

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 27 MAY 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[After Senate Snafu, Christine Wormuth Confirmed as the First Woman to Lead the Army](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 27 May 2021]

Christine Wormuth was once again confirmed as Army secretary Thursday morning after the Senate revoked her confirmation Wednesday night over an apparent procedural snafu that was quickly resolved. She is the first woman to hold the position. The reversal appeared to be due to a procedural snag that was quickly resolved. Wormuth's nomination was noncontroversial, and she breezed through her confirmation hearing with little pushback from Republicans. She takes the helm as the service tries to reinvent how it evaluates physical fitness for soldiers. Leaders have struggled to develop the new Army Combat Fitness Test to create a stronger force without damaging recruiting and retention for jobs that aren't physically demanding. Wormuth said the new test is concerning for how it seemingly puts women at a significant disadvantage.

[Deep-rooted racism, discrimination permeate U.S. military](#) [Kat Stafford, James Laporta, Aaron Morrison and Helen Wieffering, *The Associated Press*, 27 May 2021]

In interviews with The Associated Press, current and former enlistees and officers in nearly every branch of the armed services described a deep-rooted culture of racism and discrimination that stubbornly festers, despite repeated efforts to eradicate it. The AP found that the military's judicial system has no explicit category for hate crimes, making it difficult to quantify crimes motivated by prejudice. The Defense Department also has no way to track the number of troops ousted for extremist views, despite its repeated pledges to root them out. The AP also found that the Uniform Code of Military Justice does not adequately address discriminatory incidents and that rank-and-file people of color commonly face courts-martial panels made up of all-White service members, which some experts argue can lead to harsher outcomes. And racial discrimination doesn't exist just within the military rank-and-file. Every year, civilians working in the financial, technical and support sectors of the Army, Air Force and Navy file hundreds of complaints alleging race and skin color discrimination, according to an AP analysis of U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission data.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Two-star general among group of soldiers punished after sexual misconduct probe](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 25 May 2021]

An investigation into an Army Reserve command's mishandling of sexual harassment and assault allegations found significant shortcomings in the unit's practices and resulted in a total of 15 soldiers being punished, including a major general. The inquiry into the Illinois-based 416th Theater Engineer Command started in early 2020 following allegations that the unit's leaders had improperly conducted internal investigations of sexual assault allegations rather than refer them to outside investigators, as required by Pentagon policy. Amy Braley Franck, a civilian victim advocate with the 416th TEC, told the Associated Press last year that the command launched internal investigations into at least two sexual assault complaints rather than refer them

to Army CID, as required. The 416th TEC's commander, Maj. Gen. Miyako Schanely, has relinquished command and received a formal memorandum of reprimand from Gen. Joseph M. Martin, the Army vice chief of staff. The investigation found that Schanely, who had been suspended in June, failed to properly implement the Sexual Harassment Assault Response Prevention program at the unit.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

CULTURE

[Andrew Yang's wife Evelyn rips "racist disfiguration" of husband in New York Daily News cartoon](#) [Dominick Mastrangelo, *The Hill*, 25 May 2021]

Evelyn Yang, the wife of New York City mayoral candidate Andrew Yang, blasted a New York Daily News for a cartoon depicting her husband as a tourist, calling it a "racist disfiguration" of him. "I can't believe my eyes," Evelyn Yang said on Monday. "To publish this racist disfiguration of @AndrewYang as a tourist, in NYC where I was born, where Andrew has lived for 25 years, where our boys were born, where 16% of us are Asian and anti-Asian hate is up 900%." The cartoon, published and posted on Twitter Monday by Daily News cartoonist Bill Bramhall, depicts Andrew Yang as an excited tourist leaving the Times Square subway station and a local shop owner expressing happiness that people who are not from the city have returned. "This is disgusting and wrong," the Asian American and Pacific Islanders Victory Alliance said in a tweet responding to the cartoon. "Every single day Asian Americans have to fight the notion that we are foreigners. We are here and we're not going anywhere. That's why AAPI representation like @andrewyang is so important. Do better."

[SEE ALSO] [New York Daily News changes drawing after backlash over Andrew Yang cartoon](#)

[Black Wall Street history center in Greenwood to debut at Tulsa Race Massacre centennial](#)

[Brandy McDonnell, *The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, Okla.)*, 23 May 2021]

Over the past 100 years, the historic Greenwood District has experienced dramatic transformations, from incredible triumphs to unjust atrocities. The new Greenwood Rising: The Black Wall Street History Center soon will make its mark on the area with a goal of providing the full scope of its history, from the remarkable building of one of the wealthiest Black communities in the country to the violent devastation of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. "We're not just focusing on the massacre, we're not just focusing on all the wonderful points that we're going to make. We're taking the entire narrative ... so that people can walk away from here understanding what it means to look back, remember, reflect, commemorate, be enlightened, be educated on this—but then leave and go back to their communities and be inspired to maybe make changes in their own lives and their own communities," said Phil Armstrong, project director for the [1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission](#).

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

[Book excerpt: "X Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos on World War II"](#) [Leah Garrett, *Military Times*, 25 May 2021] [COMMENTARY]

The incredible World War II saga of the German-Jewish commandos who fought in Britain's most secretive special-forces unit—but whose story has gone untold [until now](#). June 1942. The shadow of the Third Reich has fallen across the European continent. In desperation, Winston Churchill and his chief of staff form an unusual plan: a new commando unit made up of Jewish refugees who have escaped to Britain. The resulting volunteers are a motley group of intellectuals, artists, and athletes, most from Germany and Austria. Many have been interned as enemy aliens, and have lost their families, their homes—their whole worlds. They will stop at nothing to defeat the Nazis. Trained in counterintelligence and advanced combat, this top secret unit becomes known as X Troop. Some simply call them a suicide squad.

[Buffalo Soldiers taught horsemanship at segregated West Point. Soon a statue will honor their service.](#) [Michael E. Ruane, *The Washington Post*, 27 May 2021]

Late into the night, in his studio on Avenue X, surrounded by props and tools and diagrams of the human form, sculptor Eddie Dixon worked on the Buffalo Soldier's face. It was the hardest part of the equestrian statue he was making for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The only pictures he had of the late Sgt. Sanders H. Matthews Sr. were photos of him as an elderly man, or with a smile. Dixon went on to complete his model of Matthews, believed to be the last known Buffalo Soldier to serve at West Point. And one day early this month, he paced his studio in a dark baseball cap as an expert from a foundry began slicing it apart with a razor and a pipe saw. It was one of the final steps in the project to get a bronze version of the model ready for installation this summer at West Point. There, it will honor the little-known unit of Black soldiers that taught horsemanship to generations of White Army officers amid the harsh racial oppression of the time.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Death threats and the KKK: Inside a Black Alabaman's fight to remove a Confederate statue](#) [Tim Reid, *Reuters*, 27 May 2021]

Ever since Camille Bennett started her campaign to relocate a Confederate statue from outside the county courthouse in her hometown of Florence, Alabama, she has seen it all: threats, violent online messages and intimidation attempts. Bennett has always received pushback for her activism in her small conservative community, but she says her most harrowing experience happened in 2017, when five Ku Klux Klansmen (KKK) in hoods and robes heckled her at a local park during a LGBT Pride event she'd been asked to address. "I was terrified. I was extremely intimidated," said Bennett, the only Black speaker at the park event. But, she added, "the work brings me an immense sense of joy. I don't let the threats define me." But intimidation isn't the only obstacle for those committed to removing Confederate symbols. Bennett, like many other Black civil rights advocates and their allies, continues to face legal and political roadblocks at the state, county and city level.

