

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

SPECIAL: THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS

[The Bush White House Reveals Its Unfiltered 9/11 Story in New Documentary](#) [James Barber, *Military.com*, 9 September 2021]

The documentary “9/11: Inside the President’s War Room” looks at how the Bush White House responded to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, by interviewing officials about how they reacted in real time to events throughout the day. President George W. Bush plays a big role in this account, and he’s joined by Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Chief of Staff Andy Card, along with an impressive array of other officials who were around the White House that day. “9/11: Inside the President’s War Room” is streaming via Apple TV+ and the BBC iPlayer. The documentary offers an explanation of the government’s actions over the course of the day, putting each decision in the context of the information available to the deciders at the moment they were required to act. Consider this film to be the Bush administration’s best and most comprehensive explanation of how they responded to an overwhelming crisis in real time.

[\[TRAILER\]](#)

[A generation shaped by 9/11: Stories of Americans inspired to serve](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 10 September 2021]

The morning of Sept. 11, 2001, thousands of young Americans watched as terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York City and Pentagon, many of them following the coverage on televisions wheeled into their classrooms. Some of those Americans were inspired to join the military, eager to be part of the fight against the country’s enemies. During the year after 9/11, more people enlisted into the military than in any single year since then. In total, 181,510 Americans enlisted into active-duty service that year, and 72,908 joined the reserves, according to the USO. Before the attack, many weren’t aware of the threats against the United States. In the 20 years since the attacks, some of those service members deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan multiple times. Some of the troops concluded their service and used the GI Bill to finish college, while others made a career out of the military. Their lives, and the lives of their families, were shaped by 9/11.

[Gold Star daughter: 20 years after 9/11, where do we go from here?](#) [Kelly McHugh-Stewart, *CNN*, 7 September 2021] [OPINION]

My first child is due September 13, just around the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. He’ll never get the chance to meet his grandfather. My father, U.S. Army Colonel John M. McHugh, was killed in Afghanistan. Though the United States involvement in Afghanistan ended on August 31, my son will feel the war’s ripples. As he grows up with only stories about his grandfather, the man he’ll share a name with, the Forever War will haunt him in ways that, over the past decade, they’ve haunted me. I’m already bracing for the day he starts asking questions. “Why did he have to die?” he may ask. I wish I had a good answer. I was 10 years old on September 11, 2001. At the time, my family was one month into a three-year assignment in

Geibelstat, Germany. That afternoon, helicopters from the Army post flew low above our neighborhood, the loud thud, thud, thud, thud of their blades slicing through the silent streets. I was scared and remember worrying about my dad—Giebelstadt Army Airfield went on lockdown and I was nervous he would never be able to come home from work. It's been 20 years, but my memories of that day are crystal clear.

[How memories of Japanese American imprisonment during WWII guided the U.S. response to 9/11](#) [Susan H. Kamei, *The Conversation*, 3 September 2021]

As soon as Islamic extremists were identified as having carried out four deadly, coordinated attacks on U.S. soil in the early morning of Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta started hearing calls from the public to ban Arab Americans and Muslims from all flights—and even to round them up and detain them. In the chaotic hours and days following the attacks, Mineta did not yet know that his childhood incarceration by the federal government in the aftermath of Japan's Pearl Harbor bombing nearly 60 years earlier would be a crucial element in decisions about how the George W. Bush administration responded to 9/11. Earlier that spring, President Bush had invited Mineta and his wife, Deni, to spend time at Camp David, the presidential retreat. One night after dinner, the president asked Mineta about his imprisonment during World War II. For three hours, Mineta, an 11-term member of Congress who also had served as President Bill Clinton's secretary of commerce, shared his experience of wartime detention and its effects on him and his family.

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[“Life Just Changed”: Academy Players, Ex-Coach Recall 9/11](#) [Pat Graham, *The Associated Press*, 9 September 2021]

On a clear day, the New York skyline is visible from the top of Army's Michie Stadium at West Point. So after the second plane hit the World Trade Center, former Black Knights coach Todd Berry ran to the top. Some of his staff members, too. To watch in horror. In fear. In disbelief. The awful impact of the 2001 terrorist attacks can be gauged in countless ways. Some measure it in what was lost that day and in the days that followed. Others look to America's resolve and response. For Berry and others in charge of the hundreds of young athletes at the nation's three service academies that day, the memories that have stuck are tinged with sadness, anger and, above all, immense pride in watching their players realize that their mission to protect their country had suddenly been put front and center. And they were ready for it.

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[“The Little UN”: The lasting legacy of World Trade Center restaurant Windows on the World](#) [Rebecca King, *NorthJersey.com*, 8 September 2021]

The restaurant Windows on the World showed off New York City at its most beautiful. High above the bustle, situated on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center's North Tower, one could see sparkling Manhattan to the north, the zig-zagging bridges of Brooklyn to the east and the stately Statue of Liberty to the south. In the kitchens, Windows employees from all over the world—about 450 people from more than two dozen countries—laughed over potluck meals quite different from what was served in the formal dining room. People from Bangladesh, India, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Australia and more brought in dishes from their home countries.

Bartender Frank Maelen said they called Windows “the little UN.” Windows employees speak fondly of the golden years they spent working on top of the world. But we know how the story ends.

