

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 15 JANUARY 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### [Exclusive: Long-withheld Pentagon survey shows widespread racial discrimination, harassment](#)

[Phil Stewart, *Reuters*, 14 January 2021]

*Nearly a third of Black U.S. military servicemembers reported experiencing racial discrimination, harassment or both during a 12-month period, according to results of a long-withheld Defense Department survey that underscore concerns about racism in the ranks. The 2017 survey, whose results have not previously been reported, also showed that U.S. troops who experienced racial discrimination or harassment had high levels of dissatisfaction with the complaint process and largely did not report it. The data support the findings of a 2020 Reuters investigation [here](#), which found that servicemembers feared that reporting discrimination would likely backfire and was not worth the risk. The Pentagon's release of the data followed a Reuters article last month disclosing how the Defense Department sat on the [2017 survey data](#) during President Donald Trump's administration, even last month denying a Reuters Freedom of Information Act Request.*

#### [The military knows it has a problem with domestic extremists, White supremacists](#)

[Meghann Myers and Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 14 January 2021]

*In the wake of reports that current and former service members are under investigation for their participation in the Jan. 6 protest and subsequent attack on the Capitol, the Pentagon is making an effort to reinforce its policies on extremism. At the same time, the Defense Department is in the midst of a [review of all of its policies](#) on extremist activity, a senior defense official told reporters Thursday. "We clearly recognize the threat from domestic extremists, particularly those who espouse White supremacist or White nationalist ideologies," the official said. "We are actively involved in always trying to improve our understanding of where the threat is coming from as a means of understanding and taking action." The official pointed to studies on domestic terrorism, which have found that "between 2001 and today right-wing extremists are responsible for more deaths in this country than any other extremist group," the official said.*

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

#### [No Place in DOD for Extremism, White Supremacy, Officials Say](#)

[Jim Garamone, *DOD News*, 14 January 2021]

*In wake of the siege of the U.S. Capitol January 6, Defense Department officials reemphasized the department has zero tolerance for service members or employees engaged in extremism, White supremacy or who belong to organizations that look to overturn the U.S Constitution. "We are doing everything we can to eliminate extremism in the Department of Defense," Gary Reed, the director for defense intelligence and counterintelligence, law enforcement and security, said. "DOD policy expressly prohibits military personnel from actively advocating supremacist, extremist or criminal gang doctrine, ideology or causes. We work very closely with the FBI to identify any current or former military personnel engaged in domestic extremist behaviors," the official said.*

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**SPECIAL: CAPITOL RIOT**

[Active-Duty Troops Who Participated in the Capitol Siege Could Face These Penalties](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 12 January 2021]

*Active-duty military personnel can vote; join a political party or club; or donate to political organizations, as long as they do so as private citizens and not as representatives of the U.S. armed forces. But they don't have carte blanche to engage in all political activities, and certainly aren't allowed to participate in seditious acts. As investigators work to determine whether any active-duty troops took part in the attack on the U.S. Capitol last week—and the Army investigates one of its own who organized a group to attend the Save America Rally beforehand—questions have arisen as to what service members can and can't do politically and the consequences they face. The extent of their involvement will likely determine whether they violated a Defense Department [directive](#) that spells out the limitations or broke the law under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, according to military law experts.*

[After deadly Capitol riot, Army looking at which troops require security screening ahead of Biden inauguration](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 12 January 2021]

*The Army is working to determine which National Guard troops working the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration require additional security checks, and is also offering more training on threat detection for those Guardsmen arriving to Washington, D.C., in the coming days, according to the service. The measures come in the wake of the deadly Jan. 6 Capitol riot and after Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colo., said he spoke with Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy this weekend and expressed “grave concerns about reports that active-duty and reserve military members were involved in the insurrection” at the Capitol. Crow, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, said he asked McCarthy for Army Criminal Investigation Command to review the backgrounds of any troops involved in inauguration security, “to ensure that deployed members are not sympathetic to domestic terrorists.” The threat is something the military has faced before. During this summer's unrest, an Ohio National Guard member was removed from his unit's mission to D.C. after the FBI uncovered information indicating they expressed White supremacist ideology online. The Pentagon requires all service members to take annual training on how they should identify and report suspected extremist behavior, but the some of those ideologies have proven persistent in the ranks.*

[Army PSYOP officer resigned commission prior to leading group to DC protests](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 11 January 2021]

*An Army psychological operations officer who led a group during the Jan. 6 rally in Washington, D.C., that culminated in a deadly mob breaching the U.S. Capitol had resigned her commission several months prior to the event, according to a defense official familiar with the situation. Capt. Emily Rainey, 30, was still on active duty during last week's protests. However, she had already been handed down an adverse administrative action for a separate incident and resigned her commission, the official told *Army Times*. Rainey's involvement in the rally is currently under investigation by 1st Special Forces Command, which oversees her PSYOP unit, but there is no indication she acted against Army regulations or entered the Capitol during the riot.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Capitol Hill insurrection reveals veterans are at war against themselves](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 10 January 2021]

*The attempted insurrection on Capitol Hill is a direct result of the political warfare that has engulfed the country for decades—and has turned veterans into foot soldiers for the new order. When asked if the Defense Department is investigating whether any of its personnel took part in the riot, a Pentagon spokesperson referred Task & Purpose to the individual military branches. It's true that many veterans have been sucked into the abyss of QAnon conspiracy theories, but the real conflict dividing veterans is not about politics, said Kristofer Goldsmith, who served in the Army during the Iraq war is now the founder and president of High Ground Veterans Advocacy. "It's between law-abiding citizens—those enforcing the law—and those radicals who are in violation of it; who are seeking to destroy democracy, quite literally," Goldsmith told Task & Purpose. Former Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer suggested that a general ignorance about how government works could be another reason for the division among veterans. The veterans community mirrors society in general, and now that schools have stopped teaching civics, an entire generation of young Americans simply don't understand how they can participate in democracy, said Spencer, who was fired by former Defense Secretary Mark Esper for trying to secretly negotiate a way for Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher to keep his trident.*

[Capitol rioters included highly trained ex-military and cops](#) [Michael Biesecker, Jake Bleiberg and James Laporta, *The Associated Press*, 15 January 2021]

*As President Donald Trump's supporters massed outside the Capitol last week and sang the national anthem, a line of men wearing olive-drab helmets and body armor trudged purposefully up the marble stairs in a single-file line, each man holding the jacket collar of the one ahead. The formation, known as "Ranger File," is standard operating procedure for a combat team that is "stacking up" to breach a building—instantly recognizable to any U.S. soldier or Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was a chilling sign that many at the vanguard of the mob that stormed the seat of American democracy either had military training or were trained by those who did. An Associated Press review of public records, social media posts and videos shows at least 21 current or former members of the U.S. military or law enforcement have been identified as being at or near the Capitol riot, with more than a dozen others under investigation but not yet named. In many cases, those who stormed the Capitol appeared to employ tactics, body armor and technology such as two-way radio headsets that were similar to those of the very police they were confronting.*