[Fort Belvoir, cruiser Antietam under consideration for renaming by DOD commission](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 22 May 2021]

The Pentagon's Confederate renaming commission is taking a look outside places and things named after individual Confederates, its chair told reporters Friday, to include anything named to honor the Confederacy. Fort Belvoir and the guided missile destroyer Antietam have not before

come up in the Confederate renaming discussion, but retired Adm. Michelle Howard said that the commission is taking a broad look. “So our initial focus is going to be on the nine Department of Defense-owned installations,” named after Confederates, retired Adm. Michelle Howard, a former vice chief of naval operations, the Navy’s first Black female four-star and the commission’s chair, told reporters on Friday. The team will visit all nine of those posts, plus Belvoir: Forts Lee, A.P. Hill and Pickett, Va., Forts Benning and Gordon, Ga., Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Rucker, Ala., Fort Polk, La., and Fort Hood, Texas.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[In New Orleans, documenting history of iconic Black street](#) [Rebecca Santana, *The Associated Press*, 25 May 2021]

New Orleans resident Raynard Sanders can detail the many ways Black businesses and culture thrived under the canopy of oak trees along Claiborne Avenue: the Black insurance companies, the corner lot home to the Black musicians union, the church that held a funeral to bury slavery. “This was THE street. This is where everything happened. And this is where African Americans were welcomed and wanted,” Sanders said. “New Orleans was segregated. And they were not welcome and wanted in other parts of the city like they were here on Claiborne Avenue.” As he spoke, cars and trucks roared overhead on the elevated freeway that was built directly on top of the avenue in the late 1960s—ripping up the oak trees and tearing apart a street sometimes called the “Main Street of Black New Orleans.” Sanders and documentary filmmaker Katherine Cecil head the [Claiborne Avenue History Project](#), a multimedia project started in 2014 that aims to document and publicize the history of a street that has become notorious as an example of how highway projects often sliced through Black neighborhoods—a practice sometimes referred to as “White roads through Black bedrooms.”

[Is coming out as a member of the LGBTQ community over? No, but it could be someday.](#) [David Oliver, *USA TODAY*, 27 May 2021]

“I’m gay.” “I’m transgender.” “I’m nonbinary.” Every out member of the LGBTQ community has said these words, or a variation of them, to the person or people they love, not knowing how they’ll react. But what if they lived in a world where they didn’t have to disclose anything? The answer—much like the coming out experience itself—is more nuanced than waving a rainbow Pride flag and riding off into the sunset on a unicorn parade float. A future in which LGBTQ members don’t feel obligated to explain or qualify their sexuality will require sweeping societal change. That day is coming and it’s inevitable, says SA Smythe, an assistant professor in the Department of African American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Coming out is an incredibly personal decision and there’s no right or wrong way to do it, Carrie Davis, chief community officer for The Trevor Project, says. The key is to do it in your own time, whenever it feels right and safe for you. Coming out can be an ongoing or even lifelong process for many people, especially those who are fluid in their sexuality and gender identity.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Mark Wahlberg and Gary Sinise Star as Fathers of Gay Sons in “Joe Bell”](#) [James Barber, *Military.com*, 24 May 2021]

Mark Wahlberg takes a break from action pictures to star in the family drama “Joe Bell,” set to open in theaters on July 23. Wahlberg stars as a father who sets off on a cross-country hike to honor his son, Jadin, after the boy takes his own life. It’s based on the real-life story of the Bell family and Joe’s hike to raise awareness about bullying. According to his family, Jadin was bullied for being gay by his classmates in the small town of La Grande, Oregon. Gary Sinise joins Wahlberg in the movie as a sheriff whom Bell encounters on his trip. Sinise’s character also has a gay son, and the men bond over their shared experience.

[Nation’s largest Confederate memorial to get new exhibit telling the “whole story” of Georgia’s Stone Mountain](#) [Theresa Waldrop and Jamiel Lynch, CNN, 25 May 2021]

A new exhibit that seeks to explain “the whole story” of the nation’s largest Confederate monument, including the history of the Ku Klux Klan there, is coming to Georgia’s Stone Mountain Park, the park’s board said Monday. The exhibit will be developed together with “credible and well-established historians,” the board said in a news release, “to tell the warts and all history of the Stone Mountain carving,” including the 1915 rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan on the mountain “and the 50-years of Klan rallies which followed,” until the state bought the mountain and land around it in 1958. The monument has long been a flashpoint of debate between those who see it as part of the South’s heritage and those for whom it represents White supremacy. It cannot be removed under Georgia law.

[Penn State will remove gendered, binary terms like “freshman” and “upperclassman”](#) [Wilson Wong, NBC News, 19 May 2021]

The changes were suggested in a Penn State University Faculty Senate proposition, [AD84 Preferred Name and Gender Identity Policy](#), which passed on April 27, a university spokesperson told the student newspaper [The Daily Collegian](#). Among its other recommendations were replacing the terms “underclassmen” and “upperclassmen” with “lower division” and “upper division,” as well as he/him/his and she/her/hers pronouns with they/them/theirs pronouns. The impetus for the changes was to move beyond the school’s lexicon of “sexist and classist” terms and to build a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, according to the proposition. Terms like “freshman” and “upperclassmen” carried a “strong, male-centric, binary character” and terms like “junior” and “senior” ran “parallel to western male father-son naming conventions,” the proposition said.

[“A Star Without a Star”: An Oakland Man’s Mission to Get his Aunt on the Hollywood Walk of Fame](#) [Amanda Font and Héctor Alejandro Arzate, NPR, 22 May 2021]

Long before the current reckoning with the Golden Globe Awards and the push for more diverse representation in media, Black actors in Hollywood’s golden age paved the way in an industry that gave them few options and, often, no credit. In her seven-decade stage and screen career, Juanita Moore made more than 80 film and television appearances. Though she was nominated for an Academy Award for her performance in the 1959 film, “Imitation of Life,” she didn’t reach the level of fame and recognition that might normally follow such a nomination. Her nephew, Arnett Moore, says her spotlight is long overdue. From his home in the Oakland Hills, 75-year-old Arnett has launched a one-man campaign to get his late aunt a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce only picks one posthumous candidate each year to

get a star. Applications are due by May 28, and this is the third year in a row Arnett has submitted Juanita for consideration.

DISCRIMINATION

[Judge rules against Georgia in legal fight over Israel oath](#) [*The Associated Press*, 25 May 2021]
A federal judge has ruled that a Georgia law requiring some people to sign an oath involving Israel is unconstitutional. A documentary filmmaker who refused to sign the oath sued the state last year, saying the law is in violation of free speech rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Requiring people who want to do business with the state to pledge that they are not engaged in a boycott of Israel is “unconstitutional compelled speech,” U.S. District Court Judge Mark H. Cohen wrote in his recent ruling. A spokeswoman for the Georgia Attorney General’s office, which represented the defendants, said it was unable to comment at this time, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution [reported](#). Lawyers representing the state have said previously that Georgia’s law does not infringe on the First Amendment.

