

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, 6 NOVEMBER 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

[DOD canceled its diversity training audit to comply with new White House rules](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 30 October 2020]

The Defense Department's inspector general has canceled an audit of its diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity training just a month after first announcing it. As part of a series of initiatives born of his desire to get a handle on how prejudice and discrimination affect service members at work, the IG set out to evaluate whether these programs are effective. But a White House memorandum issued last month, banning any diversity training that discusses White people's role in systemic racism, has forced DOD first get its existing training in compliance. DOD instead plans to launch a new project, according to a Tuesday [announcement](#), that focuses on implementing the White House memo. "The objective was to determine whether the Military Departments provide military personnel with diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity training that aligns with the DOD's diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity goals, and to determine whether the training is effectively implemented across the Military Departments in accordance with Federal and DOD policies," Theresa Hull, an assistant inspector general, wrote in the Sept. 24 memo first announcing the project.

[A new Pentagon report on sexual assault in the military is a wakeup call to a "systemic" problem](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 30 October 2020]

A [new report](#) released this month reaffirms a depressing truth: the U.S. military's handling of sexual assault is abysmal. The report from the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces, which advises the Secretary of Defense, says there is a "systemic" problem in the military of referring sexual assault cases to trial when there isn't enough evidence available to get a conviction. Don Christensen, president of the advocacy group Protect Our Defenders, explained that when people see a case with insufficient evidence go to trial, "it sends a message that these are political prosecutions versus prosecutions based on the evidence," which "degrades confidence in the process." "I think it spills over into other cases where the evidence is sufficient," Christensen said. "People are like 'Oh yeah, we know they'll just take any case to trial.'"

[A Stone Drum Is at the Center of This New National Veterans Memorial](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 4 November 2020]

Native American veterans will finally get their own memorial on the National Mall this Veterans Day when the Smithsonian Institution dedicates the Native American Veterans Memorial at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. The dedication ceremony, which will be [livestreamed](#), will include a virtual program honoring the service and sacrifice of Native veterans and their families. The program will include tributes to Native veterans and a virtual tour of the memorial. Native Americans serve in the military at a higher rate than any other demographic, according to the White House. The memorial was designed by Harvey Pratt, a

member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and a Southern Cheyenne Peace Chief. Pratt is an artist, Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, and retired forensic artist.

CULTURE

[Although now required by California law, ethnic studies courses likely to be met with resistance](#)

[Nolan L. Cabrera, *The Conversation*, 5 November 2020] [COMMENTARY]

In August 2020, California passed a law that requires college students in the state university system to take an ethnic studies course in order to graduate. In essence, the California state legislature has made it mandatory for the nearly 500,000 students in the Cal State system to take the classes that student activists and others fought for universities to implement decades ago. While these classes are not without controversy, as a scholar who studies racial dynamics on college campuses, I argue their benefits outweigh their liabilities. When these classes are taught as they were intended—with a heavy focus on issues of race and fighting racism—research shows they can improve college students’ cognitive and social development. They can also reduce individual racial prejudice.

[“James Bond” actress Lashana Lynch talks backlash over “revolutionary” 007 casting](#) [Hannah Yasharoff, *USA TODAY*, 5 November 2020]

When rumors began circulating this spring that Lashana Lynch would play a female 007 counterpart to Daniel Craig’s James Bond, reactions weren’t all positive. The 32-year-old British actress opened up in an [interview](#) with Harper’s Bazaar published Tuesday about taking a step back from social media and focusing on family, friends and meditating after backlash over becoming the long-running “James Bond” franchise’s upcoming first Black female 007. “I am one Black woman—if it were another Black woman cast in the role, it would have been the same conversation, she would have got the same attacks, the same abuse,” she said. “I just have to remind myself that the conversation is happening and that I’m a part of something that will be very, very revolutionary.”

[Pioneering Black doll Baby Nancy enters Toy Hall of Fame](#) [The Associated Press, 5 November 2020]

Baby Nancy, the first Black baby doll to have an Afro and other authentic features, was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame on Thursday, along with sidewalk chalk and the wooden block game Jenga. Baby Nancy was the inaugural doll for Shindana Toys, a California company launched in 1968 by Operation Bootstrap Inc., the not-for-profit Black community self-help organization that emerged in the aftermath of the Watts riots in Los Angeles. The toy exposed a long-standing demand for ethnically correct Black dolls, according to the National Toy Hall of Fame, located in The Strong museum in Rochester, New York.