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[“Not something you should ever really see”: Veterans reflect on 9/11](#) [Sarah Sicard, *Military Times*, 10 September 2021]

*Spc. Bryan Stern was hungover. It was a sunny near-autumn day, but after a night of partying to bid a friend farewell, he didn't want to be anywhere but bed. Stationed in Lower Manhattan with the 227th Military Intelligence Company housed at 7 World Trade Center, he was riding the subway to work from Brooklyn, wishing he had stayed home on September 11, 2001. “I was having a slow, slow morning,” he told *Military Times*. “I was just kind of in my own little world.” Struggling, he continued his daily routine, making a much-needed stop at a street cart where he'd order a bagel and coffee each morning. “My friend, I'm so happy you're okay,” the cart owner said. Not feeling particularly fine, Stern asked what he meant. The cart owner pointed up, at the flaming hole in the side of 1 World Trade Center. Staff Sgt. Stefan Still was stationed at Fort Myer with the Army's Old Guard, just outside Washington, D.C., and three miles from the Pentagon. “It was just an absolutely beautiful morning,” he said. “It's kind of the first morning where the temperature had broken and it first started to feel like fall.” After PT, while waiting for assignments, he and members of his platoon were listening to the radio when they heard about the crash in New York, and then they felt their building shake. Flight 77 had crashed into the Pentagon.*

[Operation Gratitude 9/11 digital letter writing campaign](#) [Danielle Tenconi, *Vantage Point*, 7 September 2021]

On the upcoming 20th anniversary of 9/11 and its designation as a National Day of Service, Operation Gratitude welcomes grateful Americans to express their appreciation for the service and sacrifice of first responders, service members and Veterans through its digital letter writing campaign. Challenge America's Veteran Arts Community (CAVARTS) has created the moving visual art and poetry for this campaign. Please take five minutes to write a letter today through the digital platform [here](#). We have a huge goal of 200,000 letters written through our digital platform by Sept. 12, and need your help to share with your community. The platform is open now and will close at 11:59pm PST on Sept. 12.

[Remembering September 11, 2001](#) [DOD News Service, 8 September 2021]

The Defense Department honors the memories of those who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pa. [Visit the link for a compilation of stories and articles covering the 20th Anniversary of 9/11.]

[Two Decades Later, the Enduring Legacy of 9/11](#) [Hannah Hartig and Carroll Doherty, *Pew Research Center*, 2 September 2021]

Shock, sadness, fear, anger: The 9/11 attacks inflicted a devastating emotional toll on Americans. But as horrible as the events of that day were, a 63% majority of Americans said they couldn't stop watching news coverage of the attacks. [Our first survey](#) following the attacks went into the

field just days after 9/11, from Sept. 13-17, 2001. A sizable majority of adults (71%) said they felt depressed, nearly half (49%) had difficulty concentrating and a third said they had trouble sleeping. [Nearly a year after 9/11](#), about six-in-ten adults in the New York (61%) and Washington (63%) areas said the attacks had changed their lives at least a little, compared with 49% nationwide. In a survey conducted by Pew Research Center in association with A+E Networks' HISTORY in 2016—[15 years after 9/11](#)—76% of adults named the Sept. 11 attacks as one of the 10 historical events of their lifetime that had the greatest impact on the country. The election of Barack Obama as the first Black president was a distant second, at 40%.

[Young Sikhs still struggle with post-Sept. 11 discrimination](#) [Anita Snow and Noreen Nasir, *The Associated Press*, 7 September 2021]

Sikh entrepreneur Balbir Singh Sodhi was killed at his Arizona gas station four days after the Sept. 11 attacks by a man who declared he was “going to go out and shoot some towel-heads” and mistook him for an Arab Muslim. Young Sikh Americans still struggle a generation later with the discrimination that 9/11 unleashed against their elders and them, ranging from school bullying to racial profiling to hate crimes—especially against males, who typically wear beards and turbans to demonstrate their faith. As the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11 nears, those younger Sikhs say much more is needed to improve how hate crimes against their community are tracked. The FBI didn't even begin tracking hate crimes specifically against Sikhs until 2015, and many local law enforcement agencies fail to record bias attacks comprehensively.

HIGHLIGHTS

[Department of the Air Force releases reports on Racial Disparity Review update, second disparity review](#) [Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, 9 September 2021]

The Department of the Air Force released a [progress update](#) on the Inspector General Independent Racial Disparity Review and a [second disparity review report](#) Sept. 9. Among the groups examined, the second IG disparity review revealed racial, ethnic, and gender disparities, particularly in accessions, retention, opportunities, and to a relatively lesser extent, disciplinary actions. Additionally, based upon survey feedback and group discussions, racially and ethnically diverse and female service members indicated they face barriers and challenges others may not experience. While the presence of a disparity alone is not evidence of racism, sexism, discrimination or disparate treatment, it presents a concern that requires more in-depth analysis and corrective action. The data identified in this review shows race, ethnicity, and gender are correlating factors, however, they do not indicate causality, and the review does not address why the disparities exist. This report's primary focus was on identifying areas of disparity for further analysis.

