of age, sex, race and military branch. The number of deployments, length of service or history of alcohol abuse did not*

*affect the risk of insomnia. By way of comparison, studies of the general adult population show an insomnia prevalence of around 30%.*

[Fees at national parks waived for veterans, Gold Star families starting next month](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 28 October 2020]

*Starting next month, veterans and Gold Star families will be able to visit national parks and other public lands for free, under a new initiative from the Department of the Interior announced on Wednesday. Active-duty service members and their families are already granted free access to those sites under existing department rules. The new announcement broadens that benefit to more than 20 million more individuals in recognition of their service and sacrifice on behalf of the country. In a statement, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said the move gives all veterans “free access to the iconic and treasured lands they fought to protect.” The policy goes into effect starting on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.*

[“The Black Swallow of Death” Was an American Hero of France and the First Black Fighter Pilot](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 26 October 2020]

*Becoming a Black pilot was unheard of in 1916—and that’s part of why Eugene Bullard wanted to do it. He was also proud of his adopted home in France and the equality he felt on the streets of Paris. It took him a long time to get here and he wanted to give back. After he watched a crowd nearly lynch his immigrant father in rural Georgia, he was inspired to work his way to Europe through Britain and France and into the history books. It was in France where he decided to join the French Air Force—and even put a bet on it. Bullard’s life became a testament to fearlessness and willpower, although it was unlikely that was his intent. To get in the air would take a lot more than will. It would take a lot of work.*