

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 11 JUNE 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[Austin: “No One Should Have to Hide Who They Love to Serve the Country They Love”](#) [Terry Moon Cronk, *DOD News*, 9 June 2021]

The Defense Department celebrates the extraordinary achievements of its LGBTQ+ service members, civilian employees and their families’ sacrifices during Pride Month, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said today at the Pentagon. Speaking to an audience that included the department’s senior-most leadership, the secretary said as DOD reflects on the progress it’s made in making sure that everyone who wants to serve and is qualified, can do so with dignity and respect. “We know we have more work to do, but thanks to your courage, advocacy and dedication, the Department of Defense has been able to do more to secure LGBTQ+ rights than at any other time in history,” Austin said. That includes efforts to ensure all military families and spouses receive the benefits their loved ones have earned, and to which they are entitled; to helping veterans who previously were forced out because of their sexual orientation to apply to correct their records, or—where appropriate—to return to service, he said.

[Poll: Millions in U.S. struggle through life with few to trust](#) [Alexandra Olson, *The Associated Press*, 10 June 2021]

Millions of Americans are struggling through life with few people they can trust for personal and professional help, a disconnect that raises a key barrier to recovery from the social, emotional and economic fallout of the pandemic, according to a [new poll](#) from The Impact Genome Project and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The poll finds 18% of U.S. adults, or about 46 million people, say they have just one person or nobody they can trust for help in their personal lives, such as emergency child care needs, a ride to the airport or support when they fall sick. And 28% say they have just one person or nobody they can trust to help draft a resume, connect to an employer or navigate workplace challenges. The isolation is more acute among Black and Hispanic Americans. Thirty-eight percent of Black adults and 35% of Hispanic adults said they had only one or no trusted person to help navigate their work lives, compared with 26% of White adults. In their personal lives, 30% of Hispanic adults and 25% of Black adults said they have one or no trusted people, while 14% of White adults said the same.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Volunteer Testing Begins in Marines’ Groundbreaking Body Composition Study](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 10 June 2021]

*The Marine Corps has formally kicked off a scientific study that may upend one of the most maligned aspects of life in the service: height and weight standards that many complain are outdated and prone to punishing those with bulky muscle. The Corps, in partnership with the Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (ARIEM), is testing volunteers at Quantico, Virginia, to get a better sense of the build and body composition of today’s Marine and develop better standards and methods to assess fitness moving forward. Officials hope to bring in 600 to 800 volunteers for a five-part, 30-minute assessment that includes not only a standard weigh-in and circumference measurement, but also highly accurate screenings of fat, bone and muscle composition and an assessment of explosive power and strength. “We’re training differently, and physique may be changing, especially with more strength training by men and women. We want to see how reliable those [measurements] are for ... a current population.” Karl Friedl, the ARIEM’s senior research scientist for physiology told *Military.com*. in April.*

CULTURE

[Actor Riz Ahmed wants to stop Hollywood’s “toxic portrayals” of Muslims](#) [BBC News, 11 June 2021]

British actor and rapper Riz Ahmed has launched a fund to help combat “toxic portrayals” of Muslims in films. The move comes after a study showed Muslims rarely appear on screen, or are shown in a negative light if they do. Earlier this year, the Sound of Metal star became the first Muslim to be nominated for best actor at the Oscars. Ahmed, who is also known for Rogue One and The Night Of, said: “The problem with Muslim misrepresentation is one that can’t be ignored anymore.” In an online [video](#), he said his history-making Oscar nomination was a “bittersweet” moment. The [study](#) by the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, titled Missing and Maligned, found that fewer than 10% of top-grossing films released between 2017-2019 from the U.K., U.S. and Australia featured a speaking Muslim character. Ahmed said many of the depictions were “completely racist”. In a statement, the actor said: “The representation of Muslims on screen feeds the policies that get enacted, the people that get killed, the countries that get invaded. “The data doesn’t lie. This study shows us the scale of the problem in popular film, and its cost is measured in lost potential and lost lives.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The African figures “forgotten” by England’s cultural past](#) [BBC News, 9 June 2021]

A new English Heritage exhibition unveiled on Wednesday aims to shine a light on figures traditionally forgotten by England’s cultural history. Painting our Past: The African Diaspora in England draws together new portraits of six historical figure—spanning Roman Britain to the 20th Century—that reflect the long history of African people in England. The figures include Septimius Severus, an African-born Roman emperor who strengthened Hadrian’s Wall, and James Chappell, a Black 17th Century servant at Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire who saved the life of the then owner, Sir Christopher Hatton. The paintings are on display at the English Heritage-linked forts, abbeys, historic houses and barracks where these individuals lived, visited or worked. This includes the return of the portrait of Sarah Forbes Bonetta, Queen Victoria’s African goddaughter, to Osborne House, Victoria’s seaside home on the Isle of Wight.

[The Army embraced zodiac signs and people lost their minds](#) [Haley Britzky, Task & Purpose, 7 June 2021]

To absolutely no one’s surprise, the internet lost its mind over an Army social media post once again. The official GoArmy Instagram page posted a video on Friday that connected zodiac signs to jobs in the Army—Cancers (born June 21 to July 22) to field veterinary services, for example, and Pisces (born Feb. 18 to March 20) to JAG attorneys—and people weren’t impressed. The Army has been attempting to highlight other jobs in the service for years. It was the whole premise of the “What’s Your Warrior” recruiting campaign in 2019, and as the service is also looking to get the attention of the youths—otherwise known as Generation Z—they’ve started doing things a bit differently. Laura DeFrancisco, spokeswoman for the Army Enterprise Marketing Office, said in an email on Monday the post was “one example of many creative, light-hearted pieces of content that we use to introduce our prospect audience to the breadth and depth of careers in the U.S. Army.”

[Army nixes soldier roles for native Arabic, Pashto and Dari speakers](#) [Todd South, *Army Times*, 8 June 2021]

The Army is cutting its interpreter-translator platoons and eliminating the associated job specialty for native or heritage Arabic, Dari and Pashto speakers. The move is part of the military's overall shift from counterinsurgency missions to multi-domain operations in support of large-scale combat, Army spokeswoman Maj. Jackie Wren wrote in an email response. The 09L program was established in 2003 to provide Arabic, Dari and Pashto native and heritage speakers to support Army operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, Wren said. "Though the Army is eliminating this MOS, positions within Military Intelligence or Special Operation Forces may be available to these soldiers based on their aptitude and in accordance with security requirements," Wren said. "Leaders are informing these soldiers of this change, and the soldiers are being provided with career counseling and educational support to assist in the transition to new career fields that allow them to continue their service with the Army."

[CMT to honor Black country music pioneer Linda Martell](#) [Mesfin Fekadu, *The Associated Press*, 8 June 2021]

Linda Martell, one of the pioneers for Black acts in country music and the first Black woman to perform solo at the Grand Ole Opry, will be honored at the 2021 CMT Music Awards. The 86-year-old will receive the CMT Equal Play Award at Wednesday night's show. Mickey Guyton, who this year became the first solo Black woman nominated for a country Grammy Award, will present the honor to Martell, while Black artists including Darius Rucker, Rissi Palmer and Rhiannon Giddens will congratulate the legend in a video package highlighting her career. But Martell dealt with major hardships. She experienced racism while performing onstage and was shunned by the music industry as a mainstream country performer. Her record label shelved her album and she was prohibited from finding a new deal. "No matter how good your performance was, no matter how well your record was doing, the color of the skin stopped you from working in a lot of great places," Martell said in the 2005 documentary "Waiting in the Wings."

[History is turning toward Black history: In Chicago's DuSable debate, in remembering the Tulsa Massacre. Five books guide the way.](#) [Christopher Borrelli, *The Chicago Tribune*, 28 May 2021]

Ephraim Martin has been asking Chicago—for years—to honor Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, the first permanent non-indigenous settler of the land that became Chicago. He's been asking for nearly 30 years. He's asked the city to erect a 25-foot statue of DuSable, and to create a DuSable city holiday. He also wants Lake Shore Drive renamed for DuSable. Martin, like DuSable, was an immigrant: DuSable was Haitian, and Martin, chairperson of the Black Heroes Matter coalition and a longtime festival organizer in Chicago, is from Jamaica. But soon after he arrived in 1980 and found work at the Chicago Defender, he realized he already shared something in common with many native Chicagoans: He'd never heard of Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, either. "I was at a function with Harold Washington, a congressman then, and he started telling these kids about DuSable, and their reaction was like my reaction: 'What? Wow! A Black man started Chicago? No, I had no idea.' It felt almost, I don't know, illegal then for a Black person to be recognized that way. Yet still he's never received full respect. He's treated sort of like a footnote in this city. So after George Floyd, we increased the push."

