

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 15 OCTOBER 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[Army Hopes Identifying Suicide “Red Flags” Earlier Will Finally Ease Crisis](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 12 October 2021]

Army leaders are pleading with the rank and file to be more attuned to signs, or so-called “red flags,” of impending mental health breakdowns among fellow soldiers that could lead to suicide attempts. It’s the latest thinking by the service as it faces a crisis of soldiers taking their own lives, with little evidence years of previous efforts are having an effect. Suicides rose by 15% in 2020 within the U.S. military, according to a report released by the Pentagon in October that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin described as “troubling.” “The bulk of suicides are tied to poor finances or failed relationships, so checking for warning signs could mean staying connected to a soldier’s family life, or making sure they’re paying their bills on time,” Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Grinston said Tuesday during the annual Association of the United States Army conference. Grinston, the top enlisted leader for the service, told reporters that suicide prevention has mostly been reactionary and often comes too late. Instead of the force introducing yet another prevention program or mandatory training, he said, the focus should be on frequently checking in with soldiers and identifying life struggles early.

[Lack of Diversity in the Government Workforce Can Lead to Retention and Trust Issues](#) [Andre Claudio, *Route Fifty*, 8 October 2021]

African Americans and Hispanics are underrepresented among managers and professionals, and women are underrepresented among chief administrative officers, according to a report. As a push for racial justice has risen throughout the country, there has been a related increase in focus on diversity, equity and inclusion in the public service workforce. Lack of diversity in certain positions like management or public safety can potentially lead to a lack of trust with the community. It can also create problems with keeping diverse staff. Those are some of the top takeaways from a report prepared by MissionSquare Research Institute. The [report](#) compares historical and current public service diversity figures to those of the broader workforce. Aspects of diversity discussed include race, ethnicity, age, gender, LGBTQIA+ identification, veteran status, cognitive diversity, religion and language. The report also includes data on diversity within public service organizations such as local government, education and health care.

[A third woman tells her story of retaliation for reporting sexual harassment at the Wyoming National Guard](#) [Kamila Kudelska, *Wyoming Public Radio*, 11 October 2021]

Another woman has spoken out against the Wyoming National Guard for retaliation for reporting sexual harassment. A woman calling herself Patricia Hiegel worked at the Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy. The academy is part of a National Guard initiative that recruits at-risk teens who have either dropped out of school or are thinking of dropping out of school. The woman said she was sexually harassed by a colleague. Hiegel said when she reported it, she received retaliation from her commanders and others around her. “What I reported was shared with the people I reported this about. And what happened is the environment became very hostile,” said

Hiegel. This comes after Wyoming Public Media and WyoFile reported on three other women who say they had similar experiences in the Wyoming National Guard. One of them also said she experienced sexual harassment while working at Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy.

CULTURE

[Graphic series honors Korean War hero who single-handedly stopped a Chinese assault](#) [Claire Barrett, *Military Times*, 12 October 2021]

A recent installment of “Medal of Honor,” a [graphic series](#) produced by the Association of the U.S. Army, spotlights the story of Marine-turned-soldier Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr. A member of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, also known as Carlson’s Raiders, Red Cloud saw action on Guadalcanal and Okinawa, receiving a Purple Heart in the last campaign in the Pacific as a result of a “round to the shoulder,” according to the graphic series. Red Cloud’s furious counter-attack on the Chinese stifled their initial assault and provided enough time to allow his fellow soldiers to withdraw. His “heroic act stopped the enemy from overrunning his company’s position and gained time for reorganization and evacuation of the wounded,” his [citation read](#). The following day, after the din of battle had subsided, the soldiers of E Company went back to look for Red Cloud. The men found his body, shot eight times. Enemy bodies littered the area around Red Cloud’s outpost.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Jon Gruden resigns as Raiders coach after reports of derogatory language in emails](#) [Laurel Walmsley, *NPR*, 11 October 2021]

*Jon Gruden, the coach of the Las Vegas Raiders, has resigned following news reports that he used derogatory language in emails dating back to 2011. Among the targets for Gruden’s insults were DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Players Association, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and then-Vice President Joe Biden. The emails emerged from an investigation into workplace misconduct at the Washington Football Club. The offensive terms were used in emails sent from Gruden to former Washington team president Bruce Allen and others. Allen was fired in 2019. The existence of racially disparaging emails were first reported on Friday by *The Wall Street Journal*. On Monday evening, *The New York Times* reported on emails that included homophobic and misogynistic comments.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Lego says it will work to rid its toys of harmful gender bias](#) [Rachel Treisman, *NPR*, 12 October 2021]