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

[Meet the first woman to lead elite Army Rangers in combat](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 7 September 2021]

Army Capt. Shaina Coss is the first woman to lead elite Army Rangers in combat. Despite her trailblazing service, the 30-year-old from Fairfax, Virginia said in a [publicly-released video](#) that

her “infantry path has been pretty typical.” After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2016 where she competed on the powerlifting team, Coss completed Army Ranger School—one of the first 10 women to ever do so—and then moved on to Fort Bragg where she led an infantry rifle platoon in the 82nd Airborne Division. Just months into being a platoon leader, she applied to be a part of the 75th Ranger Regiment, the Army’s elite special operations force. She was the first female infantry officer in the regiment and went on to lead a Ranger platoon on a deployment to Afghanistan in 2019, which made her the first woman to lead Rangers in combat, according to a 75th Ranger Regiment spokeswoman. Coss said in the Army’s video that she was following in the footsteps of her father, who was also a career infantryman and a former Ranger.

[A Proclamation on World Suicide Prevention Day, 2021](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 9 September 2021]

Today, the United States joins the World Health Organization, the International Association for Suicide Prevention, and nations around the world in commemorating World Suicide Prevention Day by “creating hope through action.” On this day, and every day, we remember those lives lost to suicide. We also commit to connecting with those who are struggling and to encouraging communities, organizations, and governments to work together to prevent suicide. Suicide often occurs in a moment of unbearable pain or deep despair. Many individuals with mental health needs are overcome with a sense of overwhelming hopelessness, and feel they have nowhere to turn. Already, millions of Americans consider suicide, make a suicide plan, or attempt suicide every year—especially young Americans for whom suicide is the second leading cause of death. This number is even higher among LGBTQ+ and Native American youth.

CULTURE

[Army Chief: We’re Not Pushing Critical Race Theory](#) [Elizabeth Howe, *Defense One*, 9 September 2021]

Just one day after the removal of Richmond’s Robert E. Lee statue, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville pushed back on claims that the military is attempting to “indoctrinate” troops into critical race theory. “We’re not trying to indoctrinate anyone into any theories,” McConville said at the Defense One State of the Army event on Thursday. The debate over military extremism and critical race theory at military institutions has bubbled over several times in recent months. In June, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley’s response to questions about critical race theory went viral. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was similarly questioned on critical race theory during the same hearing and said the military would not get “distracted” by the debate. More recently, the critical race theory debate monopolized a defense budget hearing for more than an hour last week as Democrats pushed back on Republican efforts to include a ban on critical race theory at military academic institutions in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act. “What we’re trying to build is teams where everyone treats everyone with respect,” McConville said Thursday. Those building efforts do not, he added, include indoctrination.

[Facebook Apologizes After Its AI Labels Black Men As “Primates”](#) [Dustin Jones, NPR, 4 September 2021]

Facebook issued an apology on behalf of its artificial intelligence software that asked users watching a video featuring Black men if they wanted to see more “videos about primates.” The social media giant has since disabled the topic recommendation feature and says it’s investigating the cause of the error, but the video had been online for more than a year. A Facebook spokesperson told The New York Times on Friday, which [first reported](#) on the story, that the automated prompt was an “unacceptable error” and apologized to anyone who came across the offensive suggestion. The video, uploaded by the Daily Mail on June 27, 2020, documented an encounter between a White man and a group of Black men who were celebrating a birthday. The clip captures the White man allegedly calling 911 to report that he is “being harassed by a bunch of Black men,” before cutting to an unrelated video that showed police officers arresting a Black tenant at his own home.

[Michael K. Williams made queer Black masculinity iconic](#) [Peniel E. Jones, CNN, 8 September 2021] [OPINION]

The death of actor Michael K. Williams, who rose to fame playing Omar on the HBO series “The Wire” in the early 2000s, represents a truly stunning loss. He was an artist who brought new levels of intellectual depth and emotional sophistication to portraits of Black masculinity. Williams, 54, was found dead in his New York City apartment Monday afternoon. A law enforcement official told CNN that investigators found drug paraphernalia near his body; another law enforcement source said an investigation is ongoing. A gay Black actor (Williams) playing a gay Black gangster (Omar) sounds almost too on the nose to work, but with his artistry Williams turned a recurring role into a major acting career—now cut tragically short. His groundbreaking work as Omar shattered preconceived notions about Black sexuality and love, giving a richer depth to a show whose portrait of Baltimore unfolded with the care of an elegant novel.

[Orlando martial arts teacher petitions to have Asian American, Pacific Islander history curriculum](#) [Benjamin Booker, *Spectrum News 13 (Orlando, Fla.)*, 2 September 2021]

A Central Florida martial arts teacher is working to combat the recent rise in Asian American hate crime and she is beginning the fight with a grassroots campaign that is gaining momentum. Mimi Chan is a sifu, or a martial arts teacher, at Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi Temple in Orlando. The facility has been a fixture in the community for 41 years. For Chan, Kung Fu is a way to connect with her personal and cultural heritage. “It also connects me to my roots. So my father literally escaped China to be able to come here to this country and to live out the America dream. But at the same time he honors his heritage and his roots of being from China,” she said. Recently, she has decided to take on even more hard work; petitioning to introduce Asian American and Pacific Islander history into the Florida public school curriculum. Chan partnering with Rep. Anna Eskamani and Make Us Visible FL to petition that Asian America/Pacific Islander history is included in K-12 history curriculum in public schools throughout Florida. They are also working on a bill to include this AAPI history curriculum which, if finished in time, will go to the Florida house floor this fall.

