

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 25 JUNE 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

[7,000 troops died in the Post-9/11 wars. A staggering 30,000 died by suicide](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 22 June 2021]

*The number of veterans and service members who have died by suicide since Sept. 11, 2001 is more than quadruple the number who have died in Post-9/11 wars, according to a [new study](#) released on Monday by Brown University's Costs of War project. The study estimates that 7,057 service members have been killed in post-9/11 war operations, while 30,177 active duty service members and veterans have died by suicide. The 35-page study breaks down how traumatic brain injuries, better medical treatment of wartime injuries, an indifferent civilian public, and the protracted length of the post-9/11 wars have all piled on each other to drive the rate of military and veteran suicide numbers past civilian counterparts. The Cost of War study comes at a time when news of military and veteran suicide numbers continues to go from bad to worse. For example, last fall, a [DOD report](#) showed that the overall rate of deaths by suicide across the services rose from 20.2 deaths per 100,000 in 2015 to 25.9 in 2019. [More recent reporting](#) shows that the number of active duty service members who died by suicide rose for the fourth year in a row in 2020, and the number of reservists who died by suicide also rose.*

[[SEE ALSO](#)]

[Defense Secretary Says He'll Support Removing Sexual Offense Cases From Commanders](#) [Vanessa Romo, *NPR*, 22 June 2021]

*Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced he will support changes to the military justice system that would take sexual assault cases away from the chain of command and let independent military lawyers handle them. In a [statement](#) on Tuesday, Austin said he will present President Biden with a series of recommendations aiming to "finally end the scourge of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military." It's a seismic shift that requires amending the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which no other secretary of defense has been willing to do. Austin's announcement follows a [report](#) by the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, whose mandate from Biden was to find solutions to improve accountability, prevention, climate and culture, and victim care and support involved in such cases. Austin noted, "The IRC recommended the inclusion of other special victims' crimes inside this independent prosecution system, to include domestic violence. I support this as well, given the strong correlation between these sorts of crimes and the prevalence of sexual assault."*

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

[This is the Army's updated policy for transgender soldiers](#) [Haley Brtizky, *Task & Purpose*, 24 June 2021]

*Transgender individuals are once again welcome to serve in the U.S. Army, and do so in their self-identified gender, the [Army announced on Thursday](#). "A soldier's gender identity will no longer be a basis for involuntary separation or military discharge, denied reenlistment or continuation of service, or subjected to adverse action or mistreatment," according to a press release from the service. The new policy directive states that military medical providers "will diagnose and provide medically necessary care and treatment for transgender soldiers," and that if a soldier receives a diagnosis "that gender transition is medically necessary," they will be provided that care. It also says individuals must meet a requirement of 18 months of stability in their self-identified gender, and they will be able to serve in their self-identified gender. The update is a reversal of previous guidance from former President Donald Trump's administration, which said individuals were disqualified from the military unless they had been stable for 36 months and hadn't yet medically transitioned to a new gender.*

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## CULTURE

[Actor Michael B. Jordan apologizes for “J’Ouvert rum” and will change its name](#) [David K. Li and Stefan Sykes, *NBC News*, 23 June 2021]

*Actor Michael B. Jordan apologized Tuesday for naming his new brand of rum after a Caribbean festival, sparking allegations of cultural appropriation against the “Creed” star. His “J’Ouvert rum” shares the same name as a celebration that has 18th-century roots in Trinidad, when the island was controlled by French colonizers who kept slaves to toil in the sugar, coffee, and cotton industries. The 34-year-old “Friday Night Lights” star said he understood the backlash and promised to change the rum’s name. The withering backlash appeared to be fueled by Nicki Minaj, the Trinidadian-born, New York-raised rapper and singer-songwriter. About six hours before Jordan’s message, Minaj—with 142 million Instagram followers—shared an extensive IG post by the Trinidadian artist Xaria Rae Roxburgh who explained the festival’s sobering ties to slavery.*

[Biden signs law designating Pulse nightclub site a national memorial](#) [Michael Collins, *USA TODAY*, 25 June 2021]

*A nightclub that was the site of a horrific shooting in Florida became a national memorial Friday. President Joe Biden signed a law designating the Pulse nightclub in Orlando as a national memorial. Survivors of the 2016 shooting and the victims’ family members attended the signing ceremony at the White House. “May no president ever have to sign another monument like this,” Biden said as he signed the law as survivors stood around him with pictures of those killed hanging on the walls. The Pulse nightclub law is part of an effort to build a permanent memorial at the site in honor of the 49 people gunned down five years ago by a man armed with an AR-15-style assault rifle. Plans call for a reflecting pool, an open-air museum and an education center with gardens and a public plaza.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Civil rights trail book aims to make history easy to digest](#) [Kate Brumback, *The Associated Press*, 23 June 2021]

*By highlighting cities that played host to significant events during the civil rights movement, a new book aims to make that complex history easier to understand and to pass its legacy on to younger generations. “The Official United States Civil Rights Trail” companion book includes a timeline of events from 1954 through 1969 and a list of more than 120 civil rights landmarks as well as featuring 14 cities where people can visit sites that help bring that history to life. Author Lee Sentell, director of the Alabama Tourism Department, said he wanted to break the history down into easily digestible pieces. “We wanted to make it easy for people to understand things about civil rights that they didn’t know before, and so we decided to divide it up by cities where there are a major number of places to visit, not just where something happened but where people can go and visit and learn the story,” Sentell said. He spoke in an interview Wednesday outside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birth home in Atlanta before an event launching the book.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[EXPLAINER: So much buzz, but what is critical race theory?](#) [Bryan Anderson, *The Associated Press*, 24 June 2021]

*Former President Donald Trump has railed against it. Republicans in the U.S. Senate introduced a resolution condemning any requirement for teachers to be trained in it. And several Republican-controlled states have invoked it in legislation restricting how race can be taught in public schools. The concept known as critical race theory is the new lightning rod of the GOP. But what exactly is it? The term seemed to appear in statehouses and at political rallies almost from nowhere. Over the past few months, it has morphed from an obscure academic discussion point on the left into a political rallying cry on the right. On Wednesday, for instance, critical race theory became a flashpoint during a congressional hearing into the military's approach to addressing racism and extremism, when Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pushed back forcefully against accusations by Republican lawmakers that the effort is creating division and hurting morale. Yet, even those who condemn or seek to ban critical race theory in schools often struggle to define what it is. Real-world examples of students being indoctrinated in its principles are difficult to find.*

[Harlem Globetrotters To The NBA: "Don't Get It Twisted," Make Us A Pro Franchise Now](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, *NPR*, 23 June 2021]

*In an open letter to NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, the Harlem Globetrotters called on Silver to recognize the team's decades of contributions to the league. "As the NBA grew, you were able to attract the best Black players, but we remember who helped the NBA get it all started," the letter read. It went on to say, "You can't just act like we don't exist anymore. It's time to right the wrongs and rewrite history. It's time for the NBA to honor what the Globetrotters have done for OUR sport, both here in the U.S. and around the globe." The team is an exhibition basketball team and, since its inception in 1926, has won 27,000 games and played in 123 countries. The team said in its letter it believes it is on par with the other professional teams out there today. Notable players such as Wilt Chamberlain, Connie Hawkins and Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton got their start with the Globetrotters before eventually ending up in the NBA.*

[Historic alliance: Marriage between U.S., South Korean army officers is first of its kind](#) [David Choi, *Stars and Stripes*, 22 June 2021]

*South Korean army Capt. Ha Neul laughed as she recalled meeting her husband, U.S. Army Capt. Miles Gabrielson, last year. The bond between Ha, 31, and Gabrielson, 29, both artillery officers, formed in May 2020 after the pair was tasked with one of the most mundane duties in the military: creating a PowerPoint presentation. While relationships between Americans and Koreans are not uncommon, the couple's Feb. 20 union became the first of its kind: a marriage between active-duty officers in the U.S. and Korean armies, according to the 2nd Infantry Division. Nothing prohibits a marriage between active-duty service members from the two countries, a spokesperson for the combined division told *Stars and Stripes* on a customary condition of anonymity. She said Gabrielson and Ha, who are of the same rank, went through the proper channels to get their marriage certified. They exchanged vows at a Catholic church in Busan, about 220 miles south of Camp Casey. The ceremony included a Korean-style reception with Ha and Gabrielson wearing traditional Korean clothing.*