[Duckworth demands Pentagon investigate whether troops participated in Capitol riots](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*, 11 January 2021]

*Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) is demanding the Pentagon investigate allegations that service members and military retirees were among those who participated in Wednesday's attack on the Capitol. In a letter to acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller on Monday, Duckworth asked that he "immediately" direct each military branch's criminal investigation service to work with the FBI and Capitol Police to determine whether active-duty troops or retirees "engaged in insurrection against the authority of the United States, or participated in a seditious conspiracy that used force to: oppose the authority of the United States; prevent, hinder and delay the execution of the Electoral Count Act; and unlawfully seize, take or possess property of the United*

*States.” “If accurate, it would be a disgraceful insult to the vast majority of servicemembers who honorably serve our Nation in accordance with the core values of their respective Services,” Duckworth, an Iraq War veteran, said of reports on the involvement of service members and veterans in the Capitol siege.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Hero Capitol Police officer is a 101st Airborne veteran](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 13 January 2021]

*An Iraq War veteran turned Capitol Hill police officer is being hailed as a hero for his actions to delay and divert rioters as they assaulted the Capitol building earlier this month. Eugene Goodman, who served in the Army for four years and deployed to Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division, was stationed below the Senate chamber on Jan. 6 when protestors supporting President Donald Trump moved on the Capitol. In a video taken by HuffPost, Goodman can be seen attempting to hold back the violent crowd, reaching for his firearm but opting instead retreating to the second floor. He continues talking to the rioters and directs them away from the Senate floor and into an adjacent corridor, where other law enforcement officials join him. Capitol Hill police have not released any details of Goodman’s background or his thinking during the attack. However, the Washington Post reported that a friend of Goodman said the veteran is unnerved by the attention and publicity, but “he said he’d do the same thing again.”*

[How many troops were involved in the Capitol riot? Figuring that out won’t be easy](#) [Meghann Myers, Leo Shane III, Todd South, and Kyle Rempfer, *Military Times*, 11 January 2021]

*Days after a deadly insurrection at the Capitol, Defense Department officials are unsure how many, if any, active-duty troops took part in the Jan. 6 riots. Finding out how many, and what to do about them, is easier said than done. “...investigations into service members fall under the services,” a defense official told Military Times on Monday. “If the member is no longer in the military it would fall under DOJ”. The Justice Department is investigating 25 participants in the protest-turned-insurrection that ravaged the Capitol building on Wednesday, but it’s not clear who among them is either a currently serving member of the military, or perhaps a retiree subject to military criminal investigation. Some of those may be active or retired service members, though that information will likely trickle out in the coming days and weeks. Members of Congress are asking military leaders to prosecute any troops—and possibly some veterans—involved the attack on the Capitol, saying those individuals have violated their oath to the Constitution and the country.*

[In Unprecedented Joint Letter, Top Military Brass Denounces U.S. Capitol Riot](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 12 January 2021]

*The country’s top military leaders have taken the unprecedented step of calling out last week’s storming of the U.S. Capitol as inconsistent with the U.S. rule of law and a direct assault on the American way of life. In a one-page [memo](#) to all U.S. troops, the eight members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told the entire military force that President-elect Joe Biden will be their next commander in chief. All service members, they added, “must embody the values and ideals of the nation.” It was signed by Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley; Vice Chairman Air Force Gen. John Hyten; Army Chief of Staff James McConville; Marine Commandant Gen. David*

*Berger; Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday; Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown; Space Force Chief of Operations Gen. John Raymond; and National Guard Bureau Chief Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson. The letter is noteworthy for an institution that remains vehemently apolitical, serving commanders in chief and civilian defense secretaries from both parties—and putting the U.S. Constitution above any loyalties.*

[A Marine vet in a militia group was among rioters who stormed the Capitol](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 15 January 2021]

*Among the pro-Trump rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol building last week was a Marine veteran and member of an anti-government extremist group named Donovan R. Crowl. In a drunken phone call with New Yorker reporter Ronan Farrow, Crowl, 50, said he had gone to Washington to “do security for V.I.P.s” whom he declined to name. Crowl, who served in the Marine Corps from 1988 to 1993, was identified wearing a combat helmet, ballistic goggles, and a tactical vest with a handheld radio, [The New Yorker reported](#). He joined a line of people breaching the doors of the Capitol and then was photographed in the Capitol Rotunda, where he appeared to stand guard at the doors and on the steps of the Capitol, *The New Yorker* reported. The Navy’s Criminal Investigative Service is investigating to see if more sailors or Marines took part in the riot, the Marine official said.*

[The military has a hate group problem. But it doesn’t know how bad it’s gotten.](#) [Bryan Bender, *Politico*, 11 January 2021]

*The Pentagon is confronting a resurgence of White supremacy and other right-wing ideologies in the ranks and is scrambling to track how acute the problem has become in the Trump era. It’s an issue that has simmered in the military for years, but is now front and center following signs that former military personnel played a role in the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol last week. The overall problem of right-wing extremism has dogged the military for decades and tends to be more severe when there is a rise in wider society. It has gained new attention in the wake of the revelation that a retired senior Air Force officer allegedly took part in last Wednesday’s riot in the U.S. Capitol and a Navy veteran who also played a leading role was arrested over the weekend. Meanwhile, a rioter who was killed while trying to break into Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office suite was also an Air Force veteran who espoused far-right and QAnon conspiracies.*

[National Guardsman Is 1st Current Service Member to Be Arrested After Capitol Riot](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 14 January 2021]

*Two Virginia police officers charged in connection with the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol have military backgrounds—with one still serving as a corporal in the National Guard. Jacob Fracker, an infantryman with the Virginia National Guard who previously served as a Marine, and Thomas Robertson, an Army veteran, were arrested in Virginia on Wednesday. Fracker is the first person currently serving in the U.S. military known to have been charged following last week’s mob at the Capitol. Fracker and Robertson are both members of the Rocky Mount Police Department, about 25 miles outside Roanoke. They’ve been placed on administrative leave, according to their department, after each was charged with one count of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.*

[National veterans groups plan to purge members found guilty in Capitol attack](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 11 January 2021]

*Multiple veterans and service members are being investigated for their roles in the mob takeover of the U.S. Capitol building Wednesday, and at least two national veterans' organizations want to ensure they're not on their membership lists. Disabled American Veterans, which has 1 million members nationwide, condemned the riots Saturday and announced its intent to remove any members found guilty in the attack. Supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol, resulting in five deaths. "We are saddened that any veteran would desecrate our nation's capital and will take immediate action to initiate the removal of any DAV member found guilty of committing illegal acts against our nation," said Butch Whitehead, national commander of DAV. "Such behavior is a disgrace to our national values and must not be tolerated." AMVETS, which has 250,000 members, decided to do the same.*

["QAnon Shaman" charged with storming the Capitol is a Navy veteran](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 11 January 2021]