The Lego Group hopes its iconic blocks can help build not just trains and houses, but a more inclusive society. The Danish toy company [announced](#) Monday that it will work to remove gender stereotypes from its products and marketing, citing the results of a worldwide survey that found general attitudes toward kids’ play and creative careers remain “unequal and restrictive.” [Lego partnered with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media](#)—a research organization that advocates for equal representation of women—to explore whether parents and kids see creativity

as gendered. It surveyed nearly 7,000 people in seven countries and released its findings to coincide with the United Nations' International Day of the Girl. Lego has pledged to collaborate with the Geena Davis Institute and UNICEF to remove gender biases and harmful stereotypes from its products and marketing. It also published a [10-step guide](#) for inspiring inclusive creative play and is releasing short films to highlight inspiring and entrepreneurial girls as part of a new "Ready for Girls" campaign.

[Moccasin maker Minnetonka has apologized for appropriating Native American culture](#) [Rachel Treisman, NPR, 12 October 2021]

The Minneapolis-based footwear company Minnetonka is not actually run by Native Americans, its CEO acknowledged on Monday. David Miller [issued the statement](#) on Indigenous People's Day apologizing for profiting off Native culture and pledging to do more to support Indigenous communities going forward. "We recognize that our original products, some of which are still sold today, have been appropriated from Native American culture," Miller wrote. "We deeply and meaningfully apologize for having benefited from selling Native-inspired designs without directly honoring Native culture or communities." He said the company developed an action plan last fall, and is working with members of the Native community to deliver and expand on it. It's brought on one of its advisors, Adrienne Benjamin, as a "reconciliation advisor." Benjamin, who is Anishinaabe and a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, is an artist and community activist.

[The Navy is hunting for "coaches" to enhance sailor's professional, personal growth](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, Navy Times, 13 October 2021]

The Navy is searching for coaches to enhance sailor performance, but the deadline to apply is rapidly approaching. The coaching initiative, part of the Defense Inter-Service Internal Coaching Training Program, is designed to channel regular, constructive feedback to improve "personal and professional goal setting," according to the Navy. Lt. Cmdr. Erica Harris, a certified coach and research psychologist at Navy Personnel Command, is spearheading the initiative and said that the coaching sessions aim to empower a sailor's professional growth with the support of an ally in the coach. "Too often we try to 'fix' someone's problem, issue, or challenge, but in coaching, you're allowing the coaching partner to come up with the solution," Harris said, according to the [release](#). Those selected for the coaching initiative will undergo a multi-service, 16-week virtual training program starting in November, known as the Coaching Culture Facilitator Course.

[The new Superman comes out as bisexual in an upcoming comic](#) [Scottie Andrew, CNN, 12 October 2021]

Superman's done a lot since he first appeared in comic books 80 years ago, almost. He's saved the world more than a few times. He dodged punches from Muhammad Ali and even faced off against White supremacists. Until this year, though, every comic iteration of Superman has been besotted with longtime love Lois Lane. But in an upcoming issue of a new "Superman" series, the Man of Steel enters into a queer relationship. The fifth issue of the DC comic series "Superman: Son of Kal-El" will confirm that the new Superman—Jon Kent, child of Clark Kent and Lane—is bisexual after falling for Jay Nakamura, a male reporter, DC announced this week. He and Kent

are the newest, but far from the only, LGBTQ characters in the DC universe—earlier this year, the character Tim Drake, one of the many Robins to fight alongside Batman, accepted a date from a male admirer. And before Kent and Drake, there was Batwoman, also known as Kate Kane, who at one point was punished for her relationship with another woman under the U.S. military’s former “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

[The Nobel Prize in literature goes to a Black writer for the first time since 1993](#) [Andrew Limbong, NPR, 7 October 2021]

Zanzibar-born novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah won this year’s Nobel Prize in literature. “For his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents,” the Swedish Academy announced Thursday morning. He was previously a professor of English and postcolonial literature at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, until his retirement. The Swedish Academy often takes criticism for focusing too heavily on male, mainly Eurocentric writers. In its 120-year history, only 16 women have won the Nobel Prize in literature. Until today, the last Black person awarded the prize was Toni Morrison in 1993. Gurnah is the fifth writer from Africa to win—joining Wole Soyinka, Naguib Mahfouz, Nadine Gordimer and J.M. Coetzee. The Swedish Academy does have plans to start increasingly diversifying laureate candidates next year, according to the Academy’s Nobel Committee chair Anders Olsson. In a recent interview with The New Republic, Olsson said they plan on having experts in language areas the committee doesn’t have a “deep competence” in (primarily, places in Africa and Asia), who will offer reports, presumably with a list of names worth considering.