[“How Do We Not Know This Story?”: Brutal Incident From Civil Rights History Uncovered In “The Blinding Of Isaac Woodard”](#) [Matthew Carey, *Deadline*, 22 June 2021]

*In 1946, it took the blinding of an African-American Army veteran to get some White Americans to see—from a federal judge to the president of the United States. It was February of that year when 27-year-old Isaac Woodard stepped aboard a Greyhound bus in Augusta, GA, for a trip home to South Carolina, just hours after his discharge from serving in World War II. The journey would take him through the Jim Crow South, into a dark terrain of racial hatred. At one point en route, Woodard inquired about the next opportunity for a restroom break. The bus driver responded “disrespectfully,” according to Jamila Ephron, director of the documentary *The Blinding of Isaac Woodard*. “Woodard stood up for himself and insisted that he be treated like a man and that he was a man just like the bus driver,” Ephron tells *Deadline*. “And that was a very risky thing to do at this point in history.” The Emmy-contending film, part of the acclaimed PBS series *American Experience*, explores the ugly attack that happened next and how that incident would go on to profoundly impact American history.*

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

[How Does a College Decide Whether to Change Its Name?](#) [Sarah Brown, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 14 June 2021]

*On Monday, a committee at Dixie State University recommended changing the institution’s name to Utah Polytechnic State University, the latest step in a painful process to distance itself from its 100-year association with “Dixie,” which evokes the slaveholding South. More than 2,000 miles away, in Lexington, Va., Washington and Lee University’s board decided this month to keep the college’s contentious name, ending—for now—a fraught debate over whether the 272-year-old institution should continue to honor Robert E. Lee, the Confederate general who fought for the cause of slavery. Elsewhere in Virginia, three community colleges have decided to rename themselves, disavowing their association with historical figures who enslaved people or held racist views. Two other campuses initially said they didn’t want to change their names, but under pressure from the state community-college board, they’re reconsidering. Many colleges have stripped names from campus buildings because they celebrated controversial aspects of U.S. history. But actually renaming a college is more complicated.*

[How the U.S. Military Helped Create the Juneteenth Holiday](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 19 June 2021]

*One of the federal government’s first attacks on slavery during the war was an “Act to Secure Freedom to All Persons Within the Territories of the United States,” passed on June 19, 1862. Exactly three years later, Gen. Gordon Granger would sail into Galveston, Texas, to read the Emancipation Proclamation to the people of Texas. The day would become known as “Juneteenth” and would be celebrated as a holiday—a second independence day—for former slaves. On June 19, 1865, Granger read the words written by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. Texas was the last state in the defeated Confederacy to hear them. Lincoln’s executive order didn’t end slavery in the United States. It did mean that when the Union Army came rolling into a Confederate-controlled area, the slaves in that area would be set free. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth a federal holiday, commemorating the*

*end of slavery in the United States. It's the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created in 1983.*

[Iowa county now named for Black dean, not slave-owning VP](#) [Ryan J. Foley, *The Associated Press*, 24 June 2021]

*Iowa's most liberal county is no longer named for a slave-owning U.S. vice president and instead will honor a trailblazing local Black academic. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors voted Thursday to cut ties with its two-century namesake, former Vice President Richard Mentor Johnson, a lifelong slave owner from Kentucky who took credit for killing a Shawnee chief during an 1805 battle. The Wisconsin Territorial Legislature named the county after Johnson in 1837, when he was serving under President Martin Van Buren, years before Iowa became state. Johnson had no personal ties to the county. Supervisors decided the county is now named for the late historian and university administrator Lulu Merle Johnson, a native of Gravity, Iowa, whose father was born into slavery. She was one of the only African American women enrolled at the University of Iowa in 1925 and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in history by 1930 despite facing open discrimination.*

[James Corden's "Spill Your Guts" segment is facing criticism for being culturally insensitive](#) [Harmeet Kaur, *CNN*, 24 June 2021]

*Balut is a dish that Kim Saira grew up eating with her grandmother and her cousins. So when she first saw the Filipino street food snack featured a few years ago among a slate of purportedly unappetizing dishes on "Spill Your Guts or Fill Your Guts"—a recurring segment on "The Late Late Show with James Corden," she was a little thrown off. I wasn't mad about it, but I was more so confused," Saira, a 24-year-old Filipina and Chinese American activist, said. "I was just wondering why they used a food that was so sentimental to my culture." It wasn't just balut. Other episodes featured chicken feet, used in cuisines around the world; thousand-year-old eggs, a Chinese delicacy; and bird saliva, an ingredient Saira herself has eaten in soup. The recent rise in hate and racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, though, got Saira thinking about "The Late Late Show" segment in a different light. She started questioning why it was still socially acceptable for Corden to present dishes routinely eaten by Asian people as "disgusting."*

[Man who gave tortillas thrown at game denies racist intent](#) [*The Associated Press*, 24 June 2021]

*A California man who claims he provided the tortillas that San Diego-area high school students threw at the basketball team of a mostly Latino high school last weekend has said that his intentions were not racist. Coronado High School alumnus Luke Serna said he gave packs of tortillas to players for a celebration and that throwing them was a tradition at University of California, Santa Barbara, where he attended, *The San Diego Union-Tribune* reported. In a statement posted online, Serna said the tortillas were thrown after the game was over and a confrontation broke out between players of the two teams. "There was absolutely no racial intent behind that action," he wrote. The Coronado Unified School Board voted unanimously this week to release coach J.D. Laaperi following Saturday's division championship game, where mostly White Coronado High School beat visiting Orange Glen 60-57 in overtime. There was a squabble between coaching staff from both schools. Video widely shared on social media showed at least*

two Coronado students throwing tortillas into the air toward the other team. The incident sparked a local outcry from some community activists and has drawn national attention.

[MLK estate reaches publishing agreement with HarperCollins](#) [Hillel Italie, *The Associated Press*, 22 June 2021]

*The estate of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. has reached an international agreement with HarperCollins Publishers, which released his first book more than 60 years ago, for rights to his archive. "The King Estate is pleased to return the publishing rights to Dr. King's literary archive to his original publisher," the manager of King's estate, Eric Tidwell, said in a statement Tuesday. "Dr. King's prophetic message of peace, hope, love and equality continue to impact the world today. That message is needed now more than ever. We look forward to utilizing HarperCollins' global footprint to continue the perpetuation of Dr. King's wonderful legacy through new creative literary projects." The King estate had been publishing since 2009 with Beacon Press, including the late civil rights leader's first work, "Stride Toward Freedom." That account of the 1955-'56 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott helped bring him national prominence. "Stride Toward Freedom" was first released in 1958 by what was then Harper & Brothers. Beacon also released editions of King's speeches and sermons, among other books.*

[Theodore Roosevelt statue at New York museum to be relocated](#) [*The Associated Press*, 23 June 2021]

*A prominent statue of Theodore Roosevelt at the entrance of The American Museum of Natural History will be removed after years of criticism that it symbolizes colonial subjugation and racial discrimination. The New York City Public Design Commission voted unanimously Monday to relocate the statue, which depicts the former president on horseback with a Native American man and an African man flanking the horse, according to *The New York Times*. The newspaper said the statue will go to a yet-to-be-designated cultural institution dedicated to Roosevelt's life and legacy. The bronze statue has stood at the museum's Central Park West entrance since 1940. Sam Biederman of the New York City Parks Department said at the meeting Monday that although the statue "was not erected with malice of intent," its composition "supports a thematic framework of colonization and racism," according to *The Times*. Roosevelt, a pioneering conservationist, was a founding member of the institution.*

[Top general fires back at "offensive" criticism of military being "woke"](#) [Connor O'Brien, *Politico*, 23 June 2021]

*The military's top officer on Wednesday [pushed back](#) against GOP lawmakers who said the Pentagon's efforts to combat racism and promote diversity have made the armed forces too "woke." Joint Chiefs Chair Gen. Mark Milley gave a fiery defense of open-mindedness in the ranks during a House Armed Services hearing, saying he's offended at the accusation that those efforts have undercut the military's mission and cohesiveness. Milley, who was testifying alongside Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at a hearing on the defense budget, was responding to a pair of Republican lawmakers arguing the Pentagon had embraced critical race theory, such as its inclusion in some courses at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. "I personally find it offensive that we are accusing the United States military ... of being 'woke' or something else because we're studying some theories that are out there," Milley said. The four-star general told*