[Mississippi approves flag with magnolia, “In God We Trust”](#) [Emily Wagster Pettus, *The Associated Press*, 4 November 2020]

Mississippi will fly a new state flag with a magnolia and the phrase “In God We Trust,” with voters approving the design Tuesday. It replaces a Confederate-themed flag state lawmakers

retired months ago as part of the national reckoning over racial injustice. The magnolia flag was the only design on the general election ballot, and voters were asked to say yes or no. A majority said yes. Mississippi has been without a flag since late June, when legislators surrendered the last state banner in the U.S. that included the Confederate battle emblem—a red field topped by a blue X with 13 white stars. The rebel flag has been used by Ku Klux Klan groups and is widely condemned as racist. White supremacists in the state Legislature adopted the Confederate-themed flag in 1894 amid backlash to power Black people gained during Reconstruction.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[A New Hippocratic Oath Asks Doctors To Fight Racial Injustice And Misinformation](#) [Sarah Bolden, NPR, 4 November 2020]

First-year medical student Sean Sweat “didn’t want to tiptoe around” issues of race when she sat down with 11 of her classmates to write a new version of the medical profession’s venerable Hippocratic oath. “We start our medical journey amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and a national civil rights movement reinvigorated by the killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery,” begins the alternate version of the oath, rewritten for the class of 2024 at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. It continues: “We honor the 700,000+ lives lost to COVID-19, despite the sacrifices of health care workers.” Sweat and the other incoming first-year medical students recited this newly penned pledge, along with a traditional version of the Hippocratic oath, as part of orientation activities during their first week of medical school this fall.

[Warner Bros. apologizes after “The Witches” faces criticism from disability community](#) [Wilson Wong and Diana Dasrath, NBC News, 4 November 2020]

Warner Bros. apologized after “The Witches” was criticized for its portrayal of physical disabilities in the new adaptation of Roald Dahl’s classic novel. The company said in a statement to NBC News that they were “deeply saddened to learn that our depiction of fictional characters in The Witches could upset people with disabilities” and “regret any offense caused.” Many disability advocates criticized the film after photos of Anne Hathaway’s character surfaced online. Her character can be seen with three webbed fingers on each hand—more commonly known as “split hand,” or ectrodactyly. Paralympic swimmer Amy Marren said on Twitter on Monday that while she understood the film was fictional, its depiction of limb differences perpetuated a harmful trope that was inaccurate.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Navy OKs New Uniform Rank Tabs After Sailors Say Camo Caused “Uncomfortable Gaze”](#) [Gina Harkins, Military.com, 2 November 2020]

The Navy approved new rank tabs that will better stand out against woodland camouflage after sailors complained about having to stare at each other’s chests to discern their shipmates’ pay grades. “Your concerns have been heard,” Navy Personnel Command posted when introducing the new policy on Friday. “The Navy has now authorized a new and more recognizable rank tab for optional wear.” The change, Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. John Nowell wrote in a service-wide message, is based on feedback from the fleet. Last year a sailor told Nowell and other personnel leaders during a town hall event that the placement and look of the camouflage tab led to awkward unintended consequences.

DISCRIMINATION

[County accused of bias in hiring officers settles suit](#) [*The Associated Press*, 5 November 2020]
Maryland's Baltimore County has reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice in a lawsuit that accused the county's police force of discriminatory hiring practices against Black applicants. The lawsuit, filed in August 2019, claimed the county's use of the pass/fail written exams led to hiring fewer Black applicants as entry-level police officers and police cadets than it would have had if it used a "non-discriminatory screening device." Under the settlement, the county has to provide \$2 million in back pay to eligible claimants and make 20 priority hires for Black applicants who previously took and failed the written exams, according to the news release.
[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Union: Social Security Biased Against Minorities in Performance Ratings](#) [Erich Wagner, *GovExec*, 5 November 2020]
A union representing employees at the Social Security Administration this week accused the agency of failing to correct systemic bias in its performance appraisal process, in which White employees are receiving the lion's share of top ratings despite making up less than half of the frontline workforce in recent years. Officials with the American Federation of Government Employees said that management has been aware of the issue since at least 2015, when it agreed to settle a grievance with the union over the distribution of top performance ratings, but aside from two preliminary meetings, the agency has taken no action to correct the disparity. AFGCE Council 215 President Rich Couture said the only meaningful change since the union's initial grievance has been that the agency has begun redacting elements of the dataset, such as the total numbers of employees in each demographic group, making it harder to track disparities.

