

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 21 JANUARY 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[DAF stresses importance of mentoring during National Mentoring Month](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, *Air Force News Service*, 20 January 2022]

*As part of National Mentoring Month, the Department of the Air Force [will host a series of virtual live events](#) focused on educating Airmen and Guardians on the importance of mentoring, how to be an effective mentor/mentee, and how to register on the MyVECTOR Mentoring platform. The DAF's overarching theme throughout National Mentoring Month is "Everyone Wins with Mentoring." Additionally, both services hope to motivate Airmen and Guardians to use the mentoring capabilities of MyVECTOR. Recent updates allow members to search for mentors with new attributes such as Exceptional Family Member status, race and ethnicity. Race and ethnicity were specifically added as an effort to overcome the lack of mentorship options addressed in the Racial Disparity Review. To kick off National Mentoring Month, senior leaders participated in an "Inclusion Talks!" panel sponsored by the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).*

[Military's anti-extremism policy might not apply to about a million reservists](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 14 January 2022]

*The Pentagon is hoping that its updated extremism rules will help commanders weed out racist or anti-government behavior in their formations, but there may be a hitch: the National Guard contends that the rules only apply when troops are on federal orders and under the command of the president. With that understanding, about a million military reservists would be free to associate with hate groups and disseminate endless violent rhetoric online unless they are on active Reserve orders or activated for federal National Guard training or missions. [In July, the National Guard Bureau's deputy director of manpower and personnel pushed out a memo](#) to all 54 states and territories, to let them know that the Defense Department's instruction regarding extremist activities does not apply unless their troops are in a Title 10 status, activated on federal orders at the behest of the president.*

[The National Guard's sexual assault investigation office has limited power to get justice](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 19 January 2021]

*Part-time troops under state authority are caught in a legal quagmire when they're sexually assaulted by a fellow service member: If local law enforcement refuses to prosecute, the National Guard has a special office to investigate, but only if state leadership seeks it out. Unlike active-duty troops, National Guard members aren't subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice unless they are activated by the president, meaning those units can't convene hearings or trials when one of their members sexually assaults a colleague. "No longer can the National Guard hide behind their unique status," Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., said Wednesday, during a House Armed Services Committee hearing. "To the National Guard: The spotlight of Congress is on you." [SEE ALSO] [Guard Chief Details Changes to Combat Sexual Assault, Harassment](#) [Jim Garamone, *DOD News*, 20 January 2022]*

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## CULTURE

[At 113, NAACP evolves for relevance on racial justice agenda](#) [Aaron Morrison, *The Associated Press*, 20 January 2022]

*As the NAACP turns 113, look for its voice to grow louder on issues like climate change, the student debt crisis and the ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic—while keeping voting rights and criminal justice reform at the forefront of its priorities. The nation’s oldest civil rights organization’s birthday next month comes as it undergoes a restructuring to reflect a membership and leadership that is trending younger, to people in their mid-30s. As a result, it is adding endeavors like producing TV streaming content for CBS. The hope is that younger Americans see the NAACP has modernized beyond being grandma and grandpa’s go-to civil rights hub, good for much more than voter-registration drives and the star-studded Image Awards. “We had to reinvigorate the organization,” national president Derrick Johnson, 53, told *The Associated Press*.*

[Benedict Cumberbatch digs into toxic masculinity in “The Power of the Dog”](#) [Terry Gross, *NPR*, 19 January 2022]

*In his new film, *The Power of the Dog*, British actor Benedict Cumberbatch plays Phil Burbank, a hyper-masculine cattle rancher living on the plains of Montana in the 1920s. In the novel upon which the film is based, Phil is described as washing himself in a creek once a month—and in the winter, not at all. In the film, which Jane Campion directs, Phil is a bully, who harasses his brother’s wife (played by Kirsten Dunst) and mocks her son for being effeminate. “What’s really fascinating about bringing a character like Phil Burbank to life,” Cumberbatch says, “[is] you’re really looking under the hood of it, you’re examining the causality behind that toxic masculinity.”*

[Fort Bragg changes name of road “incorrectly” linked to top Confederate general](#) [Corey Dickstein, *Stars and Stripes*, 19 January 2022]

*Fort Bragg’s Longstreet Road, which runs through the center of the North Carolina Army post, has been renamed as part of an effort to rid the military of names associated with the Confederacy, post officials announced this week. The road, which is often associated with Confederate Lt. Gen. James Longstreet, stretches from Fort Bragg’s gated garrison section westward along its wooded training areas and will now be known as Long Street, officials said in a statement. The name change comes as U.S. military officials across the nation scrutinize posts for names and relics honoring those who served the Confederacy in the Civil War. A commission to study Confederate-linked names across the military was established by Congress in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets annual spending and policy priorities for the Defense Department. The commission is charged with providing Congress recommendations for name changes by October.*