*lawmakers that service members should be “open-minded and be widely read” because service members “come from the American people” and said he wanted to better understand racism as well as the climate that led to the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection.*

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

[Why Nellis Air Force Base held its first ever drag show](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 24 June 2021]

*Nellis Air Force Base made history last week for hosting its first ever drag show, where guests from the local Las Vegas drag scene performed and took attendees through the history and significance of drag within the LGBT+ community. The event was planned by the Nellis Air Force Base Pride committee, which is composed of volunteers from across the base focused on diversity and inclusion initiatives, said Nellis spokesman Lt. Col. Bryon McGarry. It was sponsored by the Nellis Top 3, a private group meant to “enhance the morale, esprit de corps, of all enlisted personnel assigned to the [99th Air Base] Wing and to facilitate cooperation between members of the top three enlisted grades,” according to the group’s Facebook page. While the practice dates back to at least the Elizabethan era in England, it really took off in the 1920s with performers like Judy Garland and Marlene Dietrich, women who popularized male dress for women, according to the encyclopedia. Drag took on a political connotation after the Stonewall rebellion in New York City in 1969, which was led by cross-dressers and drag queens and is considered the start of the modern gay rights movement.*

[Why the U.S. Navy wants sailors to read “How To Be An Antiracist”](#) [Paul Szoldra, *Task & Purpose*, 23 June 2021]

*The Navy’s top admiral says he urged sailors to read books like Ibram X. Kendi’s “How To Be An Antiracist” in response to conversations with sailors after the murder of George Floyd. “The reason why that’s on the list is because we set up a task force called Task Force One Navy after George Floyd’s murder,” said Adm. Michael Gilday, the chief of naval operations, in testimony to the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday. “And that essentially came down to conversations in small groups at every command in the Navy so that people could tell their stories. Courageously come forward and tell their stories.” Approximately 1 in 5 sailors reported racial discrimination on their assigned aircraft carrier in 2019, according to internal Navy surveys obtained by the Associated Press. Nearly a third reported hearing racial slurs, comments, and jokes aboard these ships, which function as floating cities with crews of roughly 5,000 people. The [CNO’s voluntary reading list](#) of more than 50 books also includes reads on artificial intelligence and autonomous weapons, guides on China’s rise and how it affects maritime strategy, and history books profiling Navy leaders or offering insights into World War II naval battles.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Bill would ban discrimination against LGTBQ jurors](#) [The Associated Press, 20 June 2021]

*Discrimination would be prohibited against jurors in federal courts on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity under a bill reintroduced by U.S. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and Susan Collins of Maine. “It’s a stain on our judicial system that federal law*

*doesn't protect LGBT jurors from discrimination," Shaheen, a Democrat, said in a statement Friday. "I'm committed to righting this wrong and ensuring our judicial process is free from prejudice so our nation can fulfill the values it espouses." Collins, a Republican, said serving on a jury "is a fundamental right and obligation that no individuals should be prohibited from fulfilling based on their sexual orientation or gender identity." The United States Code currently prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin and economic status. Eleven states prohibit exclusion from jury service in state court based on sexual orientation; eight protect against discrimination based on gender identity.*

### [CBS News poll: Despite progress, most Americans say LGBTQ discrimination still exists](#)

[Jennifer De Pinto, CBS News, 22 June 2021]

*A big majority of Americans—nearly 8 in 10—say the last 50 years have brought progress in ending discrimination against LGBTQ people. However, most also feel some discrimination still exists in society today. Majorities think at least some discrimination exists today against people who are gay and lesbian and those who are transgender, and comparatively, more see “a lot” of discrimination against transgender people specifically. During the earlier days of the debate over same-sex marriage and before it was legal nationwide, our polling found people who knew someone who is gay or lesbian were more supportive of legal marriage for same-sex couples compared to those who did not know someone. And in 2013, when those who once opposed same-sex marriage were asked why they changed their mind to supporting it, knowing someone who was gay or lesbian was among the top answers given. Today, same sex marriage is supported by a majority of Americans and has been for nearly a decade.*

### [In Suing Georgia, Justice Department Says State's New Voting Law Targets Black Voters](#)

[Barbara Sprunt, NPR, 25 June 2021]

*Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the Justice Department is suing the state of Georgia over its new voting law that the department alleges is intended to restrict ballot access to Black voters. “Our complaint alleges that recent changes to Georgia’s election laws were enacted with the purpose of denying or abridging the right of Black Georgians to vote on account of their race or color, in violation of [Section Two of the Voting Rights Act](#),” Garland said at a news conference Friday morning. Garland says the lawsuit is the first of “many steps” the department is taking to protect the right to vote for all eligible voters. He said the Civil Rights Division will continue to examine voting laws that other states have passed.*

### [Louisiana's Democratic governor vetoes anti-trans sports ban, calling it discriminatory](#) [Devan Cole, CNN, 22 June 2021]

*Louisiana's Democratic governor on Tuesday vetoed a bill that would've prohibited transgender girls and women in the state from competing on girls' and women's public elementary, secondary and college sports teams, calling the Republican-backed measure discriminatory and saying it addressed a nonexistent issue in the state. “As I have said repeatedly when asked about this bill, discrimination is not a Louisiana value, and this bill was a solution in search of a problem that simply does not exist in Louisiana,” Gov. John Bel Edwards said in a statement, adding the bill's sponsor has “acknowledged throughout the legislative session that there wasn't a single case where this was an issue.” While the move by the governor means that for now, Louisiana won't*

*join eight states that have enacted similar bans this year, lawmakers in the state could override his veto, as the state's Republican-led Senate and House both approved the measure with veto-proof margins.*

[Supreme Court backs student in speech rights dispute with school](#) [John Kruzel, *The Hill*, 23 June 2021]

*The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled 8-1 in favor of a student's free speech claim against her high school in a ruling that could have major First Amendment implications in a social media age that has blurred the line between on- and off-campus speech. The dispute arose after Brandi Levy, a high school freshman at the time, posted an expletive-filled social media message airing frustration over her rejection from the varsity cheerleading squad. The post eventually made its way to the school's cheerleading coaches, who suspended Levy from the junior varsity cheering squad for a year, prompting her lawsuit against Mahanoy Area High School in rural Pennsylvania.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Supreme Court's cursing cheerleader case is also about mean girls and their adult enablers](#)

[Susanne Ramírez de Arellano, *NBC News*, 23 June 2021] [OPINION]

*The case Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L., in which the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Wednesday, would just be "Mean Girls" on steroids for the digital age if the First Amendment issues weren't so important. A 14-year-old high school cheerleader—B.L., for Brandi Levy—at Mahanoy Area High School in central Pennsylvania didn't make the varsity cheerleading squad and vented her teenage angst at being consigned to another year of junior varsity to her friends on Snapchat—with the liberal use of a curse word and a two-fingered salute. But another cheerleader (who didn't follow Levy on Snapchat) got a screenshot and brought it to her mother. The mother was, not coincidentally, one of the coaches and shared it with another coach, who was also a math teacher at the high school. It would be laughable if it weren't so important.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Army staff sergeant will make history when she boxes for Team USA at Tokyo Olympics](#) [Seth Robson, *Stars and Stripes*, 25 June 2021]

*Army Staff Sgt. Naomi Graham's jab is the boxing equivalent of a Hellfire missile launched from attack helicopter at a distant opponent. The 32-year-old ammunition specialist from Fayetteville, N.C., is one of the United States' best hopes for a medal at the Tokyo Olympics, which kick off July 23. Graham will be the first female active-duty U.S. service member to box for gold, according to Team USA. In 2014, Graham won the All-Army title. She then joined the Army's World Class Athlete Program, also at Fort Carson, allowing her to train full time for the Olympics. Serving in the Army taught Graham skills such as patience, resilience and "getting the job done" that also apply to boxing, the 5-foot, 10-inch, 165-pound fighter told Stars and Stripes.*

[Asian Americans lobby to name Navy ship for Filipino sailor](#) [Janie Har, *The Associated Press*, 23 June 2021]

