

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 16 JULY 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

[1st female sailor completes Navy special warfare training](#) [Lolita C. Baldor, *The Associated Press*, 15 July 2021]

*For the first time, a female sailor has successfully completed the grueling 37-week training course to become a Naval Special Warfare combatant-craft crewman—the boat operators who transport Navy SEALs and conduct their own classified missions at sea. Navy officials said they would not identify the woman or provide more details on her—a routine military policy for special operations forces. She is also the first of 18 women who have tried out for a job as a SWCC or a SEAL to succeed. The sailor’s graduation marks just the latest inroad that women have made into some of the military’s most difficult and competitive commando jobs—just five years after all combat posts were opened to them. She will now head to one of Naval Special Warfare’s three special boat teams. “Becoming the first female to graduate from a Naval Special Warfare training pipeline is an extraordinary accomplishment and we are incredibly proud of our teammate,” said Rear Adm. H.W. Howard III, the commander of Naval Special Warfare. “Like her fellow operators, she demonstrated the character, cognitive and leadership attributes required to join our force.”*

[Derision, misogyny, sexual assault: VMI women face attacks on campus and online](#) [Ian Shapira, *The Washington Post*, 12 July 2021]

*In its investigation into VMI, [Barnes & Thornburg found](#) that while the school “conducts extensive sexual assault training,” male cadets “treat it as a joke and an opportunity for misogynistic humor, without consequence.” Asked about this finding, the school said it could not respond to “the many unconfirmed, anecdotal allegations throughout the report.” Its spokesman added, “VMI expects each cadet to participate in the required Title IX training with as much, if not more, seriousness as they would approach their academic classes.” Attacks trigger ridicule, too. In March, VMI issued a federally mandated Clery Crime Alert to the campus about a male cadet who allegedly “inappropriately touched several females” inside the barracks. The incident quickly became fodder on Jodel for sexist jokes about “the sheed diddler” and bitter commentary about the presence of women at VMI. “Doesn’t matter if he’s guilty or not. It’s a girls word against him, he lost,” one poster complained.*

[House appropriators want Pentagon to get tough on extremists in the ranks](#) [John M. Donnelly, *Roll Call*, 13 July 2021]

*The House Appropriations Committee would require Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III to report to lawmakers soon on progress in keeping violent extremists out of the U.S. military. The panel said in a [report](#) made public Monday that it would direct the Pentagon to report on how it is implementing proposals to solve the problem, including recommendations from an internal Defense Department study that was sent quietly to Congress in October 2020 and disclosed publicly by CQ Roll Call in February. The Pentagon study described in detail the appeals that White supremacists and other extremists make to recruit military members—and their periodic*

successes. “Despite a low number of cases in absolute terms, individuals with extremist affiliations and military experience are a concern to U.S. national security because of their proven ability to execute high-impact events,” the Pentagon’s October 2020 report stated. “Access to service members with combat training and technical weapons expertise can also increase both the probability of success and the potency of planned violent attacks.”

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## CULTURE

[After Removing Two Statues, Charlottesville Officials Vote To Take Down A Third](#) [Dave Mistich, NPR, 10 July 2021]

Saturday marked a day of sweeping changes to the landscape of Charlottesville, Va., as local officials removed three statues seen by many as symbols of perpetuating racial inequality in America. Early Saturday morning, the city took down statues of Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Then, during an emergency midday meeting of the city council, officials unanimously voted to remove another statue featuring Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and Shoshone interpreter Sacagawea, which was taken down Saturday afternoon. Public outcry over the statue of Lee became the backdrop for an August 2017 “Unite the Right” rally in which White supremacists descended on the city, ultimately leading to the death of one counterprotester. As a crane neared the Lee monument Saturday morning, Charlottesville Mayor Nikuyah Walker—the city’s first Black female mayor—spoke to a crowd gathered at the site. “Taking down this statue is one small step closer to the goal of helping Charlottesville, Va., and America, grapple with the sin of being willing to destroy Black people for economic gain,” Walker said, *The Associated Press* reported.

[Analysis: Mississippi might have to rethink Capitol statues](#) [Emily Wagster Pettus, *The Associated Press*, 12 July 2021]

Mississippians find unity in bragging about the state’s influence on American culture. The state prides itself on being birthplace of the blues and home of towering literary figures. Yet, even as the nation reconsiders the public display of Confederate monuments amid a reckoning over issues of racial injustice, Mississippi—a state with a 38% Black population—still represents itself inside the U.S. Capitol with still-life images of Confederates. On June 29, the Democratic-led U.S. House voted 285-120 in favor of a legislation “to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol.” The proposal awaits a vote in the Senate. Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson is the only Black member of Mississippi’s four-person House delegation, and he was the only of the four to vote in favor of mandating removal of Confederate statues. Statues “of those who served in the Confederacy or supported slavery or segregation should not have a place of honor in the U.S. Capitol—that’s why I voted to #RemoveHate today,” Thompson wrote that day on Twitter. Mississippi legislators have shown no appetite for this debate, but they took a landmark vote in June 2020 to retire the last state flag that included the Confederate battle emblem. They don’t need to wait for a directive from Congress to start discussing other historical figures who could become Mississippi’s still-life representatives. They could consider civil rights leaders Medgar Evers or Fannie Lou Hamer.