[The story of the first Koreatown was lost to history](#) [Sakshi Venkatraman, NBC News, 15 October 2021]

When the first Korean immigrants reached the shores of San Francisco in 1905, they sought to find home in a country that resented their existence. After years scattered as migrant laborers, they wanted a place where they could form a community of their own. Three hundred of them eventually found one, but it was farther south, in Riverside, California. There, the first Koreatown in U.S. history was born, and its residents spent almost two decades living, working and raising their families there. But by 1918, they were gone, and their stories were lost to history for a century. Researchers only discovered the settlement’s existence a few years ago, but since then, a book, a statue and a historical designation in Riverside have brought it to the public. Now, the University of California, Riverside is [putting its artifacts on display](#) starting Saturday.

[Teaching Computers ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Prompts Debate on Data Sovereignty](#) [Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi, Hawaii Public Radio, 15 September 2021]

Efforts are underway to teach computers to understand ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian language). Using artificial intelligence technology could be a game changer in advancing the use of Hawaiian language. But some worry about tech companies and control—an area of concern they call “data sovereignty.” Hawaiian language researchers have compiled around 400 audio recordings of mānaleo or native speakers from the 1970s and 80s. But transcribing those recordings has been a labor intensive task, says ‘Ōiwi Parker Jones, a research fellow focusing on artificial intelligence at Oxford University. Parker Jones says if we can automate that

transcription process, the computer can generate a rough draft. It won't be completely accurate, but it would speed up the process. He's working on voice-to-text or speech recognition technology to enhance access to these recordings. He says the challenge when it comes to indigenous languages like Hawaiian, which are spoken by a relatively smaller population than say English, is that developing that kind of technology requires tens of thousands of hours of transcribed audio, if not more.

[These states are ditching Columbus Day to observe Indigenous Peoples' Day instead](#) [A.J. Willingham, Scottie Andrew and Dakin Andone, CNN, 11 October 2021]

Columbus Day has been a political lightning rod for states, cities and municipalities around the U.S. for years now. Some have decided to do something about it. A number of states have moved to officially observe Indigenous Peoples' Day, or some version of it, instead—a holiday to recognize the native populations that were displaced and decimated after Christopher Columbus and other European explorers reached the continent. Most prominently, President Joe Biden became the first U.S. president to issue a proclamation commemorating Indigenous Peoples' Day, writing that Monday was a day on which the country “celebrates the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous peoples, recognizes their inherent sovereignty, and commits to honoring the Federal Government’s trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations.” As many as 130 cities across the country have ditched Columbus Day for Indigenous Peoples Day—and the list grows yearly.

[USACE engineer takes pride in Puerto Rican heritage](#) [Reagan Zimmerman, Army News Service, 13 October 2021]

At just 16 years old Gladys Figueroa Toro graduated from high school and entered the most challenging and formative period of her life—college. The USACE, Kansas City District river engineer recounted her experience at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. “That was a very tough university, at least for me. It has a very long curriculum—it takes six years to actually graduate from an undergrad there,” Figueroa Toro said. The Kansas City District is proud to have personnel like Figueroa Toro who actively strive to produce high quality products that help the surrounding community. “We value diversity among our workforce, but we specifically want to highlight our Hispanic employees and recognize the important part they play in the Kansas City District’s success,” Kansas City Deputy District Engineer for Program and Project Management Bryan Smith said. As Figueroa Toro reflected on Hispanic Heritage Month and her three years with the Kansas City District, she believes Hispanic Heritage can be celebrated year-round, and that celebration can start with a conversation. “Hispanics are very proud of where they come from. If you get someone talking about where they are from, they are going to be smiling and they are going to try and include you in everything,” Figueroa Toro said. “We are very proud people, and we are always willing to share.”

[What stresses out Army drill instructors?](#) [Sarah Sicard, Military Times, 15 October 2021]

Army drill sergeants are perhaps best known for producing anxiety among new recruits from the minute they set foot on basic training ground. But very few people ever stop to ask, “What causes stress among drill instructors?” One [study](#), carried out by the academic journal Military Medicine and published in August, however, did just that. It turns out, drill instructors are pretty

burned out. *“This study is the first to examine behavioral health and morale of drill sergeants and to identify risk and resilience factors,” the study reads. The authors, working under the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Institutional Review Board, surveyed 856 drill sergeants across Army basic training sites over two months and identified several sources of stress among the service’s new-soldier shepherds. Bottom line: Career stress and sleepless nights can make for stressed-out drill sergeants. And myriad mental health issues stem from undue stress as well.*

[With 3 bold marks, Indigenous women helped revive a once-banned tradition](#) [Jey Born, Aisha Turner and Emma Bowman, *NPR*, 15 October 2021]

