

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 19 MARCH 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[Air Force marks ongoing commitment to rated diversity with newly released strategy](#) [Capt. Kenya Pettway, *AETC Public Affairs*, 17 March 2021]

Air Force leaders officially released the service's Rated Diversity Improvement Strategy March 17, marking the force's ongoing commitment to attract, recruit, develop and retain a diverse rated corps. Acting Secretary of the Air Force John P. Roth, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Joanne S. Bass signed the newly released RDI Strategy, co-sponsored by Air Education and Training Command's Rated Diversity Improvement team headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. The RDI Strategy is a collaborative effort with the Total Force recruiting enterprise, aerial demonstration teams, affinity groups and other community organizations to increase awareness and cultivate engagement among qualified Airmen and youth, with a focus on those of underrepresented groups—the outcome being an agile and diverse workforce that approaches challenges from varying perspectives.

[Pentagon looks to root out extremists aiming to recruit service members](#) [Lolita C. Baldor, *The Associated Press*, 19 March 2021]

The U.S. military is focusing on identifying extremist organizations in the United States that are trying to recruit members from within the armed forces. In early February, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin directed commanders and supervisors at every level of the military to conduct a one-day “stand down”—a pause in normal business—by early April to discuss extremism in the ranks. As the discussions have gone on, Colón-López said troops [have expressed confusion](#) about various groups and questioned why those involved at the Capitol are different than those involved in the racial protests in Seattle, for example, in the wake of the death of George Floyd. He said young troops particularly question, “Why is it that you’re looking at this group but you’re not looking at this group?” His response, he said, is that it’s not about a particular group, it’s about the behavior. “The answer for us is pretty simple, regardless whether they’re far right or left, if it’s an organization that is actually imposing harm, threat, destruction, criminal activity and so on, then we don’t condone that kind of behavior,” said Colón-López.

[SECDEF Directs Pentagon to Champion LGBTQI+ Rights](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, *Air Force Magazine*, 16 March 2021]

Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III on March 12 directed the Defense Department to “take steps to rescind any directives, orders, regulations, policies, or guidance” that doesn’t line up with President Joe Biden’s Feb. 4 memorandum that charged multiple U.S. government organizations with championing and safeguarding the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) individuals by April 15. In the same [memo](#), Austin charged all parts of the Pentagon to analyze and report back on how the military is implementing Biden’s memo, and to recommend more ways they can help advance the population’s human rights. “In accordance with the Presidential Memorandum, it is the policy of the DOD to pursue an end to violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics, and DOD will lead by example in the cause of advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons around the world,” Austin wrote.

SPECIAL: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

[American military women deserve to be recognized; March 21 is the day to do it](#) [Rep. Elise Stefanik, *Military Times*, 16 March 2021] [COMMENTARY]

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Women's History Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the remarkable achievements women have made since the founding of our country. Currently, tens of millions of women are helping America battle an unprecedented pandemic as essential workers, health-care providers, teachers, small business owners, farmers, mothers, daughters, sisters, and more. In 2021, there were more women sworn into Congress than at any time in our nation's history. But amidst all of these challenges and triumphs, we must not forget about the women who bravely serve our country each and every day by serving in the United States military.

[At the Women's Bureau, a renewed focus on passing paid leave and LGBTQ+ inclusivity](#) [Chabeli Carrazana, *The 19th*, 16 March 2021]

Wendy Chun-Hoon, the new director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor, speaks with The 19th about what needs to inform policies during a perilous time for women in the workplace. The bureau is responsible for collecting and disseminating data on women, issuing grants to improve women's relationship with the workforce and helping inform policies like the ones Chun-Hoon has worked on all her career. She joins the administration at a time when women in the workforce are facing more difficult circumstances than ever before: The country's child care infrastructure has failed a generation of working mothers, many of whom have been forced out of the labor force.

[REPRINT]

[Dr. Margaret Craighill: First woman doctor to receive military commission](#) [*Vantage Point*, 14 March 2021]

In December 1941, the United States entered the Second World War following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Women across the country signed on to help the war effort just as they had done during the First World War. One of these women was Dr. Margaret Craighill, who relinquished her duties as dean of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to pursue military service. Craighill was the first woman doctor to receive a military commission. She was responsible for inspecting the "field conditions of all women in the United States Army." She also was the women's consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army. In that role, Craighill was in charge of the Women's Health and Welfare Unit. She also created the standards for the process of WAC medical care. Following the conclusion of World War II, Craighill became one of the first consultants on female Veterans' medical care at VA, a post she was referred to by General Omar Bradley. One newspaper story mentioned that Craighill's promotion was "probably the most marked distinction that the war has brought any woman doctor in this country." This historic appointment was the first position of its kind in VA.

[First Black Female Brigade Commander at Naval Academy Leads With Passion](#) [Terry Moon Cronk, *DOD News Service*, 12 March 2021]

Senior-class Naval Academy Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber is a mechanical engineering major at the campus in Annapolis, Maryland, and will be a 2nd lieutenant Marine Corps ground officer when she graduates this spring. She's on the Women's Varsity Track and Field team, co-president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes club, and secretary of the National Society of Black Engineers. She also sings with the academy's gospel choir and is a member of the Midshipman Black Studies Club. In addition, she initiated a STEM outreach program for mentoring middle school girls of color in science, technology, engineering and math. If that is not enough, Barber's most awe-inspiring position is as the academy's first Black female brigade commander this spring semester. In the academy's 175-year history, women were only first accepted into the class of 1980, and she is the 16th woman selected for brigade commander since that time. She beat out 30 competitors for the top leadership position.

[First Female Italian Navy Strike Fighter Pilot Earns Wings of Gold](#) [Lt. Michelle Tucker, Chief of Naval Training Public Affairs, 12 March 2021]

Italian navy Ensign Erika Raballo was designated a naval aviator during a small winging ceremony at the base chapel with five classmates marking a significant milestone in Italian and U.S. Naval Aviation history and further strengthening the partnership between the two nations. Raballo conducted her final graded curriculum event in a T-45C Goshawk jet trainer aircraft on March 10. She returned to her squadron mates waiting on the Training Air Wing 1 flight line for a traditional "soft winging" ceremony during which Angermann presented Raballo with a fabric patch emblazoned with the Wings of Gold. "Being the first female Italian navy jet pilot is an amazing feeling," Raballo said. "My desire is to be the first one of many and I hope I'll be an inspiration for many other women in all lines of work, not because I'm special, but for the exact opposite; I came from a small town, with no military background whatsoever and with willingness and hard work I was able to make my dream come true."

[First Military Women of Color Exhibit Opens at Women's War Memorial](#) [Terri Moon Cronk, DOD News Service, 12 March 2021]

"The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen" exhibit has made its debut at the Military Women's Memorial on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery to highlight the contributions of military women of color who have served in the U.S. military throughout American history. The new exhibit was virtually unveiled March 4 in a partnership between the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation and Comcast NBCUniversal, according to a memorial press release. The exhibit tells the stories of women of color who served in the military and it also includes three components with Kindergarten through 12th-grade educational programming, a speakers' forum and a digital exhibit.

["Fly Like a Girl": The Story Behind a Morale Patch That Honors Female Aviators](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, Air Force Magazine, 14 March 2021]

Air Force Capt. Melaine Valentin, a T-38C instructor pilot from Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, leveraged her lifelong passion for visual art when asked to design a morale patch for Air Education and Training Command's 2019 Women's Fly-In. Since the event, the patch's popularity has grown so much that the company she worked with to get it manufactured now sells it on its website. The patch, which depicts a female aviator in a helmet and mask along with the

slogan “Fly Like a Girl,” was a great complement to the event’s focus on uniting USAF aviators from a variety of Air Force Specialty Codes to network with one another, assist the service with fitting gear to female proportions, and serving as aviation ambassadors to the next generation of would-be women aviators. According to Valentin, representation is the biggest hurdle women aviators face, so “having this tangible representation” of their ability to get behind the controls of an aircraft can also give women who never thought about a flying career as a possibility permission to envision such a future.

[From childcare to ponytails: How can Sword Athena help you?](#) [Captain Tisha Yates, ACC Public Affairs, 14 March 2021]

Recent updates to Air Force dress and appearance standards were a win for Airmen who advocated for a broader set of professional hairstyles for women in uniform. These changes, along with normalizing support to nursing mothers, identifying improperly fitting equipment, and demystifying seeking mental health assistance were among the central issues of Air Combat Command’s inaugural Sword Athena event last year. Sword Athena is designed to identify, tackle and present solutions to female and family-centric barriers to readiness using crowd-sourced topics and a Mission Area Working Group (MAWG) model. The Workplace and Training MAWG partnered with the DAF Barrier Analysis Working Group (DAFBAWG) Women’s Initiative Team’s (WIT) and Warrior Braids’ multi-year effort to champion a proposal for women to wear low ponytails and braids. Together, they presented a well-researched, convincing case to retired Gen. Mike Holmes, then the Commander of Air Combat Command. Holmes supported the proposal and personally sent a signed memorandum to the Air Force Uniform Board and other senior Air Force leaders.

[MCLB Albany Recognizes Women’s History Month](#) [Marines TV, 15 March 2021] [VIDEO]

In observance of Women’s History Month, Base officials recognized a former Marine and several other women aboard the installation for their achievements. The special guest of honor is Chief Shawn Urquhart, Sylvester Chief of Police, who also served 12 years as a Marine reservist and retired as the first female post commander for the Albany, Georgia State Patrol Post 40. Other women associated with MCLB Albany were also highlighted. According to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Women’s History Month honors and celebrates the struggles and achievements of American women throughout the history of the United States.