[Lusia Harris, the only woman ever officially drafted by an NBA team, has died](#) [Travis Caldwell, *CNN*, 19 January 2022]

*Lusia “Lucy” Harris, a star in women’s collegiate basketball during the 1970s and the first and only woman ever to be officially drafted by an NBA team, died Tuesday, according to a [statement](#) from her family as well as Delta State University. She was 66. Harris led Delta State to three*

consecutive Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) national championships from 1975-1977. After her collegiate career, the NBA's New Orleans Jazz, which began play in 1974 and would later move to Utah, selected her in the seventh round of the 1977 NBA draft. Another woman, Denise Long, was selected in the 1969 draft by the San Francisco Warriors but the pick was vacated by the league, making Harris the only woman, to date, to be officially drafted. Yet Harris turned down the offer from the Jazz, intent on starting a family. "I just thought it was a publicity stunt and I felt like I didn't think I was good enough," she said in ["The Queen of Basketball,"](#) a short film about her life and career.

[M&M's characters to become more inclusive](#) [Judy Kurtz, *The Hill*, 20 January 2022]

Candy is about to get more "inclusive," with the maker of M&M's announcing its famed characters are getting modern makeovers and will have more "nuanced personalities." Mars, Incorporated, the company behind the colorful, candy-coated chocolates, announced Thursday a "global commitment to creating a world where everyone feels they belong and society is inclusive." As part of the new mission to increase the "sense of belonging for 10 million people around the world by 2025," Mars said the M&M's characters—who serve as mascots of sorts for the brand—would be receiving fresh, new looks. Mars said in announcing the refresh that M&M's—which were first released in 1941—will have "an updated tone of voice that is more inclusive, welcoming, and unifying, while remaining rooted in our signature jester, wit and humor."

[NCAA adopts new policy for transgender athletes, letting each sport set eligibility requirements](#) [CBS News, 20 January 2022]

The NCAA has adopted a sport-by-sport approach for transgender athletes, bringing the organization in line with the U.S. and International Olympic Committees. Under the [new guidelines](#), approved by the NCAA Board of Governors on Wednesday, transgender participation for each sport will be determined by the policy for the sport's national governing body, subject to review and recommendation by an NCAA committee to the Board of Governors. When there is no national governing body—that sport's international federation policy would be in place. If there is no international federation policy, previously established IOC policy criteria would take over. The NCAA policy is effective immediately, beginning with the 2022 winter championships.

[Read, Listen, Watch: Here Are the Latest Additions to CSAF's Leadership Library](#) [Greg Hadley, *Air Force Magazine*, 18 January 2022]

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. added two new books, a podcast, and a documentary series to his [leadership library](#) Jan. 18. The books are aimed at educating Airmen on a pair of men credited with helping shape decades of American tactics and strategy, while the podcast and series focus on two generations separated by half a century.

[Two-piece flight suit, wrap dress on the horizon for pregnant airmen](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 18 January 2022]

Though women were integrated into the armed forces in 1948, it took 30 years before the military began to widely acknowledge the resources and policies they needed to succeed—particularly while pregnant. Women were automatically kicked out of the military when they became pregnant

*until the late 1970s. Now, the Air Force is trying to boost the number of women it recruits and retains by doing more to meet their unique needs. Female airmen are more likely than men to leave the service as they age because of the competing demands of pregnancy, caring for children and supporting other family members. The uniform office is creating maternity-specific clothing so women will no longer have to buy or borrow larger, ill-fitting or worn out flight suits. Many women try to alter those uniforms themselves, said Tracy Roan, who runs the uniform office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Education Department opens probe into LGBTQ dating ban at BYU](#) [Chloe Folmar, *The Hill*, 20 January 2022]

*The U.S. Department of Education has opened a probe into the treatment of LGBTQ students at Brigham Young University, a private school affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Salt Lake City Tribune reported on Thursday. The investigation comes after BYU changed its Honor Code in 2020; the school removed a rule banning “homosexual behavior,” but shortly after clarified that same-sex relationships would still be prohibited, and those who break the rule by holding hands or kissing would be disciplined. The probe, carried out by the Office of Civil Rights, deals with the Education Department’s Title IX protections against discrimination on the basis of sex and will look into whether the rules are justifiable because of BYU’s status as a private religious school or whether they violate LGBTQ rights.*

[Yellow ribbons removed from town green amid speech dispute](#) [Dave Collins, *The Associated Press*, 14 January 2022]