Grete Bergman had long wanted to get traditional facial markings, a practice for Indigenous women in Alaska that European settlers tried to extinguish. But in 2016, Bergman became one of the first among the Gwich’in Nation—First Nations peoples whose homelands stretch from northeast Alaska to northwest Canada—to get tattooed, in a return to a centuries-old tradition. “My dad would have hated it,” Bergman said. “He would have looked at me and he would have said, ‘What the hell you do that for?’” Her Alaska Native father, she said, was beaten in school for speaking the Gwich’in language, “because being Native was the worst possible thing you could be.” “I didn’t know anyone who had their traditional markings,” Bergman said, “and every time I brought it up, I always got the same sort of ‘This is taboo. We don’t do this.’” [The practice is at least 10,000 years old](#), but—as with language, food and other Indigenous customs—the practice fell out of use following bans and taboos set by European colonizers in the 1900s. So, when Bergman saw a design that she was drawn to, it felt like a calling from her ancestors to reconnect.

[Yolanda López’s first museum show opens Saturday, just weeks after the artist’s death](#) [Vanessa Romo, *NPR*, 15 October 2021]

*Yolanda López lived to be 78 and yet that was not long enough to see her very first museum solo show. The trailblazing, feminist Chicana artist died of cancer in her San Francisco apartment in September—a month and a half before the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego is set to unveil a retrospective of López’s influential career. “I feel heartbroken about it,” Jill Dawsey, curator of the Southern California museum, told *NPR*. “It is a tragedy because she was so prolific for so long,” Dawsey said, adding that “it was always a race against time.” Still, Dawsey is thrilled the public will finally have the opportunity to be immersed in López’s pioneering works. The exhibit will include 50 of the Mexican American artist’s pieces spanning the late 1970s and 80s, including the *Virgen de Guadalupe* triptych that catapulted a young López into the vanguard of feminist art and which remains one of her best-known pieces. The oldest of four daughters, López was born and raised in San Diego. She spent the 1960s and early 1970s in San Francisco where she went to college and became an activist in the Chicano movement, the Third World Liberation Front, and against the Vietnam War, Karen Mary Davalos told *NPR*.*

DISCRIMINATION

[Black Army officer says she was denied entry at New Orleans casino after ID was doubted](#) [Minyvonne Burke, *NBC News*, 13 October 2021]

A Black Army second lieutenant said she was discriminated against at a New Orleans casino when an employee denied her entry by claiming she wasn't the person pictured on her military identification. The officer, Deja Harrison, documented part of the encounter in a video she posted on her Twitter page. "But you said I had a fake military ID, right?" Harrison says in the video as she holds up two ID cards. The employee tells Harrison he's going to call "NOPD" and she can explain the situation to it, referring to the New Orleans Police Department. It's not clear whether the employee, who is White, did, in fact, call the police on Harrison, who is Black. The police department didn't immediately return a request for comment Wednesday. Harrison wrote that she believes she was discriminated against because she's a "high-ranked 23 yr old Black female in the Army."

[Lawsuit filed in Florida over a mural showing city's first Black female firefighter depicted with a White face](#) [Gregory Lemos and Melissa Alonso, CNN, 11 October 2021]

The Boynton Beach City Commission will meet this week to discuss a lawsuit filed on behalf of the city's first Black female firefighter over a mural where she was inaccurately depicted with a White face. Latosha Clemons filed the lawsuit in April against the City of Boynton Beach. According to the complaint, a mural intended to honor her and others for their service to the city "reflected her as a White member of the city fire department." A second amended complaint filed September 2 alleges the case is being brought on behalf of Clemons "to redress the defamatory statement [the City of Boynton Beach] made regarding her race and/or its negligence in failing to properly oversee an approved use of the likeness of Clemons." Clemons became the city's first Black female firefighter in 1996 and served the city for a total 26 years in different capacities, according to the complaint.

[Navy will reevaluate discharge upgrade applications for sailors, Marines with PTSD, TBI, other conditions](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, Navy Times, 14 October 2021]

The Navy is reevaluating discharge upgrade applications of sailors and Marines who were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, and other mental health or behavioral conditions. The examination stems from a preliminary settlement a federal judge approved this week regarding the class-action lawsuit Manker v. Del Toro, which was originally filed by the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic in 2018. The suit alleged that thousands of sailors and Marines were discharged with other than honorable or general characterizations of service, due to behavior connected to conditions like PTSD. As a result of the pending agreement, discharge-status-upgrade decisions from the Naval Discharge Review Board—spanning from March 2, 2012 to the effective date of settlement—will automatically be reviewed in situations where the applicant didn't receive an upgrade to honorable discharge, and were affected by or displayed evidence of the aforementioned conditions.