[Medical command Soldier reflects on Women’s History Month](#) [Russell Toof, Army.mil, 17 March 2021]

Each March, the U.S. Army celebrates the important contributions of women to the nation, both historically and in today’s society. According to the U.S. Army, about 18% of the total Army is female and all positions in the Army are open to women. Col. Claudia Peterson, who commissioned as a Nurse Corps Officer, is currently serving as the Chief of Readiness and Reserve Affairs for Regional Health Command Europe. As Peterson approaches 19 years of service, she offered her advice to young women just starting their career in the military.

[Senior leaders join inaugural Women’s Symposium](#) [Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, 15 March 2021]

Department of the Air Force senior leaders discussed the importance of diversity and inclusion during the inaugural 2021 Women's Air and Space Symposium March 8-11. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted the four-day virtual event in partnership with the Women's Initiatives Team. The symposium served as a professional development opportunity and included a variety of topics ranging from maintaining a competitive edge through diversity and inclusion to unconscious bias. The symposium's intent was to inspire meaningful conversation about the inclusion of servicewomen, encourage understanding of every person's diverse backgrounds and experiences, and validate each other's experience by listening to one another. The event also hopes to improve a culture of readiness and innovation, respect and inclusion across the Department of the Air Force.

[Soldiers inspire CSM's continued service](#) [Anna Morelock, IMCOM Europe Public Affairs, 15 March 2021]

Helping Soldiers is what drives Command Sgt. Maj. Samara Pitre to keep serving after many have retired. Pitre, who has served for more than 30 years, is one of 380 women in 2021 who don the highest enlisted rank in an active duty Army, which is roughly 18% female. A self-proclaimed tomboy and one of six female graduates in her class from what would today be labeled as a STEM, college-prep high school, Pitre said joining a male-dominated profession wasn't a new environment for her. After attending a recent retirement ceremony for a female first sergeant, Pitre said she reflected that as a young Soldier she couldn't have pointed out a female first sergeant, let alone a female sergeant major. In the end, Pitre said she thinks many women shy away from joining the military because they think it's not a "woman's thing to do," but today the almost 75,000 women serving in the active Army are proving that to be a misconception.

[Women Veterans bravely served during Vietnam War](#) [Vantage Point, 14 March 2021]

During the Vietnam War, more than 265,000 American women served the military and 11,000 women served in Vietnam, with 90% working as volunteer nurses. Responsibilities included massive casualty situations involving amputations, wounds, and chest tubes for their patients. Numerous women also served in nearby countries such as Japan, Guam, and the Philippines. Members of the Army Nurse Corps were in Vietnam as early as 1956 to train Vietnamese women in nursing skills. By 1963, larger numbers of Army Corps Nurses arrived in Vietnam. Guerilla warfare made it impossible to be safe behind the lines, as women received injuries during battle both visible and invisible. In addition to military deaths, 59 women civilian who worked for U.S. governmental agencies and other various organizations such as the Red Cross and the Peace Corps. Upon returning to the U.S., women faced hostile treatment like their male counterparts. Women rarely spoke about their service. Limited information about American women in Vietnam complicate knowledge regarding health issues. Many suffered complications from Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress disorder.

CULTURE

[Air Force Squadron in South Korea Replaces Pit Bull Morale Patch Linked to White Supremacy](#) [Matthew Keeler, Stars and Stripes, 16 March 2021]

The civil engineer squadron at Osan has replaced its pit bull morale patch because it too closely resembled a symbol associated with a White supremacist group, according to a wing statement Tuesday. Col. John Gonzales, commander of the 51st Fighter Wing, ordered the change after an internal review “on all Unit Emblems, Mottos, Nicknames and Other Symbols” back in October and December, wing spokesman Master Sgt. Joshua Garcia said in an email Tuesday to Stars and Stripes. The morale patch of the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron “Mongrels” depicted a pit bull with a striking resemblance to what the Anti-Defamation League has labeled as a racist symbol. While the wing did not name a particular hate group, its statement said the squadron’s red, white and black patch was similar to a graphic used by a known and active extremist group in the United States.

[Amazon will not sell books that “frame sexual identity as mental illness”](#) [BBC News, 13 March 2021]

*Amazon has said that it will not sell books that frame gender or sexual identities as mental illnesses. “We reserve the right not to sell certain content,” the company said in a letter to the U.S. Congress. The retail giant was responding to Republican senators who asked why it had removed a book by a conservative author from all of its platforms. Last month, the House of Representatives passed legislation that prohibits LGBT discrimination. The landmark Equality Act, however, still needs to pass the Senate. So far, no Senate Republicans—who hold 50 of the 100 seats—have said they will vote. Amazon removed the book *When Harry Became Sally*, by Ryan Anderson and published in 2018, from its online stores, e-book and audio book platforms last month. On Thursday, Amazon replied in a letter to the senators that said “all retailers make decisions about what selection they choose to offer”. “We carefully consider the content we make available in our stores, and we review our approach regularly... we have chosen not to sell books that frame LGBTQ+ identity as a mental illness.”*

[“Avengers” director discusses new film “Cherry,” its depiction of military life, war & PTSD](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Military Times*, 18 March 2021]

*A purposeless existence, an enlistment, war, post-traumatic stress disorder, opioid addiction, crime, redemption. The sequential, and perpetually spiraling, story of “Cherry,” starring Tom Holland (“Spider-Man: Homecoming”), is everything one might expect from a character whose addiction evolves to supersede anything that once held value. A marriage shaken to its core, parents and family alienated, death, financial ruin, self-sabotage. Holland’s unnamed lead is an interpretation of the semi-autobiographical novel by Nico Walker, a former U.S. Army medic with a post-military service heroin addiction that eventually dovetailed into a series of bank robberies from 2010-11 across Cleveland that were meant to fund his habit. In a conversation with *Military Times*, director Anthony Russo discussed the research that went into that particular facet of “Cherry,” as well as the film’s address of America’s opioid crisis, its chronological structure, and how cinematographic detail enhanced select scenes.*

[\[TRAILER\]](#)

[CBS says “The Talk” staying off air after racism talk](#) [David Bauder, *The Associated Press*, 17 March 2021]

CBS says its daytime show “The Talk” will stay on hiatus for another week after a discussion about racism involving co-host Sharon Osbourne went off the rails last week. The network said in a statement that it is committed to “a process where all voices are heard, claims are investigated and appropriate action is taken where necessary.” Osbourne reacted angrily last week during a discussion about British television personality Piers Morgan, who she describes as a friend. Morgan left the “Good Morning Britain” show after he said he didn’t believe Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, when she said in an interview that she had considered suicide when unhappy with her life in Britain’s royal family. Osbourne claimed later that the show’s producers told her offscreen that CBS had ordered she be confronted about her support for Morgan. CBS has not addressed that accusation. CBS said in a statement that it “is committed to a diverse, inclusive and respectful workplace across all of our productions.”

[Celebrating Irish American Sailors on St. Patrick's Day 2021](#) [MC1 Mark D. Faram and Quentin Melson, *Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*, 17 March 2021]

There are no shortage of outstanding Irish American Sailors throughout history, here’s a few of them to celebrate, today. Today we celebrate St. Patrick’s Day by taking a brief look at the contributions of a few well-known Irish Americans Sailors. The list of sailors with Irish heritage who have served this nation with distinction is long. Many have been honored and decorated for their courage under fire. Here’s a look at just a few from the Revolutionary War to Afghanistan and the War on Terror.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Elliot Page becomes first trans man to appear on Time magazine cover](#) [Oscar Holland, *CNN*, 17 March 2021]

Elliot Page has become the first transgender man ever to appear on the cover of Time, as the Canadian actor opened up about his decision to come out last year. The 34-year-old, whose movie credits include “Inception” and two installments the “X-Men” franchise, will appear on the front of the magazine’s forthcoming issue under the headline, “I’m fully who I am.” It is Page’s first major interview since publicly disclosing his gender identity in December. Speaking to Time reporter Katy Steinmetz, he described the mixed reaction to the announcement, made via Instagram, in which he revealed his pronouns as “he” and “they.” “What I was anticipating was a lot of support and love and a massive amount of hatred and transphobia,” Page is quoted as saying. “That’s essentially what happened.”

[Heraldry Reviews Are Done, But Don’t Expect a Report.](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, *Air Force Magazine*, 17 March 2021]

When Department of the Air Force leaders in December ordered comprehensive reviews of all organizational heraldry, symbology, awards, mottos, and more, to identify issues that might impede their drive toward increased diversity and inclusion, they gave commanders 60 days to make any necessary changes. Anything deemed “derogatory to any race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, age, or disability status”—including callsigns, if commanders chose—was fair game, spokesperson Maj. Holly Hess told Air Force Magazine. But the findings of these commander-led inquiries won’t be compiled into a comprehensive report, said department spokesperson Ann M. Stefanek. Rather than spot checks for compliance, the reviews

were intended to focus commanders' attention on inclusion and review heraldry with that in mind, she said. "This was a direction to go do, make changes on the spot, and get feedback from your units as to how you can make things better," she said.