*Asian Americans, veterans and civilians in the U.S. and the Philippines are campaigning to name a Navy warship for a Filipino sailor who bravely rescued two crew members when their ship caught fire more than a century ago, earning him a prestigious and rare Medal of Honor. Supporters say naming a ship for Telesforo Trinidad would honor not just the only Asian American in the U.S. Navy granted the nation's highest award for valor, but the tens of thousands of Filipinos and Americans of Filipino descent who have served in the U.S. Navy since 1901, when the Philippines was a United States territory. "I don't believe it's a long shot at all; it may be a long timeline, but we're hoping it's not," said retired Navy Capt. Ron Ravelo and chair of the campaign. "We're going to be making Navy ships into the foreseeable future, and there's no reason one of those can't bear the name of Telesforo Trinidad."*

[Carl Nassib's jersey becomes top seller after NFL player comes out as gay](#) [Olafmihan Oshin, *The Hill*, 23 June 2021]

*Las Vegas Raiders defensive end Carl Nassib has the top-selling jersey in the NFL, with sales spiking after he [came out as gay](#) earlier this week. A Fanatics spokesperson confirmed to *The Hill* that Nassib's number 94 jersey was the top-selling NFL product on Monday and Tuesday. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell [issued a statement](#) saying that he is proud of Nassib for sharing his truth. "Representation matters. We share his hope that someday soon statements like his will no longer be newsworthy as we march toward full equality for the LGBTQ+ community."*

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

[Chicago confirms 1st Black woman as city fire commissioner](#) [*The Associated Press*, 23 June 2021]

*The Chicago City Council on Wednesday confirmed the appointment of the city's first Black female fire commissioner. Annette Nance-Holt was serving as acting fire commissioner following the retirement earlier this year of Richard Ford. When she appointed Nance-Holt acting fire commissioner, Mayor Lori Lightfoot noted she had more than three decades of proven leadership and a passion for public service. Nance-Holt will take over a fire department with a history of racism and sexism. She joined the department four years after the first women joined the ranks. Earlier this year, Chicago's inspector general issued a report recommending the department put in place stronger policies to deal with the sexual harassment and racial discrimination. Last month, she welcomed 42 new members to the department, including 13 women and 15 minorities. It was during that ceremony that Lightfoot nominated her for the top post.*

[Cotton nominated to run Air Force's nuclear enterprise at pivotal time](#) [Rachel Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 24 June 2021]

*President Joe Biden has nominated Lt. Gen. Anthony Cotton to become the next commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, *Air Force Times* has learned. If approved by the Senate, the career missileer and space officer would earn a promotion to four-star general, according to *Global Strike*. He would also become the first Black man to lead the organization in charge of the service's nuclear enterprise, and the only Black person currently running an Air Force major command. Cotton has served as the No. 2 officer at Global Strike since October 2019, headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. He joined the service through the Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1986 and has recently worked as head of Air University,*

*commander of 20th Air Force's intercontinental ballistic missile enterprise, deputy director of the National Reconnaissance Office and boss of the former 45th Space Wing and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.*

[DOD Quietly Calls for Shutdown of 70-Year-Old Committee on Women in the Military](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 24 June 2021]

*In January of this year, the Pentagon quietly demanded the resignations of the 21 volunteer members of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, a roster that included eight retired generals and admirals. The ink was barely dry on the committee's 70-year historical review, a 58-page document that described how DACOWITS had advocated on behalf of military women since 1951 on issues ranging from their right to fly fighter jets and serve in combat to the fit of body armor and online harassment. The committee's hollowing out was part of a sweeping move by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to dissolve all 42 DOD advisory committees pending a cost and efficiency review. But those affiliated with DACOWITS fear bundling such a wide range of issues under a single advisory entity would make it very difficult to get meaningful work done—and would shove women-specific military issues, such as hair regulations and anatomy-appropriate flight suits, far to the sidelines.*

[Eligibility rule keeps transgender runner out of trials](#) [The Associated Press, 24 June 2021]

*Transgender runner CeCe Telfer will not be allowed to compete in the women's 400-meter hurdles at U.S. Olympic trials because Telfer has not met the conditions World Athletics established in its eligibility regulations for certain women's events. Telfer competed for the men's team at Division II Franklin Pierce, but took time off, then came back to compete for the women's team. In 2019, Telfer won the NCAA title. Telfer was entered in this week's trials but was ultimately not allowed to compete because of guidelines World Athletics released in 2019 that closed off international women's events of between 400 meters and a mile to athletes who did not meet the eligibility requirements. Among those requirements was that their testosterone levels had to be below 5 nonomoles per liter (nmol/L) for a span of 12 months. Telfer's manager, David McFarland, said Telfer would respect the decision.*

[The Government Has Fallen Short on Contracts With Woman-Owned Businesses for Decades](#) [Chabeli Carrazana, *The 19th*, 23 June 2021]

*Nearly three decades ago, the Small Business Administration set a goal of granting 5 percent of federal contracts to women-owned small businesses. It has only met that goal twice, in 2015 and 2019, according to a new report from the Bipartisan Policy Center and Goldman Sachs. [Survey data](#) shared exclusively with *The 19th* by Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Small Businesses Voices program, which helps advocate for small business owners, found a widening gender gap for contracts at the federal level that shows how women-owned small businesses have been shut out from the largest contracts. At the local level, women- and men-owned small businesses were about equally likely to say they received a government contract, according to a survey conducted by the group this month. But the gender gap grew at the state and federal levels: The survey found a 13 percentage-point gap between men and women business owners who received contracts from state governments and a 15 percentage-point difference from those receiving contracts from the federal government. (No data was collected on nonbinary business owners.)*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[More Women Will Run U.S. Cities Coming Out of the Pandemic](#) [Shelly Banjo, *Bloomberg*, 24 June 2021]

*A Black mother of four waging her first campaign won out against Buffalo, N.Y.'s four-term mayor in the city's Democratic primary election this week. Two of the three candidates that are leading the New York City Democratic mayoral primary are women. And women are also leading or have won more than half of the city's 51 City Council elections. Come election day, if these women prevail—and many of them will in overwhelmingly Democratic cities—they will join a growing group of women running U.S. cities. Thirty-two of the 100 largest U.S. cities, including Chicago, Phoenix and Atlanta, had female mayors, according to data as of March collected by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Seven were Black women, three Latina and three Asian Pacific Islander. Nearly 27% of the U.S. Congress is female, up from 4% in 1971, and women hold 30.6% of statewide elected offices, compared to 7% in 1987, CAWP data show.*

[Offutt Air Force Base's 55th Wing gets historic new leader](#) [*The Associated Press*, 23 June 2021]

*Offutt Air Force Base's 55th Wing has a new leader—the first woman to command the 80-year-old reconnaissance unit. The [Omaha World-Herald reports](#) that Col. Kristen Thompson took over command Tuesday, becoming the first woman among the 65 officers who have led the unit since it was established in 1941. She replaces Col. Gavin Marks, who was the first Black leader of the unit. Marks led the 55th Wing through a tumultuous time that included the early stages of recovery from the March 2019 floods and the COVID-19 pandemic. About 300 people, including Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, attended the ceremony. Thompson, a 2001 graduate of the Air Force Academy, flew 600 combat hours in Iraq and Afghanistan. She was most recently commander of the 380th Expeditionary Operations Group at a base in United Arab Emirates.*

[President Joe Biden to name Jessica Stern special envoy for LGBTQ rights](#) [Donald Judd and Kate Sullivan, *CNN*, 25 June 2021]

*President Joe Biden [will name](#) Jessica Stern as the U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Friday, according to a White House official. Stern currently serves as Executive Director of [OutRight Action International](#), an organization aimed at ensuring human rights for LGBTQ people both domestically and abroad and will join Biden at the White House Friday for remarks commemorating Pride Month, the official told CNN Thursday. “The Special Envoy will play a vital role in leading implementation of the Presidential Memorandum on Advancing the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Around the World,” the White House told CNN in a statement. “At a time when the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons are increasingly threatened in all regions of the world, the Special Envoy will bring together like-minded governments, civil society organizations, corporations and international organizations to uphold dignity and equality for all.”*

[Washington Spirit's Yokoyama comes out as transgender](#) [Anne M. Peterson, *The Associated Press*, 22 June 2021]

*Kumi Yokoyama, a forward for the Washington Spirit of the National Women's Soccer League, has come out as a transgender man. Yokoyama, who has also played for Japan's national team, came out in [an interview](#) that Racing Louisville striker Yuki Nagasato posted on her YouTube channel. "When my girlfriend said there was no reason for me to stay closeted, it really hit me. Coming out wasn't something I was enthusiastic about, but if I think about my life going forward, it would be harder to live closeted, so I found the courage to come out," Yokoyama said. The Washington Spirit said Yokoyama prefers they/them pronouns, and offered support for the 28-year old via the team's Twitter account: "We support and are so proud of you Kumi. Thank you for showing the world it's ok to embrace who you are!"*