[NFL launching review after former coach said he was told he was “not the right minority” during interview](#) [Dominick Mastrangelo, *The Hill*, 25 May 2021]
The NFL is launching an investigation after a former player and coach said he was told he was not the “right minority” while interviewing for a job within the league. Eugene Chung, who is of Korean descent, told the Boston Globe over the weekend he was interviewing for a job as an assistant coach when an unnamed staff member for the unidentified team told him, “Well, you’re really not a minority.” “I was like, ‘Wait a minute. The last time I checked, when I looked in the mirror and brushed my teeth, I was a minority,’” Chung said. “So I was like, ‘What do you mean I’m not a minority?’” The staffer responded, “You are not the right minority we’re looking for,” Chung said. The NFL condemned the reported incident in a [statement](#) on Monday. The NFL’s Rooney Rule dictates teams must interview at least two minority coaches for openings.

[Tennessee moves to the forefront with anti-transgender laws](#) [Jonathan Mattise, Kimberlee Kruesi and Lindsay Whitehurst, *The Associated Press*, 23 May 2021]
Conservative lawmakers nationwide introduced a flurry of anti-LGBTQ bills this year, but no state’s political leaders have gone further than Tennessee in enacting new laws targeting transgender people. Lawmakers passed and Republican Gov. Bill Lee signed five new bills into law, consistently dismissing concerns that they discriminate against an already vulnerable population, that some of the laws are unworkable and that they could damage the state’s reputation. The decades long culture war over LGBTQ rights has focused on transgender Americans in recent years and has increasingly been a topic of discussion on conservative-leaning news outlets. A [survey](#) by The Trevor Project showed 94% of LGBTQ youth said recent political debates over the issue had negatively affected their mental health. A separate question found more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

DIVERSITY

[2 Key Defense Studies Focus on Science, Tech, and Diversity](#) [Amy McCullough, *Air Force Magazine*, 21 May 2021]

The Defense Department must invest in its science and technology enterprise if it hopes to maintain an advantage over peer adversaries, and two reports due out this summer will outline exactly how it plans to accomplish that, DOD's chief technology officer told House legislators. The second report, due Aug. 31, will assess diversity in the department's research and engineering workforce, said Barbara McQuiston, acting undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, during a May 20 House Armed Services cyber, innovative technologies, and information systems subcommittee. In assessing the DOD's research and engineering workforce, Congress wants to understand the proportion of women and minorities currently employed; the effectiveness of existing hiring, recruitment, and retention incentives for women and minorities; and the effectiveness of recruiting and retention programs in DOD labs once those individuals have completed initial DOD-funded "research, programs, grant projects, fellowships, and STEM programs," according to the legislation.

[Frosted Windows, Shower Signs: What It Took to Get the Marines' San Diego Boot Camp Ready for Female Recruits](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 22 May 2021]

When Marine leaders defend the Corps' historic resistance to further gender integration of recruit training, they often bring up infrastructure as a major challenge. The two Marine Corps boot camps, built in the 1910s, are simply not built to accommodate companies integrated by gender. But when the Marine Corps changed course and allowed an integrated recruit company to train at its previously all-male San Diego boot camp earlier this year, preparation—at least when it came to living quarters—was surprisingly simple. Of course, there is a question of scale. Platoon 3241 started with 59 female recruits and graduated 53; accommodating that small number was fairly easy. But even as numbers increase, infrastructure just isn't that big of a concern for leaders. Plans are already in place to build a new chow hall to replace the aging existing facility, and to build a new medical clinic with exam rooms and equipment suitable for use by men and women.

[How to be Inclusive of Employees with Mental Health Disabilities](#) [Devin Boyle, *GovExec*, 24 May 2021]

*Your program director. The new policy advisor who starts work in your department next week. Maybe even you. Chances are, you work alongside people with mental health disabilities every day. We are the team members you rely on to perform at high levels and to produce quality work. I say "we" because I am a government contractor with bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder—both mental health disabilities. I have 15 years of experience in strategic communications; I've managed projects in areas spanning from emerging technology to inclusion for vulnerable populations; I've written opinion pieces for *The Washington Post*; and served as a guest lecturer at American University. In short, I've been a successful employee who just happens to have mental health disabilities. In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, let's take a few minutes to refresh our understanding of mental health disabilities in the workplace, what government agencies and organizations are doing to support their employees' mental health, and how we can create a more inclusive workplace for people with mental health disabilities.*

[Indigenous woman named New Zealand's next governor-general](#) [Nick Perry, *The Associated Press*, 24 May 2021]

Children's advocate Cindy Kiro said Monday she hopes to inspire Maori girls after becoming the first Indigenous woman appointed to the role of governor-general. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced she had picked Kiro for the largely ceremonial role as Queen Elizabeth II's representative, and that the queen had approved. Under New Zealand's constitutional system, the British monarch remains the nation's head of state although doesn't wield any real day-to-day power. Kiro, 63, said her mixed Maori and British heritage helped give her a good understanding of New Zealand history and the Treaty of Waitangi, the founding document signed by Maori and British.

[Karine Jean-Pierre makes history as the first Black woman in three decades to hold the White House press briefing](#) [Oma Seddiq, *Insider*, 26 May 2021]

Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House principal deputy press secretary, became the first Black woman in three decades to step behind the podium in the James S. Brady briefing room on Wednesday. Jean-Pierre, who serves as President Joe Biden's No. 2 spokesperson under press secretary Jen Psaki, shared her thoughts on the history-making moment to reporters, calling it "a real honor." Jean-Pierre extended her gratitude to the president for giving her the opportunity to address reporters on Wednesday and for his efforts to build a diverse administration. Jean-Pierre becomes only the second Black woman to brief reporters from the White House lectern, following President George H.W. Bush's deputy press secretary, Judy Smith, in 1991. She is also the first openly gay person to lead the White House press briefing.

[Majority of Americans support trans troops, oppose trans athletes, Gallup finds](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 26 May 2021]

The majority of Americans support allowing openly transgender people to serve in the military but oppose permitting them to play on sports teams that align with their gender identity, according to new Gallup data. The annual [Values and Beliefs survey](#)—conducted May 3-18 by telephone interviews with 1,016 randomly selected adults living in the U.S.—found that 66 percent of people favor allowing openly trans people to serve in the military, though Gallup noted that this figure is down slightly from its previous measure in 2019, when 71 percent were in favor. The margin of error for the total sample of national adults was plus or minus 4 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said that "as more and more people are exposed to trans service members and trans veterans, support will stabilize."

[Navy's diversity effort will review grooming policies, selection boards and other areas](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 22 May 2021]

The Department of the Navy is taking a look at contracting, grooming policies and several other areas in the name of improving diversity, equity and inclusion in the Navy and Marine Corps. Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Harker released a [memo](#) this month laying out the latest plans. The memo directs the Navy's chief diversity officer and assistant secretary for manpower and affairs, Catherine Kessmeier, to oversee "transformative and meaningful steps" that will further equal opportunity and diversity. According to the memo, she will also oversee a 60-day review of

contracting “to identify improvements needed to promote supplier diversity and ensure proper implementation of equal opportunity and diversity policies in contracts.” Harker’s memo also calls for a 60-day review of how Navy and Marine Corps bases and other assets are named “to improve diverse representation,” and also directs a 90-day review of grooming policies for the services, as well as an assessment of the precepts for selection and assignment boards “to remove potential barriers to diversity.”