[How Can Blackness Construct America?](#) [Michael Kimmelman, *The New York Times*, 11 March 2021]

What's below is a conversation with members of the Black Reconstruction Collective, which came together during the past year and a half, in tandem with an [exhibition](#) now at the Museum of Modern Art called "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America." The collective's members are the 10 architects, artists and designers in the exhibition. The show includes some mind-bending, beautiful work, on view through the end of May. But the collective emerged to serve longer-term, more radical goals. It taps into a legacy of Black collectives from earlier eras. In 1893, Ida B. Wells and Frederick Douglass joined to publish "The Reason Why the Colored American Is Not in the World's Columbian Exposition." Seven years later, W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington and Thomas J. Calloway organized a display of charts and photographs about the African-American experience to counter depictions of Black Americans at the world's fair in Paris.

[How the letter X is changing the game for travelers—and what that could mean for the U.S.](#)

[Kristen Rogers, *CNN*, 17 March 2021]

When Gemma Hickey tried to travel to Ontario in January 2017 with a Canadian passport marked female, airport personnel questioned it. Hickey—who presents as "trans masculine nonbinary" and uses they/them pronouns—had to verify their gender in other ways, which extended the process for boarding the plane. And that didn't prevent additional questioning once Hickey was seated. The American Civil Liberties Union's "[They The People Campaign](#)"—which includes a petition with more than 72,000 signatures as of March 16—urges Biden to issue an executive order to enact the change for all federal identification documents and records. But while U.S. activists continue to push for change in this area, other countries have made progress in moving beyond the male-female gender binary on passports—though not without some challenges. Hickey received the new birth certificate in 2017 and the new passport in 2018. Hickey's efforts also helped pave the way for more widespread change: The Canadian government officially began allowing X on identification documents in June 2019.

[Missouri casts Black woman in new tourism effort as NAACP travel advisory remains](#) [Char Adams, *NBC News*, 16 March 2021]

Missouri has cast a Black woman as the face of a new tourism campaign four years after the NAACP issued a travel advisory urging Black people to take caution when visiting the state because of discrimination concerns. The Missouri Division of Tourism recently [introduced](#) "[Mo.](#)" a smiling Black woman, in a campaign full of photos, videos and even games. The division's director, Stephen Foutes, said in a news release that Mo represents "Missouri and everything we have to offer visitors in our state." More than 200 actors with Missouri ties auditioned for the role, and Foutes said the state is "proud to feature an African American and Missouri native in this campaign to welcome future visitors to Missouri," according to *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The state chapter of the NAACP, however, issued an advisory in June 2017

that urged Black people “to travel with extreme CAUTION” because “Race, gender and color based crimes have a long history in Missouri.”

[New Connecticut Law Will Ban Discrimination Based On Hairstyles](#) [Brent Woodie, *Route Fifty*, 16 March 2021]

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont earlier this month signed a bill to end race-based hair discrimination in workplaces, schools and businesses open to the public. The CROWN (Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair) Act took effect immediately when Lamont signed it on March 4. The bill seeks to provide protections to students, employees and customers who wear their hair in locs, braids, weaves and wigs. Connecticut is the latest state to make hair discrimination in schools and workplaces illegal. Banning hair discrimination can serve as one step to address policies historically enacted to exclude and oppress people of color. In recent years, there have been stories of high school athletes forced to cut their hair to compete, children sent home from school for their hairstyle, and workers changing the look of their hair to comply with company policies.

[The Racist Roots Of Rap On Trial](#) [Rodney Carmichael, Sidney Madden, Kara Frame and Elizabeth Gillis, *NPR*, 16 March 2021]

*Mac the Camouflage Assassin. Boosie Badazz. Drakeo the Ruler. Mayhem Mal. Since the early 1990s, police and prosecutors have used lyrics to build and try hundreds of criminal cases against rap artists. The practice continues despite research and appeals courts finding that rap music can be prejudicial when presented before a judge or jury without context. “I’m only here to defend people’s right to a fair trial,” says Erik Nielson, co-author of the book *Rap on Trial: Race, Lyrics, and Guilt in America*. “I am convinced that using rap as evidence does not allow for that in most, if not all, cases.” Nielson and co-author Andrea L. Dennis compiled the first database of nearly 500 instances where rap music or lyrics were used in the course of a criminal case. The numbers don’t lie: This is only happening in hip-hop. And this use of Black art against the creator is part of a long history of racism in the criminal justice system.*

[Rarely portrayed in popular culture, “Minari” follows story of a Korean American family](#) [Jeffrey Brown and Diane Lincoln Estes, *PBS News Hour*, 15 March 2021]

The Oscar nominations were announced today, the biggest haul, “Mank.” a black-and-white film about 1930s Hollywood, received 10 nominations. After years of frustration over the lack of diversity in awards selections, just one Black-centered film, “Judas and the Black Messiah,” received a nomination in the best picture category. And no African Americans received nominations in the directing category. There were several notable firsts. Two women were nominated for best director, Chloe Zhao for “Nomadland” and Emerald Fennell for “Promising Young Woman.” In the best actor category, Riz Ahmed became the first Muslim and Steven Yeun the first Asian-American to be nominated. Another to get a lot of attention, the film “Minari,” a story of Korean immigrants rarely portrayed in popular culture. It received six nominations, including best picture and best director.

[Walters Art Museum confronts its history and pledges to address inequalities of the past](#) [Ed Gunts, *The Baltimore Fishbowl*, 15 March 2021]

In the interest of promoting diversity and equity, the Walters Art Museum has taken steps to confront its past and acknowledge its founders' history as supporters of the Confederacy and beneficiaries of racist labor practices before and after the Civil War. Directors disclosed today that the museum has prepared a "newly written history" of the institution to address the business practices and personal opinions of father-and-son founders William and Henry Walters and how their views shaped the museum that bears their name but is now owned by the city of Baltimore. The museum also announced new strategic planning goals intended to "embed diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion (DEAI) in the organization." The moves are part of a series of initiatives taken by the museum, which showcases 7,000 years of art history, to examine its own origins and address "many of the inequalities of the past." Directors say the museum plans more research in the future.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

["We are human and we messed up": U.S. Marine account apologizes for comments defending female service members](#) [Matthew Brown, *USA TODAY*, 15 March 2021]

A U.S. Marine force apologized Saturday for comments its official account made on Twitter defending women in the military amid a larger dispute between the Pentagon and Fox News host Tucker Carlson over female servicemembers. Joining a larger debate over the role of women in the military, the II Marine Expeditionary Force's official account quipped back at one commenter, "Come back when you've served and been pregnant." The account later apologized for the apparent overreach after online backlash, explaining "we've strayed away from our brand and realize that." "We are human and we messed up. We intended to speak up for female Marines and it was an effort to support them. They are a crucial part to our corps and we need them to know that. We will adjust fire and ensure the utmost professionalism in our tweets.," the account later tweeted.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#) [\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Why have so many Medals of Honor been awarded to the Irish? "We've been fighting for years and years"](#) [Howard Altman, *Military Times*, 17 March 2021]

Of the [3,507 Medals of Honor awarded](#) by the United States, some 2,018 have gone to Irish-Americans, according to research cited by Patrick McDermot of Irish Veterans Post 2, created in Tampa in 2017. The research was funded by the Irish government; the Congressional Medal of Honor Society said it had no way to confirm it. To help explain why the Irish account for more than their share, James Patrick McCloughan turned to history. McCloughan, 72, and fellow Medal of Honor recipient Robert O'Malley, 75, were guests of honor at the March 14, 2019, opening of the Irish Veterans Congressional Medal of Honor exhibit at the Tampa History Center downtown. "If you go back to the culture of the Irish you know we've been fighting each other and fighting the Scottish and so on and so forth for years and years and years," he said. His own family's military history dates to the Picts, who lived in Scotland during the early Medieval period. "You learn to stick up for your rights and the rights of others," said McCloughan, of Michigan, who taught high school sociology and psychology after leaving the military.

DISCRIMINATION

[Equality Act is creating a historic face-off between religious exemptions and LGBTQ rights](#)

[Michelle Boorstein and Samantha Schmidt, *The Washington Post*, 16 March 2021]

In some ways, full LGBTQ rights has never seemed more within reach. First came the Supreme Court's 2015 decision legalizing same-sex marriage. Then its decision last year banning LGBTQ discrimination in employment. And now, for the first time since those rulings, a Democratic-led Congress and a president who vows to pass sweeping legal protections by April. But the Trump era has empowered religious conservatives, who see more than 200 conservative federal judges, a conservative majority on the Supreme Court and a razor-thin majority in Congress that both sides know could flip in two or four years. The tensions created by this new, more equal balance of power between supporters of LGBTQ equality and religious freedom rights are erupting this week, when a comprehensive LGBTQ rights measure called the Equality Act comes before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

[These Recruits Were Promised Citizenship in Exchange for Military Service. Now They Fear the U.S. Has Forgotten Them](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 13 March 2021]

For a small group of young immigrants who were pitched a dream of gaining U.S. citizenship through military service, even a call home can jeopardize their status and flag them to the FBI. That's life for the roughly 100 would-be Americans who enlisted under the [Military Accessions Vital to National Interest](#) program. Started as a way to woo talented youths from other countries who could fill key military skill gaps, it has now become a drawn-out limbo fraught with security Catch-22s for those waiting months or years for background screenings to clear. "What's the big deal? Yes, I talk to my mom [back in China]," said Sen Li, one of the non-citizens aggressively recruited for MAVNI. He has taken the oath of enlistment, but has been waiting more than five years for a shipment date to basic training. "Basically, they failed me because they think I have foreign contacts." His Chinese parents are the foreign contacts.

