

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, 20 NOVEMBER 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

[Army's Sexual Assault Prevention Program Has Lost Soldiers' Trust, McCarthy Says](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 18 November 2020]

An independent review of Fort Hood, Texas has convinced Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy that soldiers do not have trust in the Army's Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention program. McCarthy is the second Army senior leader this week to express concern about the effectiveness of the SHARP program as the Army struggles to heal itself in the aftermath of the murder of Fort Hood soldier Spc. Vanessa Guillen. Under Secretary of the Army James McPherson told Military.com exclusively Monday that a five-member, civilian Fort Hood Independent Review Committee recommended that the Army take a "hard look" at the SHARP program as the result of its two-week fact-finding mission at the Texas post in late summer.
[SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#)]

[The American Medical Association officially recognized racism as a public-health threat, saying it creates and entrenches health inequality](#) [Bill Bostock and Anna Medaris Miller, *Business Insider*, 17 November 2020]

The American Medical Association has officially defined racism as a public health threat that has created substantial health inequality. Racism, both systemic and structural, has historically perpetuated health inequality and cut short the lives of many Black, indigenous, and people of color in the U.S. and around the world. Over the last year, [a number of county and state authorities](#) have also labelled racism a public health threat. "The AMA recognizes that racism negatively impacts and exacerbates health inequities among historically marginalized communities," Willarda Edwards, an AMA board member, said in a [statement](#) published Monday.
[SEE ALSO]

[Hate crime murders surged to record high in 2019, FBI data show](#) [Erin Donaghue, *CBS News*, 16 November 2020]

Hate crime murders surged to a record high in 2019 and overall hate crime incidents also rose, according to annual data released Monday by the FBI. Data shows 51 people were the victims of murder or non-negligent manslaughter motivated by hate in 2019, far surpassing the 24 people killed the year before. According to the Anti-Defamation League, 2018 had already been the deadliest year on record for victims of hate crimes since the FBI began tracking the data in the early 1990s. Last summer's mass shooting at an El Paso, Texas Walmart was the deadliest anti-Latino attack in modern U.S. history. The shooting suspect, who railed in a manifesto about a "Hispanic invasion of Texas," is facing federal hate crime charges. In 2018, a gunman opened fire at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, the deadliest anti-Semitic crime in U.S. history.
[SEE ALSO]

CULTURE

[Facebook estimates hate speech seen in 1 out of 1000 views on its platform](#) [Elizabeth Culliford, Reuters, 19 November 2020]

Facebook Inc. for the first time on Thursday disclosed numbers on the prevalence of hate speech on its platform, saying that out of every 10,000 content views in the third quarter, 10 to 11 included hate speech. On a call with reporters, Facebook's head of safety and integrity Guy Rosen said that from March 1 to the Nov. 3 election, the company removed more than 265,000 pieces of content from Facebook and Instagram in the United States for violating its voter interference policies. Facebook also said it took action on 22.1 million pieces of hate speech content in the third quarter, about 95% of which was proactively identified. It took action on 22.5 million in the previous quarter. The company defines 'taking action' as removing content, covering it with a warning, disabling accounts, or escalating it to external agencies.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Scary Is How You Act, Not Look, Disability Advocates Tell Filmmakers](#) [Cara Buckley, The New York Times, 17 November 2020]

When "The Witches," starring Anne Hathaway as the Grand High Witch, was released last month, a collective groan went up from people with disabilities. The movie, based on a Roald Dahl children's book, depicted Hathaway with hands that were wizened and disfigured, with two fingers and a thumb on each. The studio said her hands were meant to resemble cat claws, but they looked a whole lot like split hands, or ectrodactyly. People with limb differences, including paralympians and a "Great British Baking Show" semifinalist, posted photos of their hands and arms on social media with the hashtag #NotAWitch. While Hathaway and Warner Bros. apologized, many saw the damage as already done. Here, yet again, was a villain with a disability, one of the oldest, and, for many, most damaging, storytelling tropes still around.

[Could a major San Diego VA facility be re-named to honor a woman?](#) [Diane Bell, The San Diego Union-Tribune, 16 November 2020]

If 49th District Congressman Mike Levin gets his wish, one of two San Diego County VA facilities soon will be named after a woman veteran. Levin calls the conclusion of a recently released Veterans Administration advisory committee report "stunning." "Not a single VA facility anywhere in the United States is named after a woman veteran," he notes. Calling this unacceptable, on Veterans Day, Levin announced his formation of an advisory panel of veterans, active military and others, chaired by Carlsbad Army veteran Karin Brennan. The committee's orders are to come back before Memorial Day with recommendations of worthy female veterans with ties to this region deserving the honor of having a VA facility bear their name.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[So Long to Smocks? Army Considers Changes to 40-Year-Old Maternity Uniform](#) [Matthew Cox, Military.com, 16 November 2020]

The uniform board meets twice a year to discuss recommendations for potential improvements to Army uniforms and changes to issue clothing bag items. It also proposes possible future uniform items for the service to study. The board, which is made up of members of the active force,

National Guard and Reserve, plans to discuss redesigning the Army Green Service Uniform-Maternity, which is part of the service's new World War II-style uniform, according to a news release. "That maternity uniform resembled the style of uniform that has been issued since the 1980s and was first designed in 1979," the release states. It adds that the board will discuss whether to modernize the maternity uniform or continue with the current style.