## **EXTREMISM**

[The Military Has a Watchdog for Stopping Extremism. Now, It Wants Teeth—and Independence](#) [Stephen Losey, *Military.com*, 22 June 2021]

*The Pentagon's deputy inspector general for diversity and inclusion and extremism in the military was established by the National Defense Authorization Act that took effect Jan. 1. It is in charge of conducting audits and investigations into supremacist and criminal gang activity in the armed forces. In a [report to Congress](#) released last week, the IG's office said that it is already working on projects that directly cover those areas, such as evaluating the Pentagon's efforts to address extremism, diversity and inclusion programs, and sexual assault at the Naval Academy. And the IG has its eyes set on more projects it could work on beginning next year, such as auditing how well military entrance processing stations identify supremacist, extremist or gang member recruits. The IG said it needs more funding starting in fiscal 2022 to hire 80 more employees over a two-year period, as well as additional facilities, equipment and operational expenses, to work on diversity, inclusion and extremism. The Office of Personnel Management also gave the IG permission to hire three more Senior Executive Service members, including the new deputy IG.*

[In Oklahoma, the 1995 bombing offers lessons—and warnings—for today's fight against extremism](#) [Hannah Allam, *The Washington Post*, 21 June 2021]

*Most years, the flashbacks start in April, images of blood and brick that return Fran Ferrari to the morning when she was nearly killed in the Oklahoma City bombing. This year, however, Ferrari's memories arrived early when she heard glass shatter during news coverage of the Jan. 6 mob attack on the U.S. Capitol. The noise instantly took her back to the rubble of her downtown office in 1995. The rioters yelling on TV sounded to Ferrari like an alarm bell, a warning that the deadly extremism that upended her life had resurged. "All those faces. All I think is that it's a bunch of Timothy McVeighs and his buddies," said Ferrari, 66. "Maybe people's definition of domestic terrorism is after it happens, but I define it when you see the seeds." Those "seeds" Ferrari saw at the Capitol are finding fertile ground in Oklahoma, where politics can be more powerful than memory. Domestic terrorism analysts trace a straight line from the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building to the Jan. 6 breach—two history-making attacks fueled by anti-government, conspiratorial thinking.*

[U.S. Military Training Document Says Socialists Represent "Terrorist" Ideology](#) [Ken Klippenstein, *The Intercept*, 22 June 2021]

*A Navy counterterrorism training document obtained exclusively by The Intercept appears to conflate socialists with terrorists and lists the left-wing ideology alongside “neo-nazis.” A section of the training document subtitled “Study Questions” includes the following: “Anarchists, socialists and neo-nazis represent which terrorist ideological category?” The correct answer is “political terrorists,” a military source briefed on the training told me. The document, titled “Introduction to Terrorism/Terrorist Operations,” is part of a longer training manual recently disseminated by the Naval Education Training and Command’s Navy Tactical Training Center in conjunction with the Center for Security Forces. The training is designed for masters-at-arms, the Navy’s internal police, the military source said. “It’s just ineffective training because whoever is directing the Navy anti-terror curriculum would rather vilify the left than actually protect anything,” said the military official, who is not authorized to speak publicly. “Despite the fact that the most prominent threat is domestic, right-wing terror.”*

[U.S. Troops on Base Less Likely to Seek Extremist Content Than Americans in General, Study Finds](#) [Jacqueline Feldscher, *Defense One*, 25 June 2021]

*The Defense Department will soon know which bases and branches have the most troops looking for domestic violent extremist content. The next step is figuring out how to stop it. The data is expected to arrive in about three weeks in a report from the U.S. Military Academy and Moonshot, a startup founded in 2015 to spot people searching online for violent extremist information and direct them to helpful resources instead. Moonshot founder Vidhya Ramalingam declined to detail the findings in the report. But she said the data suggest that active duty troops are less prone than the American public as a whole to seek out information about violent extremism. “When we look at bases for each branch as compared to national averages, there is disproportionately low engagement on most bases,” Ramalingam said. “Some branches have higher levels of engagement with anti-Black extremism or anti-Semitic conspiracy theories...But we’re not seeing really heightened levels of engagement that are incredibly worrying.”*

## **HUMAN RELATIONS**

[What Is Adjustment Disorder?](#) [Elaine K. Howley, *U.S. News & World Report*, 23 June 2021]

*Everyone has stress in their lives. But for some people, a specific traumatic episode or major life change can lead to a mental health problem called adjustment disorder. Justin Baker, clinical director of the Suicide and Trauma Reduction Initiative for Veterans and assistant professor of research in the department of psychiatry and behavioral health at the Ohio State University in Columbus, says that adjustment disorder is defined in the “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition” (DSM-5) as “the presence of emotional or behavioral symptoms in response to an identifiable stressor(s) occurring within three months of the onset of the stressor(s).” Adjustment to military life can be a major reason some people develop an adjustment disorder, and that’s a big area of focus for Baker. “Adjustment disorder is a highly prevalent disorder diagnosed in the military,” he says, for a variety of reasons, not least of which is that “providers within the military health system tend to be more conservative in their diagnostic approach with active duty military members. Disorders like PTSD, depression and anxiety are disorders that qualify a service member for a potential medical evaluation board (review) that could result in the military member being medically retired and/or separated from*

*service. Adjustment disorder typically doesn't qualify as a disorder warranting a medical board, so providers may initially diagnose an adjustment disorder until they have sufficient evidence to 'upgrade' the disorder to a more severe diagnosis."*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Buckingham Palace reveals 8.5% ethnic minority staff](#) [Jennifer Meierhans, *BBC News*, 23 June 2021]

*Buckingham Palace has said it "must do more" as it revealed its levels of ethnic minority staff for the first time. The Royal Household's annual financial accounts for 2020-21 show 8.5% of its staff are from an ethnic minority background. Its 2022 target is 10%. This compares with around 13% of the UK population, according to the latest 2011 census. The Palace said it was "not where it would like to be" on staff diversity. "It is not that we have not been progressing diversity and inclusion initiatives during this period, it is that simply the results have not been what we would like," a Palace source said. They said the household had published the figures so there could be "no place to hide", and so they would be held accountable if no progress was made in the future. Raj Tulsiani, co-founder of Race Equality Matters, said the Palace did not "deserve a pat on the back" for saying it hopes to improve. "Amplifying aspirations for future inclusion, it's nothing. It's just words," he said. Pointing out that there was no breakdown of the 8.5% figure, he suggested there could be a "vastly higher percentage of people in lower paid jobs than there are in positions of power and influence."*

[Dutch PM Rutte: No place in EU for Hungary with anti-LGBT law](#) [BBC News, 24 June 2021]

*Prime Minister Viktor Orban over new anti-LGBT legislation. Arriving for an EU leaders' summit, Mr Orban insisted his country's law had nothing to do with gay rights. But Mr Rutte's comments are a measure of widespread frustration with Hungary. He said he was aware he could not push Hungary out of the EU by himself, so it had to be done step by step. "The long-term aim is to bring Hungary to its knees on this issue," he said. The law focuses on increasing punishment for convicted paedophiles, but an amendment was passed on 15 June banning the portrayal or promotion of homosexuality among under-18s. While it could affect sex education, advertising, and even stop TV favourites such as *Friends* or *Harry Potter* being broadcast until late at night, there are also fears that vulnerable young people could be deprived of important support. Teaching sex education in schools will be limited to people approved by the government.*

[Europe seeks disabled astronauts, more women in space](#) [The Associated Press, 23 June 2021]

*The European Space Agency says it was "blown away" by the record number of applicants—more than 22,000—hoping to become the continent's next generation of space travelers, including more women than ever and some 200 people with disabilities. In releasing the results of a new recruitment drive aimed at more astronaut diversity, the agency acknowledged Wednesday that it still has work to do on gender balance. Just 24% of the applicants were women, up from 15% at the last hiring drive in 2008. The hiring campaign didn't specifically address ethnic diversity, but stressed the importance of "representing all parts of our society." The agency received applications from all 25 member nations and associate members, though most came from traditional heavyweights France, Germany, Britain and Italy. ESA specifically sought out*

*people with physical disabilities, for a first-of-its-kind effort to determine what adaptations would be necessary to space stations to accommodate them.*