[U.S. female firefighters fight discrimination with lawsuits](#) [Tom Foreman, Jr., *The Associated Press*, 14 March 2021]

*The highest ranking female firefighter in Asheville, North Carolina, says she was repeatedly discriminated against because of her sex and fought to keep her job while battling breast cancer. The first female chief of a municipal fire department in the state says she briefly pondered suicide after years of sexual harassment. Joy Ponder and Susanna Schmitt Williams are among numerous female fighters in the United States who have filed lawsuits against their employers alleging they were subjected to demeaning behavior that helped end their careers. Advocates say going to court is sometimes the only effective recourse in a field where women make up such a tiny part of the workforce. According to the National Fire Protection Association, 93,700, or 8%, of U.S. firefighters were female in 2018, the latest year for which data was available. Williams, who was fired in July 2019, told *The Associated Press* that she was "the subject of sexualized rumors (and) hostility in the form of insubordination by those who reported to me."*

DIVERSITY

[Black women are still underrepresented in America's statehouses, new report shows](#) [Barbara Rodriguez, *The 19th*, 15 March 2021]

A new report on Black women lawmakers shows their continued underrepresentation in state legislatures, including in states where a substantial number of Black women reside. The report shows that of the 7,383 people who serve as lawmakers in statehouses, just 356—or 4.8 percent—are Black women. The [report](#) uses data as of March 2021 and was released Monday by the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women) and the State Innovation Exchange. It's the most Black women to ever serve in America's statehouses, which are still primarily made up of White men. But even the recent gains are woefully inadequate, said Krystal Leaphart, operations and policy associate for NOBEL Women. She said the underrepresentation affects what policy proposals actually advance in areas including health care, the economy and issues that intersect with social justice.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Deb Haaland Confirmed As 1st Native American Interior Secretary](#) [Nathan Rott, NPR, 15 March 2021]

Deb Haaland, a member of New Mexico's Laguna Pueblo, has become the first Native American Cabinet secretary in U.S. history. The Senate voted 51-40 Monday to confirm the Democratic congresswoman to lead the Interior Department, an agency that will play a crucial role in the Biden administration's ambitious efforts to combat climate change and conserve nature. Her confirmation is as symbolic as it is historic. For much of its history, the Interior Department was used as a tool of oppression against America's Indigenous peoples. In addition to managing the country's public lands, endangered species and natural resources, the department is also responsible for the government-to-government relations between the U.S. and Native American tribes. "Indian country has shouted from the valleys, from the mountaintops, that it's time. It's overdue," Sandia Pueblo tribal member Stephine Poston told NPR after Haaland was nominated.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

EXTREMISM

[2 Charged with Spraying Slain Officer, an Air Force Veteran, During Capitol Riot](#) [Stephen Losey, Military.com, 15 March 2021]

Two men have been arrested and charged with assaulting a Capitol Police officer with a chemical substance—possibly bear spray—during the violent Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. Officer Brian Sicknick, an Air Force veteran, later died. Julian Elie Khater, 32, of State College, Pennsylvania, and George Pierre Tanios, 39, of Morgantown, West Virginia, face multiple charges for their alleged roles in the Capitol riot, the Justice Department said Monday. Among other charges, Khater and Tanios are accused of working together to assault law enforcement officers, including Sicknick, by spraying them in the face and eyes with an unknown chemical substance. According to the criminal complaint and arrest warrant, which was filed March 6 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and released by the Justice Department, Khater and Tanios were caught on surveillance cameras spraying the officers.

[America faces long war with extremism](#) [Niall Standage, The Hill, 19 March 2021]

More than two months after the Capitol riot, the nation is grappling anew with extremism. The motives of the alleged shooter in Tuesday's mass killing in the Atlanta area are still being

investigated. But six of his eight fatal victims were Asian American women, and he had solely targeted Asian spas. The following day, an armed man was arrested near Washington’s Naval Observatory, the official residence of Vice President Harris. Paul Murray, 31, of San Antonio, is alleged to have been in possession of an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle and more than 100 rounds of unregistered ammunition. If anyone thought the Capitol insurrection of Jan 6.—and the widespread revulsion in its wake—would lance the boil of extremism, they were clearly wrong. The toxins that fueled that event are still present in the American political bloodstream. “I think we need to be really careful. There is a lot of potential for violence,” said Paul Becker, an associate professor at the University of Dayton and an expert on hate crimes and extremism. “These groups are becoming more and more confrontational.”

[Army aggressively working to eliminate extremism, says chief diversity officer](#) [Thomas Brading, *Army News Service*, 12 March 2021]

As the Army continues efforts to improve diversity within its ranks, it is also reinforcing policies to eradicate extremist behaviors and activities. The battle against extremism is different from other challenges the Army encounters, said Col. Timothy Holman, the Army’s chief diversity officer. Extremism can tear apart cohesive teams. For the colonel, the fight against extremism is one he personally encountered. His aim is clear: do what he can to help open a path for future Army leaders and make the force as diverse as the nation it defends. “My hope is to ensure better representation of our country among the senior ranks,” he said. For two decades, he endured unmistakable racism. He feared things others may take for granted, like walking through certain areas after certain hours. When he raised his right hand and swore to defend the Constitution under the Army cloth, the young lieutenant encountered a culture shock. “How does [my past] go away when someone says, ‘in the Army, it doesn’t work the way it does in Mississippi,’” he said.

[Bum-Rushing Extremists From the Military Might Not Help](#) [Todd C. Helmus, Ryan Andrew Brown and Rajeev Ramchand, *Defense One*, 17 March 2021] [COMMENTARY]

To extremism researchers like us, there is no more interesting type of intelligence than first-person accounts from insiders or former insiders: a renounced suicide bomber, an al Qaeda recruiter, or an ISIS fighter. They provide insights into the workings of terror organizations and offer new paths to their dismantling. Today, the military is fighting extremism—including White supremacists and violent anti-government radicals—in its own ranks. In this moment it is deradicalized former extremists—colloquially referred to as “formers”—who can provide crucial first-hand intelligence on recruitment. For a forthcoming report, we interviewed 24 such people, whom we found with the help of Jeff Schoep. For 25 years, Schoep led the neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement; he quit in 2019 after a change of heart. He now runs Beyond Barriers, an organization that helps people walk away from White supremacism, and has since worked with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the U.S. government, and other institutions on deradicalization efforts.

[Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command Leads Extremism Stand-Down](#) [Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Raymond Maddocks, *Navy Reserve Forces Command Public Affairs*, 16 March 2021]

Rear Adm. John Schommer, and command staff led Sailors and civilians in a stand-down discussion to address extremism in the ranks, March 15. The stand-down is a top priority for the Reserve force, according to Schommer, who says tackling the issue head-on will lead to a healthier, stronger force. “Extremism that promotes injustice, racial discrimination or corrosive behavior stokes resentment and tears others down,” said Schommer. “As a military service, we build each other up, encourage each other and we celebrate our shipmates’ success.” The stand-down was attended by CNRFC service members and civilians through a livestream broadcast. Schommer began the discussion by outlining expectations, reviewing the meaning of the oath to support and defend the Constitution, and options for responding to suspected extremist behavior.

[Coworkers: Man charged in Capitol riot had a Hitler mustache](#) [*The Associated Press, 15 March 2021*]

An Army reservist charged with taking part in the attack on the U.S. Capitol was known as a Nazi sympathizer who wore a Hitler mustache, coworkers told federal investigators. Timothy Hale-Cusanelli, 30, was employed as a security contractor at a Navy base when he was alleged to have breached the Capitol on Jan. 6, authorities said. In court papers filed Friday, federal prosecutors in Washington said his coworkers at the Naval Weapons Station Earle in Colts Neck, New Jersey, told investigators that he held White supremacist views. The filing included photos from Hale-Cusanelli’s cellphone of him with a Hitler mustache, along with pro-Nazi cartoons. Other coworkers recalled Hale-Cusanelli making derogatory remarks about women, Black people and other minorities. Hale-Cusanelli has since been discharged from the Army Reserve and barred from the Navy base, according to the filing.

[An Old Debate Renewed: Does The U.S. Now Need A Domestic Terrorism Law?](#) [Greg Myre, NPR, 16 March 2021]

More than 300 suspects from the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol face a variety of charges—illegal weapons, assault, property damage, and conspiracy. In the latest development, two men have been arrested and charged with spraying a chemical at policeman Brian Sicknick, who died the following day. President Biden, speaking just days before he was sworn into office, described the mob as “domestic terrorists.” Yet no one will face a charge of domestic terrorism—because it doesn’t exist in U.S. law. Over the past two decades, the battle lines in the debate over domestic terrorism have shifted. After 9/11, Republicans tended to push hardest for the most expansive security measures, while Democrats were the ones most often raising concerns about civil liberties. Today, Democrats often lead the call for a domestic terrorism law, while Republicans are questioning law enforcement tactics.

[Some U.S. troops view Capitol riots, racial protests equally, worrying Pentagon leaders](#) [Tara Copp, McClatchy Washington Bureau, 18 March 2021]

During military training sessions to address extremism in the ranks, some service members have challenged why the Pentagon is not treating the violence during racial injustice protests last summer as equal to the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol. That the two events are viewed as equivalent by some troops has caught the Pentagon’s attention in its effort to educate service members that extremist views and activity—on either side of the political spectrum—go against the oath they took when they joined the military, the top enlisted leader told reporters on

Thursday. The military has started a Defense Department-wide effort to educate service members on what constitutes extremist behavior and why it is impermissible in the armed forces.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[A Tale Of 2 Radicalizations](#) [Dina Temple-Raston, NPR, 15 March 2021]

Before Jan. 6, the run-ins Bruno Cua, 18, had had with police in his small town of Milton, Ga., were mostly of the scofflaw variety. In the run-up to the 2020 presidential election, according to court documents filed by both the prosecution and the defense, Bruno Cua's teenage antics were replaced by something more consequential: far-right conspiracies. They say his world began revolving around the misinformation he picked up on websites and Facebook pages. And the falsehoods he discovered profoundly affected him. Almost 10 years ago, another group of young people were radicalized by what they saw and heard online. But in that case, the object of their attention was a foreign terrorist organization: ISIS.