[Disneyland set to reopen its Jungle Cruise ride, minus the racially insensitive stereotypes](#) [Leah Asmelash, CNN, 12 July 2021]

*Disney has finally redone its Jungle Cruise ride after years of being criticized for the attraction's controversial depictions of Indigenous people. In January, the corporation announced it would rethink the classic Jungle Cruise ride, in which a skipper ferried visitors along a waterway while making jokes and funny comments. One of the sights visitors were taken past involved a scene featuring "natives," depicted as primitive and threatening. "As Imagineers, it is our responsibility to ensure experiences we create and stories we share reflect the voices and perspective of the world around us," said Carmen Smith, creative development and inclusion strategies executive at Walt Disney Imagineering, in a statement at the time. On July 16, the ride will open once more in Disneyland in California, while the updated version at Disney World in Florida will be completed later this summer, according to a news release from Disney.*

[Guard, Reserve spouses report satisfaction with military life—but that was before 2020](#) [Karen Jowers, Air Force Times, 9 July 2021]

*Across the National Guard and Reserve components, the majority of military spouses report being satisfied with military life and support their service member staying in the military, according to [recently released results](#) of a Defense Department survey. But less than a third of the spouses whose Guard or Reserve member had been deployed in the previous two years reported being satisfied with the military support they received during that deployment, an issue that has held steady since 2014. This is according to results of a 2019 [DOD](#) survey just released—fielded two years ago, before the COVID-19 pandemic. That also was before continuous activations over the past year of the National Guard for missions such as helping deal with civil unrest, the pandemic and natural disasters. Overall, 61 percent of National Guard and Reserve spouses reported being satisfied with military life in 2019, a trend that's held for 10 years. Army Guard spouses reported slightly lower satisfaction rates of 58 percent; Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve spouses had the lowest satisfaction rates at 53 percent.*

[Illinois becomes first state to require teaching Asian American history in schools](#) [Kimmy Yam, NBC News, 12 July 2021]

*Illinois has become the first state to mandate that Asian American history be part of its public school curriculum. Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a bill Friday that requires elementary and high schools to teach a unit of Asian American history beginning in the 2022-23 school year. The historic legislation, which passed after an aggressive campaign led in part by the nonprofit group Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago, is scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1. Sociology professor Natasha Warikoo, a scholar of racial and ethnic inequality in education at Tufts University, said that the legislation is no doubt a win but that it is likely to be up to the educators and the community to determine how heavily schools will emphasize the teachings. The legislation mandates that schools teach "the contributions of Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States" in addition to Asian American civil rights advancements, among other aspects of history.*

[Impersonations of Military Members on Social Media On the Rise, New Report Says](#) [Patrick Tucker, Government Executive, 13 July 2021]

*Social media companies intentionally make it very easy to set up new accounts and profiles. After all, the greater the number of users, the more the company is worth. This poses some challenges for the way the public forms opinions about the Defense Department. You see, the same convenience that allows you to join a new social network with no hassle has enabled online scammers to set up profiles impersonating members of the military, a trend that's rising rapidly, according to threat analysis firm ZeroFox. Last year, ZeroFox took down 40,000 social media accounts that impersonated military leaders, up from 1,000 three years ago, the company says in a new [white paper](#). During that same time span, the FBI saw complaints about impersonations of government officials and employees [rise 40 percent](#). ZeroFox expects another big increase this year. Zack Allen, the company's senior director of threat intelligence, says that military personnel make particularly attractive targets for fake profiles, especially when there's a change in administration.*

[Insect Experts Will Change The Name Of The “Gypsy Moth” And “Gypsy Ant”](#) [James Doubek, NPR, 10 July 2021]

*The largest organization of insect experts in the world is dropping its common names for two insects—the gypsy moth and gypsy ant—because it says the names are inappropriate and offensive. The Entomological Society of America said it would take input on new names for the moth *Lymantria dispar* and the ant *Aphaenogaster araneoides*. Many scientific groups follow its lead in referring to insect species. “Words matter, and what we call something matters. And by using the former name for *Lymantria dispar*, it really was very hurtful to the Romani people,” says Chris Stelzig, the executive director of the organization. The Romani people, or Roma, are Europe's largest ethnic minority and face discrimination. “Gypsy” is considered a pejorative term.*

[Mj Rodriguez Becomes First Trans Woman Up for Major Acting Emmy](#) [Danielle Turchiano, Variety, 13 July 2021]

*The category is: making history. Mj Rodriguez has become the first transgender performer to pick up an Emmy nomination in a major acting category. Rodriguez is nominated in the lead drama actress category for her fierce and formidable portrayal of house mother and nurse Blanca Rodriguez on FX's ballroom culture period drama “Pose.” It is her first-ever attention from the Television Academy. “I do believe this is a pivotal moment. There's never been a trans woman who has been nominated as a leading outstanding actress and I feel like that pushes the needle forward so much for now the door to be knocked down for so many people—whether they be male or trans female, gender nonconforming, LGBTQIA+, it does not matter,” Rodriguez told Variety. This nomination marks a significant step for LGBTQIA-plus representation—and specifically trans representation—at the Emmys.*

[Native American Korean War hero who gave his life for his men gets the graphic novel he deserves](#) [Haley Britzky, Task & Purpose, 13 July 2021]

*A new graphic novel tells the story of Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., a Marine-turned-soldier who fought until his dying breath to save his men during the Korean War, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Red Cloud, a Native American of the Ho-Chunk tribe in Wisconsin, originally enlisted in the Marine Corps at 16 years old, [according to the latest graphic novel](#)*

*from Association of the U.S. Army. After Pearl Harbor was attacked in December 1941, Red Cloud went to war as a Marine Raider. An Army release says he served on Guadalcanal and Okinawa; the new graphic novel says he received a Purple Heart as a result of “a round to the shoulder.” He left the service as a sergeant after World War II and returned home, got married and started a family. But in 1948, Red Cloud enlisted again—this time as an infantryman in the U.S. Army. Two years later, he was back in combat, now with E Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. His unit was “at the tip of the spear,” according to the comic, “taking prisoners and herding the North Koreans toward the Yalu River.”*

[\[READ NOVEL ONLINE\]](#)

[Next-generation military ID card “stepchild” designation stirs controversy](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 15 July 2021]

*Service members and spouses are calling for change to the military’s new dependent ID cards this week over the way the relationship field identifies spouses’ children. The Defense Department began transitioning last summer from its paper uniformed services ID card to a plastic “next generation” card similar to the Common Access Card used by DOD personnel. The card is meant to be more secure and harder to counterfeit. But a photo posted on social media Wednesday drew controversy over the card’s use of the term “stepchild” in a field listing the relationship between the dependent and the military sponsor. Biological offspring are listed only as “child,” social media users said. Some were concerned the new cards might reveal a child’s adoption status, apparently based on the fact that the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, requires different documents, depending on a child’s legal relationship to their sponsor.*