[Germany investigating claims of sexual assault, anti-Semitic remarks by soldiers at booze-fueled hotel party](#) [Anna Noryskiewicz, CBS News, 22 June 2021]

*Germany's military is pulling an entire armored infantry unit out of Lithuania as it investigates claims of extremist, anti-Semitic remarks and a purported sexual assault at a booze-fueled hotel party. An official investigation was launched in Germany after allegations emerged of a raucous party by members of the unit on April 30 at a hotel in the central Lithuanian town of Rukla. The Bundeswehr is investigating several soldiers over allegations including the sexual assault of a fellow soldier, bullying, threats of violence, and singing anti-Semitic songs. The allegations were brought to light by one of the unit's members who reported to a superior. The Bundeswehr has thus far refused to provide any details about its ongoing investigations. A spokesman for the Operations Command has said only that there were indications of "misconduct" by German soldiers involving "statements of a right-wing radical and anti-Semitic nature," as well as sexual violence and discrimination against a female soldier on the basis of her gender.*

[Italian PM rebuffs Vatican protest over proposed homophobia law](#) [BBC News, 23 June 2021]

*Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi has rebuffed the Vatican after it issued an unprecedented diplomatic protest over a draft law on gay and other rights. The so-called Zan bill would punish discrimination and incitement to violence against the LGBT community, women and people with disabilities. The Vatican argues the bill would curb religious freedoms secured in a treaty. But Mr Draghi, a practising Catholic, said parliament was free to discuss any issue and Italy was a secular state. Speaking at the Italian Senate, the prime minister insisted that safeguards were in place to protect Italy's international obligations, a reference to the 1929 treaty with the Holy See that made Vatican City a sovereign country and regulates its relations with Italy. The Zan bill, named after LGBT activist and politician Alessandro Zan, was approved by the lower house of parliament in November, and now needs to pass the Senate. It would add legal protections for women and people who are LGBT or disabled. Those found guilty of hate crimes or discrimination against these groups could face up to four years in prison.*

[Munich wants rainbow-colored stadium for game with Hungary](#) [Ciarán Fahey, The Associated Press, 20 June 2021]

*Munich Mayor Dieter Reiter said Sunday he was going to write to UEFA to ask for permission for Germany's stadium to be lit up with the colors as a sign against homophobia and intolerance when the team plays Hungary on Wednesday. "This is an important sign of tolerance and equality," Reiter told news agency dpa. Munich's city council had already called for the stadium to be lit in rainbow colors for the final Euro 2020 group game to protest a law passed by Hungarian lawmakers on Tuesday that prohibits sharing with minors any content portraying homosexuality or sex reassignment. The law has been denounced as anti-LGBT discrimination by human rights groups. "It is important for the state capital Munich to set a visible sign of solidarity with the LGBTI community in Hungary, which is suffering from the current stricter homophobic and transphobic legislation of the Hungarian government," the Munich council said in its [application](#).*

[SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

[This rabbi is joining the German army, 90 years after Hitler expelled Jewish soldiers](#) [Nadine Schmidt and Sheena McKenzie, CNN, 20 June 2021]

*During Germany's Covid-19 lockdown, Rabbi Zsolt Balla earned a devoted online following, live-streaming prayer services on Facebook. Now, as the country begins to open up, he's taking on a previously unimaginable job as the German military's chief rabbi—its first in almost 90 years, since Adolf Hitler expelled Jews from the armed forces in the 1930s. All this, and he didn't even know he was Jewish and the son of a Holocaust survivor until he was nine. A rabbi proudly joining the German army eight decades after the Nazis orchestrated the Holocaust is a hugely symbolic moment for the Jewish community. Balla will be sworn in at a synagogue in Leipzig, eastern Germany, on Monday; officials hope his appointment will highlight the open and diverse face of the country's modern-day armed forces, the Bundeswehr. But it comes against the backdrop of a series of far-right extremist scandals within the German military and police in recent years, and amid rising levels of anti-Semitism across the country.*

[The Untold Story of a Secret Unit of Heroic Jewish Commandos in World War II](#) [Leah Garrett, TIME, 21 June 2021]

*One of the greatest untold stories [of WW II] has to do with the countless heroic Jews who served in the U.S., British, and Russian militaries during the war. These soldiers' vital contributions to the Allied war effort remain buried partly due to a generally accepted myth that Jews were overwhelmingly victims during the Holocaust, and that in Israel alone were there tough, strong, fighting Jews. But there are other, more nuanced and occasionally nefarious reasons that these stories have not yet come to light. The tale of an extraordinary, little-known unit known as X Troop is a case in point. The men of X Troop carried out some of the most daring missions of the war, landing on D-Day and fighting all the way into the heart of Germany. They were all on a personal mission to overthrow the Nazis who had killed their families and wrecked Europe. Frequently wounded, they often simply walked out of field hospitals, returning to their units to continue the struggle. Even when the war was over, the X Troopers would be crucial in hunting down and convicting Nazis for war crimes.*

[REPRINT]

[WWII codebreaker Alan Turing becomes 1st gay man on a British bank note](#) [Shira Pinson, NBC News, 23 June 2021]

*The Bank of England began circulating its new £50 bank notes featuring World War II codebreaker Alan Turing on Wednesday, which would have been the pioneering math genius' 109th birthday. Often referred to as the "father of computer science and artificial intelligence," Turing was hailed a war hero and granted an honor by King George VI at the end of the war for helping to defeat the Nazis. Despite this, however, he died as a disgraced "criminal"—simply for being a gay man. Born in London on June 23, 1912, Turing graduated from the University of Cambridge in 1934. At the start of WWII, he joined the British government's wartime operation, designing a code-breaking machine known as "Bombe." Bombe went on to supply the Allied Forces with significant military intelligence, processing, at its peak, 89,000 coded messages per day. In January 1952, Turing was prosecuted for indecency over his relationship with another*

*man in Manchester. Despite being referred to as a “national asset” during this trial by character witness Hugh Alexander, the head of cryptanalysis at the Government Communications Headquarter, Turing was persecuted.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[59th MDW: PTSD Awareness Month](#) [Airman Joshua Rosario, *JBSA Public Affairs*, 22 June 2021]

*The month of June marks Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month. Many people know of PTSD, but may not fully understand how it affects people. It can affect those suffering from it differently, and it is important to understand that PTSD is more than a diagnosis. According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition, some common symptoms of PTSD include things like sleep disturbance, hypervigilance, trouble concentrating, irritable behavior or forms of self-destructive behavior. The American Psychiatric Association states approximately 3.5% of U.S. adults are affected by PTSD every year and an estimated one in 11 people will be diagnosed with PTSD in their lifetime. The Military Health System offers a variety of resources for those suffering from PTSD. For veterans and their families, there is also a hotline through the PTSD Foundation of America specialized in providing referrals, information and resources. To reach the hotline, patients can call 877-717-PTSD (7873).*

[Calls grow to evacuate Afghans to Guam as U.S. troops leave](#) [Julie Watson and Ben Fox, *The Associated Press*, 23 June 2021]

*With U.S. and NATO forces facing a Sept. 11 deadline to leave Afghanistan, many are recalling that desperate, hasty exodus as they urge the Biden administration to evacuate thousands of Afghans who worked as interpreters or otherwise helped U.S. military operations there in the past two decades. Despite unusual bipartisan support in Congress, the administration hasn't agreed to such a move, declining to publicly support something that could undermine security in the country as it unwinds a war that started after the 9/11 attacks. “We have a moral obligation to protect our brave allies who put their lives on the line for us, and we've been working for months to engage the administration and make sure there's a plan, with few concrete results,” Republican Rep. Peter Meijer of Michigan said during a House hearing last week. Lawmakers have urged the administration to consider temporarily relocating Afghans who worked for American or NATO forces to a safe overseas location while their U.S. visas are processed. Some have suggested Guam, a U.S. territory that served a similar purpose after the Vietnam War. Kurdish refugees also were flown to the Pacific island in 1996 after the Gulf War.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[DOD should reinstate programs granting citizenship through service, Army veteran senator says](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 22 June 2021]

*There was a time not so long ago when immigrants could enlist in the military and earn expedited U.S. citizenship. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., is leading a crusade to bring that back. In a [report](#) sent to the Democratic caucus on Tuesday, Duckworth lays out the history of a handful of policies administrations have used to grant citizenship to immigrant service members, including their suspension and degradation toward the end of the Obama administration and into Donald*