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“In the Heights” lifts hopes for a Latino film breakthrough](#) [Sigal Ratner-Arias, *The Associated Press*, 9 June 2021]

The hype for “In the Heights” has brought great expectation for Latinos in the United States, a group that’s been historically underrepresented and widely typecast in films. And with upcoming titles like “Cinderella” with Cuban-American singer Camila Cabello, “The Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard” with Mexican star Salma Hayek and Steven Spielberg’s revival of “West Side Story,” this seems to be just the beginning of a string of productions that place Latinos front and center. “In the Heights,” which opens Friday, is an adaptation of the Tony-award winning musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Quiara Alegría Hudes about the hopes and struggles of residents of New York City’s Washington Heights. Directed by Jon M. Chu (“Crazy Rich Asians”), many hope it will mark a new beginning on the big screen for the largest minority group in the country—one that mirrors shifts that have already happened for Black and Asian actors and creators.

[\[TRAILER\]](#)

[Monuments And Teams Have Changed Names As America Reckons With Racism. Birds Are Next](#) [Jeff St. Clair, *NPR*, 5 June 2021]

Jordan Rutter, a young birder from Washington, D.C., is co-founder of Bird Names for Birds, a group trying to make birding more inclusive by removing all eponymous bird names, that is, those named after people. Rutter, in August 2020, petitioned the American Ornithological Society, the body that determines the names of birds, to take up the cause. The name change movement is part of a growing awareness that bird-watching has a diversity problem. “I feel like it’s a start,” says Nicole Jackson, a birder in Columbus, Ohio. She’s one of the organizers of Black Birders Week, which was first held last year after a Black birder was accosted by a White woman in Central Park. One goal of the event is to highlight the need for safe access to nature for people of color. “Black people are in these spaces,” says Jackson, “and we need to feel like we have enough of a community that we can talk to each other and feel safe.”

[A New Nevada Law Bans Racial Mascots In Schools And “Sundown Sirens”](#) [Dustin Jones, *NPR*, 6 June 2021]

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak met with members of the Nevada Indian Commission in Carson City on Friday as he signed legislation removing racially discriminatory identifiers or language from schools. Additionally, counties can no longer sound “sundown sirens,” which once signified it was time for certain people to leave town. The law will require schools to change any name, logo, mascot, song or identifier that is “racially discriminatory” or “associated with the Confederate States of America or a federally recognized Indian tribe.” Friday’s signing took place at the Stewart Indian School, which served as a federally run Native American educational institute for 90 years. Children were forced to attend, plucked from their families and homes to assimilate them into American culture, the National Park Service said. Not that long ago, some Western communities had policies in place that required people of color to leave town by nightfall, member station KUNR previously reported. They became known as “sundown towns.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Pentagon's ban on Pride, and nearly all other, flags is staying](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 5 June 2021]

After a review, the Pentagon has decided not to grant an exception to display LGBTQ+ flags on military installations during June, the official LGBTQ+ pride month, a Pentagon spokesman told reporters on Friday. The Defense Department is sticking with a policy created a year ago by then-Defense Secretary Mark Esper in response to calls for banning the display of the Confederate flag in offices and communal housing spaces. "After some careful consideration, the department will maintain the existing policy from July of 2020 regarding the display or depiction of unofficial flags," John Kirby said. "So there won't be an exception made this month for the Pride flag." Leadership had considered making an exception for June, during which the services and the department participate in celebrations and other displays of support for Pride month. "This was really more about the potential for ... other challenges that could arise from that exception, that specific exception," Kirby added.

[Race on Campus: Bipoc, Minority, or People of Color?](#) [Fernanda Zamudio-Suarez, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 8 June 2021]

How do you refer to a group of non-White people on your campus? Do you say minority? People of color? Bipoc? Do you use the terms interchangeably? Are there some words you avoid or prefer? Understanding and appropriately using words that label racial groups can be tricky, especially when there are many options, and not every phrase is universally embraced. I spoke with experts about their definitions and how to choose which word to use.

[Same-sex marriage sees record-high support in U.S., poll finds](#) [Tori B. Powell, *CBS News*, 8 June 2021]

Support for same-sex marriage in the U.S. has reached a new high of 70%, according to a [poll published Tuesday](#) by the analytics and advisory company Gallup. The percentage, which is the highest reported figure in the company's history of conducting the poll, marks a 10% increase from 2015, when the Supreme Court ruled for same-sex marriages to be recognized across all 50 states. When Gallup first conducted its survey in 1996, only 27% of Americans said they believed marriages between same-sex couples should be recognized by the law as valid. Support has consistently increased over the years, and in 2011, the majority of Americans for the first time said gay marriage should be legally recognized. Earlier this year in a [routine update from Gallup](#), 5.6% of U.S. adults reported that they identified as LGBT. Within the community, more than half identified as bisexual, a quarter said they are gay, 11.7% identified as lesbian, and 11.3% identified as transgender. One in every six adults born between 1997 and 2021 considered themselves to not be straight, the company found.

[The San Francisco Giants wore Pride colors on the field in an MLB first](#) [Scottie Andrew, *CNN*, 7 June 2021]

The San Francisco Giants marked the beginning of LGBTQ Pride Month with a special, subtle new uniform. In their game Saturday against the Chicago Cubs, the Giants wore cream jerseys embroidered with a Pride patch on the right sleeve and black caps with a rainbow version of their logo. They're the first team in Major League Baseball to wear Pride-specific uniforms, the team said in a [news release](#). The Giants' Pride logo was inspired by the Progress Pride flag, a

variation of the traditional rainbow flag that additionally includes the colors black and brown, representing people of color within the LGBTQ community, and pink, blue and white to represent transgender people.

[Senator, SECDEF go head-to-head on so-called “woke” military](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 10 June 2021]

Efforts by the Pentagon and the services to promote diversity and inclusion, many of which began during the Trump administration, have drawn the ire of some conservatives. Fox News host Tucker Carlson in March famously derided the advent of maternity flight suits—designed for Air Force pilots and aircrew as an everyday uniform—as an example of the “feminization” of the military. “So we’ve got new hairstyles and maternity flight suits,” Carlson said. “Pregnant women are going to fight our wars. It’s a mockery of the U.S. military.” Senior leaders, many of them Army generals, pushed back on that assertion. That discussion has dovetailed with an invigorated effort to prevent and root out extremist ideology, including White supremacism and White nationalism, among service members. To some, that effort translates to silencing or punishing conservatives, though the Pentagon has reiterated more than once that certain partisan or religious beliefs are not under scrutiny. While Austin told Sen. Cotton on Thursday that he does not believe the military is inherently racist, he did say the organization can do some work to better reflect not only the demographics of the American people, but to make sure more women and people of color have the opportunity to rise to positions of leadership traditionally held overwhelmingly by White men, thus better reflecting the demographic makeup of the military. [SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#)]

[Skin in the game: Video chat apps tout “inclusive” AI features](#) [Paresh Dave, *Reuters*, 7 June 2021]

Video conferencing services have for years boasted that their technology is “intuitive” to use or “integrated” to function with other tools, but now vendors such as Google and Cisco can hardly go a blog post without trumpeting a different attribute: “inclusive.” The latest buzzword, and the product development that accompanies it, shows how tech companies are newly focused on assuring Black users and other persons of color that online chat products will not leave them out in the cold. The changes stem in part from the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement—which has prompted vendors and customers alike to think beyond the needs of a White, English-speaking audience—and the pandemic, which created a large “remote” workforce heavily dependent on technology. Alphabet Inc’s (GOOGL.O) Google this month plans to deploy an artificial intelligence (AI) feature that addresses the longstanding issue of darker skin tones being under-illuminated in video chats.

[Students At An Oxford College Remove The Queen’s Portrait, Citing Colonialism](#) [Bill Chappell, *NPR*, 9 June 2021]

Queen Elizabeth II’s portrait will no longer hang in a key gathering place at Oxford University’s Magdalen College, after students voted to remove the picture due to concerns about it symbolizing colonialism. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson sharply criticized the move, calling it “simply absurd,” and saying the queen is “a symbol of what is best about the UK.” But graduate students who voted Monday to take the portrait down from the college’s Middle

Common Room—the center of social life—said that in some students’ eyes, “depictions of the monarch and the British monarchy represent recent colonial history,” according to minutes from the debate reported in local media. The vote to remove the photo came less than a week after The Guardian reported that at least through the late 1960s, Buckingham Palace barred “colored immigrants or foreigners” from serving in office roles.