[Robert E. Lee statue on historic Virginia street removed](#) [Chandelis Duster, CNN, 8 September 2021]

Virginia on Wednesday took down a towering statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, the last Confederate statue remaining along Richmond's historic Monument Avenue. A pair of rulings from the state Supreme Court last week cleared the way for its removal after intense national debate over the 12-ton statue's purpose and place along the nearly one-mile, tree-lined street in the city that was once the capital of the Confederacy. The statue, like other symbols of the Confederacy in the commonwealth and across the country including the busts of Confederate figures in the Virginia statehouse, was removed after the killing of George Floyd prompted a nationwide reckoning with police brutality and racism. Alexcia Cleveland, 29, who went to Monument Avenue to see the statue come down, was emotional as the statue was lifted from the pedestal. "It's electrifying," Cleveland told CNN. "It's bittersweet. I'm glad to see it down, but I would like to see more progress on issues such as police brutality and housing inequality." She also said she never thought she would see the statue's removal happen until the protests last year.

[West Point will unveil a statue honoring a group of Black soldiers](#) [Leah Asmelash, CNN, 5 September 2021]

After years of fundraising, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point will finally unveil a new monument dedicated to the Buffalo Soldiers, a group of Black soldiers who played a key role in the westward expansion of the United States. The monument—a 10-foot-tall bronze statue depicting a Buffalo Soldier on a horse—has already been installed at the military academy, but will not be officially unveiled until a ceremony on September 10. In addition to their role in the westward expansion, the Buffalo Soldiers were also once stationed at West Point to give instruction in riding skills to the cadets, according to the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#). They taught at the academy for 40 years. The reason why the monument, created by sculptor Eddie Dixon, depicts a trooper on a horse is to show the level of "horsemanship expertise that was provided to future Army officers," the academy said.

DISCRIMINATION

[Southwest Missouri teacher resigns after school district tells him to remove pride flag, not discuss sexuality](#) [Claudette Riley, Springfield News-Leader, (Springfield, Mo.), 7 September 2021]

A Neosho teacher resigned last week after parents complained about a pride flag in his classroom and the district told him to take it down. John M. Wallis, a graduate of Neosho High School and Webster University in St. Louis, was recently hired to teach speech, theatre and world mythology at Neosho Junior High School. He filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. His last day with the district was Thursday, Sept. 2. In a series of tweets over Labor Day weekend, Wallis explained what led to his exit. "At the beginning of the school year, I had two signs above my whiteboards that read 'In this classroom everyone is welcome' and an LGBTQ+ pride flag on my bookshelf," he wrote on Twitter. "This was an attempt to make my classroom more open and welcoming for all of my students and nothing was ever taught about the flag because it stood there as a reflection of my classroom as a safe space for my LGBTQIA+ students." Wallis, 22, said he was told last week that a parent complained and alleged that he was "going to teach their child to be gay."

[\[REPRINT\]](#)**DIVERSITY**

[First All-Women Recruit Staff Division Dominates at RTC's Boot Camp Graduation](#) [Susan Ann Martin, *Recruit Training Command Public Affairs*, 7 September 2021]

For the first time in more than 20 years, the recruit staff division for the Navy's only boot camp graduation consisted of all women. While previously a division of all men performed the duties at the ceremony known as Pass-in-Review, the graduating women of Division 904 could be seen in the forefront Sept. 3, in Midway Ceremonial Drill Hall at Recruit Training Command (RTC). Divisions typically consist of all men or integrated with men and women who train together but are housed in separate compartments within the barracks. In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic became more wide-spread, the need to separate the divisions into all men and all women was necessitated to better lessen the impact on training if divisions of recruits were quarantined. "It is incredible to be able to still make history after adjusting operations to keep the safety of our recruits, Sailors, and their families a top priority while still meeting the mission of sending quality Sailors to the fleet," said Capt. Jeff Sandin, RTC's commanding officer.

[Secretary of the Army swears in first female inspector general](#) [Joseph Lacdan, *Army News Service*, 3 September 2021]

The taunts and bullying still remain fresh in her mind 37 years later. As a teen, Donna Martin earned a selection as a saxophone player in her high school's marching band in 1984, becoming one of only three minority students at her school chosen for the 200-member ensemble. Several of her peers weren't happy with the decision, she said. "They made my life a living hell," said the now-Lt. Gen. Martin, the Army's newest inspector general. "They tortured me every single day and their antics made me want to quit." Life isn't fair, her mother would tell her, but that shouldn't let others dictate her life's direction. Martin followed her mother's advice as she continued to perform with the band. And she has remembered those words throughout her 33-year Army career. On Thursday, that perseverance led her to be sworn in as the Army's 67th inspector general, becoming the first female to hold the position. Martin's nomination comes at a pivotal time for the Army, as it combats against racial discrimination while pushing for more inclusivity within its ranks.