*Trump's term, when stories of recruits in limbo and deported veterans made national headlines. "Yet, despite these efforts, there are still members of the U.S. Armed Forces that honorably serve and fight in combat overseas only to be discharged without receiving citizenship," according to the report. "Adding insult to injury, immigrant Veterans can, and have been, deported by the same Nation they took an oath to defend." Duckworth sent a letter to President Joe Biden's office on inauguration day, asking that he take a look at the issue of veteran immigration and deportation. Congress will also consider the issue Wednesday, during a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

#### [Mental Health Issues Accounted for One-Third of Military Medevacs from Middle East in 2020](#)

[Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 22 June 2021]

*Mental health disorders, injuries and COVID-19 were listed as the top reasons that U.S. service members were evacuated from the U.S. Central Command area of operations in 2020, according to a [new report from the Defense Health Agency](#). Last year, 1,207 troops out of an estimated 60,000 to 80,000 stationed in the region were flown to hospitals in the U.S. or Europe for medical reasons, including 59 with combat injuries, according to the May Medical Surveillance Monthly Report published by the Defense Department. Over the past five years, mental health disorders were the most frequent reason for medical evacuations, followed by non-battlefield injuries, ill-defined conditions, musculoskeletal disorders and digestive system conditions.*

#### [Merle Smith, 1st Black graduate of Coast Guard Academy, dies](#) [The Associated Press, 23 June 2021]

*Merle Smith Jr., the first Black cadet to graduate from the Coast Guard Academy, has died, his family said. He was 76. Smith died on June 16 of complications from Parkinson's disease and COVID-19, his wife Lynda Smith said. Smith commanded a cutter in Vietnam, taught law classes at the academy in New London and retired from active-duty service with the rank of Coast Guard commander before joining the legal staff of submarine builder Electric Boat. The academy's superintendent, Rear Adm. William Kelly, said in an email to the campus community that Smith "served as a role model for countless cadets, faculty, and staff." As a cutter commander during the Vietnam War, Smith also became the first Black officer to command a U.S. warship in close quarters combat.*

## **MISCONDUCT**

#### ["Passion bordering on anger": The inside story behind the CO's firing on the destroyer Forrest Sherman](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 22 June 2021]

*The commanding officer of the U.S. warship Forrest Sherman was fired in January, ostensibly for taking home a seized enemy rifle that he intended to turn into a trophy for his ship's wardroom. But that's far from the whole story regarding what went down aboard the guided-missile destroyer under the leadership of Cmdr. Frank Azzarello. But behind the CENTCOM press releases, Azzarello's rising star and Forrest Sherman's can-do mission capability, the officer had created "a command climate of harassment and fear" aboard the guided-missile destroyer, according to a command investigation obtained by Navy Times. It found that Azzarello belittled some officers, called others names, mocked the voices of female members and overused letters of*

*instruction with junior officers, allegedly in the name of booting underperformers off his ship. The ship's command climate survey revealed similar issues. "On the bridge, how your watch will go depends on the mood of the CO," one crew member wrote in the anonymous survey. "Because of this, the first and most important turnover item between watches is the captain's mood. Not contacts, casualties or tasking."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## **RACISM**

[5 Black officers accuse UW police department of racism](#) [The Associated Press, 23 June 2021]  
*Five Black officers with the University of Washington Police Department have filed claims for \$8 million in damages, saying they've been routinely insulted and demeaned by co-workers and supervisors. Some officers said they also were disciplined and denied promotions because of their race, KOMO-TV reported. The claims for damages are the first step toward a lawsuit. The university has 60 days to respond. In the claim, Officer Karinn Young said "a banana was put in front of my locker with a note reading, 'Here's your lunch, you \*\*\*\*\* monkey.'" Officer Damien Taylor said a White supervisor referred to him as "'(his) own negro' on a call and later laughed at me when I confronted him about it." The officers said Chief John Vinson, who is Black, was repeatedly criticized by White officers for hiring too many Blacks.*

[How hate incidents led to a reckoning of casual racism against Asian Americans](#) [Kimmy Yam, NBC News, 23 June 2021]

*Growing up in Peoria, Illinois, Delia Cai remembers kids coming up to her family and making squawking sounds at them to make fun of the Chinese language. It was among the many subtle but alienating microaggressions she experienced there. Several years ago, Cai, an Asian American writer, moved to New York City, where she expected those days to be long gone. Tessa Samburg is of Chinese descent and grew up in the 1990s and early aughts in Sacramento, California, where she said she received similar treatment. She would hear racist comments about her appearance, she said, and remembers one boy from her youth likening her to a panda. But amid the coronavirus pandemic, as the Asian American community confronts the racist stereotypes, catalyzing a generation's activism and a heightened focus on the group, both Cai and Samburg say they're seeing a slight shift in the way people identify not only overt racism, but casual, everyday racism as well.*

[My 6-year-old just had his first encounter with racism](#) [Keith Magee, CNN, 23 June 2021]

[OPINION]

*A short while ago, my little boy told me something that shattered my world. I had been preparing breakfast for him, watching the early morning sunlight dappling his head, bent in concentration over the card he was busy making. Our companionable hush was only broken when he enquired how to spell "because," and then, several minutes later, "people." I looked over his shoulder—the carefully inscribed message was poignant but full of kindness. "Who's that for?" I asked. My son explained that it was for twins, one of whom had announced that they didn't want to sit next to him because they "don't like boys with brown skin." (The other thought it was rubbish.) At near 7 years old, he had just met racism for the first time.*

[A racially motivated clash in England during WWII forced the U.S. military to grapple with inequality](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 24 June 2021]

*A bloody, little-known battle between Black and White U.S. soldiers in northern England 78 years ago forced a reckoning over the military's unequal treatment of minority troops. Known as the Battle of Bamber Bridge, the conflagration in Lancashire was sparked late on June 24, 1943, after a pair of U.S. military police patrolmen responded to a reported "disturbance" at the thatch-roofed Ye Olde Hob Inn pub, military records show. What began as an altercation over two Black soldiers who were found wearing field coats instead of the prescribed Class A uniforms turned into a five-hour riot, with some troops barricaded on base and others in "marauding parties" patrolling the town's streets and shooting sporadically, a Judge Advocate General board of review record of the 1943 court-martial trials states. There were dozens of racially motivated clashes between American troops in England during the war, but Bamber Bridge was significant in that it prompted the top leadership there to try to address racial inequality, retired Air Force officer Alan M. Osur wrote in a history pamphlet titled "Separate and Unequal," which the service published in 2000, about racial disparities during the war.*

[Researchers: Career Metrics Uphold Racism, Sexism in Science](#) [Kat McAlpine, *Futurity*, 18 June 2021]

*The criteria that measure progress—or lack thereof—include how often a researcher's studies are cited by other scientists, and the number of papers they publish in prestigious, high-impact scientific journals (which often comes with an expensive price tag paid by a paper's authors). These metrics ensure that sexism and racism continue to plague the field, according to the authors of a new piece on the topic in the journal [PLOS Biology](#). Sarah Davies, the piece's co-lead author and an assistant professor of biology at Boston University, says the time crunch and workload created by the coronavirus pandemic was a tipping point for many marginalized researchers. "I've never been busier, so it was an interesting choice to take on a 'perspectives' piece outside my field of [marine biology] research," she says. "But the coronavirus pandemic created the perfect storm of being 'over it.'" For Davies, that meant the daunting task of navigating a changing work and research environment while juggling childcare amid the pandemic. Here, Davies talks about the recommendations she and her 23 collaborators—including Boston University scientists Wally Fulweiler, Colleen Bove, and Hanny Rivera—put forth in their paper, how academic and industry leaders can effect change, and why mentorship and community well-being should be at the heart of career growth metrics in science.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Schools tried to forcibly assimilate Indigenous kids. Can the U.S. make amends?](#) [Jeffrey Brown and Lena I. Jackson, *PBS*, 23 June 2021]

*A mass grave with the remains of 215 children was recently found near the former site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, a boarding school in British Columbia, Canada. It closed in 1978. It was a shocking discovery, and part of a dark history of forcibly assimilating indigenous people. Indian boarding schools have a long history in this country as well. Just yesterday, Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland announced a new federal initiative that will—quote— "uncover the truth" and the lasting consequences of these schools. PBS' Jeffrey Brown has the story of one of them and an attempt to understand and acknowledge a troubled past.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[U.S., Germany confront rising antisemitism, Holocaust denial](#) [Matthew Lee, *The Associated Press*, 24 June 2021]