[Olympic surfing exposes whitewashed Native Hawaiian roots](#) [Sally Ho, *The Associated Press*, 13 July 2021]

*For some Native Hawaiians, surfing’s Olympic debut is both a celebration of a cultural touchstone invented by their ancestors, and an extension of the racial indignities seared into the history of the game and their homeland. The Tokyo Summer Games, which open July 23, serve as a proxy for that unresolved tension and resentment, according to the ethnic Hawaiians who lament that surfing and their identity have been culturally appropriated by White outsiders who now stand to benefit the most from the \$10 billion industry. “You had Native Hawaiians in the background being a part of the development of it and just not being really recognized,” said Isaiah Helekunihi Walker, a Hawaii historian and activist. “There’s an element of them taking over. That’s when there’s no more aloha.” The Indigenous people of Hawaii traditionally viewed the act of stylishly riding ocean waves on a board for fun and competition as a spiritual art form and egalitarian national pastime that connected them to the land and sea.*

[Stick to sports? Here’s what could happen to Olympians who protest at Tokyo Games](#) [Kiara Alfonseca, *ABC News*, 12 July 2021]

*Since the start of the Olympic Games in 1896, athletes have used the international stage to shine a light on social justice issues. One of the most iconic protests came from Tommie Smith and John Carlos, the gold and bronze medalists in the 200-meter dash in 1968, who each put on a glove and raised a fist in protest of the treatment of Black people in the United States. Since then,*

*according to sports historians like Jules Boykoff and Louis Moore, the International Olympic Committee has cracked down on protests. The rule, Article 50, has been reaffirmed by the IOC ahead of the Tokyo Games and states that “no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas.” In June, a group of high-profile U.S. athletes, including Carlos, sent a letter to the IOC and the International Paralympic Committee asking to eliminate that part of the article, which since been updated to allow for athletes to express their views in specific places and mediums, like when talking to the media, at team meetings or on the field of play prior to competition.*

[Watching for birds, diversity: Audubon groups pledge change](#) [Philip Marcelo, *The Associated Press*, 15 July 2021]

*When Boston socialites Minna Hall and Harriet Hemenway sought to end the slaughter of birds in the name of 19th century high fashion, they picked a logical namesake for their cause: John James Audubon, a naturalist celebrated for his stunning watercolors of American birds. Now, 125 years after the founding of the Massachusetts Audubon Society for the Protection of Birds, the organization and the nearly 500 Audubon chapters nationwide it helped inspire are reckoning with another side of Audubon’s life: He was also a slaveholder and staunch opponent of abolition. In the year-plus since George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police, Audubon chapters have pledged to do more to atone for the past, including diversifying their staff and finding ways to make natural spaces more welcoming to people of color. It’s part of a broader reckoning within the wider environmental movement, which for years has faced criticism for its racist origins and lack of diversity.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[Group asks judge to halt university’s anti-bias policies](#) [*The Associated Press*, 11 July 2021]

*A conservative group is asking a court to temporarily prohibit Virginia Tech from enforcing some of its policies against harassment and discrimination. The [Roanoke Times reported](#) Friday that the group is called Speech First Inc. The group has already filed a lawsuit on behalf of three students against the school’s anti-bias policies. Now the group wants a federal judge to temporarily prevent the university from enforcing the policies until he rules on the lawsuit. The group contends that the students hold views that are unpopular on a campus of roughly 35,000 students. Those views include opposition to the Black Lives Matter movement as well as same-sex marriage and abortion. The lawsuit claims Virginia Tech’s policies are overly vague because they forbid “telling unwelcome jokes about someone’s identity” and urging “religious beliefs on someone who finds it unwelcome.” The school has revised one of its policies by clarifying that a ban on speech for “partisan and political purposes” applies only to employees. But Virginia Tech is defending the rest and urged the judge not to grant the group’s request for a preliminary injunction.*

[Study Finds Beard Waivers Slow Promotion, Mostly Affecting Black Airmen](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 15 July 2021]

*A new study has found that Air Force personnel may not be promoted as quickly as their peers if they decide to seek a shaving waiver to wear a beard while in service. The findings, [published in](#)*

[the journal \*Military Medicine\*](#) last week, surveyed thousands of airmen to examine whether their careers were in jeopardy because of their appearance. The study sought to find out whether Black airmen were disproportionately affected in their careers by having a shaving waiver, the authors wrote. The researchers found a direct link between those airmen who requested a waiver for a longer period of time and how fast the Air Force moved them up in the ranks. For years, airmen have been able to request a shaving waiver on a case-by-case basis, but the Air Force's surgeon general last year approved a new five-year dispensation authorizing male airmen with a chronic inflammatory condition to keep their beards. The report concluded that the promotion system is not inherently biased based on race, but biased "against the presence of facial hair which will likely always affect the promotions of Blacks/African-Americans disproportionately." That's because Black airmen would more likely need to request a waiver over their White counterparts.

## DIVERSITY

[Federal Diversity Officers Stress Importance of Data](#) [Courtney Bubl , *Government Executive*, 14 July 2021]

Top diversity officials at four major agencies said on Tuesday that obtaining and using better data will be crucial to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in the federal workforce. Representatives from the Office of Personnel Management, State Department, FBI and Office of the Director of National Intelligence participated in a panel for *Government Executive* and NextGov's "Future of Work" [virtual event](#) on July 12. The wide-ranging discussion covered the recent executive order from President Biden on advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in the federal workforce as well as what these agencies were doing beforehand. Mini Timmaraju, senior advisor on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility to the OPM director, said data is a crucial part of implementation of the executive order, which has provisions on improving agency-level and government-wide data.