[Shaving waivers disproportionately affect Black airmen, delay promotions](#) [Lt. Col. Simon Ritchie, Military Times, 14 October 2021] [COMMENTARY]

As dermatologists on active duty in the United States Air Force, we are appealing to our service's leaders to re-evaluate the policies prohibiting facial hair growth in male members. Among the authors, it has been widely accepted for years that these regulations do not likely enhance

readiness but instead lead to a discriminatory effect against shaving waiver holders that especially affects our Black/African American members. Black/African American males tend to be on shaving waivers more often than members of other racial/ethnic groups because of a medical condition called pseudofolliculitis barbae (PFB). Different than simple irritation from shaving, PFB results in deep, scar-like painful bumps on the face and/or neck when the facial hair is trimmed too closely. Contrary to the belief of some, PFB is often not manageable with anything other than a shaving profile allowing for just a short amount of hair growth. The notion that these members simply need to learn how to shave the right way is factually incorrect and contradicts what we, as dermatologists, know about this condition. Our renewed call to review these policies is no longer rooted in anecdote alone—an article published in the [Journal of Military Medicine](#) in July demonstrated a significant association between shaving waivers and delays in promotion.

DIVERSITY

[After a career of breaking barriers in the Army, this retired General is now fighting for military families of color](#) [Brianna Keilar and Ryan Bergeron, CNN, 8 October 2021]

Lieutenant General Gwen Bingham has spent much of her Army career being a frontrunner. She is only the second African American woman ever to become a three-star General in the Army and as she advanced throughout her career, she has been either the first woman, the first African American, or both to hold that position. The general is quick to mention she would not be where she is without others “plowing tough ground” before her, and her warm, friendly approach has a way of putting everyone at ease. If breaking barriers seems to be a natural talent for Gen. Bingham, it's because she's been doing it her whole life. Bingham grew up in Texas and Alabama during the '60s and '70s, when the Civil Rights Movement and the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. were shaping the nation. It was during these formative years when Bingham says she first experienced racism. Now retired from the Army after 38 years, Bingham is continuing to clear that path through her work with the military nonprofit [Blue Star Families' Racial Equity and Inclusion Initiative](#). Bingham co-chairs the initiative, helping military families of color find the support and training they need to help diversify leadership in military communities.

[Young, Black Native activists say it's time to appreciate Indigenous diversity](#) [Emma Bowman, NPR, 11 October 2021]

The diversity of the Indigenous community is underrepresented and misunderstood. Four young Black Indigenous activists working to change that spoke about their heritage, solidarity and how they view Indigenous Peoples Day. The hour-long virtual panel, coinciding with the national holiday on Monday, was hosted by Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. [Read the story for] some of the highlights from the conversation.

EXTREMISM

[Fort Bragg soldier arrested, charged for alleged role in Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection](#) [F.T. Norton, *The Fayetteville Observer* (Fayetteville, NC), 14 October 2021]

A New York man in the Army just six months was arrested at Fort Bragg last week on allegations he assaulted law enforcement during the January breach of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Spc. James Phillip Mault, 29, is charged with several federal offenses to include assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers using a dangerous weapon or inflicting bodily injury; disorderly conduct in a Capitol building; and civil disorder, according to a news release Wednesday from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. Fort Bragg spokesman, Col. Joe Buccino, confirmed Wednesday that Mault was arrested on post Oct. 6. Buccino said it was important to note that Mault joined the Army in May, several months after the incident. His name was first brought to investigators by an anonymous source who "contacted the FBI National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) to report James Mault breached the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021. Mault was described as wearing a hard hat with stickers, one of them was the Ironworkers Local 33 Rochester, New York (NY). (The source) claimed to have seen a picture of Mault inside the Capitol Building...", the complaint states. His positive identification came when agents showed Mault's mother photographs of her son at the insurrection, according to the complaint.

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

["Radicalized" veteran gets time served for anti-police bombs](#) [Colleen Slevin, *The Associated Press*, 13 October 2021]

Bradley Bunn had a request after being arrested for building four pipe bombs he intended to use against any officers who tried to seize his guns: He wanted to meet with the federal prosecutor leading the case against him, a member of the Navy Reserve. The 55-year-old Army veteran told U.S. District Judge Christine Arguello during his sentencing hearing Wednesday that he wanted to hear from someone with a similar military background on how he could take responsibility for what he had done. FBI agents also joined the meeting, and Bunn said he realized those men, who also had backgrounds and training similar to his, were the very people his bombs could have hurt. "I thank God every day. I thank God every day that I didn't hurt anyone," Bunn told Arguello during an emotional statement in which he apologized several times. Arguello sentenced Bunn to about 17 months imprisonment—the time he has already spent in custody since being arrested May 1, 2020, as he prepared to go to an armed protest of pandemic restrictions. She also gave Bunn three years of supervised release, during which he will be barred from associating with members of anti-government groups or visiting their social media or websites.