DISCRIMINATION

[Facebook contractor to pay \\$595K over racial discrimination](#) [*The Associated Press*, 17 November 2020]

*A contractor that provides security at Facebook's Prineville data center will pay \$595,000 to settle allegations of racial discrimination by five employees. The complaints allege that supervisors at G4S Secure Solutions reduced the hours of Hispanic workers, gave them unfavorable shifts and used racist terms to describe them, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported. The settlement did not include an admission of wrongdoing by G4S, which pledged to continue employee training on nondiscrimination policies as part of the settlement. G4S said it denies liability and maintains that it "promptly addressed" employees' concerns, but seemed to acknowledge that discrimination did happen in Prineville.*

[Court weighs challenge to Colorado discrimination law](#) [*Colleen Slevin, The Associated Press*, 16 November 2020]

A Colorado web designer should not have to create wedding websites for same-sex couples under the state's anti-discrimination law because it would amount to forced speech that violates her religious beliefs, a lawyer told an appeals court Monday. Kristen Waggoner, a lawyer for Alliance Defending Freedom, told a three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver that the issue for designer Lorie Smith, who is a Christian, is the message and not the customer. She is trying to revive a lawsuit challenging the state's law, which her group also targeted on behalf of Colorado baker Jack Phillips in a case decided in 2018 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

[70% of Asian Americans support affirmative action. Here's why misconceptions persist.](#) [*Kimmy Yam, NBC News*, 14 November 2020]

A federal appeals court's decision Thursday to uphold Harvard University's affirmative action program has revived a debate over Asian Americans' role in racial justice issues within higher education. Advocates and scholars point out that while Students for Fair Admissions, the group that filed the lawsuit, claims Asian Americans face intentional discrimination in Harvard's admissions process, research shows the overwhelming majority of Asian Americans favor the program. With the case now a step closer to the Supreme Court, where SFFA will likely appeal the ruling, Asian American activists say much of their work will continue to involve dispelling myths around the impact of affirmative action and how the racial group sees the issue.

DIVERSITY

[Joy Harjo will serve a rare third term as U.S. poet laureate](#) [*Joshua Barajas, PBS News*, 19 November 2020]

Joy Harjo, the first Native American poet to serve as U.S. poet laureate, has been reappointed to a rare third term by the Library of Congress. Harjo, an enrolled member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, was initially appointed in 2019. At the start of her tenure, Harjo explained what that honor meant for Indigenous peoples in particular. Harjo is the second poet laureate to serve this many terms in a row since the current duties of the position were established 77 years ago. (Robert Pinsky was the first.) In a statement announcing the reappointment, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden wrote that, amid the novel coronavirus pandemic, Harjo “has shown how poetry can help steady us and nurture us.”

[Meet Noah Harris, the first Black man Harvard’s student body elected as council president](#) [Laurel Thrailkill, *The Hattiesburg American*, (Hattiesburg, Miss.), 19 November 2020]

The same month that Mississippi voters overwhelmingly opted for a new state flag without a Confederate emblem, Noah Harris was elected student body president at Harvard University. It’s been a defining year for Harris, a 20-year-old Black man from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. “I definitely don’t take that lightly,” Harris, a junior majoring in government, said of the confidence placed in him. “Especially with everything that went on this summer with the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, all the protests that went on in this moment of racial reckoning in this country. This is a major statement by the Harvard student body to entrust a Black man with such an unprecedented moment in its history.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Pregnant Airmen Needed to Test Out USAF’s Maternity Flight Suits](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprohory, *Air Force Magazine*, 19 November 2020]

The Air Force Uniform Office is searching for 25 pregnant Airmen at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to test the service’s new Maternity Flight Duty Uniform. Once the service selects volunteers for the effort, it’ll take participants’ measurements, fit them for their flight suits, have them don them for four weeks, and then ask them to report back about how the outfits held up “during their normal duty day,” according to a Nov. 18 Air Force Life Cycle Management Center release. “Current aircrew members are modifying their flight duty uniforms, at a significant personal financial cost, or they are borrowing bigger uniforms from their husbands, which creates a safety of flight issue,” noted 1st Lt. Avery Thomson, the office’s lead program manager for maternity development efforts, in the [release](#). “The Maternity Flight Duty Uniform will help remove a barrier for approximately 400 pregnant Airmen each year.”

[New Zealand Police introduce hijab to uniform](#) [BBC News, 18 November 2020]

*New Zealand Police have introduced a hijab into their official uniform to encourage more Muslim women to join. New recruit Constable Zeena Ali will become the first officer to wear the official hijab. A spokesperson said they aimed to create an “inclusive” service reflecting the country’s “diverse community”. Constable Ali was the first recruit to request it as part of her uniform and was invited to take part in the development process. Constable Ali, who was born in Fiji and moved to New Zealand as a child, told the *New Zealand Herald* she decided to join the police after the Christchurch terror attack. “It feels great to be able to go out and show the New Zealand Police hijab as part of my uniform,” she added. “I think that seeing it, more Muslim women will want to join as well.”*

[Panthers hire Peterson, NHL's first Black assistant GM](#) [Stephen Whyno, *The Associated Press*, 18 November 2020]

The Florida Panthers on Tuesday hired Brett Peterson as an assistant general manager, making him the first Black executive to hold that position in the NHL. Peterson's hiring comes days after the nearby Miami Marlins hired Kim Ng as the first female GM in Major League Baseball. The NFL's Miami Dolphins have a Black GM, Chris Grier, and coach, Brian Flores. "I don't think they're just going out to get people—I think they've identified people that are good at what they do and hard-working and excited," Peterson said on a conference call with reporters. "It just so happens to be that a couple of us are African-American and one of us is a woman and that shouldn't matter. We want the best candidates."