[“White supremacy colors everything, even art”: Tattoo artists of color battle narrative that ideal skin for ink is White](#) [Christine Fernando, USA TODAY, 10 June 2021]

Racism manifests itself in the tattoo industry in different ways, experts told USA TODAY. Tattoo artists of color point to discriminatory hiring practices, racist or culturally appropriative imagery in tattoo designs, wage disparity, and a lack of respect given to tattoo artists of color. As the industry faces internal calls to reckon with its own Whiteness, many artists point to one major issue: a pervasive opinion that the ideal skin color to tattoo is White. Despite deep histories of tattooing in communities of color, tattoo artists say, this myth persists, revealing racism and colorism within the industry. Several artists of color told USA TODAY that tattooing darker skin is different from tattooing lighter shades. Darker skin often scars more easily, requiring the artist to shift to different areas and be gentler. Colors may also show up differently on darker skin, and layered color tattoos can take longer. But claims that dark skin cannot be tattooed in color or in certain styles requiring more detail are false, the artists said.

[Wisconsin homeowners told to remove LGBTQ Pride flag find a clever loophole: Rainbow floodlights](#) [J.R. Radcliffe, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Milwaukee, Wis.), 8 June 2021]

When a neighborhood association told Wisconsin homeowners that their Pride flag had to be taken down, they found a clever loophole—one that took the Pride message to new heights and simultaneously made their house Internet-famous. Memo Fachino and his husband, Lance Mier, replaced the flag with a rainbow display of floodlights, and Fachino embraced the humor of the moment by posting it to a Reddit forum celebrating outside-the-box ways of getting around rules. The post took off and inevitably devolved into rants about overzealous homeowner’s associations, but Fachino had no intention to become adversarial. After all, he sits on his Racine neighborhood board. “We’re not trying to stick it to anyone,” Fachino said. “We don’t feel targeted or attacked in our community. It was just a fun way for us to show our individuality and support in a way that didn’t break any HOA rules.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

DISCRIMINATION

[Alaska Airlines employee alleges the uniform policy discriminates against non-binary and gender non-conforming employees](#) [Amir Vera, Joe Sutton and Alta Spells, CNN, 7 June 2021]

An Alaska Airlines employee is alleging the airline’s uniform policy discriminates against employees whose gender does not fall within the policy’s binary “male” and “female” dress and grooming rules, according to a letter by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Justin Wetherell, a flight attendant and flight-attendant instructor based in Seattle, said in an ACLU news release Friday that when working as an instructor, “I am not forced into Alaska Airlines’ ‘male’ or ‘female’ uniform policies, neither of which fit me because I am non-binary.” But when I

work as a flight attendant, I am forced into one of two standards, often for up to four days at a time. I am willing to follow all of the elements of the uniform policy for professional attire, as I do when I work as an instructor, but I don't want to be forced into a binary uniform that excludes me and leads to me being misgendered at work," they said. The [ACLU release](#) said the policy goes beyond clothing.

[The Cost of Being an "Interchangeable Asian"](#) [Brian X. Chen, *The New York Times*, 6 June 2021]

In the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement that soon swept the nation, it's been a year of reckoning over racial injustice in America. In the corporate world, that injustice manifests in unequal career opportunities for professionals of color. The country has also seen a rise in hate crimes against people of Asian descent, with victims who have been beaten, verbally assaulted and, at worst, killed. In response, many companies have begun "diversity, equity and inclusion" programs aimed at recalibrating their office cultures to be more supportive of minority workers. But as a first step, what many Asian American professionals need is simple. They want their colleagues to bother to learn their names. Yes, it's probably happened to all of us, no matter our identity: An acquaintance or colleague mistakes you for another person with the same hairdo or a similar name. But for people of Asian descent, it happens without question when there are a few other Asians in the office, even when they look and sound nothing alike.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[JBS settles Muslim discrimination lawsuit for \\$5.5 million](#) [Thomas Peipert, *The Associated Press*, 9 June 2021]

The second-largest producer of beef, pork and chicken in the U.S. will pay up to \$5.5 million to settle a lawsuit that claimed the company discriminated against Muslim employees at a meat processing plant in northern Colorado. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed the lawsuit in federal court in Denver in 2010, saying JBS Swift & Company discriminated against employees at its beef processing plant in Greeley by denying them bathroom breaks and disciplining them more harshly than other workers because they were Muslim, immigrants from Somalia, and Black. According to the lawsuit, JBS prevented Muslim employees from praying and harassed them when they tried to pray during scheduled breaks and bathroom breaks. JBS also was accused of shutting off water fountains during the holy month of Ramadan in 2008, keeping Muslim Somali workers from getting a drink at sundown after a day of fasting, and from washing before prayers. The treatment of the Somali workers came to a head two years later when they asked company officials to move the plant's scheduled meal break so they could stop fasting at sunset during Ramadan.

[Judge rules teacher put on leave for speaking against gender identity policy must be reinstated](#) [Jordan Mendoza, *USA TODAY*, 8 June 2021]

Judge rules teacher put on leave for speaking against gender identity policy must be reinstated. A Virginia teacher placed on administrative leave in May after saying he wouldn't address students by their preferred pronouns and names must be reinstated to the school, a judge ruled Tuesday. Judge James E. Plowman Jr. ruled that Tanner Cross must be allowed to return to his job at

Loudon County Public Schools. Plowman ruled the district’s decision to place Cross on administrative leave as “an unconstitutional action ... which has silenced others from speaking publicly on the issue.” The judge also said Cross was speaking as a citizen and not a school employee during work hours, therefore he only spoke as a “matter of public concern.” Cross, a physical education teacher at Leesburg Elementary School, spoke out against the “Rights of Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students” policy on May 25 at a district board meeting. [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Programmers, Lawmakers Want A.I. to Eliminate Bias, Not Promote It](#) [Kristian Hernández, Stateline, 9 June 2021]

When software engineer Bejoy Narayana was developing Bob.ai, an application to help automate Dallas-Fort Worth’s Section 8 voucher program, he stopped and asked himself, “Could this system be used to help some people more than others?” Artificial intelligence is used in a host of algorithms in medicine, banking and other major industries. But as it has proliferated, studies have shown that AI can be biased against people of color. In housing, AI has helped perpetuate segregation, redlining and other forms of racial discrimination against Black families, who disproportionately rely on vouchers. As an Indian immigrant overseeing a team largely made up of people of color, Narayana was especially sensitive to the threat of racial bias. But lawmakers in a growing number of states don’t want to rely on the goodwill of AI developers. Instead, as AI is adopted by more industries and government agencies, they want to strengthen and update laws to guard against racially discriminatory algorithms—especially in the absence of federal rules. [\[REPRINT\]](#)

DIVERSITY

[Air Force honors gay rights icon the service kicked out in 1975](#) [David Roza, Task & Purpose, 4 June 2021]

The Air Force shared a [Facebook post](#) for Pride Month on Tuesday honoring Tech Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, a Vietnam War veteran with a distinguished service record who the Air Force kicked out in 1975 after he came out as gay to his commanding officer. The Facebook post makes no mention of the service ousting Matlovich, and instead focuses just on the airman’s role as being the first service member to publicly out himself for the sake of advancing the gay rights movement. “Since Matlovich’s challenge in 1975, the military has come a long way in taking steps toward inclusivity,” the Air Force wrote in its post, referring to the 2011 repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, the policy which forbade gay or lesbian men and women from serving publicly in the military. Despite being outwardly homophobic, Matlovich always knew he was gay, according to the New York Times. Over time, his bias against homosexuals began to fade after he recognized his bias against African-Americans, who he found himself serving alongside and taking orders from during his time in the Air Force. He became a race relations instructor to help ease racial tensions in the Air Force.

[Army’s first openly gay general retires after inspiring others](#) [Thomas Brading, Army News Service, 1 June 2021]

Since Maj. Gen. Tammy Smith, the military's highest-ranking openly gay officer, came out in 2012, she has tried being an example of living authentically while also being a beacon of visibility to other Soldiers and their families. It's been nearly a decade since the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, or DADT, was repealed. The policy banned lesbians, gay men and bisexuals from serving in the military. Since then, Smith has gotten married, has been promoted not once but twice, and made history after coming out as a member of the LGBT community. This week, Smith, who was special assistant to the assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs, retired after 35 years of service. In 2012, her promotion to brigadier general grabbed news headlines. The general never sought to make history that followed her decision to include her wife, Tracey Hepner, during the promotion ceremony. It terrified her to come out as gay in such a public way, but she felt a responsibility to do it, she said. "Visibility helps people rid their minds of stereotypes held about a person or group of people," she said.