[Senate Homeland Security chair asks TikTok for policies on extremist content](#) [Veronica Stracqualursi and Whitney Wild, *CNN*, 12 October 2021]

Sen. Gary Peters, the chair of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, is asking TikTok to provide information on its policies monitoring and removing violent extremist content from its platform, as part of the committee's efforts to investigate the rise in domestic terrorism and the events surrounding the January 6 insurrection. In a letter sent Tuesday, Peters, a Michigan Democrat, demanded information on the content "related to the promotion, recruitment, and advocacy" of events leading to the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol that was removed from the platform three months prior to the attack. The senator asked for what "strategies and actions" TikTok planned or executed with federal, state and local agencies to "detect and prevent extremist violence online, including without limitation, in relation to the January 6, 2021 attack."

Peters also requested company guidelines for recommending content, targeted advertising and how its advertising parameters align with company policies on violence, hate speech, and hostile domestic threats.

[Small numbers of military extremists can still pose a large threat, experts warn](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 13 October 2021]

Experts studying violent, extremist organizations warned that even if the number of veterans and military members who participate in such groups is small, they can still be very dangerous to the country. “Extremist ideas and groups cannot be left to operate unchecked within the very organizations charged with protecting the population, including its most vulnerable citizens,” said Cynthia Miller-Idriss, director of the Polarization and Extremism Research & Innovation Lab at American University. The comments came at a House Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing on Wednesday on the targeting of veterans by extremist groups, an issue that drew national headlines after a significant percentage of rioters involved in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol Building were found to have military experience. A recent survey by Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America officials found that about one-third of their members personally witnessed extremism in the military ranks. A separate report from the Anti-Defamation League found that at least 133 individuals used military email accounts to participate in events with the Oath Keepers, an anti-government group.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Taliban Takeover Of Afghanistan Is Inspiring Americans Online, FBI Says](#) [Jacqueline Feldscher, *Government Executive*, 13 October 2021]

The FBI is seeing evidence of Americans being inspired to potential violence by the Taliban’s recent victory, an agency official said Tuesday. Charles Spencer, the assistant director of the FBI’s international operations division, said he is seeing more chatter online and on social media from Americans who have not traveled to the Middle East, yet are influenced by the rapid seizure of Afghanistan over the summer. “There’s a lot of talk about it, and I think that’s the first thing you see. Where there’s talk, there’s more interest,” Spencer said at the Soufan Center’s Global Security Forum in Doha. “That’s where people who are people on the fringes. [who are] potentially not mentally stable, [and] not even affiliated with them, I think that’s where they see this rallying cry and their opportunity. Now ‘it’s time to buy a gun, run people over with a car,’ do whatever they’re going to do.” The past decade has already seen deadly attacks in the United States by Americans who had never been to the Middle East or had direct contact with terrorist groups.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Does Happiness Slow Down Cognitive Decline?](#) [Jared Wadley, *Futurity*, 29 September 2021]

Feeling happy about life slowed the cognitive decline among older adults in China, [a new 12-year study suggests](#). The researchers found that the odds of developing cognitive impairment, such as dementia, were lower in those with better psychological well-being. While previous studies have reported the benefits of positive psychology on cognitive functions, the research only tracked individuals for a short time, which can underestimate the association between

psychological well-being and cognitive change. Knowing more about cognitive impairment is an important public health issue in an aging society, says Lydia Li, professor of social work at the University of Michigan and the current study's coauthor. In addition, enhancing the psychological well-being of older adults not only improves their quality of life, but may also lessen the burden and cost associated with cognitive impairment, Li says. Data came from a subset of the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

INTERNATIONAL

[Dutch crown princess could marry woman and be queen—Rutte](#) [BBC News, 12 October 2021]
Same-sex marriage has been legal in the Netherlands since 2001 but it has always been assumed that it could not apply to the crown as there would have to be an heir to the throne. Now caretaker Prime Minister Mark Rutte has made clear any king or queen could also marry a person of the same sex. The heir to the Dutch throne, Princess Amalia, turns 18 in December. Mr Rutte said it was all about “theoretical situations” but the next queen could marry a woman. “Therefore the cabinet does not see that an heir to the throne or the king should abdicate if he or she would like to marry a partner of the same sex,” he explained in a response to a written question in parliament from his own party. As King Willem-Alexander’s eldest child, Princess Amalia’s future has come under scrutiny, with one book over the summer raising the issue of what might happen if she chose to marry a same-sex partner.