*The United States and Germany launched a new initiative Thursday to stem an alarming rise in antisemitism and Holocaust denial around the world. The two governments announced the start of a U.S.-Germany Holocaust Dialogue that seeks to reverse the trend that gained traction during the coronavirus pandemic amid a surge in political populism across Europe and the U.S. The dialogue creates a way to develop educational and messaging tools to teach youth and others about the crimes of Nazis and their collaborators. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and several Holocaust survivors were present for the launch at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. All cited links between Holocaust denial, revisionism and ignorance to growing antisemitism as well as to broader discrimination against minorities. “Holocaust denial and other forms of antisemitism often go hand in hand with homophobia, xenophobia, racism, other hatred,” said Blinken, who is the step-son of a Holocaust survivor. “It’s also a rallying cry for those who seek to tear down our democracies, which we’ve seen in both our countries, (and) often a precursor to violence.”*

**RELIGION**

[Catholic foster care agency wins Supreme Court verdict](#) [Jessica Gresko, *The Associated Press*, 17 June 2021]

*In another victory for religious groups at the Supreme Court, the justices on Thursday unanimously sided with a Catholic foster care agency that says its religious views prevent it from working with same-sex couples. The court said the city of Philadelphia wrongly limited its relationship with the group as a result of the agency’s policy. The ruling was specific to the facts of the case, sidestepping bigger questions about how to balance religious freedom and anti-discrimination laws. Instead, the outcome turned on the language in the city’s foster care contract. Three conservative justices would have gone much further, and LGBTQ groups said they were relieved that the decision was limited. Chief Justice John Roberts concluded that Philadelphia’s refusal to “contract with CSS for the provision of foster care services unless it agrees to certify same-sex couples as foster parents ... violates the First Amendment.”*

[SC considers extending religious objections to therapists](#) [Michelle Liu, *The Associated Press*, 21 June 2021]

*South Carolina lawmakers are considering a [bill](#) to let mental health professionals refuse to provide care that violates their religious beliefs in response to an ordinance banning conversion therapy for minors in the state’s capital city. The Senate Medical Affairs subcommittee heard testimony on the legislation Monday, but didn’t take a vote. The state already has such medical conscience protections in place for doctors and other health care providers, allowing them to opt out of providing non-emergency services to people when it contradicts their religious, moral, ethical or philosophical beliefs or principles. The legislation would expand those protections to mental health professionals, said bill sponsor Sen. Josh Kimbrell, a Republican from Spartanburg. The bill is a direct response to Columbia’s new ordinance barring attempts by*

*licensed therapists and counselors to change the sexual orientation of minors. Opponents say the bill would harm LGBTQ individuals and make health care more difficult to access for many marginalized and rural South Carolinians.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Coast Guard commandant skirts accountability questions from lawmakers as reports of sexual assault in the service climb](#) [Sarah Cammarata, *Stars and Stripes*, 23 June 2021]

*Adm. Karl Schultz, the commandant of the Coast Guard, dodged questions Wednesday from lawmakers on harassment, bullying and retaliation in the service as a new report revealed the service is struggling with an overall rise in sexual assault cases. The number of reported incidents of sexual assault increased from 225 in fiscal 2019 to 245 reports in fiscal 2020, according to a Coast Guard report sent to Congress on June 16. At the same time, reported allegations of sexual harassment decreased from 92 in fiscal 2019 to 86 in fiscal 2020. The service said in the report that the decline is attributable to the Coast Guard's efforts to increase awareness of sexual harassment prevention. The data from the annual report last year combined with data from previous Coast Guard reports show a steady increase in the number of reports since 2007, though it is not clear what's behind the rise. The latest internal Coast Guard report was discussed as part of a House Homeland Security Committee hearing Wednesday on accountability, diversity and inclusion within the service.*

[House to introduce bill merging two high-profile measures to combat military sexual assault](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 23 June 2021]

*House lawmakers will introduce a bill Wednesday that combines two high-profile measures to combat military sexual assault and harassment. The new legislation would remove the decision to prosecute serious crimes in the military from the chain of command. Instead, the decision would fall to trained, independent military prosecutors. This would apply to nonmilitary crimes, such as murder, rape, domestic violence and sexual assault. The bill, titled the Vanessa Guillen Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act, is being introduced as the House version of a bill by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y. After years of pushing for the change, Gillibrand's Military Justice Improvement Act has been gaining momentum in the Senate and now has 65 cosponsors. The new legislation combines Gillibrand's bill with the I Am Vanessa Guillen Act, a House bill that would change the reporting process for sexual harassment and assault in the military and allow service members who are victims to seek monetary damages from the Defense Department.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Senior DOD leaders question plan to shift sexual misconduct, other serious crimes away from command](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 22 June 2021]

*The Pentagon's top uniformed leaders expressed concerns over plans to shift prosecution of serious crimes—particularly sexual assault—out of the traditional chain of command, according to [letters released Tuesday](#) by a chief Republican critic of the proposal. Responding to written questions on the issue from Senate Armed Services ranking member Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., seven of the eight-member Joint Chiefs of Staff suggested the changes could be detrimental, but said they*

are prepared to follow the law if directed to do so. “It is my professional opinion that removing commanders from prosecution decisions, process and accountability may have an adverse effect on readiness, mission accomplishment, good order and discipline, justice, unit cohesion, trust, and loyalty between commanders and those they lead,” Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley stated in a letter to Inhofe.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## VETERANS

[U.S. Commemorates Those Who Served in Korean War, Which Began 71 Years Ago](#) [David Vergun, DOD News, 24 June 2021]

*The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean troops, aided by military support from China and the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea with the aim of consolidating the two Koreas into one, controlled by the communist north. Although the Soviet Union and the United States had been allies during World War II, after the war, relations between the two nations deteriorated, ushering in what became known as the Cold War. North Korea’s invasion of South Korea was viewed unfavorably by many non-communist nations, including the U.S. The result was that for the first time in history, the United Nations Security Council authorized the formation of a U.N. Command and dispatched troops to help repel the invaders. The U.S. provided about 90% of the troops, but it is noteworthy that 21 other nations also participated. Fighting ended on July 27, 1953, when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. A demilitarized zone was established not far from the 38th parallel, which once again divided Korea into two nations. Today, South Korea is a valuable ally of the U.S. Also, a large number of U.S. forces are stationed in South Korea to provide security and deter aggression. In 1995, the Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to honor the millions of service members who served during the Korean War.*

[USS Oklahoma Brothers Accounted For From World War II](#) [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Public Affairs, 22 June 2021]

*The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that brothers, Navy Fireman 1st Class Malcolm J. Barber, 22, Navy Fireman 1st Class Leroy K. Barber, 21, and Navy Fireman 2nd Class Randolph H. Barber, 19, of New London, Wisconsin, killed during World War II, were accounted for on June 10, 2021. On Dec. 7, 1941, the Barber brothers were assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including the Barber brothers. From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu’uanu Cemeteries. Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the USS Oklahoma Unknowns from the Punchbowl for analysis. The Barber brothers’ names are recorded at the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to their names to indicate they have been accounted for.*

[Veterans call for more women-specific resources](#) [Nicole Boyd, *The Aestle*, 23 June 2021]

*Women veterans are more likely to experience unique challenges such as infertility and military sexual trauma, but often have difficulty finding resources specifically for them. Yasin Jackson, an Army veteran and program coordinator for Veterans Upward Bound, said one of the biggest resources women veterans need is infertility treatments, but that it seems to be a conversation no one other than female veterans wants to have. “People talk about sexual trauma and PTSD, and those things are very important, but they are not the biggest issue among female veterans: it’s actually infertility. All the things that we’re exposed to, even the symptomless soldier that’s doing admin work, is still exposed to lots of other contaminants just in training. Those like myself, or a CBRN officer, stands for Chemical Biological Radioactive Nuclear officer, just [in] the training you’re exposed to gases and chemicals that would make your average person infertile,” Jackson said. Amanda Depew, an Air Force veteran and graduate student in social work from Centralia, Illinois, said the VA doesn’t offer a lot of the specific health care that women need, such as mammograms. While she said some offer women’s clinics, those clinics usually cannot be found in rural areas.*