[GovExec Daily: Getting Gen Z Into Federal Service](#) [Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune, *Government Executive*, 12 July 2021] [PODCAST]

When talking with young people about career planning, many in Generation Z want to make a difference or work for positive change. The federal civil service is one avenue for that, but it's increasingly difficult for Generation Z to get into the federal government. With an aging workforce, this not only presents a major challenge in the immediate future, but a longer term problem for the government of the future. Kaitlyn Rentala is the author of the book, *The Public Sector Pivot: How Gen Z Will Lead a Renaissance in Public Service* and a rising senior at the University of Pennsylvania studying Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, with a globalization concentration. She has a post on our site right now headlined "Gen Z Could Lead a Renaissance in Public Service—If Only They Could Get In." She joined the podcast to discuss the hurdles that are keeping young people out of the federal government.

[History of integration in the U.S. Armed Services](#) [Lawrence J. Korb, *Military Times*, 13 July 2021] [COMMENTARY]

The members of Congress, and the media who are criticizing General Mark Milley for his positions on antiracism and anti-White extremism in the military and why he thinks it is important

*for military people to learn about critical race theory, display an appalling ignorance about how the U.S. military itself has handled racial (and other social issues) over the course of its history. Despite the fact that nearly 2 million African Americans served with distinction in World Wars I and II, (for example, the Tuskegee Airmen and Black soldiers in the Battle of the Bulge) the U.S. military did not even really start integrating the forces until July, 1948, when President Harry Truman issued an executive order ending segregation in our armed forces.*

[San Diego to get new “Navy Mayor” in change of command Friday](#) [Andrew Dyer, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 15 July 2021]

*Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett will assume command of Navy Region Southwest at a ceremony Friday at Naval Air Station North Island, the Navy said in a statement. Barnett is the third Black officer to serve as San Diego’s unofficial “Navy Mayor” and the first to do so as commander of Navy Region Southwest, which was established in 1999. Rear Adm. Benjamin Hacker held the title as the commander of Naval Base San Diego in the late 1980s. Rear Adm. Samuel Gravely, Jr.—the first Black man in the Navy to achieve the rank of flag officer—held the title from 1975 to 1976, when the command was known as the Eleventh Naval District. Barnett is taking over for Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, who is retiring after more than 40 years of service. During her Navy career, Bolivar, a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, served as a Navy diver and salvage ship commander. Since taking command in San Diego in 2019, Bolivar found herself at the crossroads of military service and politics when she was named the convening authority overseeing the war crimes court-martial of Navy SEAL Chief Eddie Gallagher.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Trailblazing WWII battalion of Black women could soon receive congressional honor](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 13 July 2021]

*Decades after their trailblazing service, a battalion of Black women who served overseas in World War II could soon receive Congress’ highest award for distinguished achievements. The Senate has approved legislation that would award the hundreds of women who served in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion—nicknamed the Six Triple Eight—the Congressional Gold Medal, according to the Associated Press. The legislation is now awaiting action in the House. Only seven veterans of the 6888th are believed to still be living, according to the AP. The 6888th were instrumental in sorting out millions of pieces of mail in WWII, which began piling up in warehouses in February 1945 due to unclear labeling and “ever-changing locations,” according to the Army Center of Military History. The mail backlog resulted in service members deployed in Europe not being able to hear from loved ones back home, which Army officials said was hurting morale. The 6888th was created in November 1944 after African-American organizations urged the War Department to allow Black women with the Women’s Army Corps to serve overseas like their White counterparts.*

[\[SEE ALSO-VIDEO\]](#)

## **EXTREMISM**

[Education against extremism: Suggestions for a smarter stand-down](#) [Carrie A. Lee and Celestino Perez, Jr., *War on the Rocks*, 16 July 2021] [COMMENTARY]

*A large number of veterans, and even some active-duty officers, were among those who stormed the Capitol during the Jan. 6 insurrection. In response, the military leadership held small-group stand-down sessions across the force last spring to discuss the presence of extremism in the ranks and how best to eradicate it. Yet, recent remarks from some officers tasked with implementing these sessions have raised concerns about their effectiveness and the uniformity with which they were executed. Worse, some participants described the stand-down day as “insufficient” while others wrote an open letter claiming that the event actually “undermine[d] trust.” Indeed, rather than serve as a productive moment for reflection and problem-solving, the stand-down instead appeared to be mired in the malaise that has plagued other “awareness days” focused on persistent problems such as suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder, and sexual assault. Based on what we have observed in our capacity as a department chair and a director of a selective scholars’ program at the Army War College, part of the problem stems from the lack of seriousness and preparation surrounding these sessions. To give extremism in the ranks the attention that it deserves, it should be folded into the regular curriculum.*

[Inside One Combat Vet’s Journey From Defending His Country to Storming the Capitol](#) [Vera Bergengruen and W.J. Hennigan, *TIME*, 9 July 2021]

*“I’m a normal dude,” Josh James tells the camera in a video posted to his wife Audrey’s TikTok account in early June. Audrey tells her new followers that she can’t reveal much more; since posting about James’ arrest and her family’s ordeal, she has gained a sympathetic audience of more than 18,000 on the social app. But the video pans out to show the ankle monitor that has tracked James’ movements since April. Both James and his wife declined interviews for this story, citing ongoing court proceedings.) For weeks, James had helped plan an operation to disrupt the certification on Jan. 6 of President Joe Biden’s electoral victory, investigators say, by coordinating and recruiting others to travel to Washington with paramilitary gear, including guns, tactical vests, helmets and radio equipment. A federal conspiracy indictment contends James and at least 15 other members of the Oath Keepers, an anti-government militia, had organized, equipped and trained ahead of the siege that left five dead and dozens more injured. If James’ decision to leave his family to join an attack on the U.S. Capitol is a mystery, there are clues to what drove him. After his service, and rehabilitation from his injuries, he struggled to rebuild his life. Of the more than 500 people arrested in connection with the Jan. 6 riot, at least 1 in 10 was a current or former member of the U.S. military, according to a George Washington University analysis.*

[Two men charged with conspiracy in alleged scheme to attack Democratic headquarters in Sacramento](#) [Katelyn Polantz, *CNN*, 16 July 2021]