[New 101st Airborne command sergeant major is first woman](#) [The Associated Press, 24 May 2021]

The first woman to become command sergeant major of a U.S. Army division will step into that role this week in Kentucky. Command Sgt. Maj. Veronica Knapp will assume responsibility as the senior enlisted adviser of the 101st Airborne Division from Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Barker. The ceremony takes place Thursday at Fort Campbell, the 101st said in a news release. “Command Sgt. Maj. Knapp is the first leader in this historic division to have led both men and women at every level, from team leader to squad leader, all the way through brigade command sergeant major,” said Lt. Col. Kari McEwen, division public affairs officer. The ceremony will be live-streamed on the division Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/101st>.

[REPRINT]

[Racial bias trainings surged after George Floyd’s death. A year later, experts are still waiting for “bold” change](#) [Candice Norwood, PBS News, 25 May 2021]

Hiring for experts who specialize in addressing racism, implicit bias, and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) has increased significantly in recent years, a trend that has accelerated in the year following Floyd’s killing. The country’s largest publicly traded companies tripled their hiring of chief diversity officers in the three months after Floyd’s killing, according to an analysis by the management consulting firm Russell Reynolds Associates. The growth of these positions is part of a years-long increase. A [2019 Russell Reynolds report](#) found that 63 percent of those top public companies had appointed or promoted someone to a diversity chief role within the last three years. Diversity, anti-racism and anti-bias work can range from standalone trainings, to reviewing organization policies, to developing and implementing programs aimed at promoting racial and gender equity.

[Senate confirms Kristen Clarke as first Black woman to lead DOJ civil rights division](#) [Christina Carrega, CNN, 25 May 2021]

Democrats confirmed Kristen Clarke on Tuesday as the first Black woman to lead the Justice Department’s Civil Rights division, a historic step that came on the anniversary of George Floyd’s killing—and after a vitriolic campaign by Republicans over her stance on policing. Clarke’s confirmation breaks barriers in a department that was established in 1957. She was ceremonially sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris at the Justice Department on Tuesday evening. Harris spokesperson Symone Sanders praised Clarke as “a timeless champion of equal justice” in a statement before the ceremony. “This is a historic moment because for the first time since its creation, following the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the confirmed Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights will be a woman, and will be a Black woman, and that is Kristen Clarke,” Sanders said.

[Seventh episode for AETC's Real Talk focuses on LGBTQI+](#) [AETC Public Affairs, *Air Force News Service*, 25 May 2021]

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, will host the seventh episode of AETC Real Talk: Race and Diversity in the Air Force, June 17 at 3 p.m. Central time, CDT, on [AETC's Facebook page](#). The episode will focus on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex population within the Air Force. Joining Webb for this discussion will be Brig. Gen. Brenda Cartier, incoming AETC director of operations and communications. "The commitment to service by LGBTQI+ Airmen adds to the inclusivity and rich diversity of the Air Force family," Webb said. "I am looking forward to this conversation and discussing more about the topic of belonging. Diversity, when harnessed, provides an asymmetric advantage that is ultimately a warfighting imperative."

EXTREMISM

[The Army wants to kick out an avowed White supremacist officer, but they won't admit it](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 25 May 2021]

Maj. Jeff Poole, who had been on active orders with the 98th Training Division at Fort Benning, Georgia, received a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand earlier this year, followed up with an elimination board, a source familiar with the case told Military Times, asking for anonymity because of the sensitivity of the proceedings. Poole's reddit activity caught the eye of some veterans in 2019, who compiled a 75-page PowerPoint presentation submitted to Army Criminal Investigation Command. "Nuclear war wiping out the major cities would be a healthy reset for our nation," Poole wrote in September 2019. "As long as Tel Aviv got a taste too. But our nation would be better off without NYC, Chicago, LA, San Francisco, Dallas, Atlanta, Houston, Minneapolis, Washington DC, Seattle, etc. They're all full of traitors and bugmen." In posts and comments from his defunct account, Poole referred to himself as a racist, a bigot and a national socialist—the same political affiliation as Germany's notorious Nazi party. He also advocated for armed insurrection against the government, to include killing his fellow service members.

[Reporting on Radicals](#) [Tess Owen and Brianna Kablack, *War on the Rocks*, 14 May 2021]
[PODCAST]

In this episode of Horns of a Dilemma, Tess Owen, senior reporter at VICE News covering extremism, hate crimes, and gun control, sits down with Brianna Kablack, a Master of Global Policy Studies candidate at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, to discuss domestic extremism. Their talk examines the evolution and developments that Owen has seen in the course of reporting on domestic extremism. These findings include the evolution of what she refers to as "suit and tie extremists," as well as the mainstreaming of increasingly extremist views.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[10 Questions About Empathy In America, A Year After George Floyd's Death](#) [Bill Chappell, *NPR*, 25 May 2021]

A year ago Tuesday, the world watched as George Floyd’s life was taken from him in an agonizing 9 1/2-minute video—a murder a police officer was convicted of committing. Millions of us watched those videos. But we didn’t all see the same things, and part of the reason is empathy. On a basic level, how we hear the words of Floyd—and more recently, the words of Ronald Greene—depends on our level of empathy. Testifying about the day Floyd died in Minneapolis, many witnesses wept, still feeling despair at not being able to help him. “When I cried, the whole world cried,” witness Charles McMillian said recently, describing the powerful testimony he gave in court. But not everyone had the same response. To get a sense of why—and to learn whether America’s relationship with empathy is changing—we spoke to two people who have spent decades studying empathy and bias: Elizabeth Segal, a professor at Arizona State University’s School of Social Work, and Jody David Armour, a criminal justice and law professor at the University of Southern California.

[How To Cope With Anxiety in the Return to “Normal” Life](#) [Alexis Blue, *Futurity*, 24 May 2021]

Not everyone will feel comfortable ditching their masks or gathering in large groups, even after vaccination, and it’s important that we be understanding of one another, says Chris Segrin, a professor and head of the communication department in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Arizona. Segrin, a behavioral scientist who studies interpersonal relationships and mental health, says it will take some time to get back to the way things were before, and, for some, a full return to normal may not be possible. After enduring more than a year of pandemic-related stress, people will have varying levels of comfort when it comes to resuming participation in public gatherings, ditching masks, or returning to the office, even post-vaccination, says Segrin. For that reason, Segrin says it’s critical that we all be understanding of one another and recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to life after vaccination.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Narcissistic people aren’t just full of themselves—new research finds they’re more likely to be aggressive and violent](#) [Brad Bushman and Sophie Kjaervik, *The Conversation*, 25 May 2021]

We recently reviewed [437 studies](#) of narcissism and aggression involving a total of over 123,000 participants and found narcissism is related to a 21% increase in aggression and an 18% increase in violence. Research shows everyone has some level of narcissism, but some people have higher levels than others. The higher the level of narcissism, the higher the level of aggression. People high in narcissism tend to be bad relationship partners, and they also tend to discriminate against others and to be low in empathy. Our review looked at the link between narcissism and aggression at the individual level. But the link also exists at the group level. Research has [found](#) that “collective narcissism”—or “my group is superior to your group”—is related to intergroup aggression, especially when one’s in-group (“us”) is threatened by an out-group (“them”).