[Brown: Diversity Push Changing Personnel Decision Process](#) [Brian W. Everstine, *Air Force Magazine*, 17 November 2020]

Diversity and inclusion are now focal points in Air Force personnel decisions, Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. said on Nov. 17. In the aftermath of race-related protests across the country, the Air Force implemented a Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, received hundreds of thousands of responses to a survey on diversity, and launched an Inspector General review of racial inequality in military justice and promotion, among other efforts. These steps, combined with the climate across the nation, have changed how the service talks about race. At the higher level of the Air Force, diversity has moved to the forefront of personnel decisions such as promotions and hiring, Brown said. The Air Force needs to ensure it makes opportunities available to diverse candidates by seeking them out. Brown said he has been trying to do this himself as he built his staff since taking the job in August.

[Good guys: How men can be allies to women at work](#) [Chris Taylor, *Reuters*, 17 November 2020]

Are you a "good" guy? Or do you just think you are? That is the question authors David Smith and W. Brad Johnson have for every man in the workplace. In other words, are you someone who actively supports, sponsors and champions your female colleagues? In their new book [Good Guys: How Men Can Be Better Allies for Women in the Workplace](#), Smith, who is an associate sociology professor at the U.S. Naval War College, and Johnson, a psychology professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, lay out the rationale for being a warrior for gender diversity.

[Group Wants to Halt ACFT Until the Army Assesses Whether It's Fair to Female Soldiers](#)

[Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 17 November 2020]

An advocacy group for women veterans sent a letter to Congress this week, urging lawmakers to stop implementation of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) until the service completes an independent study of the new assessment's potential impacts on female soldiers. The Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) issued a letter to the leaders of both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, requesting that they retain a provision in the fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that would halt the ACFT until an independent study is conducted, according to a news release from SWAN, a national nonprofit group that advocates for the needs of servicewomen and female veterans.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[NFL assembles all-Black officiating crew for first time](#) [Rob Maaddi, *The Associated Press*, 17 November 2020]

The NFL will have an all-Black officiating crew for the first time in league history when the Rams play the Buccaneers on Monday night. “This historic Week 11 crew is a testament to the countless and immeasurable contributions of Black officials to the game, their exemplary performance, and to the power of inclusion that is the hallmark of this great game,” said Troy Vincent, NFL executive vice president of football operations. The first Black official in any major sport was Burt Toler, hired by the NFL in 1965.

[Marlins Name Kim Ng MLB’s First Female General Manager](#) [Dustin Jones, *NPR*, 13 November 2020]

The Miami Marlins announced Friday that Kim Ng would be joining their ranks as the team’s general manager, the first woman to hold the position in Major League Baseball. Ng began her baseball career in 1990 as an intern with the Chicago White Sox, but that was just the beginning. “Kim’s appointment makes history in all of professional sports and sets a significant example for the millions of women and girls who love baseball and softball,” Commissioner of Baseball Robert Manfred said in a [statement](#) Friday.

[Meet the Delaware Guard’s only female warrant officer Black Hawk pilot](#) [Capt. Nadine Wiley De Moura, *U.S. Army News Service*, 13 November 2020]

Warrant Officer Kristina Multani grabs her flight equipment bag from her locker and confidently strides across the flight line to a UH-60 Black Hawk for her first flight during the 28th rotation of the Kosovo Forces mission. Multani, who finished flight school in September as the only female warrant officer UH-60 pilot in the Delaware Army National Guard, eagerly embraced the opportunity to deploy to Kosovo. “I definitely hope to learn as much as I can from every aviator here, because I know each one has something to teach me,” said Multani, a UH-60 pilot organic to Alpha Company, 3-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, Delaware Army National Guard. “As far as being female it shouldn’t matter as much, maybe there aren’t as many of us, but any aviator can do the job.”

[Trump’s diversity training order faces lawsuit](#) [Alexandra Olson, *The Associated Press*, 12 November 2020]

Three civil rights groups filed a lawsuit Thursday challenging President Donald Trump’s executive order that prohibits federal agencies, contractors and grant recipients from offering certain diversity training that the president deems “anti-American.” The NAACP Legal Defense Fund filed the complaint in federal court in Washington, D.C., along with the National Urban League and the National Fair Housing Alliance. The lawsuit argued that Trump’s order violates free speech rights and strangles workplace attempts to address systemic race and sex discrimination. “The executive order smacks of a totalitarian endorsement of White supremacy,” Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League said at a virtual press conference. Morial called the order a “direct attack on our mission.”