*A symbol of support for U.S. troops has become the centerpiece of a contentious free-speech debate in this small town in the hills of northwestern Connecticut. Yellow ribbons had adorned trees on the historic Litchfield Town Green since the start of the U.S. war in Iraq in 2003, placed there by families with relatives serving overseas in the military. But the five remaining ribbons were taken down quietly Thursday by a local official enforcing an ordinance banning placards and other postings on the green, which dates to the early 1700s. The concern? Allowing the ribbons opens the door to any displays of free speech, no matter how hateful or offensive it might be. In December, acting Warden Gayle Carr and the board of burgesses voted to renew enforcement of the ordinance. “When it comes to a public space like that, if you allow some speech you have to allow all speech,” Carr said in a phone interview. “But under the (borough) code we are allowed to say no speech, and that doesn’t discriminate against anybody.”*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Biden’s latest picks include 1st Muslim woman nominated to serve as a federal judge](#) [Alana Wise, *NPR*, 19 January 2022]

*President Biden on Wednesday announced eight judicial nominees, including Nusrat Choudhury who would be the first Muslim woman to serve as a federal judge. Choudhury, currently the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, has been tapped to be a U.S. judge in the Eastern District of New York. “Nusrat Choudhury’s nomination to the federal bench is*

historic—as the first Bangladeshi American and first Muslim woman to serve on the federal bench and the second Muslim American,” ACLU of Illinois Executive Director Colleen Connell said in a [statement](#). Connell said it is the ACLU’s policy to neither endorse nor oppose judicial nominees, but pointed to its “proud tradition” of advocates who later take up judicial positions. Choudhury’s nomination was announced alongside seven additional nominees, including that of Philadelphia public defender Arianna Freeman, who, if confirmed, would be the first Black woman to serve on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

[Building machines that work for everyone—how diversity of test subjects is a technology blind spot, and what to do about it](#) [Tahira Reid and James Gibert, *The Conversation*, 17 January 2022]  
*People interact with machines in countless ways every day. In some cases, they actively control a device, like driving a car or using an app on a smartphone. Sometimes people passively interact with a device, like being imaged by an MRI machine. And sometimes they interact with machines without consent or even knowing about the interaction, like being scanned by a law enforcement facial recognition system. Human-Machine Interaction (HMI) is an umbrella term that describes the ways people interact with machines. Researchers, especially those traditionally trained in engineering, are increasingly taking a human-centered approach when developing systems and devices. This means striving to make technology that works as expected for the people who will use it by taking into account what’s known about the people and by testing the technology with them. But even as engineering researchers increasingly prioritize these considerations, some in the field have a blind spot: diversity.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Language matters in building trust in COVID vaccines](#) [Max Witynski, *Futurity*, 11 January 2022]

*A simple language intervention could help boost vaccination rates, especially when presenting information to people in bilingual populations, according to a [new study](#). The findings show that between two groups presented with the exact same information about vaccines in two different but familiar languages, the use of one language corresponded to a 7% higher number of people saying “yes” and a 7% lower number of people saying “unsure” when asked about their intent to get vaccinated. The percentage of people saying “no” was about the same in both groups. “Seven percentage points might not sound like much, but it is actually huge in the context of interventions,” says Boaz Keysar, professor of psychology at the University of Chicago. “It’s worth doing, because 7% of 10 million people, for example, is a lot of people.” Bilingual populations exist all over the world, but the contexts in which the different languages they speak are used—and the mental associations people have with those languages—vary greatly from place to place.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Pentagon Quietly Looking into How Nonbinary Troops Could Serve Openly](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *Military.com*, 18 January 2022]

*The Defense Department has quietly begun looking into how it can allow troops whose gender identity is nonbinary to serve openly in the military, three advocates familiar with the situation told *Military.com*. The Pentagon has asked the Institute for Defense Analyses, or IDA, which*

*operates federally funded research centers, to study the issue, said the advocates, one of whom requested anonymity to disclose a sensitive topic. It is unclear exactly how long the research has been going on, but SPARTA, an advocacy group for transgender troops, put researchers in touch with several nonbinary service members this month. SPARTA President Bree Fram, an Air Force lieutenant colonel, likened the effort to the study the Pentagon asked Rand Corp. to conduct in 2015 before lifting the ban on transgender people serving in the military.*

## **EXTREMISM**

[Inside the Oath Keepers' Plan for an Armed Takeover of the U.S. Capitol](#) [Konstantin Toropin and Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 20 January 2022]