[Supreme Court to Consider LGBTQ Rights and Foster Care the Day After Election](#) [Emma Coleman, *Route Fifty*, 2 November 2020]
*The Supreme Court will consider anti-discrimination laws and LGBTQ rights on Wednesday, taking up a case that could have a significant impact on state and local governments' abilities to define their contracts with religious organizations providing social services. The case in question, *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, revolves around a Catholic adoption agency in Philadelphia that refused to place foster children with same-sex parents. The agency, Catholic Social Services, had a contract with the city to screen foster parents, but used its own religious criteria in the evaluation process. The case could have a big impact beyond the foster care system. Many state and local governments contract with private agencies to provide social services, such as shelter for the homeless, refugee resettlement assistance, and substance use treatment.*
[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

["Jim Crow, Indian style": How Native Americans were denied the right to vote for decades](#) [Dana Hedgpeth, *The Washington Post*, 1 November 2020]
Even with the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924 that technically gave Native Americans the right to vote, historians said, tribal members were still shut out from voting for decades. For tens of thousands of Native Americans who served in the two world wars, it was especially disappointing because they were denied their rights in a country they'd fought for and that was

built on land their ancestors had inhabited for centuries. Even now, Native Americans face barriers to voting due to a host of issues, including not having the required voter identification, homelessness, lack of traditional mailing addresses, and unequal access to in-person voting, according to Jacqueline De León, a staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund. “It sends a message that you’re not a citizen. You’re not human,” said Debbie Nez-Manuel, who is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and was the first Native American from Arizona elected to the Democratic National Committee. “That message came across loud and clear, even today.”

[Transgender woman sues Whitmer to keep job in Michigan National Guard](#) [Paul Egan, *The Detroit Free Press*, 30 October 2020]

A transgender woman who served in Afghanistan as a member of the 101st Airborne Division sued Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her top military official Friday, saying she is being kicked out of the Michigan National Guard over her gender identification. Blaire McIntyre, who was assigned a male gender at birth but identifies as a female, sued in federal court in Grand Rapids, asking a judge to declare unconstitutional a policy forcing transgender service members to discharge from the U.S. military. The case could have national implications and is distinct from four other lawsuits, filed in other states, challenging President Donald Trump’s reversal of a U.S. Defense Department policy that allowed transgender troops to serve openly, attorney Shannon Minter said.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

DIVERSITY

[New Mexico elects all women of color to the House for first time in the state’s history](#) [Wyatte Grantham-Philips, *USA TODAY*, 6 November 2020]

New Mexico has elected all women of color to the U.S. House of Representatives, for the first time in the state’s history. Early Wednesday, the state confirmed victories for incumbent Rep. Deb Haaland, Yvette Herrell and Teresa Leger Fernandez in New Mexico’s three congressional districts. The first U.S. state to have an all women of color House delegation was Hawaii in 1990, when Rep. Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Pat Saiki (R-Hawaii) took office.

[How two blind brothers became Two Blind Brothers for a cause](#) [Leanne Italie, *The Associated Press*, 5 November 2020]

Would you buy something you can’t see? That’s the question posed by two New York brothers who’ve lost much of their vision to a rare degenerative eye disorder and have dedicated their lives—and livelihoods—to raising money for a cure. Bradford Manning, 35, and his 30-year-old brother, Bryan, are the founders of the clothing brand Two Blind Brothers. They’ve hit on a strategy that’s helped raise more than \$700,000 for the cause: selling mystery boxes full of an assortment of their ultra-soft shirts, cozy socks, knit beanies and sunglasses. The two turn over all profits from the boxes and their other sales to groups like the Foundation Fighting Blindness, funding research on retinal eye ailments like the one they’ve suffered from since they were 5, Stargardt disease. It’s an inherited form of macular degeneration that causes central vision loss over time.