[Corporate boards grow more diverse, but may take decades to get close to parity](#) [Clarissa Jones, USA TODAY, 8 June 2021]

At a time when businesses are pledging to be more inclusive amid a national reckoning on race, the boards of Fortune 500 companies are getting more diverse. But progress is slow, the appointments of White women greatly outnumber those of people of color, and companies tap the same small pool of candidates again and again, according to a [new report](#). The number of Fortune 500 businesses whose boards are more than 40% female and people of color has nearly quadrupled since 2010, according to the sixth edition of the "Missing Pieces Report," compiled by the Alliance for Board Diversity and the consultancy Deloitte. Additionally, in 2020, the percentage of directors who were women or people of color rose to slightly more than 38% from 34% in 2018. But board diversity has inched up less than 0.5% a year on average since 2004, a pace that means it will take another 53 years before women and people of color hold 40% of all Fortune 500 company board seats, a benchmark set by the Alliance for Board Diversity.

[Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Employment and Diversity and Inclusion to align](#) [75th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, 2 June 2021]

Currently, the offices of Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Employment and Diversity and Inclusion are not all aligned under the same organization, but that's about to change. Air Force Material Command is standing up new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion offices at bases across the command, including at Hill AFB, to provide better service to the customer. Combining these like functions into one organization will increase effectiveness, allow for a single leader to oversee the programs, provide strategic communication and will highlight diversity and inclusion at individual, organizational, and operational levels. This new organization will include the DEI director, Resource Advocacy manager, Affirmative Employment Program manager, Disability Program manager and the existing Equal Opportunity office. "These manager positions are actively being recruited, so anyone interested in helping us fill these critical positions should frequently check USAJobs for the job postings," said Samantha Morrison, Hill's acting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion director.

[Iraqi interpreter's battlefield work with Stars and Stripes reporters inspired her Army career](#) [Seth Robson, Stars and Stripes, 10 June 2021]

As a child growing up southwest of Baghdad in the Iraqi city of Karbala, she dreamed of becoming a police officer or a soldier. Years later, during the war against the Islamic State, she got a taste of that life while working on the front lines as an interpreter and translator for Stars and Stripes. Olivo was a 14-year-old schoolgirl when a U.S.-led coalition invaded the country and deposed dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003. Olivo's company commander during engineer training, Capt. Zachary Hawkins, said she came into the Army with more military knowledge than most recruits since she had interacted with troops in Iraq. "She saw how they presented themselves, and I think she came into basic training and advanced individual training already knowing a lot of things service members do," he said. The other trainees, whose are mostly 19 and 20 years old, looked to her for wisdom and knowledge, Hawkins added. Olivo said her goal is to deploy somewhere with the Army, become an active-duty soldier and train as an officer. She is also planning to become a U.S. citizen with the help of the Army, she said. "I want to make a difference and I want to be part of something bigger."

[The Marine Corps has pinned wings on one of its last Hornet fighter jet "back-seaters"](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 4 June 2021]

When 1st Lt. Brenda McCarthy was preparing to earn her wings as the last female weapons systems officer in the Marine Corps, she wanted as her guest the first woman to earn those wings. McCarthy wrote a letter inviting retired Lt. Col. Amy McGrath to the May "winging" ceremony at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. McGrath was the first woman in the Marine Corps to fly an F/A-18 into combat. Just before Memorial Day weekend, McGrath pinned the gold wings on McCarthy, signifying her completion of training to become a naval aviator. As the guest of honor at the May 27 winging ceremony, McGrath spoke to the 16 Navy and Marine graduates of Training Squadron VT-86 about her efforts to push for women to be allowed to fly fighter jets, recalling that she wrote letters to the newspaper on the issue when she was 12 years old.

[Navy Quietly Rolls Out First Maternity Flight Suits](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 5 June 2021]

*The Navy welcomed its first female aviators in 1974. A mere 47 years later, it's giving pregnant pilots a flight suit that fits them. The service quietly issued the first maternity flight suit to Lt. Cmdr. Jacqueline Nordan, a mobilization program manager in the Naval Air Force Reserve, as part of an early distribution program, officials said this week. Several other pregnant members of the command also received the uniform in a test run to determine its usefulness, Navy spokeswoman Amie Blade told *Military.com*. All pregnant Navy aircrew members are now eligible to wear the garment, which features adjustable side panels and provides a snugger, more professional fit as an aviator's pregnancy progresses.*

[Nearly 10% of youth in one urban school district identify as gender-diverse, new study finds](#) [Kacie Kidd, *The Conversation*, 3 June 2021]

It seems that more and more teens are identifying as transgender, gender-fluid or nonbinary. The [2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) which was conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that 1.8% of high school students identified as transgender. But my team—made up of pediatricians, adolescent medicine specialists and public health researchers—suspected that this study underrepresented the prevalence of gender-diverse youth. That's

because not all people who are gender-diverse—an umbrella term for those whose gender identity does not fully align with the sex they were assigned at birth—identify as “transgender.” So we put together a survey using more inclusive questions. First, we asked about their sex assigned at birth. Then we asked about their gender identity and allowed them to select the identities that applied to them. Of the 3,168 teens who completed the questions, [9.2% had a gender identity that did not fully align with their sex assigned at birth](#). For example, someone assigned female at birth might identify with a gender other than “girl,” such as “nonbinary,” “boy” or “trans boy.”

[New body armor carrier, plates and female-focused designs headed to soldiers](#) [Todd South, *Army Times*, 8 June 2021]

*When Maj. Melissa Elledge was a brand-new soldier ploughing through basic training, she had to find gear shortcuts simply to accomplish basic tasks, such as firing her weapon. “I spent the whole 10 weeks of basic training with a bruise in my bicep because that’s where I put the buttstock,” Elledge told *Army Times*. That was back in 2007, when she joined the Army at 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighing less than 120 pounds. After a four-year stint as an Army congressional liaison, Elledge now serves as the assistant program manager for body armor for soldier protective equipment at Program Executive Office-Soldier. Later this summer, the MSV and its accompanying parts, such as the Female Ballistic Combat Shirt and Blast Pelvic Protector, are headed to close combat soldiers within the 82nd Airborne Division. Those paratroopers are being prioritized due to their Global Response Force mission. A good fit is about more than comfort. It can mean the difference when firing a weapon accurately, preventing repetitive use injuries and shielding soldiers from shrapnel.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[New York lawmakers pass bill allowing gender-neutral “X” option in govt documents](#) [Reuters, 11 June 2021]

The New York state assembly has passed a bill that would allow people who do not identify as either male or female to use “X” as a marker to designate their sex on drivers’ licenses, as the LGBTQ community commemorates Pride Month across the United States. The new marker would help transgender, nonbinary and intersex individuals’ identity be recognized in government documents, according to a Thursday [statement](#) from Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblymember Daniel O’Donnell. “The provisions in this bill will make life safer, reduce the stigma and affirm the identities for so many of our friends and neighbors,” O’Donnell said in the statement. The New York bill will also remove the requirement of consent from any party other than the individual while petitioning for a change of name, the statement said.

[Senate confirms Zahid Quraishi as first Muslim American federal judge in U.S. history](#) [Clare Foran and Ali Zaslav, *CNN*, 10 June 2021]

U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey, making him the first Muslim American federal judge in U.S. history. “Mr. Quraishi will be the first American Muslim in United States history to serve as an Article III federal judge. The third largest religion in the United States, and he will become the first to ever serve as an Article III judge,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Wednesday in floor remarks ahead of the vote. “We must expand not only demographic

diversity, but professional diversity, and I know that President Biden agrees with me on this, and this will be something that I will set out to do,” Schumer said, noting how Quraishi is a “powerful” example of this. Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin said in floor remarks on Thursday that Quraishi has “had an amazing public service career,” and noted that he is “the son of Pakistani immigrants.”