*A day before the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, people from three different states wheeled cart after cart laden with weapons and ammunition through an otherwise unremarkable Comfort Inn Ballston hotel located in Virginia, just a stone's throw from the Pentagon, according to prosecutors. The guns were stashed in several hotel rooms and in cars parked inconspicuously outside, along with enough food and water to last 30 days. The group, all affiliated with the Oath Keepers, were preparing for battle. The Oath Keepers, a far-right militia that is led by Army veteran Stewart Rhodes, created the military-style fast-reaction force as part of its plans to keep former President Donald Trump in power after he lost the November presidential election. At the last moment, the group decided not to deploy the armed force waiting around Washington, D.C., but a division of its members breached the U.S. Capitol as part of the Jan. 6, 2021, riot. The event marked the first time in American history the transfer of presidential power was not peaceful.*

[A leaked Oath Keepers list names 20 current military members. The Pentagon could have prevented this.](#) [Erin Mansfield, Will Carless, Grace Hauck and Donovan Slack, *USA TODAY*, 20 January 2022]

*USA TODAY confirmed with all five branches of the U.S. military that 81 people signed up for the Oath Keepers while in uniform. The names are from a hacked list that a watchdog group shared with journalists last fall. The military members are in addition to the 40 current and former law enforcement officers USA TODAY confirmed in October 2021. The Defense Department has known for decades that its members were joining extremist groups but often did not punish them, instead keeping in place a vague policy that banned their active participation, such as through fundraising or recruiting. Dozens of people on the Oath Keepers membership list used an email address ending in .mil, the Department of Defense's domain ending, and at least 14 of those are still serving. This is an apparent violation of Pentagon regulations about the use of military email accounts for uses that would "reflect adversely" on the Defense Department or "other uses that are incompatible with public service." But it's not clear if members who used their emails simply to join the group have violated the vague policy banning active participation in extremist groups.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Researchers find fourfold annual increase in number of Americans with military ties added to extremist list](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 January 2022]

*The number of people with military backgrounds identified in a database of domestic extremists has quadrupled in the past decade, a [University of Maryland study found](#). From 1990 through November 2021, at least 458 people affiliated with the military committed criminal acts that were motivated by political, economic, social, or religious goals, according to the study “Extremism in the Ranks and After.” The report, which came out in December, preceded the news last week that the Defense Department Inspector General will review the military’s performance in vetting recruits for extremism. Until 2010, an average of just less than seven current or former service members were added each year to a database the researchers used, the Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States, or PIRUS. Of the 458 total people in the PIRUS database who have a military background, 118 were involved in the Capitol attack. Almost 84% were no longer serving, and all but nine are men, the study found.*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[22 tips for 2022: How to be kind to yourself and squash your critical inner voice](#) [Keisha “TK” Dutes, NPR, 2 January 2022]

*Everybody has those mean inner gremlins pointing out their flaws and talking them out of their good ideas. They make up the hypercritical mental chorus we call negative self-talk. Next time you notice you’re caught in a cycle of self-criticism, ask yourself: “Would I talk to my best friend this way?” We’ll go ahead and wager that the answer is NO. For you, maybe negative self-talk manifests in obsessing over the teeny tiny hiccup in an otherwise flawless presentation or talking down to yourself about how you never accomplish anything. (For the record, that’s just not true.) When we beat ourselves up over mistakes or talk ourselves out of great ideas, we’re not giving ourselves the grace and care that we would give others. So try practicing some self-compassion and replacing that negative inner voice with a kinder one. “We’re talking about using the same kind and gentle language and approaches that we do with the other people we love in our lives—with ourselves,” says [psychologist Joy Harden Bradford](#). “Because we’re also people that we hopefully love, right?”*

[A behavioral scientist’s advice for changing your life](#) [Elise Hu and Clare Lombardo, NPR, 14 January 2022]

*So much has happened in the past two years—our lives and livelihoods were upended by a pandemic. Change happened all around us. What if we want to change ourselves? The field of behavioral science has some answers. Author and researcher Katy Milkman of the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School is out with a new book, [How to Change](#), that’s packed with research-backed paths to personal growth. Science has tried-and-tested methods to help us stop procrastinating, save more money and make healthier choices. She says that if we apply these lessons more widely, they have life-lengthening and even lifesaving potential. A decade ago, Milkman saw a statistic she calls “completely mind-boggling”: 40% of premature deaths are due to behaviors that can be changed. That’s one reason she wanted to share her findings widely, she says.*

[CV ageism: Can you be the “wrong” age for a job?](#) [Sophia Epstein, BBC Worklife, 18 January 2022]