*Federal authorities have arrested two men in California who allegedly wanted to start a movement to overthrow the government and discussed blowing up the Democratic headquarters in Sacramento because of the 2020 election, according to a Justice Department press release. The Justice Department apprehended one of the men who had amassed a large arsenal before the presidential inauguration on January 20—which prosecutors believe was to be a key date in the planning of the attack. Ian Benjamin Rogers, 45, of Napa, was arrested in mid-January, and Jarrod Copeland, 37, of Vallejo, was arrested this week, the Justice Department said. Copeland had told Rogers he was in touch with an anti-government militia group and also made contact*

*with a militia leader after Rogers' arrest, who advised him to delete his communications, which he allegedly did, the Justice Department also said. Investigators found Rogers had a card that said "White privilege trumps everything" and that had other references to Trump.*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Why introverts excelled at working from home](#) [Kate Morgan, BBC News, 16 July 2021]

*While the transition to remote work in early 2020 was abrupt for everyone, some found themselves thriving more than others—in many cases, thanks to their personality type. Many introverted workers found working from a distraction-free environment preferable. Client needs also changed in ways that benefited introverts' skillsets, while virtual communication offered introverts more opportunities to share their thoughts. For "quiet deliverers" who may once have flown under the radar, remote work offered not only a less taxing day-to-day, but also an opportunity to combine that extra energy with new ways of working—and really stand out. On top of having the right innate skill set, many introverts benefited from the move away from a physical office environment. Neuroscience helps back up the theory. [Studies show](#) extroverts are less sensitive to dopamine, and thus require a lot of stimulation to be sufficiently energised. Introverts are far more sensitive to the brain chemical, and over-stimulation can quickly become tiring.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Esther Bejarano: Auschwitz orchestra member dies](#) [BBC News, 11 June 2021]

*Esther Bejarano, one of the last survivors of an orchestra formed in the Auschwitz death camp, has died aged 96. She died at a Jewish hospital in the German city of Hamburg on Saturday. The orchestra, formed of 40 women inmates, had to perform at the concentration camp whenever prisoners were marched off to work or when new trains arrived with Jews on board. Later in life, she dedicated her time to making sure the world did not forget about the Holocaust. Bejarano's sister and parents were killed by the Nazis. She was sent to Auschwitz when she was 18 and was forced into hard labour, carrying heavy stones. But one day she discovered that SS guards were looking for an accordion player to join the camp's orchestra. Despite not knowing how to play the instrument, she volunteered. She recalled the Auschwitz Women's Orchestra having to play to new arrivals. "You knew they were going to be gassed, and all you could do was stand there and play," she told Deutsche Welle in 2014. She was eventually transferred to the Ravensbrück concentration camp for women, where she managed to escape.*

[Hungary Bans LGBTQ Content From Schools, But Some Teachers Say They Will Defy It](#) [Esme Nicholson, NPR, 9 July 2021]

*Viktoria Radvanyi says her job has never been so stressful. She's on the board of Budapest Pride, Hungary's annual LGBTQ event, whose monthlong festival is currently underway. "The clear effect of [Hungarian Prime Minister] Viktor Orban's very, very homophobic and autocratic politics is that, year by year, we find it harder and harder to find venues," Radvanyi laments. "A lot of venues are afraid to host LGBTQ events because they fear that they are going to be attacked in the propaganda media." In the two-year hiatus since the Hungarian capital's last Pride march, the government has outlawed gender transition and gay adoption. Now, the Orban*

*administration is banning LGBTQ people from appearing in school materials or on TV shows for people under 18. Supporters of Orbán's Fidesz party have hailed the reforms as the government pushes the country further to the right and antagonizes the European Union, of which Hungary is a member. But the moves have drawn strong criticism in Hungary and across the EU.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Israeli court annuls parts of surrogacy law excluding gays](#) [The Associated Press, 11 July 2021]

*Israel's Supreme Court on Sunday cleared the way for same-sex couples to have children through surrogate mothers, a move hailed by lawmakers and activists as a victory for LGBTQ rights. The court ruled in 2020 that a surrogacy law, which had expanded access to single women but excluded gay couples, "disproportionately harmed the right to equality and the right to parenthood" and was unlawful. It gave the government a year to draw up a new law, but parliament failed to meet the deadline. The court said Sunday that "since for more than a year the state has done nothing to advance an appropriate amendment to the law, the court ruled that it cannot abide the continued serious damage to human rights caused by the existing surrogacy arrangement." The Aguda, an Israeli LGBTQ activist group, applauded the decision as a "historic landmark in our struggle for equality." Ultra-Orthodox lawmaker Aryeh Deri, formerly the country's interior minister, wrote on Twitter that the court's decision was another serious blow to Israel's Jewish identity and that "most of the nation desires safeguarding the tradition of Israel, preserving Jewish family values."*

[Police investigate racist abuse of three England players](#) [Frank Griffiths and Pan Pylas, The Associated Press, 12 July 2021]

*British police opened investigations Monday into the racist abuse of three Black players who failed to score penalties in England's shootout loss to Italy in the European Championship final. The Metropolitan Police condemned the "unacceptable" abuse of Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka, and said they will be investigating the "offensive and racist" social media posts published soon after Italy won Sunday's shootout 3-2 following a 1-1 draw. A mural of Rashford on the wall of a cafe in south Manchester was also defaced with graffiti in the wake of the match. The racist abuse, which was condemned as "unforgivable" by England coach Gareth Southgate, has led to calls for social media companies, such as Facebook and Twitter, to do more in hunting down the perpetrators of the abuse. All three players targeted are part of a young England squad that has been widely praised for its diversity and social conscience. Rashford, for one, has been at the forefront of a campaign against child poverty, which convinced the British government to restore free lunches for thousands of poor children amid the coronavirus pandemic.*

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

[Tokyo hotel apologizes for "Japanese only" elevator sign](#) [Reuters, 12 July 2021]

*A Tokyo hotel has apologised and removed signs saying "Japanese only" and "foreigners only" from elevators after the anti-COVID-19 precaution sparked outrage on social media ahead of the 2020 Summer Olympics. Tokyo entered a state of emergency on Monday amid concerns that an influx of tens of thousands of athletes and officials during the July 23-August 8 Games will spread the coronavirus, cases of which are already rising in the Japanese capital. Akasaka Excel Hotel*