*The so-called "QAnon Shaman," a shirtless man wearing a horned, furry headdress and face paint who joined rioters in storming the Capitol last week, is a Navy veteran. "It is alleged that Chansley was identified as the man seen in media coverage who entered the Capitol building dressed in horns, a bearskin headdress, red, white and blue face paint, shirtless, and tan pants," the Justice Department said Saturday. "The individual carried a spear, approximately 6 feet in length, with an American flag tied just below the blade." But roughly 15 years before his alleged role in the Capitol attack, Chansley wore a Navy uniform for 25 months, according to service record information obtained by Navy Times. Military.com was the first to report Chansley's Navy connections. He enlisted in September 2005 and left the service in October 2007 as a supply clerk seaman apprentice.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Retired Lieutenant Colonel Is Unlikely to Face Court-Martial in Capitol Riot, Experts Say](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 11 January 2021]

*It's unlikely an Air Force veteran who entered the Senate Chamber during the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., will face a military court-martial, according to legal experts. Larry Rendall Brock Jr., seen brandishing zip-tie handcuffs during the pro-Trump siege, was arrested Sunday in Texas and charged with knowingly entering a restricted building without lawful authority, along with one count of "violent entry and disorderly conduct," according to the Justice Department. Brock retired from the Air Force Reserve in 2014 as a lieutenant colonel, according to the service. While he faces civilian charges, he is unlikely to be recalled to go through the military justice system, experts say. The issue is complicated: Retired members of a reserve component are subject to court-martial only if they receive hospitalization care from one of the armed forces, according to [Section 802 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code](#), said Steve Vladeck, a University of Texas School of Law professor who specializes in national security legal matters.*

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

[Retired Navy SEAL is questioned by FBI after bragging in video about involvement in Capitol riot](#) [Caitlin M. Kenney, *Stars and Stripes*, 13 January 2021]

*A retired Navy SEAL who described “breaching the Capitol” in a Facebook video is now being questioned by the FBI about his involvement in last week’s violent riot, according to a news report. Adam Newbold, 45, from Lisbon, Ohio, recorded a now-deleted video when he was returning from Washington, saying he was “proud” of the riot that happened at the Capitol building, ABC News reported. From the 30 seconds of video that ABC News posted, Newbold appears to reference lawmakers who returned to the Capitol after the riot ended to conclude the certification of the election. Newbold said he now regrets being in the crowd and he had gotten caught up in the moment to try to stop the election certification and that the riot on the Capitol “was all taken too far,” according to the ABC News report. In the deleted video after the riot, he defended the people who broke into the Capitol, saying they had to destroy doors and windows to get in to “our building, our house,” according to ABC News.*

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## CULTURE

[“Ashley’s War” and the story of the women of special operations is coming to the big screen](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Military Times*, 11 January 2021]

*In August 2011, Lt. Ashley White Stumpf joined an entirely female Army cultural support team, or CST, that would soon deploy to Afghanistan into combat alongside various elite elements of the military’s special operations community. As a member of the specialized CST-2, White’s job, highly confidential and done during an era when women were barred from combat arms professions, was to build and improve relationships with Afghan civilians, an especially pertinent role due to cultural limitations placed on Afghan women that prevented them from speaking with men who were not family members. In 2015, best-selling author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon brought Ashley’s story to life in [“Ashley’s War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield.”](#) Now, more than five years later, that story is in development for a big screen adaptation.*

[Boston Bruins to retire the jersey of Willie O’Ree, who broke the NHL’s color barrier](#) [Dan Kamal and Leah Asmelash, *CNN*, 12 January 2021]

*The National Hockey League’s Boston Bruins will retire the jersey of Willie O’Ree, who broke the NHL’s color barrier with Boston in 1958 as the first Black hockey player in the league. The retiring of O’Ree’s No. 22 jersey is set for February 18, prior to the Bruins’ home game against the New Jersey Devils. His jersey will hang in the rafters of the team’s TD Garden arena. “Willie’s contributions to the game of hockey transcend on-ice accomplishments and have opened countless doors for players who have come after him,” said Bruins President Cam Neely, in Tuesday’s announcement. “He is without question deserving of this honor.” On Monday, the NHL announced that every player in the league will wear a decal on their helmets featuring a picture of O’Ree and the message “celebrating equality.” The decals will be worn from January 16 through the end of February, which is Black History Month.*

[Facebook appoints civil rights VP amid pressure over racial hatred and violence on Facebook and Instagram](#) [Jessica Guyunn, *USA TODAY*, 11 January 2021]

*Civil rights attorney Roy L. Austin, Jr., who focused on policing in the Obama administration, first at the Justice Department and then at the White House, is Facebook's new vice president of civil rights charged with helping the social media giant curb the racial hatred and violence that over the summer led to a month-long boycott by civil rights groups and major advertisers. Austin will establish a new civil rights organization inside Facebook, one of the key recommendations of an internal audit of Facebook's practices released in July which warned that Facebook's failure to rein in toxic speech, racism and misinformation could have serious repercussions on the presidential election. Pressure on Facebook escalated amid national protests over racial injustice and police brutality after the death of George Floyd under a White officer's knee. The civil rights audit heightened scrutiny of the spread of racism and hate on Facebook and Instagram.*

[How "The Turner Diaries" Incites White Supremacists](#) [Alexandra Alter, *The New York Times*, 12 January 2021]

*The 1978 novel, which Amazon recently removed from its site, depicts a right-wing assault on the Capitol. Since its publication by the neo-Nazi leader William Luther Pierce, "The Turner Diaries" has become one of the most influential texts among White nationalists and right-wing extremists. It has inspired dozens of acts of violence and has been held up as a blueprint for how to enact a violent insurrection. Scholars and historians have expressed concern about the book's availability in the United States. The historian Kathleen Belew said that while the novel is valuable as a lens for understanding the motivations of White nationalists, it must be put in context when it is read and studied.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[It's Harder to Boot Right-Wing Extremists from Social Media Than ISIS](#) [Patrick Tucker, *GovExec*, 13 January 2021]

*Experts who watched the right-wing mob attack the U.S. Capitol last week recognized a familiar pattern in the use of social media to recruit and organize; they'd seen the same thing from ISIS and other terrorist groups. They say that the kind of online measures that worked against the latter will work against the former—but at greater cost. Studies on the effectiveness of tactics like purging and deplatforming to defeat Islamic extremism show that pushing adherents from major social-media networks limits the reach and effectiveness of propaganda and can even change the nature of the group. But right-wing content is much more technically and logistically difficult to defeat. Extremists of all stripes tend to share certain characteristics. A [2018 report](#) from the Jena Institute for Democracy and Civil Society found that Muslim extremism and anti-Muslim extremism in Germany mirrored each other in various ways, including recruitment, mobilization, and coordination strategies—and even ideology. Both types of extremist groups nursed perceptions of victimhood, painted the other as antagonists, and blamed cultural pluralism for the rise of their adversaries. "This becomes particularly evident in their internet propaganda on social media," the report said.*