[England to remove another “discriminatory” barrier to blood donation](#) [Sarah Dean, CNN, 10 October 2021]

England is set to remove an “outdated, unnecessary and actively discriminatory” question from blood donor forms, which campaigners say has predominantly affected Black communities’ ability to give blood. It comes after UK-wide changes in June made it easier for sexually active gay and bisexual men to give blood—overturning a ban that originated during the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and had been decried as homophobic for years. By the end of this year, potential donors will no longer be asked if they have recently had sex with a partner who may ever have been sexually active “in parts of the world where HIV/AIDS is very common”, which includes most of sub-Saharan Africa. Currently those who answer “yes” are deferred for three months after the last sexual contact with that partner. The health department said that the question will be removed from the donor safety check in England following research by the Fair (For the Assessment of Individualised Risk) steering group and supported by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (Sabto). The question has already been removed in the devolved nations of Scotland and Wales.

[How #NiUnaMenos grew from the streets of Argentina into a regional women’s movement](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, NPR, 15 October 2021]

Six years ago, the brutal murder of 14-year-old Argentinian Chiara Páez sparked a movement. Páez, who was pregnant at the time, allegedly wanted to keep the baby. But her then-16-year-old boyfriend didn’t. And so, he beat her to death. Her death, along with other similar high-profile murders of young women in Argentina at the time, was a breaking point for women there. Latin

America is home to 14 of the 25 countries with the highest rates of femicide in the world, according to the United Nations. In Argentina, according to the Women's Office of the Supreme Court of Justice, one woman is killed every 32 hours. In the weeks following Páez's murder, tens of thousands of women in Argentina took to the streets in protest. Holding signs reading Ni Una Menos, or Not One Less, women young and old came together to demand systematic change.

[Kongsberg: Bow and arrow attack appears to be terrorism—officials](#) [BBC News, 14 October 2021]

A deadly bow and arrow attack in Norway which left five people dead appears to have been an act of terror, [Norway's security service \(PST\)](#) said. However a motive has not yet been determined. The suspect, a 37-year-old Danish citizen named Espen Andersen Brathen, had converted to Islam and there were fears he had been radicalised. He is accused of killing four women and a man on Wednesday night in the southern town of Kongsberg. A police lawyer told public broadcaster NRK he would be assessed by psychiatrists. The attack was first reported at 18:12 (16:12 GMT) on Wednesday. Police confronted the man six minutes later, but he shot several arrows at them and escaped. He was eventually caught about 30 minutes later. It was during this time, between being first approached and then arrested, that the victims were killed, the police chief said. A woman was also stabbed at a nearby intersection, witnesses told local media.

[Mexico City to swap Columbus statue for one of indigenous woman](#) [BBC News, 13 October 2021]

Mexico City's governor has confirmed that a statue of an indigenous woman will replace the capital's Christopher Columbus monument. The statue was removed last year after indigenous rights activists threatened to tear it down. Claudia Sheinbaum said it will be replaced by a replica of a pre-Columbian statue known as the Young Woman of Amajac. Protesters have toppled Columbus statues in Latin America and the U.S. Ms Sheinbaum said she wanted to make the change as part of the "decolonization" of the famous Reforma Avenue, where an empty plinth currently stands. She added that the new monument—set to be three times as tall as the Columbus statue—was in recognition that "indigenous women had been the most persecuted" during and after the colonial period. The original Young Woman of Amajac was discovered in January in Veracruz.

[Military postpones appointment of army commander over misconduct investigation](#) [CBC News (Toronto, ON, Canada), 14 October 2021]

The Canadian military has postponed the appointment of its next commander of the army because the man it picked for the role is being investigated for misconduct. Lt.-Gen. Trevor Cadieu was set to be sworn in as the head of Canada's army at a ceremony in September. The Ottawa Citizen was first to report on the investigation into Cadieu. The newspaper said he is being investigated over allegations of sexual misconduct. Cadieu has denied any wrongdoing. The military is in the midst of an ongoing sexual misconduct crisis, and several senior leaders facing allegations have been put on leave with pay. Canada's former top military commander, retired general Jonathan Vance, is charged with one count of obstruction of justice in relation to an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct that he denies. His successor, Admiral Art McDonald, was

placed on leave over an investigation into sexual misconduct claims that he denied and which didn't lead to criminal charges. Maj.-Gen. Peter Dawe, who once provided a character reference for a soldier being sentenced for sexual assault, was recently tapped for a key role in the military's response to sexual misconduct before his appointment was rescinded. "It is not shocking at this point to see another case of sexual misconduct," said Charlotte Duval-Lantoine, a fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute who studies military leadership.