[Mauree Turner is the first nonbinary state legislator and first Muslim Oklahoma lawmaker](#) [Kelsie Smith, *CNN*, 5 November 2020]

Mauree Turner won her race for Oklahoma state House for District 88 on Tuesday, becoming the first nonbinary state legislator in U.S. history and first Muslim lawmaker in Oklahoma. Turner identifies as nonbinary, which the National Center for Transgender Equality defines as gender understood as neither male nor female. Turner uses both the they/she as pronouns, according to Turner's Twitter profile. On Turner's campaign website, Turner uses she/her. "Mauree is now a trailblazer for non-binary people and their courage to run openly will inspire more non-binary people to pursue careers in elected office," said the president and CEO for LGBTQ Victory Fund, Annise Parker, in a [statement](#).

[New Mexico's first Black state senator is progressive Air Force veteran](#) [Cedar Attansio, *The Associated Press*, 5 November 2020]

A retired Air Force officer from Albuquerque will become the first Black state senator in New Mexico's 108-year history. In his first attempt at elected office, Democrat and retired Capt. Harold Pope Jr. unseated Republican Sen. Sander Rue, who is White, and held the suburban district since 2009. Tuesday's election is transforming both chambers of the Legislature to more closely reflect New Mexico's demographics. For the first time, the House will be the majority female, with 37 women out of 70 representatives, up from 32. Pope says that if anything in his background helped him get elected, it was his military service.

[Black Lives Matter activist Cori Bush becomes Missouri's first Black congresswoman](#) [N' dea Yancey-Bragg, *USA TODAY*, 4 November 2020]

Protest leader and activist Cori Bush won the election to Missouri's 1st Congressional District, making her the state's first Black congresswoman. A nurse, pastor and single parent who spent several months living out of a car, Bush, 44, rose to prominence as a protest leader after the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown, a Black 18-year-old, in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. She continued to speak out against police brutality and racial discrimination as nationwide protests erupted in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of a White Minneapolis police officer.

[Sarah McBride becomes first openly transgender state senator in the nation, elected in Delaware](#) [Wyatte Grantham-Philips and Natalia Alamdari, *USA TODAY*, 4 November 2020]

It's official: Sarah McBride, national press secretary for the Human Rights Campaign, became the first openly transgender state senator in the nation. McBride made history Tuesday night when she was elected to Delaware's state senate in a race against Republican candidate Steve Washington. She will replace Sen. Harris McDowell, a Democrat who is retiring at the end of his term. As a state senator, she will also be the country's highest-ranking openly transgender official—and first elected official in Delaware's history.

[Air Force tests G-force suits for female pilots](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 3 November 2020]

Women who fly fighter jets or other high-speed aircraft could have a better-fitting and safer G-force suit on the way, thanks to testing that took place last week at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. Five female fighter pilots, as well as a female aircrew member, tested a modified Advanced Technology Anti-Gravity Suit at Eglin from Oct. 26 to Oct. 30, the Air Force said in a

Tuesday release. The poor-fitting equipment isn't just uncomfortable for female pilots or air crew. It's also dangerous and could lead to situations where pilots suffer hypoxia, lose consciousness, or suffer injuries when ejecting because it doesn't fit right. The test represented the latest move in the Air Force's effort to try to improve the gear used by female pilots and other airmen as the service tries to become more equitable and improve its diversity. Most flight equipment in the Air Force was designed based on body measurements and proportions taken in the 1960s, when only male airmen could fly.

[Deaf and blind chef lands his dream job at Marine base](#) [Pam Kragen, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 3 November 2020]

Working in that high-pressure kitchen requires training, discipline, flexibility and an exceptional work ethic—which are skills that have made newcomer Kevin Tong a standout since he joined the galley crew last week. But there's something else that makes the 39-year-old San Diegan unique among his fellow cooks at MCRD. He is deaf and blind. Tong was born deaf and he started losing his vision in his early 30s due to Usher's syndrome. Today he is legally blind with blurry central vision and no peripheral vision. But with the help of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults and a diversity-hiring program by his employer, Sodexo, Tong said he has found a “dream job” he hopes to keep for the rest of his working days. Kevin Hollingsworth, general manager for Sodexo's food service operation at the MCRD mess hall, said the kitchen crew warmed up to Tong quickly this month when they saw what he could do.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Langley takes over Marine mission in Europe, Africa following Neary's relief](#) [John Vandiver, *Stars and Stripes*, 3 November 2020]