*Applying for jobs is generally miserable, even at the best of times. But what if you knew that simply revealing your age on your CV would send your application straight into the “no” pile? That’s the reality for many people. Age discrimination means that over-50s are [more than twice as likely](#) as other workers to be unemployed for two years or longer if they lose their current job. One study showed that a 50-year-old worker was up to [three times less likely](#) to get an interview than a 28-year-old applicant. “When you’re in your 40s and 50s, mentioning your age is like dropping an F-bomb,” says 55-year-old “C.J”. who lost his corporate marketing job 20 months ago and is still looking for another. It’s not just older job-seekers facing automatic rejection; young people can also be discounted for roles because of their age. Although this type of ‘reverse’ ageism is much less researched, studies show that younger workers can be considered undesirable employees, and that this can lead to them not getting hired.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Dutch King Willem-Alexander retires coach amid slavery row](#) [BBC News, 14 January 2022]

*The Netherlands’ King Willem-Alexander has announced that Dutch royals will cease using a historic golden carriage amid a debate over slavery links. Critics say that one side of the horse-drawn carriage, called De Gouden Koets, is decorated with an image that glorifies the country’s colonial past. The move comes amid an ongoing debate in the country over its history. The controversial image featured on the vehicle is called Tribute from the Colonies, and depicts Black and Asian people—one of whom is kneeling—offering goods including cocoa and sugarcane to a seated young White woman who symbolises the Netherlands. Seated next to her is a man offering a book to a young boy, which the work’s painter, Nicolaas van der Waay, said in 1896 was intended to portray the Netherlands’ gift of civilisation to its colonies. In an official video announcing the move, King Willem-Alexander accepted that the carriage was offensive to a large number of people and called on the country to face the legacy of its colonial history together.*

[Eric Zemmour: Far-right candidate found guilty of hate speech](#) [BBC News, 17 January 2022]

*Far-right French presidential candidate Eric Zemmour has been fined €10,000 (£8,350) by a Paris court for hate speech. The case was launched over a TV appearance, where he described unaccompanied migrant children as “thieves”, “rapists” and “murderers”. Former broadcaster Zemmour is known for his anti-Islam and anti-immigration views. Reacting to the verdict on social media, Zemmour complained that his freedom of speech was being restricted, and said there was an “urgent need to drive ideology out of the courts”. At his trial in November last year, which Zemmour did not attend, prosecutors argued that his comments were “contemptuous” and “outrageous”, and that “the limits of freedom of expression have been crossed”. Zemmour has two previous convictions for hate speech.*

[Scott Johnson: Man confesses to 1988 gay hate murder](#) [Michael Baggs and Manish Pandey, BBC News, 14 January 2022]

*A man has finally confessed to the murder of Cambridge University graduate Scott Johnson after more than 30 years. The 27-year-old’s naked body was found at the bottom of North Head cliffs, a well-known gay cruising ground in Sydney, Australia, back in 1988. At the time, his death was ruled a suicide—something his family never believed. Scott White was arrested and charged in*

2020, and this week unexpectedly pleaded guilty at a pre-trial hearing. Scott moved from the U.S. to Australia in 1986 because, at the time, domestic partnership laws (similar to civil partnership) were some of the best in the world. It was estimated up to 80 gay men were murdered by homophobic gangs in and around Sydney in the late eighties—with many pushed off cliffs.

[The Voice: Dutch TV suspends show over sexual misconduct claims](#) [BBC News, 17 January 2022]

*The Voice of Holland, which originated 150 global versions of the hit talent TV show, has been pulled off air amid allegations of sexual misconduct. The singing show is suspended while the allegations are being investigated, said the news website for Dutch broadcaster RTL, which produces it. Jeroen Rietbergen, the series' band leader, resigned on Saturday, admitting to "relationships of a sexual nature" with women involved in the programme. RTL told the BBC the "very serious and shocking" allegations "were not known to RTL". RTL suggested there is "talk of abuse of power and sexually transgressive behaviour of three employees", including "a complaint against jury member Ali B" but that his management said: "Ali has never abused his position and has never acted in a sexually transgressive way."*

[Women's handball team "disgusted" after hidden cameras are discovered in locker room](#) [Nadine Schmidt and George Ramsay, CNN, 21 January 2022]

*A top women's handball team in Germany says it is sticking together after two hidden cameras were discovered in the players' locker room earlier this week. According to TuS Metzingen, which competes in the Bundesliga, an individual has since been placed under urgent suspicion and their association with the club has been terminated immediately. A police investigation is ongoing. "This disgusting act—which was also committed by a person we trust directly—is simply shocking and has affected all of us greatly," said manager Ferenc Rott in a statement released by Metzingen on Thursday. According to local newspaper Reutlinger General Anzeiger and quoted by CNN affiliate NTV, a police spokesman has confirmed the case and said the suspect is still at large.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force Commits Millions for Wearables to Counteract Troops' Exhaustion](#) [Brandi Vincent, NextGov, 18 January 2022]