["MLK/FBI" explores the roots of an American ill will](#) [Mark Kennedy, *The Associated Press*, 12 January 2021]

*There's an iconic photograph of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that was taken as he triumphantly boarded one of the first integrated buses in Montgomery, Alabama. It was 1956 and*

*King looks out a window, firmly at the front of the bus, almost gazing toward his movement's next big social hurdle. The image was taken by Ernest Withers, a key chronicler of the civil rights movement—and an FBI informant. That the FBI wanted someone close and watching King is at the heart of director Sam Pollard's engrossing documentary "MLK/FBI," a film that artfully explains how the two sides of that slash came to be enemies. In "MLK/FBI," Pollard explains how J. Edgar Hoover used the full force of his federal law enforcement agency to attack a progressive, nonviolent cause. That included wiretaps, blackmail and informers, trying to find dirt on King. "I think this entire episode represents the darkest part of the Bureau's history," notes former FBI Director James Comey.*

[\[TRAILER\]](#)

[Only about 2,000 people speak the Cherokee language fluently. The tribe is saving some vaccine doses for them](#) [Harmeet Kaur, CNN, 12 January 2021]

*Even before the pandemic hit, the Cherokee Nation was dealing with a crisis: the potential disappearance of its native language. Only about 2,000 people can speak the Cherokee language fluently. And as Covid-19 began to spread, that number started to dwindle. So when the Cherokee Nation began receiving shipments of the Covid-19 vaccine, the tribal government identified Cherokee speakers as among the first groups to be eligible for the shot. "When you lose a speaker and you're a tribe that has only 2,000 fluent speakers left, you've lost something that isn't just irreplaceable, as all life is, but is really a national treasure," Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. told CNN. "Whether they survive and whether they pass down their knowledge will help determine in a couple of generations if there is a Cherokee language left."*

[Pentagon Begins Process to Purge Confederate Names from Military Bases, Property](#) [Matthew Cox, Military.com, 8 January 2021]

*The Pentagon is moving forward to satisfy a congressional directive in the 2021 defense policy bill that will result in the renaming of at least 10 Army bases and possibly two Navy ships that honor the Confederacy. On Friday, Acting Defense Secretary Christopher C. Miller appointed four members of what will eventually be an eight-member congressionally mandated panel: the lengthily named Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America. The Pentagon has three years to put into action a plan from the commission to "remove all names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America ... from all assets of the Department of Defense," according to language in the NDAA.*

[The symbols of hate and far-right extremism on display in pro-Trump Capitol siege](#) [Deena Zaru, ABC News, 14 January 2021]

*As a pro-Trump mob stormed the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday, symbols of White supremacy and extremist right-wing militias were displayed by rioters on flags, banners and clothing scattered in a sea of American flags, pro-Trump banners and campaign memorabilia. According to experts who study far-right movements in the U.S., the images illuminated some of the beliefs held by some "extremist" individuals and groups who embraced President Donald Trump's repeated*

*false claims that the election was stolen from him and responded to his call for “strong” action as he urged supporters to march to the Capitol.*

[To help heal racial wounds, Black national anthem would become America’s hymn under proposal](#) [Deborah Barfield Berry, USA TODAY, 12 January 2021]

*U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., wants a song about faith and resilience long revered in the Black community to become the national hymn and help unite the country after centuries of racial turmoil. Clyburn, the House majority whip, plans to introduce a measure as early as this week that would make “[Lift Every Voice and Sing](#)”, known as the Black national anthem, the national hymn and give it a special place alongside the country’s anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.” “To make it a national hymn, I think, would be an act of bringing the country together. It would say to people, ‘You aren’t singing a separate national anthem, you are singing the country’s national hymn,’” said Clyburn, the highest-ranking Black American in Congress. “The gesture itself would be an act of healing. Everybody can identify with that song.”*

## DISCRIMINATION

[EEOC Cancels Official Time for Union Reps Across Government](#) [Erich Wagner, GovExec, 8 January 2021]

*In a party-line vote, commission members issued a final rule stripping union officials from access to official time to work on colleagues’ discrimination complaints and tried to exempt the regulation from the Congressional Review Act. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guarantees official time to federal employees working on their colleagues’ discrimination claims, a policy intended to help victims feel more comfortable and navigate a complicated and difficult adjudication process. The rule change, which was first reported by Government Executive, would end that practice, but only for union officials. Instead, if accusers enlist a union official to serve as their representative in EEOC proceedings, the union official’s use of official time would be subject to the rules and time limits in their agency’s collective bargaining agreement. But if employees select a non-union official to represent them, they still will receive EEOC-guaranteed official time. The rule, officially proposed in December 2019, has been widely opposed by unions, civil rights groups, nearly 200 lawmakers and former EEOC officials, who argue that while the measure appears to be an effort to sideline labor groups, it in fact will deprive victims of discrimination of effective representation.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[NC towns considering more LGBT protections after moratorium](#) [The Associated Press, 11 January 2021]

*Three North Carolina municipalities plan this week to discuss ordinances to expand more anti-discrimination protections to LGBT citizens. Gay-rights groups say the ordinances, if enacted, would be the first approved since the General Assembly’s 3 1/2-year pause on such rules expired Dec. 1. These groups have urged their passage by towns and cities. The moratorium emerged from a compromise between Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and Republican lawmakers to do away with the state’s 2016 “bathroom bill” related to transgender people. The ordinances would make it unlawful within town limits for businesses to discriminate in employment and in offering goods*

and services to the public on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and other differences. Some proposals would subject violators to misdemeanors and fines.

[Why getting a name right matters](#) [Zulekha Nathoo, *BBC News*, 11 January 2021]

*Xian Zhao, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto whose [research](#) focuses on ethnic name pronunciation, says that although many people don't realise it, habitually pronouncing an unfamiliar name incorrectly is a form of implicit discrimination. It sends a message that "you are minimal", says Zhao. "You are not important in this environment, so why should I take time and my effort to learn it?" Changing one's name to fit in happens more often than some may think, especially on résumés. According to research from Stanford University and the University of Toronto, nearly half of Black and Asian job applicants who altered their resumés did so by changing the presentation of their name in an effort to erase any racial cues. (The researchers found those who "Whitened" their résumés were twice as likely to get call-backs for an interview, compared to those who left ethnic details intact.) Some also use nicknames or Anglicised names in professional or social environments. Zhao's recent research showed that about half of Chinese international students surveyed who attend U.S. universities [had adopted Anglicised versions](#) of their given names to make it easier for others to pronounce them. But this can have consequences.*

## DIVERSITY

[Black Ambassadors Association Calls for Diversity Reforms at State and USAID](#) [Courtney Bublé, *GovExec*, 13 January 2021]