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Pandemic-era social media landscape eliminates barriers for U.S. troops, but not without pitfalls](#)

[Erica Earl, *Stars and Stripes*, 17 November 2020]

Virtual events are replacing many in-person military meetings during the coronavirus pandemic, but they're also giving service members space to tell their leaders things they wouldn't otherwise say, a management expert said recently. The rise of social media platforms for official business makes leaders more accessible to their subordinates, sometimes in a casual manner unfamiliar in the military, according to Holly Raider, Ph.D., a clinical professor of management and leader of the U.S. Army learning exchange program at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business. "While social media can be an effective and enriching form of communication, people tend to feel emboldened when they are not talking face to face," she said during a Zoom interview Nov. 10. "The fabric of group cohesion can get frayed by this medium."

[Unconditional love tested by "don't ask, don't tell"](#) [Shon Washington, *Military Times*, 14 November 2020] [COMMENTARY]

In 2005, I was ramping up for a deployment to Iraq. As dramatic as it sounds, I didn't want to die without my Mom knowing who I am. I also didn't want to lie on my deathbed with regrets. My confession met my Mom in silence before she awkwardly ended the call. When we finally returned to Okinawa, another few months of silence flew by before I received an email from Mom with a cold request: "call me." While she had all but cut off communication, it was still unofficial. With this call, I was afraid she'd finally discovered the strength within herself to make my disownment formal. She could not respond coherently through her wails of emotion. Eventually, she calmed enough to apologize clippedly through her sobs for the way she had treated me and pleaded for forgiveness. Weeks passed after our reunion before I finally asked what changed her heart. "Allen Schindler."

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[Anomalies found in data put census deadline in jeopardy](#) [Mike Schneider, *The Associated Press*, 19 November 2020]

The director of the Census Bureau said Thursday that irregularities have been found during the numbers-crunching phase of the 2020 census, a development that jeopardizes the statistical agency's ability to meet a year-end deadline for handing in numbers used for divvying up congressional seats. The Census Bureau already was facing a shortened schedule of two and a half months for processing the data collected during the 2020 census—about half the time originally planned. The Census Bureau would not say Thursday what the anomalies were or publicly state a new deadline for the apportionment numbers.

[At 100, last Nuremberg prosecutor still yearns for justice](#) [Lena Toeppler, *Reuters*, 19 November 2020]

Seventy-five years on from the Nuremberg Trials, the last surviving prosecutor of the Nazi war criminals behind some of history's worst crimes is 100-years-old and still spreading a message to younger generations about the scourge of conflict and repression. Benjamin Ferencz was 25 and a U.S. soldier when, in the last days of World War Two, he was assigned to collect evidence about

the war crimes committed by Germany under Adolf Hitler. Later, Ferencz became a prosecutor at the U.S. military tribunal in Nuremberg, southern Germany, securing the convictions of 22 members of the Einsatzgruppen—paramilitary death squads who slaughtered upwards of a million people, most of them Jews, across occupied Europe. The courtroom in Nuremberg has been preserved and still draws many visitors to see the seat where defendants like Air Marshal Hermann Goering heard their death sentences.

[COVID Drives Navy Training to Innovate](#) [Edward Lundquist, *National Defense*, 19 November 2020]

Restricted movement of personnel caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is prompting the Navy to take innovative approaches to providing course instruction. At the Naval Leadership and Ethics Center, Newport, Rhode Island, Capt. Harry Marsh, prospective executive officer and commanding officer instructor, said training has evolved from rigid curriculum-based, instructor-led classes to facilitated command-level discussions. “We still have instructor guides and training objectives, but there’s less rigor in exactly how we present that information. We have more flexibility,” he said. While much of the training relies on the students sharing their own experiences in dealing with various issues related to managing and leading their units, the pandemic has forced some changes in how training is delivered. However, Marsh said, some of the instruction actually works better in a virtual environment.

[Deadly year for trans community as Transgender Day of Remembrance marked](#) [Erin Donaghue, *CBS News*, 19 November 2020]

2020 is on pace to be the deadliest in recent years for the transgender and gender non-conforming community, according to a [data analysis](#) released by Everytown for Gun Safety ahead of the [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#) on Friday. The annual November 20 observance honors victims of fatal anti-trans violence. Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun violence prevention advocacy group, has tracked killings of transgender and gender-non-conforming people in the 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C., since 2017. It’s tracked 29 deaths so far this year, compared to 25 killings in all of 2019, 26 killings in 2018, and 29 in 2017. Three-fourths of the victims since 2017 were killed with guns, said Sarah Burd-Sharps, the group’s research director.