[To U.S. Army, Getting Women’s Body Armor Quickly Is an Unfunded Priority](#) [Elizabeth Howe, *Government Executive*, 10 June 2021]

Fielding better-fitting body armor for female and small-statured service members has [long been](#) on the Defense Department’s to-do list. Three years ago, female veterans in Congress [introduced](#) a bill to force the issue. On Monday, DOD leaders told Congress they now have the designs and enough money to start producing the gear—but the Army has requested another \$81 million to accelerate the program by three years. That request for extra funds to “accelerate” the modernization and fielding of the personal protective equipment—submitted as part of the Army’s “unfunded mandates” wish list of items left out of the president’s defense spending request—has prompted some lawmakers to question whether the Pentagon indeed had given body armor for women the right amount of money or attention they believe it still requires.

EXTREMISM

[Alpharetta man and former Marine latest arrested in Jan. 6 Capitol riot](#) [Chris Joiner, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 10 June 2021]

An Alpharetta man online insurgent hunters dubbed “the Mad Mongrel” has been charged with multiple felonies related to the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. The FBI arrested Kevin Douglas Creek, 46, Wednesday and charged him with assaulting two police officers on the West Terrace of the Capitol where some of the most intense violence of the day occurred between rioters and police defending the building. Still images taken from police body cameras appear to show Creek punching and kicking police. According to his social media accounts, Creek is a former Marine, and he allegedly spoke about his military service during interviews with the FBI. He is the 11th person with Georgia connections arrested in the riot. So far, federal officials have charged more than 450 people with participating in the riot. Creek is the second Georgia man arrested in connection with the brutal hand-to-hand fighting on the West Terrace. In April, authorities arrested Locust Grove fencing contractor Jack Wade Whitton for allegedly punching an officer and dragging him into the crowd.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[California militia plotted “war” against police](#) [The Associated Press, 7 June 2021]

An Air Force sergeant accused of killing two law enforcement officers in California last year was part of a rightwing militia known as the Grizzly Scouts that held firearms trainings, scouted protests, and laid out terms of “war” against police, a newspaper reported Monday. The Santa Cruz Sentinel [cited court documents](#) that show the suspected gunman, Steven Carrillo, was not a lone actor but a member of an anti-government group that was preparing for more deadly attacks on law enforcement. The court filings reveal the most extensive details yet on the investigation into the May 29, 2020 fatal shooting of Federal Protective Service Officer Dave Patrick

Underwood in Oakland and the June 6, 2020 killing of Santa Cruz Sheriff Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller in an ambush in the community of Ben Lomond. Carrillo has pleaded not guilty to both killings.

[“Does anybody have a plan?” New Senate report details security, intelligence failures before Jan. 6 attack](#) [Haley BeMiller and Bart Jansen, *USA TODAY*, 8 June 2021]

A new [Senate report](#) on the Jan. 6 insurrection found U.S. intelligence officials failed to warn of potential violence at the U.S. Capitol, leaving law enforcement unprepared to contend with a violent mob that wanted to overturn the 2020 election. The report published Tuesday by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Rules committees offers a pointed assessment of security and intelligence failures surrounding the attack by former President Donald Trump’s supporters. The panels held oversight hearings, reviewed thousands of documents and received written statements from 50 Capitol Police officers as part of a probe that began earlier this year. The bipartisan group of senators noted that seven people “ultimately lost their lives” from the attack, including an officer who died from natural causes the day after being sprayed with chemicals by rioters and two officers who died by suicide in the following days.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[DOJ charges six connected to pro-Trump rallies and right-wing revolutionary group in new Capitol riot conspiracy case](#) [Katelyn Polantz, *CNN*, 10 June 2021]

Six men from California who allegedly organized themselves as a “DC Brigade,” including one man who spoke at a right-wing rally in Washington, DC, the day before the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, face new conspiracy charges from the Justice Department, according to court documents made public on Thursday. The case adds to a pile of prosecutions that investigators have pursued alleging that groups of American extremists from far-right organizations like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers worked together to plan the attack on Congress’ certification of the presidential vote. This is the first case against multiple people said to be affiliated with the Three Percenters. The alleged Three Percenter conspirators are: Alan Hostetter, of San Clemente, Russell Taylor, of Ladera Ranch, Erik Scott Warner of Menifee, Felipe Antonio “Tony” Martinez and Derek Kinnison, of Lake Elsinore, and Ronald Mele, of Temecula. Kinnison had written in an encrypted app the group used for planning that he, Martinez and Warner took part in the Three Percenters militia, which prosecutors say supported an armed revolution.

[Neo-Nazi group member linked to attack plot pleads guilty](#) [Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 10 June 2021]

A neo-Nazi group member whose talk of planning an attack at a Virginia gun rights rally was secretly recorded by the FBI pleaded guilty on Thursday to gun charges and obstruction of justice. Patrik Jordan Mathews, a 28-year-old former Canadian Armed Forces reservist, and two other members of The Base were arrested on federal charges in Maryland ahead of the January 2020 rally at Virginia’s Capitol in Richmond. Co-defendant Brian Mark Lemley Jr., a 35-year-old U.S. Army veteran from Elkton, Maryland, is scheduled to appear before the same judge on Friday for a arraignment, which typically signals a plea deal. The third defendant, William Garfield Bilbrough IV, was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty in December to helping Mathews illegally enter the U.S. from Canada in 2019. Mathews and Lemley discussed

“the planning of violence” at the Richmond rally, where thousands of gun-rights activists later gathered peacefully to protest gun-control legislation, Justice Department prosecutors said in a court filing.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[A Brief But Spectacular take on breaking the script in healthcare](#) [PBS News, 7 June 2021]

[COMMENTARY]

Think about the script we all get in health care. Are you married? Do you have kids? And now think how isolating and silencing that script can be when you don't fit. I think the language we use around health care needs to be reimaged. Dealing with a health crisis is hard for everyone, but it is even hard for LGBT seniors. If you think of our forms, our intake questions, our admission questions, they are all critical in medicine because they really tell us who a patient is, what they want, what they don't want, who they want in the room. And the challenge is, is that our questions and our forms are so scripted that they are limiting. Do you come out and risk being treated poorly, or do you stay silent and hide a fundamental part of who you are? That is a heck of a choice. So, our other option is that we break these scripts, we open them up in a way that gives people space to answer in a way that fits them.

[Do you ever feel like an impostor—and did the pandemic make it worse?](#) [Sarah DeGiulio, TODAY, 7 June 2021]

Feelings of self-doubt can sometimes trigger impostor syndrome—a sense that you're not really as smart or capable as people think you are, despite clear evidence to the contrary. For example, a prize-winning novelist experiencing impostor syndrome may think he just got lucky that people liked his first book or a medical student may worry that it was a fluke she made the cut for her class. Psychologists say that of course we might be noticing more impostor syndrome-type feelings of self-doubt; it's a perfectly natural response to what we've gone through during the pandemic. Some of the studies that were evaluated as part of a systematic review of 62 studies [published](#) in the Journal of General Internal Medicine in December 2019 suggested that up to 82% of individuals may experience impostor-type feelings.

[Naomi Osaka's withdrawal from the French Open highlights how prioritizing mental wellness goes against the rules, on the court and off](#) [Dorothy Chin and Tamra Burns Loeb, The Conversation, 3 June 2021]

Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka announced that she would withdraw from the French Open after she was fined and threatened with being disqualified for not speaking to media during the tournament to protect her mental health. French Open officials and others initially reacted not with concern but by criticizing her for not fulfilling her obligations. This occurred despite the fact that her refusal came after a first-round win, unlike others fined for skipping press conferences after losses. The evolving maelstrom that has followed weighs two priorities—the obligation to fulfill one's job requirements, which in Osaka's case includes talking to the press—and protecting one's mental wellness. As research psychologists who study the effects of culture and trauma on mental health, we're taking note of how these issues play out in Osaka's predicament.

[Workers Who Feel Powerless Get Paranoid and Aggressive](#) [Matthew Riddle, *Futurity*, 3 June 2021]

When employees lack power at work, they can feel vulnerable and paranoid. In turn, that paranoia can cause people to lash out against colleagues or family members and even seek to undermine their organization's success, according to [new research](#). "History is filled with examples of individuals with little power being subjugated and objectified, causing many people to associate low power with vulnerability," says Min-Hsuan Tu, assistant professor of organization and human resources in the University at Buffalo School of Management. To test the phenomenon, Tu and her coauthors ran five studies with more than 2,300 people. Some experiments asked participants to think about past work situations and then assessed their sense of power, paranoia, and behavior. Another study, conducted over two weeks, looked at employees in an actual organization and measured how their feelings of power each day affected their level of paranoia and their work and home lives.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[Anti-Vaccine Film Targeted To Black Americans Spreads False Information](#) [Will Stone, *NPR*, 8 June 2021]

When a filmmaker asked medical historian Naomi Rogers to appear in a new documentary, the Yale professor didn't blink. She had done these "talking head" interviews many times before. She assumed her comments would end up in a straightforward documentary that addressed some of the most pressing concerns of the pandemic, such as the legacy of racism in medicine and how that plays into current mistrust in some communities of color. The subject of vaccines was also mentioned, but the focus wasn't clear to Rogers. It wasn't until March of this year that Rogers would stumble upon the answer. She received an email from a group, called Children's Health Defense—prominent in the anti-vaccine movement—promoting its new film, "Medical Racism: The New Apartheid." When she clicked on the link and began watching the 57-minute film, she was shocked to discover this was the movie she had sat down for back in October. "I was naïve, certainly, in assuming that this was actually a documentary, which I would say it is not. I think that it is an advocacy piece for anti-vaxxers," Rogers says.