*As the Biden administration prepares to take over, the Association of Black Ambassadors recently offered recommendations on how to improve diversity and inclusivity at the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development. The group's [post](#)—published in the January/February 2021 edition of *The Foreign Service Journal*, a publication of the American Foreign Service Association—covers recruitment, assignments, mentoring, promotions and retention. Both State and USAID have made mixed progress in improving racial and gender representation in their workforces over the years, as the Government Accountability Office found. "The foreign affairs agencies have a collective responsibility to stand up and take serious action to address structural barriers to diversity and inclusion in their respective agencies," said the Association of Black Ambassadors. "All employees should be provided with the skills, resources and mentoring that contribute to professional advancement. These proposed changes should be codified in the Foreign Service Act of 1980 and implementing regulations."*

[CMSAF experiences Dover AFB's culture, innovation](#) [Airman 1st Class Faith Schaefer, 436th Airlift Wing, *Air Force News Service*, 12 January 2021]

*Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass, accompanied by Chief Master Sgt. Mike Perry, Air Force First Sergeant special duty manager, and Chief Master Sgt. Jalil Samacarchin, Air Force Aircraft Systems career field manager, visited Dover Air Force Base, Jan. 7-8, experiencing firsthand how Dover AFB trains multi-capable Airmen, develops innovative leaders, and continues to cultivate a culture of diversity and inclusion. "As an Air Force, we need to create the best leaders so that our Airmen realize they can reach their full potential," Bass said.*

*“I’m focused (on) how we get after developing leaders and getting after the culture. So that we identify it ... we can have a culture where every Airman can thrive, where every Airman feels valued.” Bass concluded her visit with discussion with Airman in which she emphasized the need to “Accelerate Change or Lose” coupled with a need to care for one another. “The help that I’m going to ask is that you make a difference in your organizations,” Bass said. “That you leave it better than what you found it. I’m going to ask that you’re a good teammate to your fellow wingmen and for you to help create a culture you know is right.”*

[Elba native Wendy Johnson becomes Nebraska National Guard's first female two-star general](#)

[*The Lincoln Journal Star, (Lincoln, Neb.), 8 January 2021*]

*An Elba native was promoted to the rank of major general on Tuesday, becoming the first female general officer in the Nebraska National Guard to pin on a second star. Wendy Johnson, previously the assistant adjutant general-air for Nebraska, will take on a new assignment as the Air National Guard Assistant to Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. While she will remain a member of the Air National Guard, her unit of assignment will be at command headquarters. “I am a little sad to be leaving the Nebraska Air National Guard. It’s a little like how I felt going off to college: excited about the next phase of life, excited about the next phase in my career, but knowing I’m closing a chapter that I treasure,” Johnson said in a release from the Guard. Johnson’s career began 37 years ago when she joined the Nebraska Air National Guard as an enlisted administrative clerk with the 155th Combat Support Squadron in Lincoln in 1984.*

[REPRINT]

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force “innovation cell” at Scott AFB designated a defense laboratory](#) [Ed Adamczyk, *United Press International*, 11 January 2021]

*The “Elevate” innovation hub at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., is the first to receive [designation](#) as an Air Force defense laboratory, it announced on Monday. The designation allows the Elevate team to partner with educational institutions under an Education Partnership Agreement in sharing resources, equipment and information. “EPAs help cultivate, recruit, and diversify the Air Force workforce, help develop critically needed new technology, harness outside assistance with technology transfer and commercialization, and enhance an Air Force’s Activity’s visibility and image in the community,” an Air Force directive states. The “Elevate” program, at work at numerous bases, is an innovation office focused aimed at connecting personnel focused on various issues to counterparts in industry, academia or government.*

[DOD drops plan to give exchange shopping benefits to more than a half million DOD civilians](#)

[Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 12 January 2021]

*A proposal to give military exchange shopping privileges to more than a half million Department of Defense civilians is dead, according to defense officials. “DOD is not pursuing military exchange access for DOD civilian employees at this time,” said DOD spokeswoman Lisa Lawrence, in response to a question from Military Times. She had no comment about why the proposal has been dropped. This is a reversal in direction for DOD since October, when an*

*official said the proposal to give exchange shopping privileges to DOD civilians was working its way through the final stages of the approval process. At that time, the official said it would probably be after Election Day before the initiative got final approval. It was expected to bring in about 575,000 new eligible customers into exchanges, said Berry Patrick, who works in the DOD Office of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Nonappropriated Fund Policy, during an Oct. 20 virtual conference of the American Logistics Association.*

[Nazi Buchenwald camp no place for sledging, authorities warn](#) [BBC News, 15 January 2021]

*Some visitors to the Buchenwald Nazi concentration camp—now a memorial—have gone for sledge rides over mass graves and such abuses must stop, the site’s managers have warned. The site extends across a large wooded area in eastern Germany, as Buchenwald had several sub-camps. “Cases of winter sports near mass graves, disturbing the peace of the dead, will be reported,” the memorial warns on its website. More than 56,000 inmates died there. The Nazis imprisoned nearly 280,000 men, women and children at the site on Ettersberg hill near Weimar in 1937-1945. They were mainly Jews, Sinti and Roma, resistance activists, homosexuals and Soviet soldiers. They were beaten, starved and tortured. Some were used for medical experiments. Disturbing the peace of the dead is an offence punishable by a fine in Germany, he said, adding that the memorial has now stepped up its security.*

[Spouses: Help researchers delve into long-term effects of military life](#) [Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 11 January 2021]

*Military spouses: watch your mail. You may be among those invited to participate in the next round of a unique long-term study of the effects of military life on career, stress, well-being, health and adjustment. The invitations to participate in the DOD Millennium Cohort Family Study are coming this month by mail, from Department of Defense addresses. Researchers are hoping to recruit up to 50,000 military spouses in the continuing long-term study. The spouse survey takes about 45 minutes to complete, and participants are asked to take a follow-up survey every three to five years, over seven cycles—covering about 21 to 25 years. The family study is the only DOD-wide research program examining the long-term effects of a military career on the health of military spouses. DOD researchers have the unique ability to conduct scientific random sampling processes for their studies, for scientific validity, because they have access to service member and spouse demographic and contact information. Only those who have received an invitation from DOD can participate in this study.*

## **MISCONDUCT**

[Acting defense secretary ordered review of Pentagon’s extremism policies](#) [Corey Dickstein, *Stars and Stripes*, 14 January 2021]

*Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller quietly ordered a review last month of the Pentagon’s policies on extremist activities among service members, a senior defense official said Thursday, acknowledging the growing concern of troops harboring extreme views. Officials in the five military services involved in the recruiting and accessions policy and those in the Pentagon’s personnel and readiness office are due to draft a report within two months outlining new initiatives meant to stamp out extremists or hate group activity in the ranks, the senior*

*defense official said. Two senior defense officials said Thursday that Pentagon officials were most concerned with extremist activity among troops and veterans aligned with anti-government militia movements and those who hold White supremacist views. “We know that some groups actively attempt to recruit our personnel into their cause, or actually encourage their members to join the military, for purpose of acquiring skills and experience,” one official said. “We recognize that [military] skills are prized by some of these groups.”*