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[What Introverts and Extroverts Can Learn From Each Other](#) [Arthur C. Brooks, *The Atlantic*, 20 May 2021]

A year before the pandemic changed all of our lives, a friend sent me a link to a [survey](#) based on academic research that rates your personality traits on a numeric scale. He was particularly keen

to know my extroversion score, to see if the test was accurate. His results had shown that he scored at the 15th percentile. He sent it to me as the most extroverted person he knows. Sure enough, I scored at the 96th percentile. “Lucky you,” he remarked, “extroverts are a lot happier.” He was right about that, on average. Decades of research have consistently shown that extroverts have a significant happiness edge over introverts. They report higher levels of general [well-being](#) as well as more frequent moments of joy. COVID-19, however, has given us extroverts our comeuppance. Research published in March in the scientific journal PLOS One [studied](#) the impact of the pandemic on people with various personality characteristics. The authors found that mood worsened for extroverts but improved for introverts. As my friend said, only half joking, “Why don’t we just stay locked down forever?”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[6 Charts That Dismantle The Trope Of Asian Americans As A Model Minority](#) [Connie Hanzang Jin, NPR, 25 May 2021]

“Smart.” “Hard-working.” “Nice.” Those were among the adjectives respondents offered up in a recent poll when asked to describe Asian Americans. The [poll](#), conducted by the nonprofit Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change (LAAUNCH), was another all-too-familiar reminder that Asian Americans are still perceived as the “model minority.” Since the end of World War II, this myth about Asian Americans and their perceived collective success has been used as a [racial wedge](#)—to minimize the role racism plays in the struggles of other minority groups, such as Black Americans. Characterizing Asian Americans as a “model minority” flattens the diverse experiences of the Asian American into a singular, narrow narrative. And it paints a misleading picture about the community that doesn’t align with current statistics. Here’s a look at some common misconceptions driven by the “model minority” myth.

[DOD/VA collaborated to combat mental health challenges women face](#) [Thomas J. Walsh, Healthnews.mil, 25 May 2021]

It’s no secret that women face unique challenges in the United States military. What’s less known is how deep and wide those challenges can be, and how they affect service members while on active duty and well after leaving the service. With Women’s Health Week (May 9 to May 15) falling within Mental Health Awareness Month, we asked experts about the most pressing issues facing women in the military today. They range from the predictable, sexual harassment, to some that are much less talked about, such as female veterans’ inability to land jobs compared to their male counterparts. Some trends are well documented but no less alarming during the time of COVID-19, when even more stressors have piled up. That includes the fact that women veterans are more than two times more likely to die by suicide as the general population, as [reported](#) by the Department of Veterans Affairs clinical psychologist Jennifer Strauss to attendees of a Defense Health Agency (DHA) event in February. Strauss also said that in 2019, 43% of female users of the VA had diagnosed mental health issues, compared to 26% of male VA users.

[“Excuses are over”: Gaps in domestic violence reporting threaten troops’ safety, lawmakers say](#) [Leo Shane III, Military Times, 25 May 2021]

Lawmakers and victims' advocates blasted defense officials on Tuesday for an incomplete and inadequate response to domestic violence incidents in the ranks, saying they may be undermining faith in military leadership by overlooking large numbers of cases annually. Department officials said they are working on reforms to answer those questions, but advocates said they have seen similar past promises go unfulfilled. Defense officials said that in 2020, rates of spouse abuse reports in the military and substantiated cases were down compared to 10-year averages. But they acknowledged that still translates into thousands of abuse cases each year. And officials also reported increases in intimate partner abuse last year. Service officials could not say whether the rates of domestic violence among military members is higher than the rest of the country, because they have not analyzed the data in that way.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[For Native Americans, Harvard and other colleges fall short](#) [Philip Marcelo, *The Associated Press*, 27 May 2021]

When Samantha Maltais steps onto Harvard's campus this fall, she'll become the first member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe to attend its prestigious law school. It's a "full-circle moment" for the university and the Martha's Vineyard tribe, she says. More than 350 years ago, Caleb Cheeshahteumuck, an Aquinnah Wampanoag man, became the first Native American to graduate from the Cambridge, Massachusetts, university—the product of its 1650 charter calling for the education of "English and Indian youth of this country." "Coming from a tribal community in its backyard, I'm hyper aware of Harvard's impact," said Maltais, the 24-year-old daughter of her tribe's chairwoman. "It's a symbol of New England's colonial past, this tool of assimilation that pushed Native Americans into the background in their own homelands." Maltais will arrive on campus at a time when Native American tribes, students and faculty are pushing the Ivy League institution and other colleges to do more for Indigenous communities to atone for past wrongs, much in the way states, municipalities and universities are weighing and, in some cases, already providing reparations for slavery and discrimination against Black people.

[Onboard Navy counselors help sailors cope with stress from shore-to-sea transitions](#) [Wyatt Olson, *Stars and Stripes*, 27 May 2021]

The Navy is assessing how best to employ specially trained teams placed aboard large ships as they head to sea to help sailors with shore-to-sea transition, a program tested earlier this year. The "proof of concept" for the Departure and Separation Program kicked off in December on six cruisers and destroyers from Norfolk, Va., and ended in mid-February. Their crews were dealing with the usual stressors of heading to sea for many months but also with family issues and restrictions related to COVID-19, the coronavirus respiratory disease. Beginning Dec. 28, the program sent two-person teams—a licensed counselor and specially trained educator, in most cases—to ships during their initial two to six weeks of restricted movement and then at sea. Restriction of movement is the term the Navy gives to a two-week quarantine required of a crew before they ship out. The teams hosted "non-medical counseling, group workshops, walk-around engagement, one-on-one consultations, [and] psycho-education," the Navy said in an April news release. The teams also arranged long-term assistance for anyone requesting it.

[Whatever happened to the Air Force Mentoring Program?](#) [Terry D. Stevens, *Military.com*, 23 May 2021] [COMMENTARY]

The United States Air Force, like the other military services, has been besieged with complaints about acts of sexual harassment, racial discrimination, lack of diversity and the radicalization of some individuals who support White supremacy movements and other un-American causes. Leadership is now, as in the past, scrambling to find a solution to these persistent problems. But, over time, a critical tool available to the Air Force to identify and fix these problems have been overlooked or relegated to the dust bin of misuse. Over time, the USAF Mentoring Program, now called Air Force Handbook 36-2643 (17 May 2019), has allowed the onus of mentoring by commanders, supervisors and leaders to become a “do it yourself” program, with little emphasis on compliance or required documentation.