[Army agrees to review thousands of “bad paper” discharges as part of lawsuit settlement](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 November 2020]

As part of a lawsuit settlement reached Tuesday, the U.S. Army would be required to review and potentially upgrade thousands of other-than-honorable discharges dating back to April 2011. The agreement is pending approval by the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. It orders the Army Discharge Review Board to reconsider thousands of cases in which the board denied upgrades, despite evidence that veterans were struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma when they separated from the military. The Defense Department instituted a policy in 2017 to give “liberal consideration” to veterans looking to upgrade their other-than-honorable discharges, or “bad paper,” in situations where a service-related medical disorder could have led to their misconduct. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit argued that the Army Discharge Review Board ignored the policy and denied upgrades when they were warranted.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Chris Nikic, You Are an Ironman. And Your Journey Is Remarkable.](#) [Kurt Streeter, *The New York Times*, 16 November 2020]

Chris Nikic, a 21-year-old who lives with his parents in an Orlando suburb, had started the day with determination. If he could overcome the challenge of this race—a 2.4-mile open-water swim followed by a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run—and do it under 17 hours, he would be the first competitor with Down syndrome to complete an Ironman triathlon. Such a feat would not just put him in the record books. It would also prove to himself and those around him that he could, in fact, do big things. And if he could do big things, then maybe one day he would be able to fulfill his ultimate dream: to live independently and have a wife and a family of his own.

[Seven-year-old Italian influencer challenges disability stereotypes](#) [Antonio Denti and Emily Roe, *Reuters*, 16 November 2020]

Sirio Persichetti can't speak and can't feed himself but the seven-year-old has taken the social media world by storm with his daily antics, proving that a disability is no barrier to inspiring others. Sirio has spastic tetraplegia, a form of cerebral palsy that affects the movement of three limbs. He bears this with such resilience, vivacity and lust for life that it prompted his mother Valentina to create a website and Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to chronicle his everyday life in hopes of inspiring others. We wanted to tell the story of disability in a different way, to tell it for what it is, something that is not easy to face, but that if channeled in the right direction, with the right help, it can allow these children to enjoy something that can actually be called life," Valentina said.

[Biden Wants Census To See “Invisible” Groups: LGBTQ, Middle Eastern, North African](#) [Hansi Lo Wang, *NPR*, 14 November 2020]

Biden will direct federal agencies to “improve their collection efforts, including enhancing demographic information around race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability status,” Jamal Brown, the national press secretary for the Biden-Harris campaign, told NPR in a statement before the election. Cultural and generational differences in how people describe their sexual orientation and gender identity make the wording on forms especially key to avoiding undercounts and overestimates of LGBTQ people, a working group formed by federal agencies during the Obama administration found. Another Biden campaign proposal is creating a new category on census forms for people of Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) descent, including Arab Americans.

[VMI picks interim superintendent amid leadership shakeup](#) [*The Associated Press*, 13 November 2020]

The Virginia Military Institute has selected a retired U.S. Army major general to serve as its interim superintendent amid a leadership shakeup that followed a newspaper article describing allegations of persistent racism at the school. Cedric Wins will step in to lead the military college until a permanent superintendent is chosen, the school announced in a news release Friday. Wins will be the first Black leader to serve in that role, a school spokesman said. The move comes after VMI's former superintendent, retired Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, resigned last month under

pressure from the governor's office following the publication of a Washington Post article that described incidents such as lynching threats and a White professor reminiscing in class about her father's Ku Klux Klan membership.

MISCONDUCT

[Coast Guard cadet found guilty of assaulting classmate](#) [Julia Bergman, *The Day*, (New London, Conn.), 18 November 2020]

A Coast Guard Academy cadet has resigned from the service after he was found guilty of assaulting a classmate, a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Kieran Clancy was initially charged with abusive sexual contact related to an April 2019 incident that occurred on the academy's campus. Under the UCMJ, "abusive sexual contact" is defined as unlawful touching of another person with the intent to abuse, humiliate, harass or degrade any person or to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person. The incident involved two victims, both cadets. However, the charges involving one of the victims were dropped "based on concerns regarding the sufficiency of the evidence to obtain and sustain a conviction," the Coast Guard said. "As a result, Cadet Clancy's case was referred to court-martial, and he was ultimately taken to mast for the charges related to the remaining victim."

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

RACISM

[German prosecutors seek life for Yom Kippur attacker](#) [The Associated Press, 18 November 2020]
German prosecutors called Wednesday for a court to impose a life sentence on a 28-year-old right-wing extremist who attacked a synagogue in the eastern city of Halle last year, killing two people after he failed to gain entry to the building. The attack on Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day, is considered one of the worst anti-Semitic assaults in Germany's post-war history. The defendant, Stephan Balliet, has is alleged to have posted a screed against Jews before trying to shoot his way into the synagogue on Oct. 9, 2019, while broadcasting the attack live on a popular gaming site. During his trial, which began in July, Balliet admitted he wanted to enter the synagogue and kill 51 people inside. When he was unable to open the building's heavy doors, the German shot and killed a 40-year-old woman in the street outside and a 20-year-old man at a nearby kebab shop, and wounded several others. He apologized to the court for killing the woman passing by, saying that "I didn't want to kill Whites."

[Pennsylvania judge accused of making racist remarks resigns](#) [The Associated Press, 18 November 2020]

A judge in western Pennsylvania accused of making racist and demeaning comments has resigned one day before he was to face a misconduct trial. His resignation halts Wednesday's start of a trial before a three-judge panel in which Tranquilli [faced six counts](#) of judicial misconduct, mostly involving racist and belittling remarks that allegedly were aimed at jurors and defendants. Officials began investigating after a trial in January in which the judge was accused of referring to a Black female juror as "Aunt Jemima."