[Air Force Demotes Former General as IG Report Reveals Details of Illicit Affair](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 8 January 2021]

*The former general in charge of U.S. Air Force Warfare Center—removed from command due to an alleged unprofessional relationship—was demoted to colonel following an investigation into his behavior, according to an Air Force Inspector General report released Friday. Maj. Gen Peter Gersten, head of the Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, retired as a colonel effective Jan. 1, spokeswoman Ann Stefanek told *Military.com*. The Air Force only identified the woman as a subordinate member on his personal staff, with whom he had sexual intercourse between July 2018 until he was relieved of command in June 2019. The complainant additionally alleged Gersten “had a reputation for engaging in inappropriate personal relationships with multiple women for the past ten years,” a violation which falls under the UCMJ’s prohibition on “Conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman.”*

[The Army is kicking out that lieutenant who made a Holocaust joke on TikTok](#) [James Clark, *Task & Purpose*, 11 January 2021]

*The Army is in the process of separating 2nd Lt. Nathan Freihofer from the service after the artillery officer joked about the Holocaust on his TikTok channel back in August. Freihofer grabbed national attention after he posted a video to his nearly three million TikTok followers at the time—he has accrued nearly 1 million additional followers since then—in which he asked what a “Jewish person’s favorite Pokemon character is,” before answering: “Ash.” Following an investigation into the video, Lt. Gen. Michael Kurilla, the commander of the Army’s 18th Airborne Corps, found “Freihofer’s anti-Semitic statement on TikTok inconsistent with the values of Army service and inappropriate for anyone in a position of leadership over American Soldiers,” said Corps spokesman Col. Joe Buccino. “As a result, last month the Corps commander initiated the process of removing Friehofer from the Army.”*

[Army leader reveals Spc. Vanessa Guillen’s entire chain of command at Fort Hood was fired](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 8 January 2021]

*Leaders responsible for Spc. Vanessa Guillen from her squad to her battalion were fired during the disciplinary action that took place last month at Fort Hood, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston told soldiers Thursday at the base. Speaking to a group of about two dozen junior enlisted soldiers, Grinston used the firings as an example of how the Army is taking action to root out leaders who allow corrosive behavior to persist in the ranks. Fourteen leaders faced disciplinary action following the Dec. 8 release of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee report that found the command climate and culture problems at the base were a result of poor leadership. At the time, only action taken against leaders in positions at the brigade level and above were identified, in accordance with Army personnel privacy policy. Leaders responsible*

*for Guillen in her squad, platoon, company and battalion were also fired, Grinston said Thursday.*

[Army leaders fighting distrust from soldiers at Fort Hood](#) [Acacia Coronado and Lolita C. Baldor, *The Associated Press*, 11 January 2021]

*The skepticism in the rooms was palpable when U.S. Army leaders met with soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, in recent days, to check in on the embattled base, which has been stricken with violence and eroded morale over the past year. There were nervous looks, shakily raised hands and questions about whether any changes for the good might just disappear in a few months. “I feel like leaders are just checking off boxes,” one male soldier said Thursday, as Army Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston, the top enlisted officer, visited the base on a listening tour. Another soldier told him: “I have no idea what your true intentions are.” For Grinston, the distrust was the most discouraging part of his daylong effort to meet with a range of soldiers, from new recruits to senior leaders. “I think we’ve lost some trust. And, you know, we’re trying to rebuild that trust,” he said in an interview with the Associated Press, as he was heading back to Washington, D.C.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Marine veteran linked to alleged domestic terror plot](#) [Jared Keller, *Task & Purpose*, 9 January 2021]

*A former Marine has been linked to a domestic terror plot that sought to carry out coordinated attacks against both civilians and critical infrastructure across the United States, according to court documents. A criminal indictment from September, first reported by Vice, indicated that 22-year-old Georgia native Nicholas Tindall had participated in discussions surrounding “domestic terrorism” that involved “potential attacks upon United States citizens and infrastructure, including water and electricity facilities.” According to Vice, Tindall lied to FBI agents investigating the unspecific plot, claiming “he had not participated in discussions” with several unnamed co-conspirators and triggering the criminal charge against him. The Marine Corps confirmed to Vice that Tindall served in the Corps from June 2017 to June 2019 and was “prematurely” discharged because the “character of his service was incongruent with the Marine Corps’ expectations and standards.”*

[SEAL Pleads Guilty to Role in Hazing Death of Green Beret](#) [Ben Finley, *The Associated Press*, 14 January 2021]

*A U.S. Navy SEAL pleaded guilty Thursday to involuntary manslaughter for his role in the hazing death of a U.S. Army Green Beret while the men were stationed in Africa. Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolph, a member of the elite SEAL Team 6, also offered a detailed account of the night in which he and other servicemembers initiated a prank known as a “tape job” on Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar. DeDolph told a military judge that the men were trying to teach Melgar a lesson over perceived slights while they served in Mali in 2017. But the SEAL said they were soon “in a state of shock and deeply disturbed” after the duct-tape-bound Melgar remained unresponsive for several minutes. The case has pulled back the curtain on misconduct among some of America’s most elite service members, while offering a brief window into how some have addressed grievances outside the law.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## RACISM

### [Capitol Siege Raises Questions Over Extent of White Supremacist Infiltration of U.S. Police](#)

[Vida Johnson, *The Conversation*, 14 January 2021] [COMMENTARY]

*The apparent participation of off-duty officers in the rally that morphed into a siege on the U.S. Capitol building Jan. 6 has revived fears about White supremacists within police departments. These concerns are not new. White supremacy, the belief that White people are superior to other races, has long tainted elements within law enforcement. As I testified before Congress just months before this assault, there is a long history of racism in U.S. policing—and this legacy may have contributed to the violence in the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Reports of officers involved in an attack in which the symbols and language of White supremacy were clearly on display are concerning. But so too, I believe, is a policing culture that may have contributed to the downplaying of the risk of attack before it began and the apparent sympathetic response to attackers displayed by some police officers—they too hint at a wider problem.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

### [Democrats Ask Trump Administration to Name Names of Feds Participating in Racist, Sexist Group](#)

[Eric Katz, *GovExec*, 11 January 2021]

*House Democrats are pushing the Trump administration to disclose more information about federal employees involved in a Facebook group that caused an uproar for posting racist, sexist and xenophobic content, accusing agency officials of failing to properly respond to a congressional subpoena. The House Oversight and Reform Committee requested the names of four individuals Customs and Border Protection fired for their involvement in the group; CBP has declined to provide names, citing privacy concerns. CBP launched an internal investigation after ProPublica in 2019 [exposed](#) the group “I’m 10-15,” in which current and former Border Patrol agents discussed disrupting a congressional visit to an agency facility, made jokes about the deaths of migrants and posted disparaging images of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, D-N.Y., among other racist, sexist and otherwise offensive material.*

### [“Kill the Indian, save the man”: Stories of Indian boarding schools still echo](#)

[Addison Kliever, Miranda Mahmud and Brooklyn Wayland, *Arizona PBS*, 14 January 2021]