MISCONDUCT

[Why service members charged in the Capitol riot are staying in uniform—for now](#) [Alex Horton, *The Washington Post*, 22 May 2021]

Within days of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, some people who participated were fired from their jobs when images showing them storming the building appeared online. But the process is playing out differently for service members charged in the riot. Commanders are waiting for legal proceedings at the Justice Department before they make administrative decisions for charged troops, defense officials have said. At least five service members face federal charges for allegedly participating: an active-duty Marine Corps officer who was arrested last week, two part-time soldiers in the Army Reserve and two in the National Guard. “The harm is against the civilian government. The civilian government should be prosecuting it,” said Rachel E. VanLandingham, a former Air Force lawyer and president of the National Institute of Military Justice, a nonprofit focused on military law issues. However, she said, waiting for civilian prosecution does not preclude the military from taking other action in the meantime.

RACISM

[Racial Biases Persist in Public Sector Hiring. What can be done?](#) [Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene, *Route Fifty*, 24 May 2021]

The notion that states and localities should have workforces that are diverse and inclusive is nothing new and it’s been our impression that historical progress has been made on that front. Then we read a recently released [report](#) by [NEOGOV](#), which provides technology for hiring new applicants in more than 2,000 agencies in state and local government from coast to coast. Our disillusioning discovery: Racial biases in the United States have continued to make it surprisingly difficult for Black candidates to move through the steps of the hiring process. NEOGOV explored the question of racial biases by digging deep into its database, and then spending over a year cleaning up that information to make sure its conclusions were valid. It found that while diverse candidates are well-represented in government, Black candidates have to apply at significantly higher rates to maintain that representation.

[SC woman guilty of shooting Black man while yelling epithets](#) [*The Associated Press*, 24 May 2021]

A South Carolina woman was convicted of shooting into her African American and Mexican neighbors' homes while shouting racial epithets, prompting the sheriff on the case to say the state needs a hate crimes law. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott told The State newspaper that such a law would have let the judge enhance the 20-year sentence given to Mandy Fortson after a jury on Friday found her guilty of attempted murder and other charges. Prosecutors said Fortson went into her backyard in 2017 and shot at two of her neighbors' homes—an apartment with an African American family and a house with a Mexican family—while children were inside both dwellings. Authorities said Fortson, who is White, yelled racial epithets about African Americans and Mexicans while firing a nearly foot-long revolver.

[Three men charged with hate crimes after antisemitic incidents in Brooklyn](#) [Elisha Fieldstadt, *NBC News*, 27 May 2021]

Three men were charged with hate crimes after police said they yelled antisemitic statements to four people standing outside a New York synagogue, damaged a car and attacked two Jewish teenagers with a baseball bat. Haider Anjam, 20, and Ashan Azad, 19, both of Brooklyn, were arrested Wednesday on charges of harassment and aggravated harassment as a hate crime, according to the New York City Police Department. Anjam faces an additional charge of menacing as a hate crime. The NYPD announced Tuesday that Danial Shaukat, 20, also of Brooklyn, was arrested on a charge of aggravated harassment as a hate crime. He has since been arraigned on additional charges, including assault as a hate crime and harassment, according to the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. His bail was set at \$5,000 or \$2,500 case. A criminal complaint said the men yelled "Free Palestine. We'll kill all the Jews."

[What George Floyd Changed](#) [*Politico Magazine*, 23 May 2021]

In the year since George Floyd died under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, the explosive waves of national protest that followed have taken on almost a settled meaning: They were calls for police reform, and for America to take a hard look at the racial injustice threaded through its civic life. But in its breadth and impact, the reaction to Floyd's killing also blew through any conventional expectations for what a "protest" might touch. The reckoning it prompted about race in America extended to workplaces, classrooms, legislatures; it shook the worlds of art, literature and media. Americans began to talk about their own history differently. They physically pulled down monuments. The waves crashed against the fence of the White House, and rippled overseas. Politico Magazine asked a range of thinkers to reflect on the surprising ways that Floyd's death reshaped the country—and what hasn't changed, too. They noted that many Americans, including political leaders, now talk about race and racism in blunter, more honest ways, and are more willing to rethink the stories we tell ourselves about who we are. Some cities are physically different, perhaps permanently.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

["Who's out protecting us?": Spate of anti-Jewish attacks in the U.S. draws calls for more forceful response](#) [Shane Harris and Brittany Shammas, *The Washington Post*, 23 May 2021]

A series of attacks on Jews in the United States in recent days, linked to the conflict between Israel and Hamas, has increased pressure on law enforcement officials, lawmakers and the Biden administration to take more steps to quell antisemitic violence. Since May 10, at least 26 instances of antisemitism have been reported across the United States, from Los Angeles to New York, according to the Anti-Defamation League and news reports. The cases range from protest signs calling Zionists “Nazis” to several physical attacks. There have also been at least four reported instances of vandalism at synagogues and Jewish community centers. In 2019, he said, the [group identified](#) more than 2,100 antisemitic incidents, including assault, violence and harassment, which was more than in any year since the group began tracking such episodes in 1979. And 2020, a year when many Americans stayed home because of the coronavirus pandemic, still saw the third-highest number on record, Greenblatt noted.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

RELIGION

[Few American Jews are non-White, but a new poll shows that is likely to change](#) [Emily Guskin, *The Washington Post*, 20 May 2021]

The vast majority of American Jews are non-Hispanic Whites, and some view Ashkenazi or European Judaism as the “norm.” But the racial makeup of the American Jewish population looks like it might change, and with that, perceptions of what being Jewish looks like could change as well. A Pew Research Center [poll](#) among a random sample of 4,718 Jewish Americans released last week found 92 percent of American Jews overall identify as White, while 4 percent are Hispanic, 1 percent are Black and 3 percent identify with another race or ethnicity. But younger Jews are far more likely to say they are not White. “People are finally waking up to the fact that our Jewish community is quite multicultural,” Rabbi Angela Buchdahl of Central Synagogue in New York City told Pew. Buchdahl, the first Asian American ordained as a rabbi, said that making assumptions based on people’s race can make Jews of color feel unwelcome. Saying that someone “doesn’t look Jewish” can be “off-putting to people of color. It makes them feel like a stranger in their own home, like they don’t really belong.”

[A Sikh man incarcerated in Arizona was forced to shave his beard against his religion. Advocacy groups want to ensure that doesn’t happen to anyone else](#) [Harmeet Kaur, *CNN*, 27 May 2021]

In his more than 60 years, Surjit Singh never once cut, trimmed or shaved his hair or his beard. As a Sikh, Singh believes his hair—also known as kesh—to be a divine gift. Keeping it unshorn and tied up in a turban is a key tenet of his religion. But when he entered Arizona detention facilities last year, the 64-year-old Indian immigrant was stripped of his turban and had his beard forcibly shaved by corrections officers as they sought to take his photo for the intake process, several legal advocacy groups allege in a recent complaint. Singh endured “deep shame and mental trauma,” at one point telling a medical staff member, “Cut my throat, but don’t cut my beard!”, according to the complaint. Singh, who speaks Punjabi and has limited English proficiency, was denied proper access to interpreters and language assistance, the complaint also alleges.