[Pennsylvania school disciplined for marching band's costumes](#) [*The Associated Press*, 18 November 2020]

Officials have disciplined a western Pennsylvania high school because of costumes worn by some members of its marching band that were perceived as blackface. The Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League on Tuesday placed the Peters Township School District on probation until Oct. 31, 2021 and ordered it to submit a written plan to “educate and eradicate the social and racial insensitivity displayed by the marching band.” At least two members of the band wore black full-body suits during a pregame performance when the school, which is comprised of mostly White students, played Woodland Hills, a predominantly Black school, on Oct. 30.

[Teaching Racial Justice Isn't Racial Justice](#) [Benjamin Y. Fong, *The New York Times*, 18 November 2020] [OPINION]

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the season of protests for equality and against police violence that followed, universities are seeking to affirm and reaffirm their commitments to racial justice at all levels. Administrators are drawing up institutional plans to address structural racism (my employer, Arizona State University, put out its own this fall), and faculty are reorienting their courses to greater emphasize diversity and inclusion. This overdue reckoning is welcome, an opportunity to address longstanding inequities and injustices perpetrated by the sprawling conglomerates of higher education. But good intentions do not prevent misguided practices.

[Kansas college settles lawsuit over recruitment of athletes](#) [Roxana Hegeman, *The Associated Press*, 16 November 2020]

A small community college in northeast Kansas has settled a lawsuit accusing it of directing coaches to recruit more White athletes and subjecting Black students to excessive scrutiny such as background checks before offering them scholarships. Terms of the settlement were not immediately made public. A brief stipulation of dismissal was filed Monday by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. The ACLU had alleged in the lawsuit filed in March that Highland Community College instituted a plan to reduce the number of Black students. The ACLU contended the college's strategy included expelling Black students for minor or bogus infractions and singling them out for dorm room and vehicle searches, discriminatory surveillance and harassment.

[White supremacist sentenced to 2 years in bomb plot case](#) [Ken Ritter and Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 13 November 2020]

A White supremacist who told an undercover FBI agent about his plans to firebomb a synagogue or attack a Las Vegas bar catering to LGBTQ customers was sentenced Friday to two years in prison. The FBI said it began investigating Climo in April 2019 after learning of his encrypted internet chats with members of Feuerkrieg Division, an international offshoot of a U.S.-based neo-Nazi group called Atomwaffen Division. Climo told FBI agents that he joined Feuerkrieg Division but left because he “became bored with the group and their inaction,” according to a court filing. During an FBI interview, Climo described his White supremacist ideology and expressed his hatred of Jews, African Americans and gay people, authorities said.

[Ex-football players sue Iowa, alleging racial discrimination](#) [Ryan J. Foley, *The Associated Press*, 12 November 2020]

A lawyer for 13 Black former Iowa football players announced Thursday that he has filed a lawsuit alleging his clients suffered racial discrimination under longtime coach Kirk Ferentz. The plaintiffs, including former star running back Akrum Wadley and career receptions leader Kevonte Martin-Manley, suffered “serious and pervasive discriminatory treatment and harassment,” according to a press release from attorney Damario Solomon-Simmons. They allege they were demeaned with racial slurs, forced to abandon Black hairstyles, fashion and culture to fit the “Iowa Way” promoted by Ferentz, and retaliated against for speaking out, the press release said.

[Louisville couple says neighbor who painted racist slurs on property is vandalizing again](#) [Emma Austin, *The Louisville Courier Journal*, (Louisville, Ky.), 11 November 2020]

A Louisville couple whose home has been repeatedly vandalized with racist slurs over the past several months have now received threatening letters and bullets in their mail, their attorney says. Michele and Connie Pineda, a married couple with five children who live in East Louisville’s Lake Forest subdivision, reported to Louisville Metro Police in June racist slurs and swastikas had been painted on their driveway three separate times. Video surveillance from neighbors and the couple’s own house showed their neighbor Suzanne Craft coming onto their property and spray painting the messages before returning to her own home, according to court records. Craft, 52, was charged with three counts of criminal mischief and three counts of harassing communications, according to a citation.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

RELIGION

[Yazidis appoint new spiritual leader in Iraq](#) [BBC News, 18 November 2020]

The Yazidi community in Iraq has picked a new spiritual leader two months after the death of their top cleric. At a ceremony in the temple of Lalish - the holiest site for the minority group—they formally named Ali Alyas as the new Baba Sheikh, their chief religious guide. Yazidis are a religious and ethnic minority, most of whom live in northern Iraq. They faced harsh persecution at the hands of the Islamic State (IS) group, who took over the region in 2014 and killed, enslaved and raped thousands of Yazidis.

[Religious Freedom Arguments Give Rise To Executive Order Battle](#) [Tom Gjelten, *NPR*, 16 November 2020]

Key government policies on religious freedom and discrimination, once set through legislation, are increasingly dictated by presidential orders, meaning they shift capriciously from one administration to the next. Behind the dueling orders is a deep disagreement over the meaning of the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom. Conservatives say the right to “free exercise” of religion means people and organizations should be able to act on their religious objections to abortion, same sex marriage, or accommodation policies for transgender individuals. Others say the First Amendment’s prohibition against the “establishment” of a religion means that religion-based arguments should not be used to justify discrimination or the denial of civil rights or basic human services.