[U.S. troops, veterans thrived at 2020 Tokyo Paralympics](#) [Rachel Nostrant, *Military Times*, 7 September 2021]

Team USA military athletes thrived during the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. There were 19 military affiliated athletes—16 veterans and three active-duty soldiers—who together brought home eight medals. Taking home the first medal for Team USA in the 2020 Paralympics—which were delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic—was former Army engineer officer Maj. Shawn Morelli. She kicked off the games with a silver medal win in the women's cycling 3000m C4 individual pursuit event. She also took the gold in the women's cycling C4 time trial. In addition to the strong performance of Team USA's veteran competitors, active-duty Army Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks dominated in the swimming events. She broke the previous world record in the women's S6 100m backstroke by two seconds with a time of 1:19.57. Marks additionally took

silver in the 50m freestyle S6 and bronze in the 50m butterfly S6. In addition to being a standout Paralympian, Marks was inducted into the Army Women's Hall of Fame in 2017 and was the first active duty soldier to ever win an ESPY Pat Tillman Award in 2016. Team USA ended the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics fourth overall with a total of 104 medals—37 gold, 36 silver and 31 bronze.

EXTREMISM

[EXCLUSIVE: Proud Boys leader urged group not to “turn on each other” in riot probe](#) [Aram Roston, *Reuters*, 9 September 2021]

As four of his fellow Proud Boy leaders sat in jail this summer, charged with conspiracy in the violent Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, the group's chairman, Enrique Tarrío, sent out a private audio message to colleagues around the country. In the July audio, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters, Tarrío said that “we are trying to f---ing avoid” a situation in which the senior members facing charges would cooperate with prosecutors. The four, who are jailed without bond, have pleaded not guilty. Raising the possibility that one of the four leaders may have been cooperating with authorities, Tarrío told fellow Proud Boy leadership he didn't believe that the man was doing so—and said he had spoken about the matter directly with that leader's wife. Under federal law, the crime of obstruction of justice can occur if someone “corruptly or by threats or force, or by any threatening letter or communication, influences, obstructs, or impedes, or endeavors to influence, obstruct, or impede, the due administration of justice.” Attempting to prevent someone from testifying can be construed as witness tampering, a form of obstruction.

[“QAnon Shaman” Jacob Chansley pleads guilty in Capitol riot](#) [Clare Hynes, *CBS News*, 3 September 2021]

The bare-chested man pictured with his face painted, wearing a horned helmet and howling in the Senate chamber during the insurrection on January 6th accepted a plea deal Friday in federal court on charges stemming from his participation at the riot. Jacob Chansley, aka the “QAnon Shaman,” pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of an official proceeding. He had been charged with a six-count indictment that included civil disorder, violent entry and disorderly conduct, as well as a felony count for obstruction of an official proceeding, which carries a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in prison. Under federal sentencing guidelines, he is likely to face between 41 and 51 months (about 3 1/2 to 4 1/4 years), minus time served for the eight months he has already been detained. He also agreed to pay restitution of \$2,000.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[The Secret to Happiness at Work](#) [Arthur C. Brooks, *The Atlantic*, 2 September 2021]

Every year, [Gallup asks](#) a sample of American adults what might seem to be a rather loaded question: How much do you like your job? The results may surprise you. The portion who say they are “completely satisfied” at work has risen dramatically over the past two decades, from 41 percent in 2001 to 55 percent in 2019. In 2020, despite the fact that millions of Americans had shifted to remote work, 89 percent said they were either “completely” or “somewhat” satisfied. I teach graduate students who have carefully envisioned their ideal career, many of whom are training to enter jobs in business or government. They find this statistic surprising because, like

so many of us, they generally assume that to be satisfied, you must hold your dream job—one where your skills meet your passions, you make good money, and you are excited to get to work each day. No way 89 percent of people have this, right? But this belief is based on a misunderstanding of what brings job satisfaction. To be happy at work, you don't have to hold a fascinating job that represents the pinnacle of your educational achievement or the most prestigious use of your "potential," and you don't have to make a lot of money. What matters is not so much the "what" of a job, but more the "who" and the "why":

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

INTERNATIONAL

[Extremist was released from New Zealand jail despite fears](#) [Nick Perry, *The Associated Press*, 4 September 2021]

New Zealand authorities imprisoned a man inspired by the Islamic State group for three years after catching him with a hunting knife and extremist videos—but at a certain point, despite grave fears he would attack others, they say they could do nothing more to keep him behind bars. Their fears were borne out Friday when he walked into an Auckland supermarket, grabbed a kitchen knife from a store shelf and stabbed five people, critically injuring three. Two more shoppers were injured in the melee. On Saturday, three of the victims remained hospitalized in critical condition and three more were in stable or moderate conditions. The seventh person was recovering at home. The youngest victim was a 29-year-old woman, the oldest a 77-year-old man. Court documents named the attacker as 32-year-old Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen, a Tamil Muslim from Sri Lanka who arrived in New Zealand 10 years ago on a student visa seeking refugee status, which he was granted in 2013.