*Maj. Gen. Michael E. Langley, one of only seven Black general officers in the Marine Corps, assumed command Tuesday of Marine missions in Europe and Africa, the service announced. Langley replaced Maj. Gen. Stephen Neary, who was relieved of command last month while the service investigates allegations he used a racial slur that denigrates Black people in front of his troops at Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa headquarters in Boeblingen, Germany. He replaces Neary and becomes MARFOREUR/AF's first African American commander at a time when the Corps has been under scrutiny for a lack of diversity in its senior ranks. In August, *The New York Times* reported that of 82 Marine generals today, there were just six Black brigadier generals and one Black major general.*

[LGBT groups say Trump order limiting diversity training is unconstitutional](#) [Reuters Legal, 3 November 2020]

LGBT advocacy groups filed a lawsuit on Tuesday claiming President Donald Trump's executive order barring federal contractors from utilizing certain types of diversity training programs is unconstitutional. Six groups and a doctor who specializes in transgender medicine, represented by Ropes & Gray and LGBT rights group Lambda Legal, filed a complaint in San Francisco federal court claiming the September executive order violates their free-speech rights by limiting the information they can present in conducting the trainings. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and two other civil rights groups filed a similar lawsuit last week saying Trump's order will undermine efforts to combat systemic racism and sexism. In Tuesday's

complaint, the groups said the order would force them to choose between federal funding and educating their own staffers and those of other federal contractors on widely accepted principles such as implicit bias and cultural humility.

[Colleges, U.S. Air Force partner to improve diversity in STEM training](#) [Ed Adamczyk, *United Press International*, 2 November 2020]

Ohio State University on Monday announced a multi-university partnership with the U.S. Air Force to increase opportunities for minority science and engineering students. The six-year, \$40 million project will be [co-led by](#) Ohio State; Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio; North Carolina A&T State University and the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Base in Dayton, according to OSU. The project will fund summer internships for minority students concentrating on STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—studies, and offer access to research equipment and collaboration in projects with students in historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

[New Zealand’s Jacinda Ardern appoints country’s first Indigenous female foreign minister](#) [Julia Hollingsworth, *CNN*, 2 November 2020]

New Zealand appointed its first Indigenous female foreign minister Monday to represent what’s shaping up to be one of the most diverse parliaments in the world. Nanaia Mahuta, who is Māori, the Indigenous people of New Zealand, four years ago also became the country’s first female member of parliament to wear a moko kauae, a traditional tattoo on her chin. Prime Minister Ardern’s incoming parliament looks set to be one of the most diverse in the world. Almost half of the country’s lawmakers will be women—significantly higher than the global average of 25%. Around 10% of the incoming parliament are openly LGBTQ—higher than the previous title holder, the United Kingdom, where about 7% of the members of the House of Commons are openly gay, according to a national broadcaster Television New Zealand. New Zealand’s new deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson is also gay.

[Air Force takes steps to clear path for women’s advancement](#) [Missy Ryan, *The Washington Post*, 30 October 2020]

When Alexandra Jackson joined the West Virginia Air National Guard in 2018, she was looking forward to becoming a pilot with the 167th Airlift Wing, like her father. But at 5-foot-1, three inches shorter than the minimum standard, Jackson soon learned she would need a waiver to fly her unit’s C-17 transport plane and one of the two trainer aircraft before that. Jackson applied for the waivers but was denied. “It was heartbreaking, to say the least,” she said. She then sought a different exception that sometimes is granted if pilot candidates can pass a separate measurement exam conducted in the aircraft cockpit. Her superiors in the Air National Guard had never conducted such a test for the C-17 and had to work with Air Force officials to create one. She eventually passed and recently learned she can begin officer training school next year. Now, the Air Force is discarding its decades-old height standards, which have disqualified nearly half of female candidates and had a particular impact on women of color. The new standards are part of an effort to eliminate often overlooked obstacles to the advancement of women in a service whose leadership and pilot corps are overwhelmingly male.