[Bill to Make Pulse Nightclub a National Memorial Hits Biden's Desk Ahead of 5 Year Anniversary](#) [Aila Slisco, *Newsweek*, 9 June 2021]

A bill memorializing the victims of 2016's mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida by officially designating the site of the shooting the National Pulse Memorial has passed Congress and is now awaiting the signature of President Joe Biden. The bill was passed on a voice vote shortly after it was introduced by Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) on Wednesday. Scott was the governor of Florida when the shooting at the LGBTQ nightclub was carried out, killing 49 people and injuring 53 others. Saturday marks the five-year anniversary of the shooting, which was the deadliest single attack targeting LGBTQ people in U.S. history.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[David Dushman, last surviving Auschwitz liberator, dies aged 98](#) [BBC News, 6 June 2021]

David Dushman, the last surviving soldier who took part in the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, has died at 98. Dushman, a Jewish Red Army veteran who later became an Olympic fencer, died in Germany on Saturday. As a 21-year-old soldier, he used his tank to mow down the camp's electric fence on 27 January 1945, helping to set its prisoners free. Dushman has said he was unaware Auschwitz existed during the war, only learning about the atrocities carried out there in the years after. One of just 69 men in his 12,000-strong division to survive the war, Mr Dushman suffered serious injuries during the conflict. His friend, IOC chief and fellow fencer Thomas Bach, paid tribute. "When we met in 1970, he immediately offered me friendship and counsel, despite Mr Dushman's personal experience with World War II and Auschwitz, and he being a man of Jewish origin," said Mr Bach, who is German.

[DOD, USO give military service members and spouses new resources for careers](#) [Scott Maucione, Federal News Network, 11 June 2021]

Military service members and spouses have a handful of new resources from the Defense Department and USO when looking for employment. The Pentagon announced late last month that it kicked off its newly enhanced [MySECO website](#), which provides career and education guidance to military spouses worldwide. A Blue Star Families [study](#) found that military spouses were especially hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic. Nearly half of working spouses lost their jobs. Spouses already contended with high unemployment rates due to the need to frequently move with their service member. DOD will also conduct its fifth annual virtual hiring fair for military spouses on June 16. The fair gives them the opportunity to chat with hiring managers from more than 100 companies all over the world.

[Once a Bastion of Free Speech, the A.C.L.U. Faces an Identity Crisis](#) [Michael Powell, The New York Times, 7 June 2021]

The A.C.L.U., America's high temple of free speech and civil liberties, has emerged as a muscular and richly funded progressive powerhouse in recent years, taking on the Trump administration in more than 400 lawsuits. But the organization finds itself riven with internal tensions over whether it has stepped away from a founding principle—unwavering devotion to the First Amendment. Its national and state staff members debate, often hotly, whether defense of speech conflicts with advocacy for a growing number of progressive causes, including voting rights, reparations, transgender rights and defunding the police. Those debates mirror those of the larger culture, where a belief in the centrality of free speech to American democracy contends with ever more forceful progressive arguments that hate speech is a form of psychological and even physical violence. These conflicts are unsettling to many of the crusading lawyers who helped build the A.C.L.U.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Silver Spring, Maryland Native Named Navy's 2021 SARC of the Year](#) [Destiny Sibert, CNIC Public Affairs, 10 June 2021]

Melissa K. Nauss, a native of Silver Spring, Maryland assigned to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Center New Orleans, was awarded the Navy's 2021 Liz Blanc Exceptional Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) of the Year Award on April 27, 2021. The Department of

Defense annually recognizes SARC professionals from each military service whose work has been noteworthy and demonstrated outstanding service in support of service members. Nauss has served as the installation SARC since February 2020, managing the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program and leading 51 victim advocates. The Navy's SAPR Program, managed by CNIC, supports victims of sexual assault through advocacy and access to numerous resources including counseling, guidance for reporting an assault and Victim's Legal Counsel, which helps victims understand the military justice process.

[There Have Been Huge Gaps in FBI Hate Crime Data for Years. A New Law Aims to Fix That.](#)

[Ken Schwencke, *ProPublica*, 4 June 2021]

On May 20, President Joe Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law. Beyond including provisions intended to combat the recent increase in bias-motivated violence against Asian Americans, the law also provides money to help states and local law enforcement agencies collect better, more comprehensive data on hate crimes. As ProPublica reported in its series Documenting Hate, the lack of reliable information for quantifying and tracking hate crimes has left authorities without a complete understanding of the scope of such incidents or the tools needed to address them. The FBI compiles national data on hate crimes, but it relies on local law enforcement to supply the underlying information. Reports of hate crimes can slip through the cracks at multiple stages in the process: Victims may not report to the police, the police may not classify reports correctly, and, in some cases, the state may simply fail to transmit the data to the FBI. In many jurisdictions, police aren't trained to understand what makes for a bias-motivated attack. There are wide disparities from agency to agency not only in what's reported but in how.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

MISCONDUCT

[Court-Martial Begins for Marine Raider Accused of Helping Murder Green Beret in Mali](#)

[Stephen Losey, *Military.com*, 7 June 2021]

The court-martial of Marine Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez in the choking death of a Green Beret during an alleged attempted hazing and sexual assault began at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, on Monday. Madera-Rodriguez, a Marine Raider, faces multiple charges under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including felony murder and involuntary manslaughter, for his alleged part in the June 4, 2017, death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar during a deployment in Bamako, Mali. He is also charged with conspiracy to commit assault, conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice, burglary, hazing and making false official statements, according to the charge sheet in the case provided by the Navy. Madera-Rodriguez's case is the last to be decided of the four special operations troops accused of involvement in Melgar's death.

[Retired Army major general reduced to second lieutenant for sex crime conviction](#) [Todd South, *Military Times*, 7 June 2021]

The defense secretary has reduced a retired Army major general to the rank of second lieutenant after he pleaded guilty last year in a Virginia court to sexually assaulting his daughter while in uniform. "The Secretary of Defense changed the retired grade of then-Major General James J. Grazioplene, United States Army Retired, to second lieutenant after determining that second

lieutenant was the highest grade in which he served on active duty satisfactorily,” Pentagon spokeswoman Lisa Lawrence told Army Times in an email Monday. “This action may not be appealed,” she wrote. “Second Lieutenant Grazioplene will maintain any benefits or privileges authorized for retired officers in the grade of second lieutenant.”

[VA Employee Pleads Guilty to Filming Coworkers in Bathroom on Hidden Camera](#) [Eric Katz, Government Executive, 7 June 2021]

A Veterans Affairs Department employee has pleaded guilty to installing a hidden camera in the restroom of the facility in Florida where he worked, which he used to secretly record images of his colleagues. Robert Sampson placed the camera in the restrooms at the VA Joint Ambulatory Care Center in Pensacola 17 times in 2019 and 2020 to film eight of his coworkers, according to the charges he admitted to last week. Sampson pled guilty to video voyeurism and disorderly conduct, confessing to using a camera disguised as a phone charger to record the images. He admitted to placing the camera, collecting video footage and watching it. VA employees noticed the camera last year and quickly alerted department police. Sampson attempted to “wrestle the employees for control of the device,” according to Justice Department prosecutors. Sampson’s crimes were initially investigated by VA police who responded to the disturbance and it was later passed on to the department’s inspector general.