[Mob Attacks 20-Year-Old Gay Man, Carves Homophobic Slur Into His Flesh](#) [Mary Ellen Cagnassola, *Newsweek*, 7 September 2021]

*A young gay man in Madrid, Spain, was assailed on Sunday by a homophobic mob that chased, cornered, beat and threatened the man with a knife, even carving "maricón," the Spanish word for f**got, into one of his buttocks. First reported by the Spanish newspapers *El Pais* and *eldiario.es*, police in Madrid confirmed they are investigating the incident as a hate crime. The young man, 20, reported that about eight people were among the mob and that they shouted insults at him as they attacked him. It was shortly after 5:15 local time when the group of hooded attackers started to pursue him. Just two months ago, a 24-year-old gay man was beaten to death in the Galician city of A Coruña. Spaniards are calling for a renewed focus on justice and protection for LGBTQ people in the wake of Samuel Luiz's death. Spanish President Pedro Sanchez tweeted in solidarity with the young man and Spain's LGBTQ community, saying his government would have zero tolerance for such crimes. He is expected to convene a special anti-hate crimes committee this Friday.*

[Paris attacks 2015: Historic trial of 20 suspects opens in France](#) [BBC News, 8 September 2021]

A historic trial has started in France over the 2015 Paris attacks which left 130 people dead. The shooting and bombing assault by Islamist State (IS) group extremists was the worst post-World War Two attack in France. The only surviving attacker, Salah Abdeslam, is being tried with 13

other defendants at a purpose-built facility in Paris. The trial is being described as the biggest in France's modern history. Over the next nine months, there will be over 140 days of hearings involving about 330 lawyers, 300 victims and testimony from François Hollande, who was French president when the attacks happened. Ahead of the trial, Mr Hollande told French media that this was an important moment for the victims of the attacks, which he called an "act of war" at the time. IS admitted carrying out the coordinated attacks on the Bataclan concert hall, a major stadium, restaurants and bars on 13 November 2015.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Tradition of Afghan girls who live as boys may be threatened](#) [Lisa Selin Davis, CNN, 4 September 2021]

The last time the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, after the Soviet-Afghan War of the 1980s, life for women and girls was ghastly. As a [report](#) from the Congressional Research Service put it, "Taliban prohibited women from working, attending school after age 8, and appearing in public without a male blood relative and without wearing a burqa. Women accused of breaking these or other restrictions suffered severe corporal or capital punishment, often publicly." Afghanistan routinely edges toward tops lists of the worst places in the world for women and girls, but some things had improved after the United States invaded in 2001. The maternal mortality rate decreased (though it is still alarmingly high). More women held jobs like doctors, politicians and journalists. And more girls were educated: The [World Bank showed](#) almost no girls receiving a primary education in 2000, but more than 85% going to school by 2012. For some girls, there has historically been a path to live, before puberty, as a boy. "Bacha posh," which in Dari means girl "dressed up as a boy," is an ancient tradition that pre-dates the Taliban in which a family designates a girl to live as a boy. That could either allow her a boy's freedoms—like education, athletics and the right to be outside alone—or impose a boy's duties on her, like working.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Biden to Mandate COVID-19 Vaccinations for All Feds](#) [Erich Wagner, Government Executive, 9 September 2021]

President Biden will sign an executive order today mandating that all [federal employees](#) and [contractors](#) get vaccinated against COVID-19, with no exceptions for those who agree to regular testing for the virus, according to a source familiar with the plans. Biden is expected to announce the order during a [speech Thursday evening](#) on new efforts the administration is taking to fight the virus' Delta variant, including calling for a global summit at the United Nations on boosting the global vaccine supply, according to The Washington Post. The executive order would mark a shift in the Biden administration's policy on vaccinations, which until this point has offered an alternative to those who wish to remain unvaccinated by allowing those individuals to wear masks while on federal property as long as they submit to regular screening for COVID-19. That policy has proven complicated to roll out, however, as each individual agency is responsible for developing the necessary testing policies and capability.

[The Pentagon has spent \\$1 billion on a program for domestic abuse victims since 2015. Survivors say they couldn't get help.](#) [Norah O'Donnell, Kristin Steve, Len Tepper, Adam Verdugo and Caitlin Yilek, *CBS News*, 8 September 2021]

The military program called the Family Advocacy Program, is one of the resources commanders are required to tell victims about following the reported allegations of abuse, according to Defense Department policy. The military also offers domestic violence survivors a benefit called transitional compensation—a stipend intended to help survivors pay for basic living expenses after they leave an abusive home. Colella, who quit her restaurant job to become an advocate for domestic violence victims, said the assistance isn't reaching survivors. “In all of the 700 people I've spoken to, I've only known two that have said that they even qualified for it, and only one that could show me a record of payment for that,” Colella said. Commanders decide whether service members will be punished for domestic violence and if the case moves to a court-martial. “You only get the compensation if your spouse is convicted of some type of assault or domestic violence and were removed from the military. So the criteria is almost impossible to meet,” Colella said. The lack of support for survivors is a story CBS News heard repeatedly during its two-year investigation into domestic violence in the military. Roughly 100,000 incidents of domestic abuse have been reported to the military since 2015, CBS News found. And many survivors who reported abuse to the military told CBS News that they feared for their safety. None of those cases went to trial.

[This May Be First Step In Curing PTSD With A Pill](#) [Patrick Tucker, *Government Executive*, 7 September 2021]

A new company, with funding from the U.S. Army, may have found the secret to treating PTSD with a pill or some other direct form of medicine. Right now, treatments for PTSD range from virtual reality to electronic brain stimulation to hallucinogens and ecstasy. But while these can lessen symptoms, they don't offer a direct cure. Dr. Jennifer Perusini, founder of Neurovation Labs, says PTSD has a unique biomarker called GluA1. It's a protein that is part of a glutamate receptor system, which helps memory formation. But trauma can also spur the creation of GluA1. Perusini is currently in pre-clinical trial mode for a medicine that can block GluA1, and the clinical trial process could take years. But she already has financial support from the Air Force and from the Army through the Army's xTech program, which awarded her \$145,000 to develop her model that targets the protein.