[Midshipman’s lawsuit claims Naval Academy violated Trump’s order barring racial sensitivity training](#) [Heather Mongilio, *The Capital Gazette*, (Annapolis, Md.), 30 October 2020]

A midshipman suing the Naval Academy superintendent and the Navy secretary wants a federal judge to rule that the academy is violating President Donald Trump’s executive order banning the use of federal tax dollars for training on racism and White privilege. The new arguments, filed as part of an amended complaint on Oct. 16, could make Midshipman 1st Class Chase Standage’s lawsuit one of the first in the nation to mention Trump’s executive order. Jeffrey McFadden, Standage’s lawyer and a Naval Academy graduate, asked U.S. District Judge Ellen Hollander to find the “Superintendent’s mandatory indoctrination of the Brigade of Midshipmen and MIDN Standage in critical race theory” violates Standage’s First Amendment rights and orders from Trump and the Office of Management and Budget banning racism training. Standage faces expulsion because of a series of tweets over the summer, which the academy found violated its social media policy, represented conduct unbecoming a midshipman and, in some cases, were racist.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Civil rights groups sue Trump administration over diversity training order](#) [Jessie Bur, *Federal Times*, 29 October 2020]

The NAACP’s Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Oct. 29 on behalf of the National Urban League and National Fair Housing Alliance contesting the constitutionality of a September executive order restricting the content of diversity training for the armed forces and federal contractors. “We work as a contractor for the federal government, and the essence of what we do is to seek to help marginalized communities, especially African Americans, to gain pathways into the economic mainstream of this nation,” said Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, at the press conference. Part of the lawsuit includes claims that the National Urban League was not offered a recent extension on a federal contract because of that mission of racial advocacy and its contradiction with the executive order.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[Here’s why Army helicopters have Native American names](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 5 November 2020]

Black Hawk. Apache. Comanche. Lakota. Notice anything? The Army’s history of naming its helicopters after Native American tribes and figures stems from an Army regulation made decades ago. The regulation has since been rescinded, but the tradition has carried on over the years. An Army [press release](#) posted Wednesday explained the backstory of the U.S. military’s “long history” with Native Americans—and specifically the American Indian Wars. “But Native Americans also served as some of the fiercest fighters for the United States for more than 200 years,” the release said. “In fact, 32 Native Americans have earned the nation’s highest military award, the Medal of Honor.”

[Shortened Census Led to an Incomplete Count in Some Areas](#) [Tim Henderson, *Stateline*, 4 November 2020]

The early end to the 2020 census has some areas complaining they needed more time to count residents in a chaotic environment of coronavirus shutdowns and storm evacuations. Parts of Louisiana and tribal lands in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah face the biggest gaps in the pandemic-shortened count. But Manhattan in New York City and parts of New England, Mississippi and North Carolina also fell short of average completion rates. The count in those areas will have to be finished using estimates from administrative records and other techniques. The Census Bureau stopped accepting responses on Oct. 15 after the U.S. Supreme Court ended court challenges seeking to extend the count another two weeks. The Trump administration, after initially asking Congress for more time because of the pandemic, did a turnabout in July and asked to speed up the count and exclude people living here illegally from congressional apportionment.

MISCONDUCT

[School: LSU frat member arrested on charges including hazing](#) [*The Associated Press*, 3 November 2020]

A fraternity member was arrested Monday on charges including hazing in connection with an incident that reportedly hospitalized a Louisiana State University freshman. University police arrested Phi Kappa Psi member Terry Pat Reynolds II on Monday on charges of criminal and misdemeanor hazing and of failure to seek assistance, University spokesman Ernie Ballard III said. Detectives identified Reynolds as a suspect after looking at text messages sent from confiscated phones of fraternity members who brought the victim to the hospital, according to news reports. The Phi Kappa Psi chapter was suspended while campus police investigated. Felony criminal hazing was made a law after the death in 2017 of LSU freshman Max Gruver, who had pledged at another fraternity. That fraternity is barred at LSU's Baton Rouge campus at least until 2033.