RACISM

[AP: Louisiana police unit probed over Black driver arrests](#) [Jim Mustian, *The Associated Press*, 9 June 2021]

*The same Louisiana State Police unit whose troopers stunned, punched and dragged Ronald Greene on video during a deadly 2019 arrest is now under internal investigation by a secret panel over whether its officers are systematically targeting Black motorists for abuse. The panel, whose existence was confirmed to *The Associated Press* by four people familiar with it, was set up in response to Greene’s death as well as three other violent stops of Black men: one who was punched, stunned and hoisted to his feet by his hair braids in a body-camera video obtained by the AP, another who was beaten after he was handcuffed, and yet another who was slammed 18 times with a flashlight. The review is focused on Louisiana State Police Troop F, a 66-officer unit that patrols a sprawling territory in the northeastern part of the state and has become notorious in recent years for alleged acts of brutality that have resulted in felony charges against some of its troopers. “You’d be naïve to think it’s limited to two or three instances. That’s why you’re seeing this audit, which is a substantial undertaking by any agency,” said Rafael Goyeneche, a former prosecutor who is president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, a New Orleans-based watchdog group. “They’ve got to identify these people and remove them from the organization.”*

[“Bigotry exists in our communities”: Florida man faces 30 years in prison for racist slurs against Asian American family](#) [Frank Fernandez, *The Daytona Beach News-Journal* (Daytona Beach, Fla.), 10 June 2021]

A man who scrawled racial slurs against Asians on a Florida family’s vehicles and placed nails in their driveway could get up to 30 years in prison after he was convicted this week of hate crimes. Kyle Christiansen, 34, of Daytona Beach, Florida, was convicted by a jury of two counts

of criminal mischief with hate crime enhancements. He is scheduled to be sentenced on July 13 by Circuit Judge Dennis Craig. The hate crime enhancement increased the crimes from third-degree felonies punishable by up to five years in prison each to second-degree felonies punishable by up to 15 years in prison each. According to a police report, the racist Asian slurs were painted in orange last July on the side of a black pickup truck belonging to a male family member. An Asian slur was also painted on the man's sister-in-law's gray Honda sedan parked outside the house. Nails were also placed on the driveway.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“Pain and shame” explain why Bloody Tuesday remains less-known](#) [Mark Hughes Cobb, *The Tuscaloosa News*, (Tuscaloosa, Ala.), 9 June 2021]

Aside from the dread of dwelling on not-so-long-ago days of infamy, those feelings help explain why Tuscaloosa's Bloody Tuesday doesn't as easily spring to mind as Selma's Bloody Sunday, according to John Giggie, who's writing the book. “It's either shame or it's pain,” said Giggie, University of Alabama history associate professor, and director of the Summersell Center for the Study of the South, who has plumbed media accounts and official records, and compiled almost 100 oral histories for his upcoming book “Bloody Tuesday: Civil Rights History and Memory in Tuscaloosa.” Of the more than 500 people who gathered at First African Baptist Church on June 9, 1964, to march to the then-new Tuscaloosa County Courthouse, protesting Jim Crow signage, 94 were arrested. Men, women and children were beaten with batons and baseball bats, shocked by cattle prods, tear-gassed within their own sanctuary, 33 wounded badly enough to require hospitalization. The shame stems from those standing on the wrong side of history, whether law enforcement, or deputized for that day, or clustered as a mob intent on preventing peaceful assembly.

[Principal resigns after students reenact George Floyd's murder in racist Snapchat sendoff for graduates](#) [Timothy Bella, *The Washington Post*, 8 June 2021]

Nearly a year after George Floyd's killing set off a racial reckoning in the United States, a group of high school students outside Denver apparently thought the Black man's murder was a joke. They thought it was so amusing that they took to Snapchat. As classes at Mead High School in Longmont, Colo., were about to conclude for the summer, a trio of male students there published an image of them reenacting Floyd's murder in the school's parking lot last month. Two of them had their knees on their classmate's neck and back. The teen who was supposed to be Floyd, 46, was in blackface and lying motionless on the ground. “Bye senoirs [sic],” the caption read, with a hand-waving emoji to the class of 2021. Infuriated classmates took and shared screenshots of the post, which set off weeks of protests and calls for action against what some students claimed is a culture of racism at the school, which is 35 miles north of Denver.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Study: Hispanics face longer traffic stops in metro Phoenix](#) [Jacques Billeaud, *The Associated Press*, 10 June 2021]

Traffic stops of Hispanic drivers by the sheriff's office in metro Phoenix were more likely to last longer and result in searches or arrests than those of White drivers, according to a new study eight years after the agency was found to have racially profiled Hispanics in immigration

crackdowns. The report released Tuesday echoes some of the same conclusions from past traffic enforcement studies aimed at identifying signs of racial bias in stops by Maricopa County Sheriff Paul Penzone’s office. The agency is required to produce the reports as one of the remedies to a 2013 verdict that found officers profiled Hispanics in then-Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s traffic patrols that targeted immigrants. Though the study doesn’t conclude officers are still profiling Latinos, it said the enforcement disparities are concerning “because they identify possible systematic racial bias and its effect on our community.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

RELIGION

[DOJ says it can “vigorously” defend exemption to anti-LGBT discrimination laws for religious schools](#) [Michelle Boorstein, *The Hill*, 9 June 2021]

*The Department of Justice (DOJ) said in a court filing this week it can “vigorously” defend an exemption to anti-LGBT discrimination laws for religious schools amid a lawsuit over funding for such institutions. The [filing Tuesday](#) noted that the DOJ’s “ultimate objective is to defend the statutory exemption and its current application” by the Department of Education (DOE), which is being sued by 40 LGBT students. The students, who attend conservative religious schools, are suing the department for providing funding to colleges and universities that they say have discriminatory policies. The schools in the lawsuit—*Hunter v. Department of Education*—[argue that they have](#) the First Amendment right to promote their own religious beliefs on sexuality and gender. The Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU), which counts many of the schools named in the lawsuit as members, said in May that they could not trust the Biden administration to fully defend them and pushed to get involved in the case, [The Washington Post noted](#).*

[SEE ALSO: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

[A Man Ran Over A Muslim Family With His Truck Because Of Their Religion, Police Say](#) [NPR, 8 June 2021]

A driver plowed a pickup truck into a family of five, killing four of them and seriously injuring the other in a deliberate attack that targeted the victims because they were Muslims, Canadian police said Monday. Authorities said a young man was arrested in the parking lot of a nearby mall after the incident Sunday night in the Ontario city of London. Police said a black pickup truck mounted a curb and struck the victims at an intersection. “This was an act of mass murder perpetrated against Muslims,” Mayor Ed Holder said. “It was rooted in unspeakable hatred.” The family said in its statement that the public needs to stand against hate and Islamophobia. “This young man who committed this act of terror was influenced by a group that he associated with, and the rest of the community must take a strong stand against this, from the highest levels in our government to every member of the community,” the statement said. Nathaniel Veltman, 20, was in custody facing four counts of first-degree murder.

[She’s Running for New York City Council. But Newspapers Won’t Publish Her Photo.](#) [Hannah Dreyfus, *Politico*, 9 June 2021]

In all but one way, Amber Adler is running a pretty normal campaign for New York city council. She knocks on doors and attends rallies; she campaigns outside of grocery stores and subway stations; she puts posters up across her district and places ads in local newspapers. But look for a picture of her face in one of those local papers, and you're not likely to find one. Why not? Because most of the magazines and newspapers in her neighborhood refuse to publish her photo. Adler, 37, is the first Orthodox Jewish woman to run for city council in her Brooklyn district, which includes ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods scattered throughout Borough Park and Midwood. And as she heads toward her June 22 primary, she's a victim of a fairly recent trend among Jewish media outlets in Orthodox neighborhoods in the United States: a refusal to publish photographs of women and girls for religious reasons. Which means if Adler wants campaign ads printed in the Jewish news, she can't be in most of them.

[Why it matters that 7 states still have bans on atheists holding office](#) [Kristina M. Lee, *The Conversation*, 4 June 2021] [COMMENTARY]

Tennessee's Constitution includes a provision that bars three groups from holding office: atheists, ministers and those engaging in duels. Efforts are under way in the state legislature to remove this exclusion for ministers, but not for duelists—or atheists. Although superseded by Supreme Court rulings, such bans are important. As a scholar of religious and political rhetoric who focuses on the marginalization of U.S. atheists, I believe they reflect the normalization of anti-atheism that has yet to be truly dealt with, or rarely acknowledged, in the United States. To many Americans, beliefs in God and Americanism has become synonymous. A 2015 survey found that 69% of respondents thought it was important to believe in God to be “truly American.” And Americans are expected to embrace national slogans such as “In God We Trust” and “one nation, under God.” Politicians are regularly asked to participate in public prayers to God before official meetings. And while they can request otherwise, the default assumption is that Americans will make an oath to God when taking public office or testifying in court.