[U.S. Intelligence Agencies Warn Of Heightened Domestic Extremism Threat](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, NPR, 18 March 2021]

A new report from the U.S. intelligence community warns of future, unspecified, violence committed by domestic extremists, who have been emboldened by the siege on the U.S. Capitol and conspiracy theories about the 2020 election and coronavirus pandemic. President Biden commissioned a threat assessment shortly after taking office. An [unclassified summary](#) of the findings, issued by the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, was released Wednesday. The full, classified report was sent to the White House and Congress. It concludes that racially and ethnically motivated extremists, such as White supremacists and those tied to violent militias, are considered the "most lethal" threats. Lone offenders or smaller cells of extremists are more likely than organizations to carry out attacks, and are proving harder for law enforcement to track.

[U.S. Soldier Pleads Not Guilty to Plotting Attacks on NYC Landmarks with Islamic State](#)

[Stephen Rex Brown, *New York Daily News*, 16 March 2021]

A U.S. Army soldier pleaded not guilty Monday to plotting terrorist attacks on city landmarks with an undercover FBI employee posing as a member of the Islamic State militant group. Cole Bridges faces a maximum of 40 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to Islamic State and attempted murder of U.S. military service members. Prosecutors say Bridges, 20, shared his disenchantment with the military in online chats with the undercover FBI employee starting in 2019. The radicalized soldier eventually began advising the fake Islamic State sympathizer on how to thwart U.S. military attacks in the Middle East and "provided advice" on potential targets in New York City, including the 9/11 Memorial, according to a complaint.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

["What does wrong look like?" Air Force slides aim to clarify extremism for troops](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 18 March 2021]

An airman uses a government-issued computer to watch videos of a group known for violent confrontation. A warehouse contractor changes the subject when asked about his three-leaf clover tattoo with a swastika in the middle. How should their Air Force colleagues respond? The

eight-page presentation prepared by the Judge Advocate General's Office, titled "Identifying and Addressing Impermissible Behavior," is intended to guide units through potentially thorny discussions of what constitutes "extremism" in the ranks. Pentagon leaders are pushing commanders to discuss political, racist or other beliefs that could fly in the face of the military's service to the country, such as affiliations with anti-government or White supremacist groups, after current reservists and former service members participated in the deadly Jan. 6 riots at the U.S. Capitol. Because membership in an organization like the Proud Boys or Atomwaffen Division is not specifically banned under Pentagon rules, the Air Force slides outline instances where activity would cross the line into extremist behavior.

[White supremacist propaganda surged in 2020, report says](#) [Aaron Morrison, *The Associated Press*, 17 March 2021]

White supremacist propaganda reached alarming levels across the U.S. in 2020, according to a [new report](#) that the Anti-Defamation League provided to The Associated Press. There were 5,125 cases of racist, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQ and other hateful messages spread through physical flyers, stickers, banners and posters, according to Wednesday's report. That's nearly double the 2,724 instances reported in 2019. Online propaganda is much harder to quantify, and it's likely those cases reached into the millions, the anti-hate organization said. The ADL, which was founded more than a century ago, said that last year marked the highest level of White supremacist propaganda seen in at least a decade. Its report comes as federal authorities investigate and prosecute those who stormed the U.S. Capitol in January, some of whom are accused of having ties to or expressing support for hate groups and antigovernment militias.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[How students are fighting Zoom fatigue](#) [John Barnes, *PBS News Hour*, 16 March 2021]

Zoom. Google Meet. Microsoft Teams. We used to work in offices or go to school for classes. Now many of us are working all day in little "Zoom boxes" where the line between work and rest gets blurrier every day, along with our eyesight. Experts say many who work remotely are experiencing the same side effect of quarantine: exhaustion borne from endless video meetings, known as Zoom fatigue. Students, attending hours of online class, five days a week, may experience the worst of it. We're all aware of the hypothetical solutions. More exercise! Avoid screens! Do something relaxing! However, all of these quick fixes are easier said than done. We think to ourselves: How can I exercise if I need to finish all my homework for today? How do I have fun when there's a global pandemic going on? In order to find out how we can become more energized throughout the day, we first need to understand how fatigue works—and why sitting in front of a computer, doing relatively little, is so exhausting. Luckily, [scientists are actively studying the phenomenon](#).

[Only Your Boss Can Cure Your Burnout](#) [Olga Khazan, *The Atlantic*, 12 March 2021]

Those who still have the energy to read the news might encounter dozens of articles about hitting the "pandemic wall" or suffering from "pandemic burnout." Many people have now spent a year staying inside, avoiding friends and family, abstaining from travel and indoor dining, mourning the loss of hundreds of thousands of people, and maintaining the same pace of work while caring

for children round-the-clock and often single-handedly. Even people who have been calmly emailing their way through the apocalypse feel that their limit has been reached and they can go no further. [Research suggests](#) that people tend to be more stressed out when they face conflicts about their various roles—mother, worker, friend to a frazzled co-worker, daughter to an anti-vaccine parent. And this right here is the role-conflict plague. Nearly 3 million American women have dropped out of the labor force since the pandemic began, in part because they’re disproportionately shouldering the burden of all those different roles.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Over 3 Million People Took This Course on Happiness. Here’s What Some Learned.](#) [Molly Oswaks, *The New York Times*, 13 March 2021]

The Yale happiness class, formally known as Psyc 157: Psychology and the Good Life, is one of the most popular classes to be offered in the university’s 320-year history. The class was only ever taught in-person once, during the spring 2018 semester, as a 1,200-person lecture course in the largest space on campus. That March, a [free 10-week version made available to the public](#) via Coursera, titled “the Science of Well-Being,” also became instantly popular, attracting hundreds of thousands of online learners. But when lockdowns began last March, two full years later, the enrollment numbers skyrocketed. To date, over 3.3 million people have signed up, according to the website. The Coursera curriculum, adapted from the one Dr. Santos taught at Yale, asks students to, among other things, track their sleep patterns, keep a gratitude journal, perform random acts of kindness, and take note of whether, over time, these behaviors correlate with a positive change in their general mood.

[The Pillars of Health—Social Fitness](#) [Lance Corporal Natalie Greenwood, *Marines TV*, 15 March 2021] [VIDEO]

U.S. Navy Lt. Jayme Larick, a mental health provider with U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, speaks about aspects of social health and how we operate with others, on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, March 15, 2021. III MEF personnel are working to build each other up and maintain a healthy lifestyle to be ready to fight now. This video is part of a four-part series “Pillars of Health” to emphasize the importance of spiritual, social, physical, and mental health.

[Why we procrastinate on the tiniest of tasks](#) [Mark Johanson, *BBC News*, 14 March 2021]

It could be a quick email to a colleague you dislike. Perhaps it’s some menial paperwork; a small tweak to a spreadsheet or an invoice that has to be filed. It could even be a short phone call to your boss—something that will only take a minute and yet, somehow, for some reason, you keep on putting it off. If it only takes five minutes, you end up asking yourself, then why on earth haven’t you done it? You waste time thinking about how annoying it is; unsurprisingly, that does not make it go away. Instead, the task lingers, ballooning from a tiny checklist item into an ongoing irritant completely out of proportion with the resources needed to actually polish it off. Tiny tasks have a way of taking up an abnormally large amount of space in our minds. Yet, there are simple ways we can bring them back down to size, something that begins with understanding how exactly we allow them to loom so large.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Japan court says same-sex marriage should be allowed](#) [Mari Yamaguchi, *The Associated Press*, 17 March 2021]

A Japanese court for the first time ruled Wednesday that same-sex marriage should be allowed under the country's constitution, a moral victory that does not have any immediate legal consequence but could bolster efforts for legalization. The Sapporo District Court said sexuality, like race and gender, is not a matter of individual preference, therefore prohibiting same-sex couples from receiving benefits given to heterosexual couples cannot be justified. "Legal benefits stemming from marriages should equally benefit both homosexuals and heterosexuals, (asterisk) the court said, according to a copy of the summary of the ruling. Judge Tomoko Takebe said in the ruling that not allowing same-sex marriages violates Article 14 of the Japanese constitution, which prohibits discrimination "because of race, creed, sex, social status or family origin."