*Tokyu in downtown Tokyo put up the signs on Friday in response to guidance from Tokyo 2020 organisers to ensure the movements of guests related to the Games were separated from others staying at the hotel, a hotel official told Reuters on Monday. The official, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the subject, said there was no intention to discriminate against foreigners. The signs triggered harsh criticism on social media, with one Twitter user tweeting “Apartheid has been revived in Japan”. Another likened the signs to U.S. “Jim Crow” measures, since struck down by courts, designed to keep Blacks from voting in the U.S. Deep South.*

[U.K. bans fifth neo-Nazi group under terror laws](#) [Daniel De Simone, *BBC News*, 12 July 2021]

*An American neo-Nazi group which is led from Russia is to be banned as a terrorist organisation, the Home Secretary has said. Priti Patel condemned “evil White supremacist groups, who target vulnerable people across the world”. The Base will be the fifth extreme right-wing group to be proscribed in the U.K. under anti-terror laws. A BBC investigation also exposed the group’s American founder Rinaldo Nazzaro and revealed how he was directing The Base from his St Petersburg home. The Base, formed in 2018, seeks to create terrorist cells in the U.S. and other countries in an attempt to establish fascist, White ethno-states through a “race war”. Members have engaged in training with weapons and explosives. Several men linked to the group are being prosecuted in the U.S. for offences including conspiracy to murder. The Home Office said the group shared aims and ideologies with Atomwaffen Division, and its alias National Socialist Order, which was banned earlier this year. The other right-wing extremist groups proscribed as terror organisations are National Action and Sonnenkrieg Division - both created in the U.K.—as well as Feuerkrieg Division, founded in Estonia.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[“Failure of leadership”—What one Marine’s discharge reveals about the military justice system](#)

[Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 15 July 2021]

*A Marine Corps general has rejected a military judge’s recommendation to hold off on discharging an enlisted Marine so she could continue her mental health treatment. The decision to remove her from the service effectively discontinues the treatment others have said she desperately needs. Maj. Gen. J.D. Alford, commander of the Marine Corps Training Command, decided on Monday that Cpl. Thae Ohu would receive a bad conduct discharge. Ohu’s story is a complicated one and touches on a range of issues that the military is grappling with, from sexual assault, to mental health care, and how commanders respond to troops in a crisis. Experts say it is also a glaring example of the ways that the military justice system sometimes caves to the power wielded by individual commanders. Ohu has a documented history of mental health issues, which worsened after she was allegedly raped by a sergeant in 2015, and culminated in an incident in which she threatened to kill her boyfriend in 2020. Alford’s decision accepts the military judge’s sentencing, according to Capt. Sam Stephenson, a Marine Corps spokesman, but rejects the judge’s recommendation that Ohu’s discharge be temporarily suspended for six months.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Fort Carson's Miss Colorado focused on de-stigmatizing mental health](#) [David Bitton, *The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)*, 10 July 2021]

*Addressing mental health among military personnel is a top priority for Spc. Maura Spence-Carroll, who last month as Miss Fort Carson won the crown of Miss Colorado 2021 and will now compete for Miss America this December. As the first active-duty soldier to win the Miss Colorado pageant, Spence-Carroll now has a very public platform to shine a light on destigmatizing mental health care in the military so personnel can get the assistance they need. "Proactive, preventative care now is how we prevent service members and veterans from committing suicide tomorrow," she said. The 21-year-old intelligence analyst joined the Army in 2018 and assigned to 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. Spence-Carroll is in the process of identifying senior Army leaders willing to speak up about their own mental or behavioral health issues and the care they received so other service members understand it is OK to speak up and ask for help when needed. "I really want to share with junior soldiers that you don't have to be a sergeant first class or a captain in order to speak up and make a change," she said. "You can do it as you are. Having the strength and the bravery to stand up for what you believe in when no one else is backing you at first can be scary, but it increases the opportunities for other people."*

[GovExec Daily: Federal In-Person Office Policies and the "Honor System"](#) [Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune, *Government Executive*, 16 July 2021] [PODCAST]

*Federal employment attorney Stephanie Rapp-Tully joins the show to discuss vaccination proof and agency's—and feds'—risks. As more Americans get vaccinated against COVID-19, more spaces are opening up maskless for those who have received the vaccine. Federal agencies are in the process of creating reopening and in-person operational plans, but can run into real trouble if they use the honor system as much of the private sector is doing now. Stephanie Rapp-Tully is a partner and federal employment attorney with Tully Rinckey PLLC's Washington, D.C. office. She joined the show to discuss vaccine policies and liabilities for feds and agencies.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[House Bill Would Require Pentagon to Set Up Apprenticeship, Fellowship Program for Military Spouses](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 12 July 2021]

*House appropriators want to require the Pentagon to create a program that would give military spouses more chances at landing apprenticeships and fellowships to jump-start or advance their careers. The House Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee has set aside \$5 million for a pilot program for military spouse internships and fellowships, according to a report released by the committee on Monday detailing the fiscal 2022 defense spending bill. The bill does not specify what types of programs would be offered under the pilot, just that they should be able to show results such as spouses being hired full time by either the place they intern or another organization in the same field. The pilot would be overseen by the Defense Department's director of military community support programs. According to a [report published earlier this year](#) by the National Military Spouse Network, nearly one-quarter of military spouses actively seeking a job were unemployed before the COVID-19 outbreak, with rates likely increasing to between 30% and 35% during the pandemic.*

[How to Stop Political Division from Eroding Military-Academic Relations](#) [Rikki H. Sargent, Shannon Houck and Lucian Gideon Conway, *Defense One*, 9 July 2021] [COMMENTARY]