SEXISM

[Army leaders praise “superstar” soldier after Sen. Ted Cruz criticizes her recruitment video](#)

[David Choi, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 May 2021]

U.S. Army leaders rallied around a soldier featured in a recruitment video clip that Sen. Ted Cruz mocked as representative of an “emasculated military.” U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Robert Abrams called Malonelord a “superstar by any measure.” “For what it’s worth, I met this Corporal a few months ago during a routine unit visit,” Abrams tweeted Friday. “Exceptionally sharp, professional, technical expert, highly respected by her peers, superiors and subordinates.” The Army Enterprise Marketing Office, which manages the service’s recruitment efforts, also supported Malonelord’s service and added that “it is important that the Soldiers featured in the campaign reflect the incredible diversity of both the Army and the American public.”

[Poor progress on women’s issues earn scolding for Army officials in Congress](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 25 May 2021]

The Army’s top enlisted soldier faced tough questions from lawmakers Monday about gender disparities plaguing the Army’s new fitness test, an apparent lack of progress in fielding equipment for women and sexual assault numbers that aren’t moving in the right direction. The House Appropriations hearing started with pointed questions for Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Grinston from Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., who called the new Army Combat Fitness Test “unfair” to women and worried it would hurt recruitment and retention. “Figures from April show 44 percent of women failed to ACFT, compared to just 7 percent of men,” Wasserman Schultz said. “It looks like you have a problem and I hope you recognize that.” Sexual misconduct concerns were also raised Monday on the heels of data released earlier this month by the Pentagon. The Department of Defense figures showed that soldiers made 3,250 reports of sexual assault during fiscal year 2020, and there were 78 cases of reported retaliation against protected reporters across the DOD. “You have leaders in place now who are retaliating,” Wasserman Schultz said. She challenged the Army officials present Monday to “do something to actually move the needle on the numbers of sexual assaults in the Army.”

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[After coming out, a soldier was allegedly raped by another military member and died by suicide. Her family says it’s a hate crime](#) [Tom Vanden Brook, *USA TODAY*, 24 May 2021]

“I opened to the door, and I looked right at those two chaplains and I said, ‘My daughter committed suicide,’” Harris said. “She’s dead.” The chaplains confirmed what she’d dreaded. Her daughter had become withdrawn. Over a few short months, their close relationship had turned distant. Harris knew something was wrong, but she didn’t know what. She would learn in a blur of briefings that her daughter had filed a sexual assault complaint against a fellow service member, that it occurred 10 days after her daughter had disclosed her sexual orientation on Facebook; that she’d expressed thoughts of suicide and been under counseling and a do-not-arm order. And that a misstep by the military led to her daughter coming into contact with her alleged assailant, despite a protective order designed to keep them apart. Just days after that contact, with her do-not-arm order lapsed, she bought a handgun at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska and took her own life. Private First Class Kaylie Harris was 21. Her family believes she

would have survived if the military had taken her report of sexual assault more seriously and heeded red flags that signaled her deepening mental health crisis. They view the alleged assault that upended her life as a hate crime and want military law changed to protect LGBTQ troops.

[Courageous Survivors, Leaders Are the Cornerstone of Sexual Assault Reform](#) [Terri Moon Cronk, *DOD News*, 21 May 2021]

Survivors of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military are an important voice in building a culture that supports victims and holds perpetrators accountable. The DOD's Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military wants to hear from those survivors. IRC members are identifying potential gaps to inform targeted recommendations that can lead to systemic change. Recommendations will focus on four lines of effort: accountability; prevention; climate and culture; and victim care and support. Survivors—veterans, reservists and active duty are encouraged to anonymously share their experiences and suggestions [here](#). The feedback form opened on March 24, the day the IRC officially began, and closes on June 2.

[Current and former Texas constable's deputies file lawsuit alleging abuse from commanding officers](#) [Rachel Elbaum and Elisha Fieldstadt, *NBC News*, 24 May 2021]

Three women who are current or former employees of a Harris County, Texas, constable's precinct claimed in a lawsuit filed Monday that they were subject to sexual abuse and harassment from their commanding officers who had recruited them to work undercover to fight human trafficking. The lawsuit, filed in a federal court in Houston, alleges that "prostitution stings soon grew into a booze-fueled playground for sexual exploitation in which young, untrained deputies were subject to disgusting abuse." It claimed that high-ranking officers in Harris County Precinct 1's Human Trafficking Unit handpicked female deputies for undercover operations because they were "young, attractive and Latina" and fit the personal taste of a commanding officer. When the women spoke up about their treatment, they "were ridiculed by their commanders, retaliated against by their abusers, and quietly reassigned to less prestigious duties," the suit claims.

[Fired Fort Gordon brigade commander made "inappropriate texts" to subordinate](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 26 May 2021]

A former brigade commander at Fort Gordon, Georgia, was removed from his post last week because an investigation found he interacted inappropriately with a junior officer, who was a woman, according to an Army official with direct knowledge of the situation and a soldier in the unit. Col. Matthew Foulk, who led the 35th Signal Brigade, faces additional administrative action and may be forced to retire at a lower rank, said the Army official, who spoke on background to discuss personnel matters. "It didn't get to the [sexual harassment] component in a legal sense," the official said. "But in a colloquial sense, it was trending towards that area." An investigation found "inappropriate texts," though Foulk "did not proposition any subordinates," the official added. The contents of those texts were not shared with Army Times. When Foulk was fired last week, Army officials declined to provide details on the incident, saying in a press release that it was "due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command after an investigation stemming from allegations of personal misconduct."

[I Felt More Welcome in Combat Than I Did on Base](#) [Jackie Munn, *Defense One*, 24 May 2021]
[COMMENTARY]

A poor command climate can make women feel unsupported and alone. Even the small issues start to add up, contributing to a sense of isolation. Before my deployment to Contingency Operating Base Basrah, in Iraq, in 2009, a photo of me and one of another young female soldier displayed on a wall at my battalion's headquarters were stolen. My peers assumed that someone liked the way we looked. One of the male leaders told me that I should be flattered. I wasn't. The incident made me feel apprehensive, but I was busy, so I let it go. My battalion commander had picked me, with nearly no notice, to run a large supply warehouse—think a Walmart stocked with tools of war valued at more than \$10 million.

[Military Sexual Assault is a Moral Injury](#) [Jessica Wofendale, *War on the Rocks*, 21 May 2021]
[COMMENTARY]

Despite decades of “no tolerance” policies, millions of servicemembers receiving required annual training, policy reforms, and congressional scrutiny, the findings of the Fort Hood Independent Review conducted in the wake of the murder of Vanessa Guillen demonstrate that sexual assault remains an ongoing and serious problem in the military. Indeed, reports of sexual assault increased in 2020. Yet, despite the seriousness of this issue, perpetrators of sexual assault in the military are rarely held accountable.

[Naval Academy Needs to Better Track Its Support for Sexual Assault Victims, IG Finds](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 26 May 2021]

In its third report on the DOD's handling of sexual assault cases at the service academies, the Office of the Inspector General found that the Naval Academy's Sexual Assault Prevention Office, or SAPRO, appropriately provided services to students who experienced sexual assault and said the Naval Criminal Investigative Service followed policy while investigating cases. But SAPRO personnel did not have a process or system to document interactions with victims who chose not to file an official report of an assault. Nor did they keep records of referrals made on behalf of victims for services in cases where the person chose not to file a report, the IG found. Naval Academy officials told investigators that they didn't track the contacts out of concern for victims' privacy and confidentiality. But inspectors said having a process would help the SAPRO better measure efforts to help victims and understand the scope of the problem.