[Study: Male troops more reluctant to share unisex bathrooms than women](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 17 March 2021]

*A study of Special Forces service members found that male and female troops hold drastically different views on gender-neutral bathrooms, with many men firmly opposed to them. About 33% of men who participated in the study said they would be willing to share a unisex bathroom with women, while 61% of women said they would be willing to share a unisex bathroom with men. Male service members cited hygiene, risk and privacy as their main concerns. The study, titled "Maintaining Male Exclusivity: Porcelain Privilege in the Military," was [published recently](#) in the journal *Armed Forces and Society*. Researchers at the University of Kansas conducted focus groups with members of the U.S. Army Special Forces about their thoughts on women integrating into combat roles. Researchers didn't ask service members about bathrooms, but the issue kept coming up, they said.*

RACISM

[An announcer hurled racist insults at a high school basketball team for kneeling during the National Anthem](#) [Konstantin Toropin, *CNN*, 13 March 2021]

*The Norman, Oklahoma, Public Schools District is condemning an announcer who "made racist and hateful comments targeted at our Norman High student athletes" on a livestream of a state basketball tournament, a statement from the district superintendent said. On Thursday, the Norman High School girls' basketball team was set to play Midwest City in the Oklahoma 6A state basketball tournament. The game was being livestreamed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Network. A video of the livestream shows that when the Norman players kneeled during the National Anthem, one of the announcers began to hurl insults at them. "They're kneeling? F**king n***ers," the person is heard saying. "I hope Norman gets their ass kicked," the speaker, who has not been officially named, says. After a short pause, with the National Anthem still playing, the insults continued. "F**k them. I hope they lose." "C'mon Midwest City—they're gonna kneel like that? Hell no," the announcer says. The person uses the same slurs one more time before the audio on the recording cuts out entirely.*

[Capitol Police officer suspended after anti-Semitic document found at checkpoint](#) [Mike DeBonis and Tyler Pager, *The Washington Post*, 15 March 2021]

U.S. Capitol Police suspended an officer Monday after a copy of an infamous anti-Semitic tract was found near a Capitol Hill security post Sunday, alarming a congressional aide who viewed the document in plain sight at the checkpoint. Photographs provided to The Washington Post show a printed copy of the Protocols of the Meetings of the Learned Elders of Zion on a table inside an entrance to the Longworth House Office Building. The department said Monday evening that acting chief Yogananda D. Pittman had suspended an officer pending an investigation “after anti-Semitic reading material was discovered near his work area on Sunday.” Zach Fisch, the chief of staff to Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-N.Y.), spotted and photographed the document about 7 p.m. Sunday while leaving the South Capitol Street entrance to the Longworth Building, one of the few 24-hour entrances on the House side of the Capitol campus. Fisch described being “extremely rattled” by the content, particularly in the aftermath of the Jan. 6 insurrection.

[College student who hosted racist “swatting” group is sentenced to 33 months.](#) [Rachel Weiner, *The Washington Post*, 15 March 2021]

One day in late 2018, John William Kirby Kelley didn’t feel like going to class. So he turned to the friends he had made online, suggesting they call in a fake threat to his school, Old Dominion University. Some victims were chosen simply because they were streaming their own online activities live, giving the swatters a chance to watch law enforcement respond in real time. But Denton repeatedly harassed a ProPublica journalist who had reported on him and other neo-Nazi leaders. The group also called in threats against two Black churches, a mosque, a Black newspaper columnist and Trump administration official Kirstjen Nielsen. Along with using racist slurs, Kelley expressed a desire to put up posters in the area in Northern Virginia where George Lincoln Rockwell, the founder of the American Nazi party, was shot and killed in 1967, Assistant U.S. Attorney Carina Cuellar noted in a filing. Kelley met Denton in a White-supremacist chat room and drove to West Virginia to meet another virulently racist associate, Cuellar said. The latter co-conspirator was not charged because of his age, according to court filings; two others are not in the United States.

[Lawmakers favor White candidates over minorities in service academy nominations: report](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 17 March 2021]

Nominations for admission to military service academies by members of Congress disproportionately favor White students, which in turn may hurt future leadership opportunities in the ranks for minority groups, according to a [new analysis](#) out today from the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center. From 1994 to 2019, roughly 74 percent of nominations from current members of Congress to the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Military Academy at West Point went to White students, even though they made up just 54 percent of the eligible student pool. Only about 6 percent of nominations went to Black students, and only about 8 percent to Hispanic students. “While every congressional district is represented at the service academies, the student body fails to reflect the demographic diversity of our nation,” researchers said. “This new report illustrates that congressional nominations have also contributed to significant racial and ethnic disparities in the student bodies of the academies, and therefore, the leadership of the nation’s military.”

[Martin Luther King's traffic ticket changed history's course](#) [Michael Warren, *The Associated Press*, 16 March 2021]

On this day 60 years ago, a Black man driving a White woman was pulled over in a traffic stop that would change the course of American history. The incident was unknown to most at the time and has been largely forgotten. The man was Martin Luther King Jr., and his citation on May 4, 1960, led to him being sentenced, illegally, to a chain gang. Georgia's segregationist politicians sought to silence King before he could mobilize great masses of people. But it backfired as the mistreatment rocked the 1960 presidential race, prompting African Americans to vote Democrat and help end Jim Crow laws in the Deep South. King's "willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice" proved to be the catalyst for change, said Maurice C. Daniels, who wrote a [biography of King's lawyer](#), "Saving the Soul of Georgia: Donald L. Hollowell and the Struggle for Civil Rights."

[Murder of newly commissioned lieutenant leads to advocacy and lasting change](#) [Harm Venhuizen, *Army Times*, 14 March 2021]

Second Lt. Richard Collins III wanted to be a general officer. The young lieutenant commissioned into the Army on May 18, 2017—the start of what he told his parents would be a long career in the military. He had already completed basic airborne training and received his branching orders through the Army ROTC program at Bowie State University. On May 20, just three days before he was set to graduate with a degree in business, Collins, 23, went to the University of Maryland College Park campus to celebrate with friends. He never came home. "Step left, step left if you know what's best for you," Sean Urbanski told Collins at a UMD bus stop before fatally stabbing him in the chest with no apparent motive. Collins' parents and prosecutors believed the killing to be a hate crime. Surveillance footage played in court showed Urbanski walking past a White man and an Asian woman at the bus stop before stopping in front of Collins, the only Black member of the group. A friend of the killer would later testify that both he and Urbanski were members of a White supremacist Facebook group called "Alt-Reich: Nation."

[New Jersey State Police's first 100 years characterized by racial prejudice](#) [W. Carsten Andresen, *The Conversation*, 11 March 2021] [COMMENTARY]

The New Jersey State Police, founded 100 years ago, was created to counter the influence of the state's rising populations of African Americans and immigrants, whom White residents feared. [My research](#) into the agency's culture found that the agency emerged as the result of a seven-year campaign by the state's Chamber of Commerce to replace rural police and county sheriffs with a statewide professional force. A key element of the chamber's effort was a 225-page report, issued in 1917, written by Paul Garrett, a well-known businessman, whose reputation helped boost the idea for a state police agency. Garrett's writing focused on what he called the "foreign problem" in 13 of the state's 21 counties, which was how he described crimes allegedly committed by African American and foreign-born residents in these communities. The report contained stark racial and ethnic epithets and stereotypes, including claims that "negroes come from the South to this place for the summer and give much annoyance," and "foreigners should be given full freedom so long as they are law abiding. But the many instances of rape and robbery and assault and battery due to them would indicate that the problem has not yet been adequately solved."

[Official Who Said Atlanta Shooting Suspect Was Having A “Bad Day” Faces Criticism](#) [Bill Chappell, Vanessa Romo and Jaclyn Diaz, *NPR*, 18 March 2021]

Cherokee County officials announced on Wednesday afternoon that Robert Aaron Long, 21, has been charged with four counts of murder and one count of assault in the shooting involving three women and two men at Young’s Asian Massage. He has also been charged with murder in Atlanta, where four other women were killed in two separate attacks. Tuesday’s violence has amplified fears in the Asian American community, which has already been experiencing a spike in attacks and harassment since the coronavirus pandemic began. Feelings of anger within the community increased late Wednesday as comments made by a Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office official and a post on his Facebook page were perceived as inappropriate, insensitive and anti-Asian. The sheriff’s office spokesman, Capt. Jay Baker, said Wednesday that Long was “pretty much fed up and kind of at the end of his rope. Yesterday was a really bad day for him and this is what he did.” Baker’s comments that Long was having a “bad day” were lambasted on social media. On Wednesday, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta issued a statement saying that although details are still emerging, the broader context of racial tension in the U.S. cannot be ignored.

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

[On Capitol Hill, Asian American Leaders To Voice “Very Real” Fear In Community](#) [Chloe Weiner, *NPR*, 18 March 2021]

Lawmakers will hear testimony on discrimination and violence against Asian American people Thursday on Capitol Hill as a wave of incidents brings new urgency to the issue. Asian American lawmakers requested the hearing before the House Judiciary committee last month as they seek federal action in response to attacks on their communities during the pandemic that have ranged from verbal harassment to physical assault. From last March to February of this year, the organization Stop AAPI Hate has documented at least 3,795 such attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders since they began tracking hate incidents last year. On Tuesday, eight people, mostly Asian women, were killed in shootings in Atlanta. Authorities don’t believe the suspect was motivated by their race, but say it’s too early to determine whether he will be charged with a hate crime.

[This Black Family Ran a Thriving Beach Resort 100 Years Ago. They Want Their Land Back.](#) [Jacey Fortin, *The New York Times*, 11 March 2021]

In 1912, Willa and Charles Bruce bought a plot of land on the Southern California coast. It was an oceanside lot in an area dotted with sunny blossoms of evening primrose and purple clusters of lupine. The land, made accessible by red trolley cars that trundled to and from the growing metropolis of Los Angeles, was ripe for development. The Bruces and their son, Harvey, came from New Mexico and were among the first Black people to settle in what would become the city of Manhattan Beach. They built a resort where other Black families could swim, lounge, eat and dance without being subject to racist harassment. The harassment came anyway, and the resort thrived despite it. But city officials shuttered the enterprise by condemning the land in 1924, claiming to need it for a public park. The Bruces fought the move through litigation, but failed. The city paid them \$14,500, and they left their beach and lost their business. Nearly a century later, their descendants are still seeking restitution.