RACISM

[N.Y.P.D. Anti-Harassment Official Accused of Racist Rants](#) [William K. Rashbaum and Alan Feuer, *The New York Times*, 5 November 2020]

For more than 20 years, an online chat board called the Rant has been the place where New York City police officers have gone in secret to complain about their jobs—not infrequently using blatantly racist and misogynistic language. Between the summer of 2019 and earlier this fall, “Clouseau” posted hundreds of messages on the Rant, many of which attacked Black people, Puerto Ricans, Hasidic Jews and others with an unbridled sense of animus. Now, city investigators say they have amassed evidence that “Clouseau” is a high-ranking police official. And not just any high-ranking official—the one assigned to an office responsible for combating workplace harassment in the Police Department. The official was relieved of his command after City Council investigators amassed evidence that he posted vitriolic messages online under the name “Clouseau.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Vermont man sentenced in hate crime after threatening to set fire to Hispanic neighbors](#) [Doha Madani, *NBC News*, 3 November 2020]

A Vermont man was sentenced on a federal hate crime charge after intimidating, threatening and harassing a Hispanic family who were his neighbors. Stuart Kurt Rollins, of Barre City, was sentenced to time served after spending nearly a year in prison and three years of supervised release, the [U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Vermont](#) announced on Tuesday. The 59-year-old man pleaded guilty to the hate crime charge in July as part of an agreement after initially pleading not guilty last year, court records show. In July 2019, Rollins threatened to burn down a family's home while they were inside and threatened to set fire to a member of the family, the federal prosecutor's office said. Rollins, apparently upset that his neighbors were Hispanic, told the family that he would do "whatever it takes to get you off this street."

["My story is not unique"—Mexican-American airman calls out racism in the military](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 1 November 2020]

The year was 2007, and Dominic CalvilloGonzales was excited. The young airman had just been selected for a deployment to Ecuador because of his skills as a mechanic. At least, that's why he thought he had been selected. Turns out, the real reason was something else entirely. "A few senior mechanics who were also going on the deployment later told me, 'You're going to be the translator for us,'" CalvilloGonzales, now a Tech Sergeant, said in an Air Force blog on Thursday. "I told them I do not speak Spanish very well and they responded with 'That's the only reason we put you on this trip.'" For CalvilloGonzales, it was the latest in a long line of racist experiences the Mexican-American faced both while growing up in the United States and while serving in the military. Ever since a report came out on racial disparities in the Air Force justice system this May, a host of airmen have come forward to share their own experience of racial bias in the service.

[A high school newspaper has exposed how state police quoted Adolf Hitler and advocated violence in a training manual](#) [Tom Porter, *The Insider*, 31 October 2020]

Students working on the [Manual RedEye](#), the newspaper for Louisville's duPont Manual High School, published exclusive slides a local attorney obtained through a public records request and shared with the publication on Friday. In the slides, reported the RedEye, recruits are told to "meet violence with greater violence" and be a "ruthless killer" with "a mindset void of emotion." One slide then goes on to quote Mein Kampf, Adolf Hitler's anti-Semitic manifesto: "The very first essential for success is a perpetually constant and regular employment of violence." The slideshow reportedly quotes Hitler twice more and concludes with the German motto "Über Alles," meaning "above all" or "above everything," associated with far-right nationalism in Germany. It was removed from the German national anthem after the defeat of the Nazis in World War II.

RELIGION

[Man suspected of showing up at mosque with handgun arrested](#) [*The Associated Press*, 4 November 2020]

Authorities have arrested a man who is suspected of showing up at a Wichita mosque with a handgun and yelling Islamophobic comments at a Muslim man. The 26-year-old Wichita man is

jailed on suspicion of aggravated assault and disorderly conduct. Police said in a news release that the man also is suspected of putting up “concerning posters around the Islamic Society of Wichita,” The Wichita Eagle [reports](#). Police arrested him Friday at a home in nearby Derby after responding to a disturbance with a weapon call at the Masjid An Noor Mosque, about a block southwest of Wichita State University. A police report states that the man was “making racial comments and discriminating against (the victim’s) religion.”