[Navy chief loses anchors for trying to record female locker room](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 26 May 2021]

A former U.S. Navy chief lost his anchors in March after he pleaded guilty to charges involving him trying to use a cell phone to record inside a female locker room, according to recently released Navy [trial results](#). Former Chief Boatswain's Mate Douglas R. Lusk pleaded guilty to two specifications of disorderly conduct during a special court-martial in San Diego March 15, according to Navy records. The military judge sentenced Lusk to a rank reduction to E-5 and confinement for four months. Under the terms of a plea agreement, Lusk waived his right to an administrative separation board. Assigned to Marine Expeditionary Security Squadron 3, Lusk was charged with attempting the recordings at Naval Support Activity Bahrain from March to June of last year, according to his charge sheet.

[Six women reported a Louisiana college student for sexual misconduct. No one connected the dots.](#) [Kenny Jacoby, USA TODAY, 26 May 2021]

In 2015, a Louisiana State University freshman transferred schools weeks after he was accused of sexual assault. LSU did not disclose the allegation to his new school, even after learning of his arrest for allegedly assaulting a second woman months later. The same year, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette placed a student arrested for sexual assault on probation, letting him stay on campus so long as he stayed out of trouble. Over his next three years there, three women reported him to the Lafayette Police Department for sex crimes, but the police never informed the school, despite an agreement that required it. In 2018, Louisiana Tech University declined to investigate a woman's sexual assault report because the alleged perpetrator dropped out of the school three days after she reported it. The university said nothing to the school he transferred to the next month. In each case, the institutions failed to share relevant information with each other, leaving women on their campuses without warning and potentially at risk. The cases also share another common thread. They all involved the same accused student: Victor Daniel Silva.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Soldier trained as advisor on sexual assault is arrested for rape](#) [Haley Britzky, Task & Purpose, 21 May 2021]

A soldier in the 82nd Airborne Division trained as a sexual harassment and assault response and prevention (SHARP) representative has been arrested on charges of rape and child endangerment in North Carolina. Army Sgt. 1st Class Oscar Rene Ruiz, an artillery cannon crewmember assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, was arrested last week in Cumberland County and charged with second-degree rape and child endangerment. He was not serving as a SHARP representative at the time of his arrest. News of the arrest comes as the Army continues working through a redesign of its SHARP program after it was discovered to be insufficient and failing to eliminate sexual assault and harassment in the ranks. Some significant changes have already come, including mandating that sexual harassment complaints must be investigated by someone outside the accused soldier's brigade, and clarifying how quickly commanders should issue a military protective order after a soldier makes a report.

SUICIDE

[Deaths by suicide declined at the height of the pandemic. Researchers have some ideas why.](#) [Elizabeth Weise, USA TODAY, 25 May 2021]

Deaths by suicide fell 9% at the height of the pandemic shutdown compared with previous years, a surprise given increases in reported levels of stress, anxiety and depression. There were more than 2,400 fewer deaths by suicide between March and August 2020 than normally would have been expected, said Dr. Jeremy Samuel Faust, an emergency physician in the Division of Health Policy and Public Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and an instructor at Harvard Medical School. The [results were published](#) last week in the Journal of the American Medical Association. "They went down, and they went down dramatically at the peak of the shelter in place period," said Faust, who co-wrote the paper. "In April we had a 16% decrease of suicides, and that's the time when most of the country was shut down."

VETERANS

[Gadsden man receives France's Legion of Honor for service in WWII](#) [Donna Thornton, *The Gadsden Times*, (Gadsden, Ala.), 23 May 2021]

Decades have passed since Allied forces strived for the liberation of France from the Nazis during World War II, but the French government, it seems, has not forgotten those who fought for their country. One of those was Gadsden's E.D. Witherspoon, and this month the Consulate General of France in Atlanta awarded the World War II veteran France's highest order of merit, the Legion of Honor. French President Emmanuel Macron designates recipients of the Legion of Honor. The commendation puts Witherspoon in the company of U.S. Legion of Honor recipients that include Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and Douglas MacArthur and, as an institution, the United States Military Academy at West Point. The Legion of Honor is an order of distinction established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. About 15 years ago, former President Jacques Chirac established a policy of decorating American veterans who risked their lives fighting in French territory during World War II with the insignia of the Knight of the Legion of Honor.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[James Monroe Robinson, WWII Buffalo Soldier and Kansas City activist, dies at 98](#) [Toni Talley, *The Kansas City Star*, (Kansas City, Mo.), 23 May 2021]

Two years, nine months, and 27 days. That is how long James Monroe Robinson, Sr. served in the United States Army—down to the day. With great certainty, he would tell family and friends about his journey as a World War II veteran and how proud he was to be a Buffalo Soldier in the 1940's. He spent much of his time as a truck driver, delivering cargo. Because of the racism Robinson dealt with as a Buffalo Soldier, he and his fellow soldiers vowed to fight to end segregation after leaving the Army. Robinson, harking back to the promise he made leaving the Army, was a proud community leader, serving as a Mason and American Legion member in addition to working alongside the NAACP during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. "He was one of the leaders in Kansas City, Kansas, and had some of the marches and some of the sit-ins," Terry Robinson said. "He taught his children to be active.

[John Warner, a WW II and Korean War vet who served as SECNAV and SASC chair, dies at 94](#) [Eileen Putnam, *Military Times*, 26 May 2021]

Former Sen. John W. Warner of Virginia, a centrist Republican who served in World War II, the Korean War, as Navy secretary and one of the Senate's most influential military experts, has died at 94, his longtime chief of staff said Wednesday. Warner often defended the Bush administration's handling of the war in Iraq, but he also showed a willingness to buck the White House. After a 2007 trip to Iraq, Warner called upon Bush to start bringing troops home. He summoned top Pentagon officials to hearings about the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal and the Iraq war. In 1994, Warner angered conservatives by opposing GOP nominee Oliver North's bid to unseat Democratic Sen. Charles S. Robb. Warner declared the Iran-Contra figure unfit for public office and backed independent J. Marshall Coleman, who drew enough independent and moderate GOP votes to ensure Robb's re-election. Warner died Tuesday of heart failure at home in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife and daughter at his side, Susan A. Magill said. "He was frail but had a lot of spirit and was involved until his last days," Magill said

[We must say the names of the heroes who gave all in defense of freedom](#) [Denis McDonough, *Stars and Stripes*, 26 May 2021] [OPINION]

Every headstone in cemeteries across our nation and around the globe tells a story. The letters etched upon those stones are the names of mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, daughters and sons. Far too many lived short lives—fighting and dying for the peace, freedom and opportunities we enjoy as Americans. Whenever I walk through the sacred grounds of our national cemeteries, I pause and read the names aloud, my way of ensuring I never forget the ultimate sacrifice these patriots gave in defense of freedom. As our caring colleagues in the National Cemetery Administration maintain their solemn mission to watch over those no longer with us, we know many more veterans came home with wounds both visible and invisible. My promise is that all of us in VA will selflessly serve those men and women who served and sacrificed so much for all of us. Today, and always, I remember our fallen heroes and say their names. I ask you to join me in saying their names in honor, reflection and recognition of a grateful nation.