MISCONDUCT

[Georgia Guard brigade's leaders removed after climate investigation](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 9 September 2021]

The Georgia National Guard has removed the leadership of its 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia, after the conclusion of a command climate investigation, Army Times has confirmed. Two sources with knowledge of the investigation confirmed that at least three of the brigade's key leaders were punished and issued a general officer memorandum of reprimand. The GOMORs, which are often considered to be career-killers, remain within their appeal process to determine whether the Guard will permanently include them in their personnel records or destroy them after a set period of time. [Army Times first reported](#) the investigation last

month. Col. Brian Ellis, the brigade commander whose full-time role is as the chief of the state's planning and strategy directorate, was relieved for cause by Brig. Gen. Dwayne Wilson and issued a GOMOR. Reassigned and also issued reprimands were Lt. Col. Henry Mullins, the deputy brigade commander and senior full-time officer, and Maj. Keri McGregor, the brigade executive officer who also worked full-time in her role.

RELIGION

[What are the Jewish High Holy Days? A look at Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and a month of celebrating renewal and moral responsibility](#) [Samuel L. Boyd, *The Conversation*, 1 September 2021]

Over the next few weeks, members of the Jewish faith will observe the High Holy Days in the month of Tishrei in the Jewish calendar, usually in September and October. These holidays commemorate concepts such as renewal, forgiveness, freedom and joy. What are the High Holy Days? Of the two main High Holy Days, also called the High Holidays, the first is Rosh Hashanah, or the New Year celebration. It is one of two new year celebrations in the Jewish faith, the other being Passover in the spring. The second High Holiday is Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement. In addition to the main Holy Days, there are other celebrations that occur as part of the festival season. One is Sukkot, or the Festival of the Booths, during which meals and rituals take place in a "sukkah," or a makeshift structure constructed with a tree-branch roof. Of particular interest for the High Holy Days in 2021 is that Rosh Hashanah also begins a yearlong observance known as the "Shmita." Commemorated once every seven years, the term comes from a Hebrew phrase that appears in the Bible in a number of passages. Some of these passages command that the farmer "drops" or "releases" his crops. Another verse associates the act with the forgiveness of debts. In another passage in the Bible, the Shmita is connected with the reading of God's revelation in the law.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SEXISM

[Academy Cadets Who Have Kids Must Legally Give Them Up—The Cadet Act Would Change That](#) [Maggie BenZvi, *Coffee or Die*, 5 September 2021]

Melissa Hemphill took the pregnancy test that changed her life in a Walmart bathroom. She was a junior at the U.S. Air Force Academy, a potential Olympian pole vaulter, and the oldest of eight kids in a large Catholic family; a child was definitely not part of her plans. Hemphill, whose maiden name is Beerse, was fully aware that rules governing all five U.S. service academies—the Air Force, Naval, Military, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine academies—forbade cadets and midshipmen from having dependents, a requirement for service that exists nowhere else in the military, nor in civilian ROTC programs. But a bill, dubbed the [Candidates Afforded Dignity, Equality and Training \(CADET\) Act](#), recently introduced in the Senate by two politicians normally on opposite ends of the political spectrum, would change all that. And though the rules apply to both men and women, the consequences fall overwhelmingly on the shoulders of female cadets. Many women who find themselves pregnant as cadets get abortions, says Hemphill, who

in her years since graduating from the Air Force Academy has privately counseled dozens of cadets—both men and women—dealing with unplanned pregnancies.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Academy co-hosts discussion to combat sexual assault, harassment](#) [Tech. Sgt. Zach Vaughn, U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs, 8 September 2021]

Lt. Gen. Richard Clark, U.S. Air Force Academy superintendent, co-hosted a National Discussion on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at America’s Colleges, Universities and Service Academies, virtually, Sept. 7 and 8. Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall also served as a co-host to the third annual discussion aimed to eliminate sexual assault and harassment at colleges, universities and service academies nationwide. “This isn’t a new problem and while we have made progress, we are still learning,” Kendall said. “It is a wicked problem for leaders everywhere, but especially for college administrators. Addressing it correctly is fundamental to cultivating healthy climates both in the work environment and on campuses.” More than 230 military, college and university senior leaders attended keynote and breakout sessions along with panel discussions, which allowed them to develop partnerships and to share best practices in sexual assault prevention. The multiday forum raised awareness of sexual assault and harassment’s devastating impact on survivors, the academy and the force.

[Maine Guard soldier accused of sexually abusing colleague](#) [The Associated Press, 3 September 2021]

A Maine National Guard soldier has been charged with sexually abusing a colleague while serving on the southern border, officials said. Bret Chapman, of Walpole, Maine, was charged with kidnapping, two counts of sexual abuse and one count of aggravated assault, Michael Powell, deputy attorney for Arizona’s Cochise County, said Friday. The assault took place in December while the Maine National Guard were deployed in Arizona, he said. Chapman was arrested on Aug. 27 and posted bail. It’s unclear if a public defender has been appointed for him, Powell said. Chapman didn’t immediately return an email from The Associated Press seeking comment. The Maine National Guard, which is aware of the charges, said it couldn’t discuss specifics, but it encouraged soldiers to report such behavior. It’s unclear why it took so many months to bring charges, but the decision was ultimately made to seek an indictment in Cochise County, Powell said.