*The Air Force Research Laboratory aims to produce and deploy technology-boosted accessories that can continuously monitor individuals' stress and fatigue in real-time—and wearable devices to counter those strains for people who operate in severe environments. "These wearable technologies will ultimately be utilized in the field not only by the warfighter personnel but also firefighters, emergency responders, NASA and civilian astronauts, expedition crews, medical personnel, etc. to assess, augment, and optimize cognitive and physical performance," officials wrote in a [request for information](#) published on Friday. Technologies to measure stress based on heart rate and facial feature extraction may also be developed. Beyond that work, a secondary focus of this pursuit involves creating wearables, sensors and advanced algorithms to counter environmental stressors.*

[Anne Frank betrayal suspect identified after 77 years](#) [BBC News, 17 January 2022]

*A new investigation has identified a suspect who may have betrayed Anne Frank and her family to the Nazis. The Jewish diarist died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1945, aged 15, after two years in hiding. A team including an ex-FBI agent said Arnold van den Bergh, a Jewish figure in Amsterdam, probably “gave up” the Franks to save his own family. The team, made up of historians and other experts, spent six years using modern investigative techniques to crack the “cold case”. That included using computer algorithms to search for connections between many different people, something that would have taken humans thousands of hours. Van den Bergh had been a member of Amsterdam’s Jewish Council, a body forced to implement Nazi policy in Jewish areas. It was disbanded in 1943, and its members were dispatched to concentration camps.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Master chief headed to trial over alleged “maltreatment” of subordinates](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Military Times*, 14 January 2022]

*A Navy master chief is headed to trial this spring on charges that he mistreated subordinates, assaulted a sailor and forced a subordinate to falsify a COVID-19 test result, among other alleged infractions. Hospital Corpsman Master Chief Ryan T. De La Cruz, assigned to the amphibious transport dock ship Portland, faces a maltreatment charge for allegedly forcing a subordinate to sing the Navy’s “Anchors Aweigh” song while in a push-up position in front of his peers, and for forcing the sailor to “carry two snickerdoodle cookies for two weeks,” according to his charge sheet. De La Cruz’s civilian attorney, Stephanie Kral, told Navy Times that the charges are “merely accusations.”*

## RACISM

[Jewish leaders renew antisemitism fight after hostage case](#) [Peter Smith, *The Associated Press*, 19 January 2022]

*Although the FBI initially said the man who held four people hostage at a Texas synagogue was focused on an issue “not specifically related to the Jewish community,” the captor voiced beliefs that Jews controlled the world and had the power to arrange the release of a prisoner, survivors said after their escape. The hostage-taker—identified by authorities as Malik Faisal Akram—“thought he could come into a synagogue, and we could get on the phone with the ‘Chief Rabbi of America’ and he would get what he needed,” Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker told the Forward, a Jewish news site. Lorenzo Vidino, director of the Program on Extremism at George Washington University, said that while only Akram himself knew his motives, his words reflect “a misguided and conspiratorial mindset.” “The idea that Jews are overwhelmingly, disproportionately powerful and control America is completely mainstream” in some politically Islamist factions, similar to tropes among White nationalists, he said.*

[NYC subway station death of Michelle Go leaves Asian Americans reeling](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 19 January 2022]

*The death of Michelle Go, who was fatally shoved in front of a New York subway car on Saturday, has left the Asian American community feeling a sense of tragic loss, groups say. Go, who was attacked by a homeless man, Simon Martial, had been waiting for a train at the Times Square station when she was pushed from behind. Though the incident is not being investigated as a hate crime, the community is reeling, mourning and on edge against a backdrop of increased hate crimes and attacks, Asian American advocacy organizations say. “Whether it was a hate crime or not, the reality is, Asian Americans, especially Asian American women, every time we see an incident like this, our anxiety goes up,” Sung Yeon Choimorrow, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, told NBC Asian America. “Regardless of what the correlation is, we see ourselves in these pictures.”*

[A New York school district has apologized for a middle school Spanish assignment that some parents are calling racist](#) [Alaa Elassar and Maria Santana, CNN, 16 January 2022]

*Administrators at a school district in upstate New York issued an apology after parents expressed outrage on social media about an offensive homework assignment. Sixth graders at Mill Middle School in the Williamsville Central School District received an assignment, obtained by CNN, for their Spanish class in which they had to translate sentences from English into Spanish. One of the sentences read: “You (friendly) are Mexican and ugly,” while another within the same worksheet read, “You (politely) are pretty and American.” “Shocked at this Spanish homework assignment in Williamsville Central School District loaded with such blatant racism,” Allison Wainick, a school district parent, said on Twitter. “Can we even begin to unpack all that is wrong here? Who is developing this curriculum & where is the oversight?” In a [statement](#) posted to their official Facebook page on Tuesday, the school district said that the “unacceptable” assignment was created by the teacher.*