*Much has been written about how our political polarization undermines U.S. national security by enabling adversaries' [influence operations](#), but the divide among us also hinders fruitful collaboration between academics and the Defense Department. This worries us because the need for diverse, multispecialty teams has never been higher. Although expressly apolitical, academia is largely [left-leaning](#) and the military is largely [right-leaning](#), and these ideological leanings are intensifying. From 1989 to 2016, the liberal-to-conservative faculty ratio doubled, from 2.3 to 5. The self-identifying liberal shift leveled off in more recent years as polarization increased. But the discrepancy remains. A meta-study on political party identification released just before President Joe Biden's inauguration found 48 percent of academic professors registered as Democrat, whereas only 6 percent registered as Republican.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Soldier quietly reassigned after killing man, hitting wife finally faces murder charge](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 13 July 2021]

*Pvt. Jonathan Lauture never once denied that he killed Jason Lindsay on the night of June 19, 2019. Police officers in El Paso, Texas, said it was a “justified homicide” under state law—Lindsay was just across the door frame of Lauture's off-post apartment. A grand jury agreed, and Lauture didn't face civilian criminal charges. But the Army's Criminal Investigative Division had no idea Lauture had killed a man, according to Col. Cathy Wilkinson, an Army spokesperson. And at the time, CID had no idea that Lauture had been beating his wife since March 2019. Fort Bliss CID never learned how Lauture had beaten his wife with a picture frame that night, nor did they learn how Lindsay, who was unarmed, was attempting to rescue Lauture's wife from the abuse. Fort Bliss CID also didn't see the civilian police records describing the “history of family violence” at Lauture's home. But Lauture's chain of command, knowing he'd killed someone, quickly moved to reassign him. And so Lauture and his wife moved to Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he continued to beat her, choke her, and—on at least one occasion—point a gun at her. CID only learned of the shooting after special agents began investigating Lauture's domestic violence at Fort Stewart in December 2019, five months of abuse later.*

## RACISM

[A Federal Probe Into Indian Boarding School Gravesites Seeks To Bring Healing](#) [Noelle C. Evans, *NPR*, 11 July 2021]

*The United States is about to undertake a national investigation into hundreds of American Indian boarding schools that from the 1800s through the 20th century served to “kill the Indian to save the man,” according to one school's founder. On June 22, [Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced](#) the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative in an address to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) during a virtual conference. It came weeks after the discovery of 215 Indigenous children's remains were found at a school site in British Columbia. From 1869 when the Peace Policy was enacted through 1978, the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition estimates that hundreds of thousands of Native children were removed from their*

families and sent to these schools, which spanned 30 states, the majority in Oklahoma (83), Arizona (51), Alaska (33), and New Mexico (26). By 1926, nearly 83% of Indian school-age children were attending boarding schools, according to the organization.

[Indigenous children's remains turned over from Army cemetery](#) [Mark Scoloro, *The Associated Press*, 14 July 2021]

*The disinterred remains of nine Native American children who died more than a century ago while attending a government-run school in Pennsylvania were headed home to Rosebud Sioux tribal lands in South Dakota on Wednesday after a ceremony returning them to relatives. The handoff at a graveyard on the grounds of the U.S. Army's Carlisle Barracks was part of the fourth set of transfers to take place since 2017. The remains of an Alaskan Aleut child were returned to her tribe earlier this summer. "We want our children home no matter how long it takes," said U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, who in June announced a nationwide investigation into the boarding schools that attempted to assimilate Indigenous children into White society. Haaland, the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary, said at the event that "forced assimilation practices" stripped away the children's clothing, their language and their culture. She said the government aims to locate the schools and burial sites and identify the names and tribal affiliations of children from the boarding schools around the country.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Geocaching While Black: Outdoor Pastime Reveals Racism And Bias](#) [Sarah Kate Kramer, *NPR*, 11 July 2021]

*Marcellus Cadd is one of more than 1.6 million active geocachers in the United States, according to Groundspeak, Inc., which supports the geocaching community and runs one of the main apps geocachers use. Every day for the past three years, he has taken part in what is essentially a high tech treasure hunt. It's a volunteer-run game: some people hide the caches, other people find them. But soon after he started, Cadd, who is Black, read a forum where people were talking about how they were rarely bothered by the police while geocaching. "And I was thinking, man, I've been doing this six months and I've been stopped seven times." It's not only the police who question Cadd. Random strangers—almost always White people, he says—also stop him and ask why he's poking around their neighborhood. He writes about encountering racism on the road on his blog, [Geocaching While Black](#). He's had some harrowing encounters, such as being called "boy" in Paris, Texas—or finding a cache hidden inside a flagpole that was flying the Confederate flag.*

[Hundreds denounce antisemitism during rally at Capitol](#) [Nicole Ashbury, *The Washington Post*, 11 July 2021]

*Hundreds of people stood outside the U.S. Capitol on Sunday wearing blue hats that said "#NoFear" as they called for unity among Jewish people and their allies to stand against a rising number of antisemitic incidents across the country. The event, called ["No Fear: A Rally In Solidarity with the Jewish People,"](#) drew speakers including Elisha Wiesel, a business executive and son of Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, and Meghan McCain, a daughter of the late GOP senator John McCain of Arizona. Many attendees held Israeli flags as they stood in the heat. It comes after reports that antisemitic incidents in the D.C. region rose to an all-time*

high in 2020, according to the Anti-Defamation League, a group that has tracked such reports since 1979. Nationally, the organization said the 1,242 reports of harassment in 2020 represents an increase of 10 percent over 2019, while reported acts of vandalism and assault declined by 18 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Command sergeant major at 2nd ID Artillery sexually abused subordinate, prosecutors say](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 15 July 2021]

*The former senior enlisted leader of the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery faces a general court-martial in October over charges of sexual misconduct. Sgt. Maj. Dustin Bice was relieved from his leadership position once the criminal charges were referred to a court-martial, according to Sgt. 1st Class Chris Harper, a spokesperson for the 7th Infantry Division, which maintains administrative control of all 2nd Infantry Division units at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Bice is charged with “offenses related to sexual harassment and abusive sexual contact against a subordinate,” Harper told Army Times. “Charges are merely accusations and the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty.” He has pled not guilty, according to court-martial records and his attorney.*