RELIGION

[Air Force chaplain cleanses Yokota Air Base homes where “odd things occur”](#) [Erica Earl, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 March 2021]

The headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan may also be home to supernatural activity, according to a couple who claim to help anyone dealing with paranormal disturbances to rid their homes of unwanted spirits. Chaplain (Capt.) Lance Brown, of Yokota’s 374th Wing Staff Agency, and his wife, Karen Brown, who is working on a master’s in counseling, have been performing home cleanses, or anointings, for the past eight years in homes where “odd things occur.”

Supernatural activity is reported so often at this base in western Tokyo that it inspired a Facebook group, Yokota Ghost Hunter Club. Its members post about paranormal phenomena they’ve experienced at their homes and workplaces. Lance is endorsed by the Pentecostal Church of God, and the home cleanses are not officially sanctioned by the Air Force, he told Stars and Stripes in an interview March 1. The Browns said their cleansings are sometimes about helping someone cope with anxiety, heartbreak or a troubled past than about literal evil spirits, though Lance said they are not suggesting the supposed presence of spirits is “all in the person’s head.”

[“Like having a nightclub next to a convent”: U.S. Air Force stops using firing range near Buddhist monastery in Scotland](#) [Kyle Alvarez and Karin Zeitvogel, *Stars and Stripes*, 17 March 2021]

The Air Force has stopped using a firing range near a Buddhist retreat in southwest Scotland, it said Wednesday after residents raised concerns that it would shatter the tranquility of the Eskdalemuir valley. The Air Force had used a range a mile from the 53-year-old Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist monastery for “multiple events within the past seven months” but was “unaware of concerns from the local community,” Capt. Kevyn Kaler, spokeswoman for the 352nd Special Operations Wing, told Stars and Stripes. “We regret the disturbance that this has caused,” she said in an email. “We have suspended all training events at this area as a result.” The decision was announced after nearly 20,000 people had signed an online petition against a move to establish two permanent training areas for long-range shooting in the valley.

[Rebel priests defy Vatican, vow to bless same-sex couples](#) [Reuters, 16 March 2021]

A dissident band of Roman Catholic priests leading a disobedience campaign against the Vatican said on Tuesday they would carry on blessing same-sex couples in defiance of Church orders. The Vatican said on Monday that priests cannot bless same-sex unions and that such blessings are not valid, in a ruling that disappointed gay Catholics who had hoped their Church was becoming more welcoming under Pope Francis. In some countries, parishes and ministers have begun blessing same-sex unions in lieu of marriage, and there have been calls for bishops to institutionalise de facto such blessings. Conservatives in the 1.3 billion-member Roman Catholic Church have expressed alarm over such practices. The Parish Priests Initiative led by Father Helmut Schueller has long been a thorn in the side of the Vatican. The group wants Church rules changed so that priests can marry and women can become priests.

[Vatican bars gay union blessing, says God “can’t bless sin”](#) [Nicole Winfield, *The Associated Press*, 15 March 2021]

The Vatican decreed Monday that the Catholic Church cannot bless same-sex unions since God “cannot bless sin.” The Vatican’s orthodoxy office, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, issued a formal response Monday to a question about whether Catholic clergy can bless gay unions. The answer, contained in a two-page explanation published in seven languages and approved by Pope Francis, was “negative.” The decree distinguished between the church’s welcoming and blessing of gay people, which it upheld, but not their unions since any such sacramental recognition could be confused with marriage. The Vatican holds that gay people must be treated with dignity and respect, but that gay sex is “intrinsically disordered.” Catholic teaching holds that marriage, a lifelong union between a man and woman, is part of God’s plan and is intended for the sake of creating new life.

SEXISM

[Flyer featuring three men for Women’s History Month event prompts Stuttgart garrison apology](#)

[John Vandiver, *Stars and Stripes*, 19 March 2021]

The idea was to highlight how men can help make a more inclusive workplace, but relying on photos of three men to promote an Army Women’s History Month event felt like a dose of “mansplaining” to some in the Stuttgart military community. “I think it’s important to acknowledge that we stumbled, right out of the gates, with our marketing of this event,” Col. Jason W. Condrey, the Stuttgart garrison commander, said on Facebook. “I know there were many out there who were puzzled and frustrated that, for the garrison’s observance of Women’s History Month, on the flyer were three men.” On Monday, the garrison will host a virtual seminar dubbed: “Workplace Allies ... Partnering to Break the Glass Ceiling.” The guest speakers highlighted on a flyer were U.S. Africa Command’s Gen. Stephen Townsend and authors Dave G. Smith and W. Brad Johnson, who wrote “Good Guys,” a book on how men can support women in the workplace. The flyer sparked anger from some who took issue with no women being pictured.

[The Pandemic Has Given Women a New Kind of Rage](#) [Helen Lewis, *The Atlantic*, 10 March 2021]

Feminism is a fractured movement. After all, what does a single mother in a favela have in common with a Manhattan socialite? Yet the pandemic—or more accurately, the economic shutdowns imposed to contain it—has affected women and girls around the world in remarkably similar ways. Spikes in domestic violence have been recorded in countries as varied as Sweden and Nigeria, and women have borne the brunt of joblessness in 17 of the 24 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries that reported an overall rise in unemployment last year. In the U.S., 275,000 women left the workforce in January 2021, compared with 71,000 men; in South Africa, a survey in July found that two out of three respondents who had lost their jobs or been furloughed in the early months of the pandemic were women. In the case of medical data, indifference has had worse effects for men. A [recent study](#) found that fewer than 5 percent of nearly 2,500 registered COVID-19 clinical trials planned to disaggregate their data by sex, though men are more likely to be hospitalized with the coronavirus, and more likely to die from it.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Tokyo Olympics: Yet another scandal over sexist comments](#) [Stephen Wade and Yuri Kageyama, *The Associated Press*, 18 March 2021]

In yet another setback for the postponed Tokyo Olympics—and another involving comments about women—games’ creative director Hiroshi Sasaki resigned on Thursday after making demeaning comments about a well-known female celebrity in Japan. “The IOC and Japanese politics are male-dominated territories,” Dr. Barbara Holthus, deputy director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo, told The Associated Press. “Japanese politicians have a long history of furthering gender inequalities—besides many other inequalities.” In February, the president of the organizing committee Yoshiro Mori was forced to resign after making sexist comments, saying women talk too much in meetings. Two years ago, the head of the Japanese Olympic Committee Tsunekazu Takeda was also forced to step down in a bribery scandal connected to vote-buying involving IOC members.

[Weighty issue: Inequity raised in women’s, men’s tourneys](#) [Doug Feinberg, *The Associated Press*, 19 March 2021]

The teams had barely landed in Texas when complaints of inequity between the women’s and men’s [NCAA basketball] tournaments roared over social media posts noting the women’s weight training facilities in San Antonio were severely lacking compared to what the men have in Indianapolis. The women’s field has 64 teams and the men’s tournament 68. In a Twitter post, Stanford sports performance coach for women’s basketball Ali Kershner posted a photo of a single stack of weights next to a training table with sanitized yoga mats, comparing it to pictures of massive facilities for the men with stacks of free weights, dumbbells and squat racks. “These women want and deserve to be given the same opportunities,” Kershner tweeted. “In a year defined by a fight for equality, this is a chance to have a conversation and get better.” Several of the top women’s basketball players see it as a bigger issue than just a subpar weight room.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Australia March 4 Justice: Thousands march against sexual assault](#) [BBC News, 15 March 2021]

Tens of thousands of people have turned out to marches across Australia, protesting against the sexual abuse and harassment of women in the country. They were spurred by a recent wave of allegations of sexual assault, centred around Australia’s parliament. The allegations have focused scrutiny on the conservative government. The protests were organised a week ago, after Attorney General Christian Porter revealed he was the subject of a 1988 rape allegation—which he denies. A separate case—that of Brittany Higgins, an ex-political adviser who alleged in February that she was raped in a minister’s office in 2019—has also fueled public anger. Protesters feel the government’s response to the sexual assault allegations has been inadequate.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Marine Cpl. Thae Ohu’s sister speaks out about her court-martial, trauma](#) [Pan Phyu, *Marine Corps Times*, 18 March 2021] [OPINION]

My sister, Marine Cpl. Thae Ohu, sits in a brig right now awaiting -court-martial. Her crime? Being a rape victim whose documented and unresolved mental illness hit its peak after years of intimidation, and retaliation in her unit led her to that point. She lost rank. Her reputation took

heavy hits. She now stands to lose it all because the system we all talk about—where victims must either bury the pain or suffer re-victimization—is operating as expected. So much so that even the Marine whom she allegedly assaulted has appealed to get her helped, not sentenced. That same appeal has fallen on deaf ears as the court-martial proceeds, after -attempting to suppress her voice and never fully explain how the system tore her down. My hope is this letter will prompt you to intervene and make this case one of the first indications that our military will no longer tolerate the criminalization of self-advocacy for sexual assault victims.