SEXISM

[The Army Does Not Need a Better Fitness Test. It Needs a Better Culture](#) [Sgt. 1st Class Robert W. Frisina, *Military.com*, 11 June 2021] [OPINION]

Military.com's recent report that more than half of female soldiers are still falling short on the Army Combat Fitness Test, and 44% have failed, shouldn't come as much of a surprise to any service leader who has been paying attention to implementation efforts. It has been documented repeatedly that the Army, while attempting to create a gender—and age-neutral test—might inadvertently have skewed it unfavorably against women. Change is hard. But the rampant criticism of the ACFT prompts a question: Is there a physical fitness test that could overcome all that resistance to change? Regardless of how you may personally feel, there has to be an acknowledgment that the current Army Physical Fitness Test is flawed. I would hope that, in the 41 years since the APFT was first implemented as a test of record, we have gained a greater understanding of physical science.

[Congress considers future of the military draft, while Supreme Court holds off](#) [Max Margulies and Amy Rutenberg, *The Conversation*, 7 June 2021] [OPINION]

The Supreme Court has declined to hear arguments in the case of National Coalition for Men v. Selective Service System. In doing so, it acceded to the Biden administration’s wishes that it not address the question of whether women should join the millions of young men required to register each year with the Selective Service—the federal agency responsible for the draft. It will now be up to Congress to decide what, if anything, to do with the law governing registration and the draft. As scholars of the draft, we have seen Congress grappling with the question of selective service for years. A bill to include women in the draft was introduced in 2020 after a national commission studied the issue for four years. Congress is also considering two other proposals to dismantle the entire Selective Service System. The future of the draft, and registration for it, depends on two questions. One is about the role of women, but the bigger one is about the role of the registration itself.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[For women, battlefield airmen jobs remain a distant target five years after integration](#) [Rachel Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 5 June 2021]

More than five years after the Defense Department lifted its ban on women in ground combat roles, the Air Force hasn’t managed to move the needle on female representation in the remaining all-male career fields. The Pentagon in 2013 began the process of allowing women into ground combat assignments in special operations and long-range reconnaissance units, including nearly 5,000 Air Force positions that had been closed to female airmen. Those jobs spanned special tactics officers, combat rescue officers, enlisted special reconnaissance airmen, combat controllers, enlisted tactical air control party airmen and pararescuemen. An easy fix that could have a big impact is giving U.S. Special Operations Command and its components more power over who they bring in, said Emma Moore, an expert on military personnel policies and readiness currently at the Brute Krulak Center for Innovation and Creativity at Marine Corps University. Military recruitment should work harder to counteract narratives that special ops members are “big, muscly, bearded men shooting things,” while women are administrative staffers, intelligence analysts or a romantic interest, Moore said.

[High court won’t review men-only draft registration law](#) [Jessica Gresko, *The Associated Press*, 7 June 2021]

The Supreme Court on Monday said it won’t take up a case that asked it to decide whether it’s sex discrimination for the government to require only men to register for the draft when they turn 18. In a statement, three justices said Congress is weighing whether to change the Military Selective Service Act, which requires men but not women to register for the draft. They said that was a reason for the court not to take the case. “It remains to be seen, of course, whether Congress will end gender-based registration under the Military Selective Act. But at least for now, the Court’s longstanding deference to Congress on matters of national defense and military affairs cautions against granting review while Congress actively weighs the issue,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in a statement for herself, Justice Stephen Breyer and Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Austin signals intent to recommend changes to military sexual assault prosecutions](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 19 June 2021]

In testimony before senators who are working on legislation to remove sexual assault prosecutions from a commander's authority, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin implied he intends to recommend to the president that the military's legal system be altered in some related way. It's been roughly six weeks since an independent review commission recommended that Austin take steps in that direction, but since then, he has taken time to gather opinions from the service chiefs and secretaries, not setting a deadline for his final decision. "I want to be sure that whatever changes to the [Uniform Code of Military Justice] I recommend to the president—and ultimately to this committee—are scoped to the problem we are trying to solve, have a clear way forward on implementation, and ultimately restore the confidence of the force in the system," Austin said in prepared remarks to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday. While Austin is looking specifically at whether to remove sexual assault and harassment cases from the chain of command, to be handled by professional military prosecutors, the Senate is considering a bill that would take all felony offenses out of a commanding officer's hands.

[Water polo players get \\$14 million in sex abuse settlement](#) [Brian Melley, *The Associated Press*, 7 June 2021]

A dozen female water polo players who accused their coach of sexual abuse will split nearly \$14 million after settling a lawsuit against USA Water Polo and a California club. The athletes alleged that International Water Polo Club and the national governing body for the sport failed to protect them from abuse by coach Bahram Hojreh from 2012 to 2017. The \$13.85 settlement with USA Water Polo and International Water Polo Club was filed Friday in Orange County Superior Court. It is being paid by the insurer for both organizations. Hojreh, 45, has pleaded not guilty to 34 counts of sexual abuse involving 10 victims, nine of whom were children at the time of the acts. The alleged crimes occurred during one-on-one coaching sessions, prosecutors said.

VETERANS

[Air Force's last serving prisoner of war, shot down in Desert Storm, retires after 33 years](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 9 June 2021]

Few people have earned their retirement more than Air Force Lt. Col. Rob Sweet, an A-10 attack plane pilot with the 476th Fighter Group who flew his final flight at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, on Saturday. Over the course of his 33-year flying career, Sweet destroyed Iraqi tanks in Operation Desert Storm, survived 19 days as a prisoner of war after being shot down outside Basra, then came back to mentor countless young pilots as he rose through the ranks. It may come as a surprise to some that there were any prisoners of war still serving in the military. But Sweet still remembers his own capture clearly. Sweet tore his Achilles tendon upon landing, then the real misery began. The airman received seven rifle butts to the head from Iraqi soldiers before a few officers dragged him away. Over the next 17 days, Sweet endured beatings, starvation, diseases, and just plain boredom sitting on the stone floor of his 8 by 15 foot prison cell. Thankfully, on March 6, Sweet was released along with 15 other American prisoners, 19 days later and 13 pounds lighter than when he was captured.

[Censored veteran will get another chance to give speech](#) [*The Associated Press*, 9 June 2021]

A retired U.S. Army officer whose speech about freed Black slaves honoring fallen Civil War soldiers was censored by organizers of a Memorial Day ceremony will get another chance to deliver it. The American Legion Department of Ohio said it has invited retired Army Lt. Col. Barnard Kemter to speak next week at the organization's Buckeye Boys State, an annual gathering that teaches young men about government. Kemter was speaking at a Memorial Day event hosted by a local American Legion post in northeastern Ohio when his microphone was turned off as he talked about the role Black people played in how Memorial Day began. Two of the event's organizers later resigned under pressure after Ohio American Legion officials said the decision censoring the speech was premeditated and planned.

[Normandy commemorates D-Day with small crowds, but big heart](#) [*Sylvie Corbet, The Associated Press*, 6 June 2021]

The 77th anniversary of D-Day was marked Sunday with several events to commemorate the decisive assault that led to the liberation of France and Western Europe from Nazi control, and honor those who fell. "These are the men who enabled liberty to regain a foothold on the European continent, and who in the days and weeks that followed lifted the shackles of tyranny, hedgerow by Normandy hedgerow, mile by bloody mile," Britain's ambassador to France, Lord Edward Llewellyn, said at the inauguration of a new British monument to D-Day's heroes. On D-Day, more than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold, carried by 7,000 boats. This year on June 6, the beaches stood vast and nearly empty as the sun emerged, exactly 77 years since the dawn invasion.

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

[Sailor who died at Pearl Harbor laid to rest in St. Louis nearly 80 years after his death](#) [*Katie Kull, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 9 June 2021]

The name on the gravestone was "Unknown." The body beneath it was a Navy mess attendant from Woodson, Arkansas, who enlisted at 17 to get out of his small town and find opportunity. The teenager died on the U.S.S. Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941, when Japanese fighters bombed Pearl Harbor. His parents, sister and two brothers were buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, but his body remained, unidentified, in Hawaii for nearly 80 years. But recently, U.S. defense department officials tasked with identifying those killed in war ran tests on the teen's remains. Isaac Parker was ready to come home. On Tuesday, 97 years to the day Parker was born, a procession of family members, some from the St. Louis area, rolled into Jefferson Barracks, welcomed by sailors dressed in white and a rifle salute.

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