[Suspect arrested and charged with hate crime in alleged attack on Sikh taxi driver at JFK Airport](#) [Laura Studley, CNN, 17 January 2022]

*A man has been arrested and charged with a hate crime after an alleged attack on a taxi driver at New York City’s John F. Kennedy International Airport earlier this month, a criminal complaint states. The alleged victim is a member of the Sikh faith, according to the Sikh Coalition, a New York based advocacy group. The driver was at a taxi stand outside Terminal 4 at the airport on January 3 when he was involved in a verbal dispute with 21-year-old Mohamed Hassanain who then assaulted him, according to the criminal complaint filed by the Queens District Attorney’s Office. Hassanain allegedly hit the victim in the face and body multiple times, according to the complaint. Hassanain told investigators that he was at the airport to pick up his girlfriend. “I saw a cab driver there who cursed at me. I threw a punch and cursed at him,” said Hassanain, the complaint states. During the incident, the driver says Hassanain told him: “you turban guy, go back to your country,” the complaint states.*

## RELIGION

[Marine Corps becomes first service to approve religious exemptions to coronavirus vaccine mandate](#) [Caitlin Doornbos, Stars and Stripes, 13 January 2022]

*Two Marines are the first service members to receive waivers to the Defense Department's coronavirus vaccine mandate for religious reasons, the Marine Corps announced Thursday. The Marine Corps has received 3,350 requests for religious exemptions to the vaccine, the service said in a statement. The service declined to comment on the nature of the requests or why the two were granted after 3,212 were denied, citing privacy considerations. The remaining 138 requests have yet to be adjudicated. The Defense Department allows all troops to apply for waivers to the mandate for medical, religious or other administrative reasons, but no service branch had approved any religious waivers until Thursday. In a statement emphasizing the importance of vaccines, the Marine Corps said about 88% of Marines who have been hospitalized with the coronavirus were unvaccinated at the time of their hospitalization.*

## **SEXISM**

[Air Force's botched integration of women in special ops ignites firestorm of controversy](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 14 January 2022]

*The Air Force Special Operations Command's handling of news that a female special warfare candidate received preferential treatment in the training pipeline has sparked a fierce backlash and proven accurate the warnings of a 2016 report that called for transparency in the military's integration of women into special operations forces. Last week, a letter written by an anonymous special tactics airman emerged detailing how a female special tactics officer candidate quit the challenging selection process and training pipeline multiple times, only to be reinstated by the leadership of AFSOC and the 24th Special Operations Wing. Since then, details have emerged that cast more doubt on AFSOC's handling of the situation. On Thursday, [Air Force Times reported](#) that the trainee herself protested the training standards being lowered for her. "I believe the change in standards invalidated me with a majority of my team," the captain wrote in an April 2021 memo obtained by Air Force Times.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Illinois judge is reassigned after overturning sexual assault conviction](#) [Wynne Davis, *NPR*, 16 January 2022]

*An Illinois judge has been removed from presiding over criminal cases following his decision to reverse a man's sexual assault conviction. According to the Herald-Whig, Judge Frank McCartney, chief judge of Illinois' Eighth Judicial Circuit, removed Adams County Judge Robert Adrian from the criminal court docket last week. Adrian will now preside over small claims, legal matters and probate dockets, along with other civil cases, the paper reported. In October, Adrian found Drew Clinton, 18, guilty on one count of criminal sexual assault. Clinton faced a minimum of four years in prison. But earlier this month Adrian overturned the conviction and the mandatory sentencing that would have come with it. Clinton had been found guilty of digitally penetrating a 16-year-old girl without her consent. Before his conviction was overturned, Clinton had spent 148 nights in jail, which Adrian said was "plenty of punishment" and a "just sentence" for what happened in this case.*

[U. of Michigan reaches \\$490M settlement over sexual abuse](#) [Mike Householder, *The Associated Press*, 19 January 2022]

*The University of Michigan has agreed to a \$490 million settlement with more than 1,000 people who say they were sexually assaulted by a former sports doctor at the school during his nearly four-decade career, those involved in the agreement said Wednesday. Attorney Parker Stinar said that 1,050 people will share in the settlement, which was reached the night before. The university had been in mediation to resolve multiple lawsuits by mostly men who said Dr. Robert Anderson sexually abused them during routine medical examinations. Anderson worked at the university from 1966 until his 2003 retirement and was director of the university's Health Service and a physician for multiple athletic teams, including football. A number of football players and other athletes have come forward to accuse Anderson, who died in 2008, of sexually abusing them.*