[Cuomo to be questioned in sexual harassment investigation](#) [Marina Villeneuve, Michael R. Sisak and Michael Balsamo, *The Associated Press*, 16 July 2021]

*New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is expected to be interviewed Saturday as the state attorney general’s office winds down its investigation into sexual harassment and misconduct allegations that upended his national reputation and threatened his hold on power as he gears up to run for a fourth term next year. Investigators were always expected to speak with Cuomo, who said at the start of the probe in March that he would “fully cooperate.” Cuomo is also facing an impeachment inquiry in the state assembly. Saturday’s interview signals that investigators are nearly done with their work, which has included interviews with the governor’s accusers, though they may need some time to tie up loose ends before a report is issued. Several women have accused Cuomo, a Democrat, of unwanted kisses, touches and groping and inappropriate sexual remarks.*

[Military Sexual Assault - Does it Degrade Military Readiness?](#) [Dr. David Shulkin and Louis Celli, Jr., *Policy Vets*, 16 July 2021] [PODCAST] [COMMENTARY]

*Join Dr. Shulkin and Lou Celli as they speak with Phillis Wilson and Lucy Del Gaudio. Phillis is a retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 and Policy Vets BOD member, and Lucy is a Military Sexual Assault victim who works to advocate for other Military Sexual Trauma victims. Different eras, different experiences, same problem—is it getting any better?*

## SUICIDE

[Veteran’s cross-country ride to honor friend, raise mental health awareness](#) [Brooke Snavely, *Central Oregon Daily News [Bend, Ore.]*, 12 July 2021]

*Nick Novotny knows the mental health of veterans isn't something that's top of mind for a lot of people. But after his friend drank himself to death and his brother committed suicide, the U.S. Marine veteran said he had to do something. "How do you get people to care about something? How do you get people involved in something? I feel like you have to do something that's a little bit abnormal," he said. "Not something you'd see every day. Biking across America sounds like it." He hopes to raise \$25,000; half going to the Wounded Warrior Project, which helps veterans and active-duty personnel with mental health support. The other half will go to Curry's family who is planning a Celebration of Life in Glenside, Pa., which Novotny plans to attend. "So they can actually visit his memorial. Lay flowers down," he said. "There's going to be a bench there so people can have a drink in honor, I think that's what James would want. He liked Jameson so maybe we'll have a glass of Jameson together." Novotny plans to ride an average of 60 miles a day for 75 days to complete the cross-country journey, attend his friend's life celebration, and raise awareness of military mental health issues. You can follow his adventure and donate to the causes he's promoting on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).*

## VETERANS

[Ailing vet's visit to DC previews long-awaited return of Honor Flights](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 15 July 2021]

*Since the coronavirus pandemic shut down Honor Flights 16 months ago, at least 757 veterans have passed away waiting for a chance to visit the nation's war memorials in Washington, D.C. Ronald Dean's family wanted to make sure he wasn't the next one on that list. On Thursday, Dean—a 74-year-old Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968—made his first visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, accompanied by an emotional cohort of family members. In pre-coronavirus times, scenes like this were common on the National Mall, as the Honor Flight program brought thousands of veterans a year from all over the country to tour the memorials and meet with local officials. Lawmakers and veterans groups often greet buses full of veterans to the sites with cheering, photographs and copious thanks for military service rendered long ago. Those flights are set to resume next month, and the program expects to transport its 250,000th veteran to the nation's capital sometime this fall.*

[Deported veterans would get fast path to U.S. citizenship under new proposal](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 12 July 2021]

*Just days after administration officials vowed to provide more support and benefits to deported veterans, a pair of congressmen are pushing instead for a new pathway to citizenship for those individuals to better honor their military service. On Monday, Reps. Don Young, R-Alaska, and Vicente Gonzalez, D-Texas, introduced the Repatriate Our Patriots Act, which would allow U.S. military veterans deported for nonviolent crimes to receive expedited consideration for permanent citizenship. It would also prohibit the deportation of military veterans for any reason except serious, violent crimes. It follows similar legislation introduced last week by Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., that would mandate a new visa program for the veterans to once again become legal permanent residents of the United States. "If you are willing to put your life on the line to defend this great nation and our values, you should be able to become a U.S. citizen,"*

Young said in a statement. *“It is inexcusable that service members who risked it all to protect us would be put through the deportation process.”*

[Medical Foster Homes offer Veterans sense of family](#) [Vantage Point, 9 July 2021]

*Several VA providers huddled in front of a home in a gated San Antonio community. An unusual scene unfolded, since there was no VA facility nearby. It isn't your average home, either. The providers were greeted at the front door with temperature readings, COVID-19 screening and a shot of hand sanitizer. This scene plays out daily across South Texas as part of a little-known program called [VA Medical Foster Homes \(MFH\)](#). MFH is an alternative to placing Veterans in nursing homes. Most are candidates because they cannot live independently. The homes are chosen by the Veteran from a list of homes that meet a nursing home level of care. “Education begins with caregivers during the first telephone contact,” said Director Sherraine Gilman. “My goal during the conversation is to not only evaluate whether they might be a good fit for our program, but ensure they have the knowledge and time to make the commitment to our Veterans.”*

[Millions of vets may be eligible for extra GI Bill benefits thanks to court ruling](#) [Leo Shane III, Military Times, 12 July 2021]

*Millions of veterans could be eligible for an additional year of education benefits starting next semester thanks to another federal court ruling rejecting the Department of Veterans Affairs prohibition on collecting both Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and Montgomery GI Bill payouts. The decision, rendered by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit late last week, leaves federal officials with only a few long-shot options to support their arguments and overturn a pair of precedential decisions by judges. In a statement, VA officials said they are still assessing the latest court decision but “remain committed to providing veterans the benefits they have earned and deserve.” The case, *Rudsill vs. McDonough*, has been pending in federal courts for nearly six years. At its center is department officials' assertion that veterans can use either the Post-9/11 GI Bill program or the Montgomery GI Bill program, but not both.*