*From 1,500 to 1,800 Native American students from Oklahoma attended the Carlisle school, said Jim Gerenscer, co-director of the Carlisle Indian School Project, a [database](#) that provides information about the school and the students who attended. But some never made it back home, dying from unknown causes at Carlisle. The purpose of school, as well as others across the nation, was to remove Native Americans from their cultures and lifestyles and assimilate them into the White man’s world. Carlisle, which opened in 1879 and operated until 1918, was among the first and best-known boarding schools for Native children, and its operational model set the standard for most that came after. For many tribes in Oklahoma, the horrors of the Carlisle model were experienced closer to home. Riverside Indian School, outside Anadarko, is the nation’s oldest federally operated American Indian boarding school. Organized by Quaker missionaries in 1871, it was known as the Wichita-Caddo School until 1878.*

[Man gets life prison sentence for killing on college campus](#) [Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 14 January 2021]

*A White man who stabbed a Black college student to death at a bus stop on the University of Maryland's flagship College Park campus was sentenced Thursday to life in prison for what prosecutors claimed was a racially motivated hate crime. Sean Urbanski, 25, apologized to the parents of 23-year-old Richard Collins III for the "horrible pain" he caused them and said he wishes he could "go back and change what happened" on the night in May 2017 when he killed the newly commissioned Army lieutenant. Collins was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army shortly before his death. He was days from graduating from Bowie State University, a historically Black college, and was celebrating with a friend at bars on the night of his killing.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[New survey finds many people don't believe systemic racism is a barrier to health](#) [Nada Hassanein, *USA TODAY*, 13 January 2021]

*Despite communities of color enduring the hardest hit from COVID-19, a new survey finds many people don't consider systemic racism a barrier to health. The RAND Corporation's ongoing survey, COVID-19 and the Experiences of Populations at Greater Risk, measures attitudes toward health, equity and race amid the pandemic. More than 4,000 people participated in the [study](#), funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Researchers sought adults in lower and middle income households earning less than \$125,000. More than half of participants didn't believe systemic racism is a main reason people of color have poorer health outcomes. Black and Hispanic respondents were more likely to believe it is so, but they also were oversampled in the survey—meaning many of the surveyed people of color also didn't consider it a leading problem.*

[N.Y.P.D. Concludes Anti-Harassment Official Wrote Racist Online Rants](#) [William K. Rashbaum and Alan Feuer, *The New York Times*, 11 January 2021]

*After two months of investigation, police officials have concluded that a high-ranking officer responsible for combating workplace harassment in the New York Police Department wrote dozens of virulently racist posts about Black, Jewish and Hispanic people under a pseudonym on an online chat board favored by police officers. The officer, Deputy Inspector James F. Kobel, filed his retirement papers late last week as the departmental inquiry was winding down. But the officials said on Monday that they still planned to bring administrative charges against him as soon as this month for falsely denying that he had written the offensive messages. The downfall of Inspector Kobel, who oversaw the department's Equal Employment Opportunity Division, began over the summer when an investigator with the City Council's Oversight and Investigations Division stumbled across a series of disturbingly racist posts on the Rant, an infamous chat board.*

[Racist slurs interrupt funeral for Phoenix civil rights icon](#) [*The Associated Press*, 12 January 2021]

*The Phoenix Police Department and the FBI are investigating after a virtual funeral for civil rights icon and city leader Calvin Coolidge Goode was interrupted Tuesday by hackers yelling racist slurs. Mayor Kate Gallego confirmed the investigation on Twitter, saying the city does not tolerate hate crimes. "I condemn the racists who disrupted Vice Mayor Goode's funeral services.*

*This is horrific and does not represent the values & commitment of our community. I am determined to continue Vice Mayor Goode's fight," Gallego said. Gallego was speaking on the legacy Goode had left in Phoenix, when a man was heard spewing slurs over her comments about a half hour into the virtual service, KTAR-TV reported. Goode died on Dec. 23 from an illness not related to COVID-19. He was 93.*

## RELIGION

[Pope says women can read at Mass, but still can't be priests](#) [Nicole Winfield, *The Associated Press*, 11 January 2021]

*Pope Francis changed church law Monday to explicitly allow women to do more things during Mass, granting them access to the most sacred place on the altar, while continuing to affirm that they cannot be priests. Francis amended the law to formalize and institutionalize what is common practice in many parts of the world: Women can be installed as lectors, to read Scripture, and serve on the altar as eucharistic ministers. Previously, such roles were officially reserved to men even though exceptions were made. Francis said he was making the change to increase recognition of the "precious contribution" women make in the church, while emphasizing that all baptized Catholics have a role to play in the church's mission. But he also noted that doing so further makes a distinction between "ordained" ministries such as the priesthood and diaconate, and ministries open to qualified laity. The Vatican reserves the priesthood for men.*

[Supreme Court wrestles with Georgia college free speech case](#) [Jessica Gresko, *The Associated Press*, 12 January 2021]

*The Supreme Court on Tuesday wrestled with whether to revive a lawsuit brought by a Georgia college student who sued school officials after being prevented from distributing Christian literature on campus. The school, Georgia Gwinnett College, has since changed its policies and the student has graduated. A lower court dismissed the case as moot and an appeals court agreed, but the student, Chike Uzuegbunam, is urging the justices to allow the case to move forward. He's seeking just \$1 and says he wants the Lawrenceville, Georgia, school to be held accountable for its past policies. Groups across the political spectrum including the ACLU say the case is important to ensuring that people whose constitutional rights were violated can continue their cases even when governments repeal the policies they were challenging.*

## SEXISM

["Best Man for the Job": How Female Drill Instructors at Marines' All-Male Boot Camp Faced Resistance from Leaders, Peers](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 11 January 2021]

*The women had more experience training recruits than most of their male colleagues, having already completed three-year drill instructor tours at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in South Carolina, where the service typically trains female enlistees. Still, none of the second-tour drill instructors were assigned to training battalions in San Diego. Instead, they were given support roles: receiving incoming recruits, working with those too sick or injured to return to training, or teaching courses. When one female staff noncommissioned officer asked to be moved to a traditional training battalion, she said a colonel kept giving her the same answer: "We need*

*to find the best man for the job.” “It’s such a common expression that it didn’t register with me at the time, but that was the excuse every time,” the staff NCO told Military.com. The unspoken policy was embarrassing, she said, and left her feeling angry and disillusioned. Most of the women had more than 10 years in uniform. Some served in combat, others as instructors at the Marine Corps’ Officer Candidates School.*

[ECU restores women’s sports teams under threat of lawsuit](#) [The Associated Press, 8 January 2021]