[Vatican breaks silence, explains pope’s civil union comments](#) [Nicole Winfield, *The Associated Press*, 2 November 2020]

The Vatican says Pope Francis’ comments on gay civil unions were taken out of context in a documentary that spliced together parts of an old interview, but still confirmed Francis’ belief that gay couples should enjoy legal protections. The Vatican secretariat of state issued guidance to ambassadors to explain the uproar that Francis’ comments created following the Oct. 21 premiere of the film “Francesco,” at the Rome Film Festival. The Vatican nuncio to Mexico, Archbishop Franco Coppola, posted the unsigned guidance on his Facebook page Sunday. In it, the Vatican confirmed that Francis was referring to his position in 2010 when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires and strongly opposed moves to allow same-sex marriage. Instead, he favored extending legal protections to gay couples under what is understood in Argentina as a civil union law.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[VA physician charged with sexually assaulting fellow staffers](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 5 November 2020]

A Veterans Affairs physician working at the department’s hospital in Clarksburg, West Virginia, was indicted on assault and abusive sexual contact charges Thursday for allegedly molesting two women in separate incidents last year. The accusations raise new concerns about VA’s response to sexual misconduct in their facilities and represent the latest criminal scandal for the Louis A. Johnson VA Hospital, where earlier this year a former nursing assistant earlier this year pleaded guilty multiple counts of murder in a string of suspicious patient deaths. The assault charges against Kenneth Ramdat, of Silver Springs, Maryland, carry the possibility of up to five years in prison and fines of more than \$1 million.

SUICIDE

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 41: Kim Donohue on suicide prevention at the state and local level](#) [*Military Times*, 5 November 2020]

Kim Donohue has worked for the Nevada Department for Veteran Services as the suicide and homelessness prevention program manager and organizational integrator since January 2018. Donohue has been actively participating in the SAMHSA Mayor’s Challenge Teams, which is a suicide prevention initiative that fights against suicide among service members, veterans, and their families since the inauguration in January 2018. In December of 2018, Gov. Steve Sisolak designated Donohue to lead the Governors Challenge team and continue efforts towards preventing suicide on a state-wide level.

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

[The searing pain of losing a service member to suicide calls us to action](#) [Michael L. “Mikey” Weinstein, *Military Times*, 4 November 2020] [COMMENTARY]

On Monday, I received the same horrific phone call I have dreadfully received too many times before here at the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. A grieving family member tearfully informed me that yet another one of our MRFF clients died by suicide. The shock and despair, as always, come forward at the speed of light. There is no defense to it, nor should there be. The full magnitude of the hurt is not possible to describe in the written word. Again, no mitigation is extant, nor should there be.

[Service member suicide prevention: Why the military must end the stigma on mental health](#) [Katrina Games and Aliyah Theargood, *Military Times*, 31 October 2020] [COMMENTARY]

The stigma around mental health in the military creates an environment where service members experience anxiety due to a fear that seeking help could end their career. “Will it mean my leadership and peers think I’m crazy?” “Could this hinder my promotion?” Will I make the next deployment?” The military has a mission-first approach, and the mental health of their service members is an afterthought. In fact, the DOD did not begin keeping a record of service member suicides until after 9/11.

VETERANS

[Max W. Daniels, Montford Point Marine who received Congressional Gold Medal, dies at 103](#) [Bonnie L. Cook, *The Philadelphia Enquirer*, 3 November 2020]

Max W. Daniels, 103, of Lake Como, a member of the first Black military recruits known as the Montford Point Marines, died Sunday, Nov. 1, at a nursing home in Wall Township, N.J. At the time of his death, Mr. Daniels was the eldest member of the Philadelphia chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association and among the longest-living Black Marines in America, said local chapter president Joseph H. Geeter 3rd. On June 27, 2012, Mr. Daniels was among the first group of veterans to receive the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor as a Montford Point Marine.

[“Finding Faces” podcast brings stories behind Vietnam wall names to life](#) [Harm Vanhuizen, *Military Times*, 2 November 2020]

Ryan Kern is looking for photos. It is a tireless pursuit that has taken the former Nevada-based journalist all the way to doorsteps across Massachusetts, each a home belong to a family member of a veteran who was killed in the Vietnam War. His mission is to preserve the images and stories of names adorning the Wall of Faces, an initiative started in 2009 by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to collect photographs of each of the 58,276 veterans named on the wall in Washington. Today, only about 100 pictures still need to be unearthed, Kern said. It is this search that recently became the topic of his podcast, [“Finding Faces.”](#) It’s this combination of stories on military service, life and emotion that makes Kern believe the podcast is so identifiable for listeners from all backgrounds, not just service members and veterans.