SEXISM

[War, heroism and sex: Pulp magazines & the dangerous messages they perpetuated](#) [Todd South, *Military Times*, 20 November 2020]

Buxom women rescued by hard-bitten Special Forces soldiers. An infantryman shielding the damsel in distress as the city burns and Nazis roll through the streets. Bare-chested men firing machine guns at unrelenting commie hordes. Such graphic illustrations were accompanied by titles like “Battle Cry,” “True Man,” and “Man’s Epic.” These were men’s pulp magazines, replete with sex, war and heroism—and they were anything but niche material. Pulp mags filled the racks and subscription lists of thousands of men and teenage boys across America in the post-World War II publishing boom. The pulps reinforced “narratives where traditional accounts of battlefield combat remained central to waging war, all while offering readers a supposedly tried-and-true method for attaining their manhood,” retired Col. Gregory Daddis notes. [Author of the [new book](#) titled “Pulp Vietnam: War and Gender in Cold War Men’s Adventure Magazines.”] “Men’s adventure magazines fostered an implicit consent of sexual subjugation by defining militarized masculinity as embodied in both the battlefield hero and the sexual conqueror,” Daddis wrote.

[Female combat deaths don’t erode war support, study finds](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 17 November 2020]

*Women’s combat deaths do not erode public support for armed conflicts any more than the deaths of male soldiers, according to a [new study](#). And although the thought of female combat deaths appears to reinforce women’s views on gender equality, it does not do so among men, said “At War and at Home: The Consequences of U.S. Women Combat Casualties.” The joint study by Rice University, Harvard University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,400 adults and more than 4,000 respondents in follow-up surveys. “Many of the policy arguments about whether women ought to be allowed to serve in combat rest upon untested empirical claims about the consequences of allowing them to do so,” said the report published in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. “This study brings new evidence to bear on these speculative debates.”*

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[U-M reaches \\$9 million settlement with 8 women who were sexually harassed by ex-provost](#) [David Jesse, *The Detroit Free Press*, 18 November 2020]

The University of Michigan has reached a \$9.25 million settlement with eight women who were sexually harassed by Martin Philbert, the former provost and chief academic officer at the school, the school and the women’s lawyers confirmed. Philbert, the second-highest administrator at the University of Michigan, had a lengthy history of sexually harassing female employees and had sexual relationships, including in university offices, while being promoted time and time again, an independent investigation released this summer found.

[Increased reporting of military sexual assaults has not led to more accountability, CBS News finds](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 17 November 2020]

Despite service members reporting more sexual assaults over the past decade, courts-martial and convictions for the charge have declined, according to an investigation airing this week on CBS News. “What we have uncovered are what we call consequential failures by leaders to change a pervasive culture of sexual assault in the military,” said Norah O’Donnell, CBS Evening News anchor and managing editor, who led the year-and-a-half long investigation. “The bottom line is it’s time for ‘Me Too’ movement in the military.” O’Donnell and the CBS Investigative Unit interviewed nearly two dozen victims and three whistleblowers who worked for the military sexual assault and harassment prevention program. The four-part series begins Tuesday on “CBS Evening News with Norah O’Donnell” and will also air on “CBS This Morning.”

[SEE ALSO]

1. [“They took her soul”: Army did “nothing” for soldier who reported sexual assault, mom says](#)
2. [Parents of soldier who died by suicide after sexual assaults call out “complete failure of the Army”](#)

[LSU mishandled sexual misconduct complaints against students, including top athletes](#) [Kenny Jacoby, Nancy Armour and Jessica Luther, *USA TODAY*, 16 November 2020]

For more than a year, people at the highest levels of the Louisiana State University athletic department fielded complaints about their prized running back, Derrius Guice. Federal laws and LSU’s own policies require university officials to take such allegations seriously and report them to the Title IX office for investigation, as well as to campus police if the incidents occurred on school property. Yet at each step of the way, LSU officials either doubted the women’s stories, didn’t investigate, or didn’t call the police, allowing Guice to continue his football career. LSU’s failure to adequately address sexual misconduct goes beyond one star running back, a USA TODAY investigation found. Officials in the university’s athletic department and broader administration repeatedly have ignored complaints against abusers, denied victims’ requests for protections and subjected them to further harm by known perpetrators.

[These 2 female Marines are in the brig on assault charges. Both claim trauma from rape](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 13 November 2020]

On Veterans Day 2020, a small group of activists and Marines’ family members gathered outside the Marine Barracks in Washington in the hopes of bringing attention to what they saw as injustice. Two female Marines are in the brig “for assault charges after experiencing flashbacks due to being raped,” a press release from the Military Sexual Trauma Movement group advocating for the women said. The families of both Marines claim their chain of commands did not give them the Marines the support they needed. “Female Marines are the best of the best, but we also get treated like the worst of the worst,” Janelle Marina Mendez, Marine veteran and CEO of the Military Sexual Trauma Movement, said at a Wednesday press conference. “How can America trust the USMC to protect our citizens when they can’t even prevent workplace violence against female Marines?”