*East Carolina University is restoring two of its women’s teams cut last spring for budget problems compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, and paying more than \$189,000 to avoid a gender discrimination lawsuit. The announcement on Thursday followed word that athletes were threatening a lawsuit, news sources reported. In addition to restoring the women’s swimming and diving and women’s tennis teams, ECU is paying the money to an attorney’s office to avoid the litigation. ECU Athletics Director Jon Gilbert says the school expected to save about \$2.6 million by eliminating the two women’s teams, and reinstating them will leave the department with about \$1.2 million in savings.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Columbia Settles a Complicated Sexual Assault Case](#) [Anemona Hartocollis, *The New York Times*, 11 January 2021]

*It began as a night of drinking and flirtation between two Columbia University classmates four years ago. It turned into a federal lawsuit with unusually detailed documentation. And now it has ended in a settlement that underscores the contentiousness of the national debate over campus sexual misconduct cases, a debate that the incoming Biden administration is expected to join soon as it considers whether to overhaul federal sexual assault policies. Under the settlement filed on Dec. 23, Columbia has restored the diploma of Ben Feibleman, whom a three-member university panel had found responsible for sexually assaulting a female classmate. It has also agreed to pay him an undisclosed cash award and to send a statement to prospective employers describing him as an alumnus in good standing, Mr. Feibleman’s lawyer and a spokesman for the university said.*

## **SUICIDE**

[Suicide rate highest among younger military veterans](#) [Chase Hunter, Helena Wegner, and Lilia Stene, *Tucsonlocalmedia.com*, (Tucson, Ariz.), 13 January 2021]

*Alex Martinez looked over his Air Force dress blues, the uniform he wore when he graduated from boot camp. He touched his insignia—a circle with a star in the center and a striped wing flaring from either side—that signified his rank of airman first class. “I was in the military for three years, 11 months and 13 days,” said Martinez, 25, of Arizona. “From the day I got out of basic training, I was ready to get out” of the Air Force. During his time in uniform, Martinez contemplated suicide, a phenomenon that increasingly affects younger veterans. In fact, veterans ages 18 to 34 experience a higher rate of suicide than all other age brackets. The suicide rate for*

*young veterans swelled by 76% from 2005 to 2017, according to the Veterans Affairs' 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report, released in 2019.*

## VETERANS

[Army to review thousands of discharges of veterans who suffered from traumas](#) [Caitlin M. Kenney, *Stars and Stripes*, 12 January 2021]

*The Army will review thousands of discharge records of veterans affected by military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and other behavioral health conditions following a class-action lawsuit, the service announced Tuesday. The review is part of a settlement reached in the lawsuit Kennedy v. McCarthy, which was preliminarily approved Dec. 28, according to the Army. The service will look at discharges of veterans affected by PTSD, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma or other behavioral health conditions. "Under the agreement, the Army will automatically reconsider certain discharge-status-upgrade decisions made by the Army Discharge Review Board between April 17, 2011, and the effective date of settlement that partially or fully denied relief to Iraq- and Afghanistan-era veterans with less-than-fully-honorable discharges," the statement reads.*

[Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019](#) [Mary Dever, *DAV News*, 14 January 2021]

*The [bipartisan legislation](#)—introduced by Sens. Jon Tester and Jerry Moran in 2019—is a comprehensive and aggressive approach to connect more veterans with mental health care services. DAV fought hard to see this legislation signed into law before the start of the new Congress in 2021. The law allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve programs for service members transitioning from military to civilian life, increase suicide prevention efforts and collaboration with non-VA community providers, expand veterans access to complementary and integrative health programs, and conduct research to better understand specific risk factors associated with mental health conditions common among veterans.*

[Gulf War vet reflects on 30th anniversary of conflict through his photography](#) [*Stars and Stripes*, 14 January 2021]

*Three decades ago, Kirby Lee Vaughn prepared to cross into Iraq as part of Operation Desert Storm. The Army sergeant had brought his Canon T-70 camera into the desert to capture the experiences of his unit, which would spend a week in Iraq during the U.S.-led invasion that destroyed the army of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "We always saw him with the camera," recalled his commander, William E. Rapp, now a retired major general. The photos Vaughn took sat untouched for years, but recently he developed photo books to remember Operation Desert Storm, which started 30 years ago in Iraq's early hours of Jan. 17, 1991.*

[\[PHOTO GALLERY\]](#)

[Navy Posthumously Awards Navy Cross to WWII Chaplain](#) [Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs, 9 January 2021]

*Lt. Thomas M. Conway, a Catholic priest, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps' second-highest military decoration for valor for extraordinary heroism from July 30 to August 2, 1945*

*while serving as Chaplain of the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis (CA-35). Completely disregarding his own well-being, Conway continually swam in shark-infested waters between the clusters of adrift Sailors, many of whom were severely injured, to provide them encouragement and comfort, pray with and for them, and administer sacraments. After three days of tireless exertion to aid his shipmates, Conway finally succumbed to exhaustion and died. His efforts were credited as a major reason 67 of his shipmates in his group were ultimately rescued. In the years since the loss of Indianapolis, survivors have told stories of Conway's actions aboard the ship and during his final days, encapsulating the Chaplain as a Navy hero.*

[Sgt. Dorothy “Dot” Cole, NC resident celebrated as the oldest living Marine, dies at 107](#)

[Théoden Janes, *The Charlotte Observer*, (Charlotte, N.C.), 13 January 2021]

*Dorothy “Dot” Cole, who enlisted as one of the earliest female Marine reservists in response to the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor and was widely celebrated around her birthday in September as the country's oldest living Marine, died of a heart attack last Thursday at her daughter's home in Kannapolis. She was 107. Her death was confirmed by her only child, Beth Kluttz, 67, who had moved her mother into her home almost 20 years ago. Cole (who at the time was still named Dorothy Schmidt, having not yet been married) was 28 years old when she boarded a bus in her hometown of Warren, Pennsylvania, for the 150-mile trip to Pittsburgh, where she hoped to volunteer for the Navy. When she tried to enlist, however, the recruiter informed her that, at just 4 feet, 11 inches, she wasn't tall enough to meet Navy standards. So she eventually came up with another plan after returning to Warren: She would learn to become a pilot, and persuade the Marine Corps to let her fly an airplane.*

[Theodore “Ted” Lumpkin dies at 100; member of the WWII Tuskegee Airmen](#) [Priscelle Vega, *The Los Angeles Times*, 9 January 2021]

*Theodore “Ted” Lumpkin Jr., a member of the Tuskegee Airmen whose service as a member of the all-Black unit during World War II helped desegregate the U.S. military, has died at age 100. Lumpkin, a native Angeleno, died of COVID-19 on Dec. 26 at a hospital, just days shy of his 101st birthday, said his son Ted Lumpkin III. “We're carrying on his [legacy], but it's an end of an era,” his son said. Lumpkin lived a full life. He was drafted into the military in 1942 when he was a 21-year-old student at UCLA. He was assigned to the 100th Fighter Squadron of the all-Black unit in Tuskegee, Ala., as a 2nd lieutenant with the U.S. Army Air Force. Now, only eight original Tuskegee combat pilots and several support personnel are still alive, said Rick Sinkfield of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. All are in their 90s or older.*