[Petty officer’s conviction for filing a false sexual assault report is upheld](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, Navy Times, 8 September 2021]

A military appeals court has upheld the conviction of a petty officer who went drinking, missed a pre-deployment class the next morning, asked a shipmate to “bruise her up” and then falsely reported a sexual assault to cover her tracks. Assigned to the dock landing ship Fort McHenry, then-Machinist’s Mate 3rd Class Micole A. Daugherty went drinking at a nightclub near Jacksonville, Florida, in December 2018 with another sailor, referred to by the pseudonym “Seaman Recruit Warren” in the August Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals ruling. But Daugherty overslept the next morning and missed her pre-deployment firefighting class, the

ruling states. She reported the incident to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and agents and forensic analysts spent more than 400 hours investigating the case, according to the ruling. She was convicted on several charges “for conspiring with another Sailor to manufacture injuries and falsely reporting she was drugged and raped to avoid getting in trouble for missing a training class,” the ruling states.

SUICIDE

[It’s OK for troops and veterans to not be OK](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 4 September 2021]
[COMMENTARY]

At the risk of stating the obvious: Things are awful. To all service members and veterans who are having a hard time right now: Please don’t try to suck it up rather than reaching out for help. There’s no reason why you should have to tough out pain. Even the Spartans understood the concept of trauma and sought ways to heal warriors afflicted by it. [The American Psychiatric Association recently announced](#) that it is critical for service members to have access to mental health resources in light of the fall of Afghanistan, which may trigger a wide range of emotions including anger and concerns for those who could not be evacuated in time. The [Defense Department offers troops, veterans, and family members](#) a range of mental health resources including the [Psychological Health Resource Center](#), which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; the [Military Crisis Line](#); and the [Real Warriors Campaign](#).

[SEE ALSO]

[Report links substance use and suicide among Veterans, offers support](#) [Dr. Matthew A. Miller and Eric Golnick, *VAntage Point*, 7 September 2021]

Suicide is complicated. Experiences prior to, during and following military service, coupled with stigma associated with help-seeking behavior, have resulted in elevated suicide rates among Veterans. Many experience physical and emotional wounds in silence. Suicide is a tragic and preventable outcome. It affects not only our Veterans, but also their families, friends and communities across the nation. There is no “one single reason” why an individual dies from suicide. So, too, there is no “single solution” for suicide prevention. The public is keenly aware of some key risk factors for suicide among Veterans. Examples are depression, chronic pain, firearm access or social isolation. But it is also often unaware of the devastating relationship between substance use and suicide. The [2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#) showed that Veterans Health Administration (VHA) users diagnosed with substance use disorders (SUD) had higher rates of suicide than those with depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. Rates were amongst the highest for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD).

[Veteran suicides decreased 7 percent in 2019 to lowest level in 12 years](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 8 September 2021]

Veteran suicides fell to their lowest level in 12 years in 2019, down more than one death a day from the previous year’s levels, according to [new data](#) released by the Department of Veterans Affairs on Wednesday. Despite that, the rate of suicides among veterans remains almost double the rest of the American public, accounting for more than 32,000 deaths from 2015 to 2019, the latest data available. The drop was particularly pronounced among female veterans. Officials

said they saw a nearly 15 percent drop in deaths by suicide among women vets, when adjusted for age. But suicide remains a significantly higher threat for veterans than the rest of the U.S. public. CDC data shows the rate of death by suicide among all Americans in 2019 was 16.8 per 100,000 individuals. Among veterans that year, it was 31.6 per 100,000. Suicide prevention officials have also seen a steady increase in the use of firearms in deaths by suicide in recent years, a worrisome trend. About 70 percent of all deaths in 2019 were as a result of firearms.

VETERANS

[“Dear America”: Gold Star Families Want “Archaic” Support Systems Fixed](#) [Government Executive, 8 September 2021] [COMMENTARY]

An open letter from the undersigned: We live in the land of the free because of our brave. This is the country, and you are the precious people, that our husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters died for while fighting in the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Niger, and across the globe. We write today as Gold Star families whose loved ones were killed in action over the last twenty years. We do not ask for pity, but we stand as warriors, and ask for action and accountability. Just last week, 13 families joined us in the greatest loss known to American life: they have joined our ranks as new families of the fallen. We hear a lot of promises and know our leaders care, but you politicize our loss rather than wrapping around us and prioritizing us with support, policies, and services that are needed to heal and move forward. Honoring and remembering our service members and their loved ones should not be a political issue, the politics around it are disgusting. United we prosper; divided we fall. We are more than a tweet or a political tag line. We are the survivors. We need you to choose country over politics; to choose America over your career. Many of you tweet the names of our lost yet turn your face from us when we ask you to help or change the policies to better support our families and the legacies of our loved ones. They fought, bled, and died for you. Please be there for them; please be there for us.