SUICIDE

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 42: Col. Rob Swanson, suicide survivor](#) [*Military Times*, 19 November 2020]

Colonel Robert “Rob” Swanson retired from active duty after serving nearly 35 years. Since retirement, he completed an Executive MBA from the Shidler School of Business and has been actively involved as keynote speaker, senior mentor and advisor for the award-winning Fight For Each Other suicide prevention program in Hawaii. Prior to retirement, Colonel Swanson was Chief, Weather Strategic Plans and Interagency Integration Division, Directorate of Weather, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. The Division plans weather, climate and space environmental support for the Air Force Weather functional area and oversees integration of technology and weather into C4I and modeling systems.

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

[“How Did We Not Know?” Gun Owners Confront a Suicide Epidemic](#) [Roni Caryn Rabin, *The New York Times*, 17 November 2020]

According to national health statistics, 24,432 Americans used guns to kill themselves in 2018, up from 19,392 in 2010. People who kill themselves in this way are usually those with ready access to firearms: gun owners and their family members. Gun owners are not more suicidal than people who don’t own guns, but attempts with guns are more likely to be fatal. Now, nearly a year after the coronavirus pandemic began, unleashing a tide of economic dislocation and despair, experts are bracing for a rise in suicides. Gun sales have risen steadily since March, and as shutdowns aimed at containing the virus have disrupted lives and led to social isolation, [studies](#) have shown an increase in anxiety and suicidal ideation.

[“I spoke up”: Former military mom urges other service members to “prioritize” mental health](#) [Meghan Holohan, *Today.com*, 16 November 2020]

*Four years ago, Darcel Rideout reached her lowest point. She had been experiencing frequent bouts of depression and anxiety, which increased after the birth of her son. When she reached out to her superiors in the Pennsylvania National Guard for help, she said they didn’t offer much support. “I was told—I am a soldier and that is what I needed to focus on,” the 31-year-old from Philadelphia told *Today*. “I spoke up about it, and I was rejected.” Rideout is not alone. Leah Blain, a psychologist and the clinic director at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Penn, said that members of the military and National Guard are more likely to experience mental health conditions for a variety of reasons. The National Guard is an element of the U.S. military that serves the community and country—they respond to domestic emergencies, overseas combat missions and more. They can be called on in a moment's notice.*

VETERANS

[Digital technology helps blind Veteran experience world](#) [William Hatton, *VA Public Affairs*, 19 November 2020]

“Seeing” the world through a digital voice, Army Veteran Tom Arcand glimpses the world through a unique device—even though he’s legally blind. Arcand has a device that details the world around him, feeding him input, like identifying people around him and reading to him what he’s “looking at.” The life-changing device came after a simple question to his doctor. It all started when a friend recommended a device to him. Tom, and his wife Lucy—also a Veteran—watched a few short video clips and were ready to purchase the device. The Arcands reached out to the West

Texas VA Health Care System, asking their ophthalmologist, Dr. Geert Craenen, if the device was worth getting. Around the size of a large thumb drive, the Orcam MyEye attaches to a pair of reading glasses and scans anything Tom Arcand signals or points to. A small speaker near his ear will then tell him what it scans.

[Tester, Moran Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Increase Native American Veterans' Access to VA Health Care, Eliminate Copays](#) [Char-Koosta News, (Pablo, Mont.), 18 November 2020]

U.S. Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Jerry Moran (R-Kan.)—Ranking Member and Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee—are introducing the Native American Veteran Parity in Access to Care Today (PACT) Act, bipartisan legislation eliminating copayments for Native American veterans accessing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. This legislation brings parity between Native American veterans receiving services at VA and Native Americans who receive services through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Indian Health Service (IHS). Native Americans receiving care at IHS are not subject to health care copayments in accordance with United States trust and treaty obligations. Native American veterans, however, are required to pay copayments when receiving services at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), creating a disparity for those who receive health care at VA rather than IHS and causing a potential barrier to access to care.

[How you can help the 100-year-old "Berlin Candy Bomber" receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) [Jared Morgan, *Military Times*, 16 November 2020]

*A group of veterans and others are rallying support for a campaign urging the White House to bestow the Presidential Medal of Freedom on a pilot who flew humanitarian missions over Soviet-controlled East Germany during the beginnings of the Cold War. Col. Gail S. "Hal" Halvorsen, also known as the Berlin Candy Bomber, delivered food and other goods to West Berlin during 1948-1949 as the Soviet Union worked to consolidate its hold on eastern Germany. "He literally helped bind U.S. and German relationships after World War II because he made it about the kids and captured the heart of the American people," said Duncan McNabb, a retired four-star general and former commander of Air Mobility Command and U.S. Transportation Command, in an email to *Military Times*. A [petition](#) on the White House website calls for the president to award the medal on Halvorsen, who turned 100 last month.*

[Meditation may help Veterans with PTSD](#) [VAntage Point, 13 November 2020]

You probably know that symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) often include anxiety, unwanted memories, anger and avoidance. But did you know that meditation may be able to help? Meditative practices have been linked to decreases in hyperarousal, depression and insomnia. One example of a meditative practice available through VA is the Mantram Repetition Program (MRP). Mantram repetition can be done anytime, anyplace and for any amount of time. It may be a good choice for Veterans who don't see themselves sitting and meditating each day. Veterans can use the tools associated with MRP before going to sleep, walking, waiting or even putting on a seat belt. MRP is also great for beginners who are interested in mindfulness practices.