## SUICIDE

[Feared Increase in Suicides Among Troops After Afghanistan Exit Hasn't Materialized](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 18 January 2022]

*As the Taliban swept across Afghanistan and seized Kabul in August, anguished U.S. veterans reached out to the Department of Veterans Affairs' crisis hotline, sending double the number of texts and 40% more chat messages than had been received during the same period a year earlier. Concern ran high that the stress of watching the blitz would result in a rise in suicides among Afghanistan veterans who lost friends or whose lives were forever altered by their military service. But early data from that time frame on suicides indicates those fears may not have come to pass. In fact, incidents of suicide appear to have fallen. According to the VA and Department of Defense, 376 service members and veterans treated in the VA health system took their own lives in the third quarter of 2021, down nearly 20% from the same time frame in 2020. Overall, suicides among veterans in the VA health system were down by 23% for the year—213 deaths in 2021 compared with 277 in 2020.*

## VETERANS

[The Air Force Veteran Who Nearly Lost His Life Pioneering The Civil Rights Movement](#) [Jason Nulton, *Task & Purpose*, 19 January 2022]

*Picture the states of the old Confederate South in the early to mid-20th century. Jim Crow laws were the norm, minorities were marginalized, and racism was an accepted and institutionalized part of society. Many African Americans were wrongly accused and convicted of criminal offenses, targeted for hate crimes, faced discrimination and bullying during elections as well as in work and school environments, and lived in fear on a day-to-day basis. The military, fresh off its major victories in World War II, had only recently been integrated. It's hard to believe, but even the Pentagon, erected in the southern state of Virginia in 1942, was first built with segregated facilities. Indeed, Virginia law required it. This was the backdrop as the Civil Rights Movement led by King began to force the government to take notice of legalized prejudice in the 1950s and 1960s. Enter James Meredith. Short of money to attend college and feeling the need to participate in something larger than himself, Meredith enlisted in the Air Force in 1951, which at the time was generally considered the "least racist" of the armed services.*

[Celebrated Tuskegee Airman Charles McGee dies at 102](#) [Douglass K. Daniel, *The Associated Press*, 17 January 2022]

*Charles McGee, a Tuskegee Airman who flew 409 fighter combat missions over three wars and later helped to bring attention to the Black pilots who had battled racism at home to fight for freedom abroad, died Sunday. He was 102. After the U.S. entry into World War II, McGee left the University of Illinois to join an experimental program for Black soldiers seeking to train as pilots after the Army Air Corps was forced to admit African Americans. In October 1942 he was sent to the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama for flight training, according to his biography on the website of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. “You could say that one of the things we were fighting for was equality,” he told The Associated Press in a 1995 interview. “Equality of opportunity. We knew we had the same skills, or better.”*

[Troops would automatically be enrolled in VA health care under House plan](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 20 January 2022]

*House lawmakers on Thursday advanced legislation that would automatically enroll separating service members into the Veterans Affairs medical system, an effort to streamline their access to that care if they need it. The move has for years been championed by advocates as a potential way to increase veterans’ use of VA care and reduce some of the confusion connected to the massive health system. Past research has shown that veterans enrolled in VA medical care are less likely to die by suicide than their peers outside of the system. The measure would affect about 60,000 individuals a year. Instead of formally applying for VA medical services, department officials would automatically add them to the system if they met the requirements for eligibility. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the measure would cost about \$3.1 billion over the next five years, with individual veterans saving an average of about \$3,900 in health care costs.*

[Tuskegee Airman “Woody” Woodhouse, 95, defended a system that didn’t defend him](#) [Toni Caushi, *Metrowest Daily (Framingham, Mass.)*, 17 January 2022]

*On Dec. 7, 1941, Enoch “Woody” Woodhouse was walking to Sunday church when his mother asked her two sons to do one thing after hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbor earlier that day: Enlist in the military and serve their country. “My mother, a Black woman in an America where in the 1920s and 1930s our people were being lynched, asked us to go out and defend the American system,” said Woodhouse, who rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Army Air Corps. “And we did.” Woodhouse spoke during an event Friday at the American Heritage Museum in Hudson to honor his 95th birthday. Woodhouse’s younger brother, Edward, joined the Montford Point Marines, another African American division of the military. “Black history is not Black history to me—it is American history,” said Woodhouse on Friday. “Even though Black people are victims in America, they are also benefactors.” “Military Black people had to defeat Nazism abroad and racism at home,” said Woodhouse. “Through these artifacts, young people have to know how strong America can be when we’re united as one force to accomplish one objective.”*

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