[Spc. Vanessa Guillen case could be Army CID’s “Tailhook scandal”](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 17 March 2021]

Army Criminal Investigation Command’s ongoing problems may justify an overhaul of its command structure, similar to what the Naval Criminal Investigative Service went through following a major sexual assault scandal in the 1990s. How NCIS changed in the wake of that scandal was discussed during congressional testimony Tuesday. The hearing was held one week after proposals to redesign CID were outlined in briefing [documents obtained by Army Times](#). One proposal suggested recasting CID as an independent organization with civilian leadership, similar to what the NCIS looks like today. A second proposal, which was labeled “recommended” in the documents, would retain the current military police leadership while hiring more civilian agents. The Navy had a similar reckoning three decades ago, when NCIS still had uniformed leaders. NCIS Director Omar Lopez told Speier that his organization was civilianized following the 1991 “Tailhook scandal.” The case centered on allegations that Navy and Marine aviators sexually assaulted dozens of women during a symposium in Las Vegas, and Navy investigators failed to adequately look into the cases.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The truth about false sexual assault reports in the military](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 18 March 2021]

When talking about sexual assault in the military, there’s a line that almost always surfaces, particularly in the comment section of a news story: What about the false reports? There always seems to be a buddy from boot camp who knows a “really good guy” whose career was ruined by a false claim. The underlying message of this repeated claim is simple: The person reporting their sexual assault is lying. It’s something that Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Terrell, the sexual assault response coordinator (SARC) for the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, said he’s heard more than once from soldiers during SHARP training. But in the five years that he’s worked on sexual assault for the Army, he said he’s never come across a false report. Not once. False reports are just one of the myths and misconceptions about sexual assault in the military that Terrell is working to dispel because ultimately, he said, it’s victim-blaming, and it contributes to victims’ reluctance to come forward and make a report. He said he doesn’t “entertain it at all” and assures the soldiers who come to speak with him that after he takes on their case, “you are now my client and I’m providing a service to you.”

SUICIDE

[“He stood by me through everything”—We salute the Air Force NCO who brought an airman back from the brink](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 17 March 2021]

Staff Sgt. Austin Spurling was at the right place at the right time one day in 2017, when he saw an airman crying his eyes out by a lake at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. The anonymous airman was 25 years old, going through a divorce with his wife, who had kicked him out of the house, and was soon separating from the Air Force. “I was at my lowest and had nowhere to go and just lost,” the airman wrote on the popular Facebook page Air Force amn/nco/snco in February. “I was sitting by one of the lakes on base thinking of killing myself ... This person saw me crying and came running over and talked to me.” That person was Spurling, and he saved the airman’s life by helping him feel less alone at a dark time in his life. Spurling “asked me who I was, where I worked and listened to my whole life story for a good while,” the airman wrote. “He stood by me through absolutely everything and nearly every day reminded me I had a life worth living and that this is just a small part of my life and I’d make it through.”

[New solutions are needed to help with the military suicide stigma](#) [Brandon Alward, *Military Times*, 17 March 2021] [COMMENTARY]

The unfortunate reality with having a tie with the United States military is the increased likelihood to have a tie with suicide. Service member and veteran suicide rates are nearly 50 percent higher than their civilian counterparts. Suicide has become the leading cause of death of service members and the rate at which members are committing suicide is drastically increasing. [The Defense Suicide Prevention Office](#) was established to investigate the rates and causes of suicide in the military and observed that the suicide rate has been on a steady incline. Suicide in the United States military has a massive impact on all parties involved and something desperately needs to be done to stop the rising numbers.

[This soldier almost died by suicide. Now he’s telling his story in hopes of saving someone else](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 15 March 2021]

Editor’s note: **This article discusses suicide and suicidal ideation that some may find disturbing.** If you’re thinking about suicide, are worried about a friend or loved one, or would like emotional support, the Lifeline network is available 24/7 across the United States. Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (800-273-8255) to reach a trained counselor.

James McGuffey was 30 years old when he found himself lying in bed, half drunk, with a pistol in his mouth. That night in June 2008 was the culmination of years of trauma and stress that had gone unaddressed, and it wasn’t the first time he’d had thoughts about self-harm. A month prior in May, the Army Ranger, who was a sergeant first class at the time, chased “a bunch of pills” with Wild Turkey bourbon. Luckily some of his friends took him to the hospital where he got his stomach pumped. They told him they wouldn’t say anything. They begged him to get help. But it wasn’t that easy. It rarely is. McGuffey, now a command sergeant major with the 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, voiced the same fears a lot of service members mention when talking about behavioral health: How will it impact my career? What about my security clearance? How will I be perceived by my command, and by my peers? But in a conversation at 3rd ID’s headquarters at Fort Stewart, Georgia, last week, he explained how getting the help he needed saved his life and his career, putting him on a path towards healing that before had felt out of reach.

VETERANS

[Colonel vowed Hmong veterans would be remembered. Now he's one honored at Fresno funeral](#)

[Bethany Clough, *The Fresno Bee* (Fresno, Ca.), 13 March 2021]

Col. Wangyee Vang, who helped put the spotlight on Lao and Hmong veterans who fought in the "Secret War," was honored in a traditional three-day funeral in Fresno that started Saturday. Vang died Jan. 18 at age 74. Vang was the founder and longtime president of Lao Veterans of America, a Lao- and Hmong-American veterans' non-profit organization based in Fresno. He helped spearhead the Laos Memorial, a national monument in Arlington National Cemetery honoring Lao and Hmong veterans who helped the United States in during the Secret War. He was also instrumental in passage of the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act, which granted honorary American citizenship to tens of thousands of Hmong veterans and their families in the U.S.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Obituary: 1929-2021: Oceanside's Moore was among the nation's first Black marines](#) Pam

Kragen, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 16 March 2021]

In 1946, Robert L. Moore was stunned to see two Black Marines in uniform walking down the street near his home in North Carolina. Those men were Montford Point Marines, who were the first Black men to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. Beginning in August 1942, about 20,000 Black men—including Moore, who rushed to enlist after seeing the men—trained at the segregated Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, N.C. The camp was decommissioned in 1949 when President Harry Truman desegregated the armed forces. Today, fewer than 400 of these men are believed to survive, and last month their number fell by one more with Moore's death. In the early morning hours of Feb. 25, the 91-year-old Moore passed away peacefully at his Oceanside home following a weeklong hospitalization for COVID-19. Robert Lee Moore was born in 1929 at a Catholic hospital in Queens, N.Y., to a White, possibly immigrant mother. When the nuns at the hospital saw the baby's dark skin, they quietly gave him away to a Black domestic worker named Mary Grace Moore who had recently moved to New York from North Carolina, looking for work. No birth certificate or adoption papers were ever filed. Mary Grace named her son, Robert, and gave him her own birthday, Aug. 13.

[Senate Passes Bill Opening Up VA to Vaccinate Millions More Veterans, Caregivers](#) [Steve

Beynon, *Military.com*, 18 March 2021]

The Senate on Wednesday unanimously passed a sweeping new authorization for the Department of Veterans Affairs that would supercharge the agency's ability to deliver vaccines to millions of Americans as the Biden administration rushes to return the country to normal. The Saves Lives Act would greenlight the VA to vaccinate all veterans, veteran spouses, caregivers, and Civilian Health and Medical Program recipients. Right now, the VA is administering vaccines only to employees and its 9 million patients. This bill would open up who could receive the vaccine, regardless of a veteran's eligibility to receive VA care. However, patients enrolled in VA care will get priority. About half of the 18 million total U.S. veterans are enrolled in VA care, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

[Short-Term Use of Cannabis Safe But No More Effective Than Placebo for PTSD, Study Finds](#)

[Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 17 March 2021]

Early results of a long-awaited study on marijuana as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder show that veterans who smoked two components of cannabis—tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, and cannabidiol, or CBD—saw decreases in their symptoms. But those who received a placebo during the study did just as well, according to data published Wednesday in the journal PLOS One. The research, sponsored by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, or MAPS, in Santa Cruz, California, aimed to determine whether inhaled cannabis or its components were safe and effective for treating PTSD. “Even though it was not as robust a response that we had hoped to achieve, we learned a lot that will shape future studies,” lead researcher Dr. Sue Sisley told Military.com.

[Veterans Groups Must Speak with One Voice Against the New Assault on American Values](#)

[Retired Marine Corps Lt. Cols. Joe Plenzier and Scott Cooper, *Military.com*, 17 March 2021]

[OPINION]

“Thank you for your service.” Since 9/11, we have heard these words of appreciation. But what if, instead of enjoying America’s admiration and respect, military veterans were automatically assumed to be disloyal insurrectionists seeking to overthrow the government? What would America look like if veterans were distrusted and considered dangerous to our civil liberties? It is clear that a significant number of our compatriots have lost their way. We witnessed the violence, and our shock and anger have now turned to resolve. We know the veteran community cannot remain silent bystanders to this assault on American values. We all must stand up, speak out and remind our veteran community of our common values and our duties as citizens in post-military life. The Jan. 6 insurrection should be a wake-up call for all veterans, especially since veterans were among the leaders of the mob and over-represented among those arrested.

[Wounded women veterans face higher levels of loneliness, isolation: report](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 13 March 2021]

Four out of five wounded women veterans reported feelings of loneliness, isolation and disconnect from their peers in a [recent survey](#), a statistic almost 20 percent higher than men that advocates say underscores the need for better outreach to those individuals. “That’s just a staggering number,” said Tracy Farrell, vice president of engagement for the Wounded Warrior Project, which conducted the research. “The women warriors we talked to, they would really appreciate having some sort of mentorship and networking opportunities, specifically with people who knew their background. Having some sisters in arms to share resources to point you in the right direction, to just acknowledge the stories from your past and understand where you’re coming from, that was really important to everyone.” The findings, released Friday, come from a survey conducted in early 2020 of nearly 4,900 women involved with WWP.