[Neo-fascists exploit "no-vax" rage, posing dilemma for Italy](#) [Frances D'Emilio, *The Associated Press*, 13 October 2021]

An extreme-right party's violent exploitation of anger over Italy's coronavirus restrictions is forcing authorities to wrestle with the country's fascist legacy and fueling fears there could be a replay of last week's mobs trying to force their way to Parliament. Starting Friday, anyone entering workplaces in Italy must have received at least one vaccine dose, or recovered from COVID-19 recently or tested negative within two days, using the country's Green Pass to prove their status. Incited by the political extreme right at the rally, thousands marched through the Italian capital on Saturday and hundreds rampaged their way through the headquarters of the left-leaning CGIL labor union. Among the dozen people arrested in Saturday's violence are a co-founder of Forza Nuova (New Force) and its Rome leader. Also jailed are a founder of the now-defunct extreme-right militant group Armed Revolutionaries Nuclei, which terrorized Italy in the 1980s, and a restaurateur from northern Italy who defied a national lockdown early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Also upsetting Italy's tiny Jewish community have been anti-Semitic comments by a Rome mayoral candidate selected by Giorgia Meloni, leader of the far-right Brothers of Italy, Parliament's main opposition party.

[A Spanish hospital diagnosed a woman with homosexuality. It was all a mistake, it says.](#) [Andrea Salcedo, *The Washington Post*, 12 October 2021]

*Alba Aragón did not shy away from sharing her sexual orientation during her first appointment with a gynecologist last week. "I told him that I was gay because I thought it would be an important fact at the time of prescribing any treatment or determining the diagnosis," said Aragón, who lives in Murcia, a city in southeast Spain. But before the consultation ended at Hospital General Universitario Reina Sofía, Eugenio López handed her a document diagnosing her with an illness that had nothing to do with the irregular and painful periods for which Aragón had sought treatment. Instead, it read in Spanish: "Current illness: Homosexual." "I thought it was incredible that up until this day, in the 21st century, these types of beliefs continue to exist," she told *The Washington Post*. Aragón has since filed a complaint with the local health department denouncing "LGTBIfobia," or "considering her sexual orientation an illness." The complaint—submitted by GALACTYCO, a Spain-based activist group that defends LGBTQ rights—demands a new diagnosis so that no mention of homosexuality as an illness will be found in Aragón's medical records.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[ATF Misclassified Jobs as Law Enforcement and Retaliated Against Whistleblower, Agencies Say](#) [Erich Wagner, *Government Executive*, 12 October 2021]

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is in hot water with multiple agencies after it reportedly misclassified nearly 100 administrative positions as related to law enforcement activities, and then allegedly retaliated against a whistleblower who exposed the problem. According to Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who sent [letters](#) to the Office of Personnel Management, ATF and the Justice Department last week seeking information about the matter, OPM partially suspended ATF's position classification authority in November 2020 after an OPM audit found 94 employees performing "exclusively administrative duties" were improperly classified to the General Schedule's law enforcement family of jobs. In a letter to the whistleblower, the Office of Special Counsel said it has asked the Justice Department to investigate the matter and submit a report to OSC with its findings.

[Southlake school leader tells teachers to balance Holocaust books with "opposing" views](#) [Mike Hixenbaugh and Antonia Hylton, *NBC News*, 15 October 2021]

A top administrator with the Carroll Independent School District in Southlake [Texas] advised teachers last week that if they have a book about the Holocaust in their classroom, they should also offer students access to a book from an "opposing" perspective, according to an audio recording obtained by NBC News. Gina Peddy, the Carroll school district's executive director of curriculum and instruction, made the comment Friday afternoon during a training session on which books teachers can have in classroom libraries. The training came four days after the Carroll school board, responding to a parent's complaint, voted to reprimand a fourth grade teacher who had kept an anti-racism book in her classroom. A Carroll staff member secretly recorded the Friday training and shared the audio with NBC News. "How do you oppose the Holocaust?" one teacher said in response. "Believe me," Peddy said. "That's come up."

MISCONDUCT

[U.S. Marine who slammed the Afghanistan withdrawal in viral video plans to plead guilty, lawyers say](#) [Sophia Ankel, *Insider*, 13 October 2021]

*A Marine officer who publicly criticized senior military leaders over the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan is expected to plead guilty to several charges in hopes of receiving a more favorable discharge, one of his lawyers told *The Washington Post*. Lt. Col. Stuart Scheller, a 17-year infantry officer who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, faces six charges including disrespecting a superior officer, willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, and dereliction in the performance of duties. He is expected to appear at a special court-martial on Thursday. Scheller is willing to take responsibility for his actions because if he didn't, it would "make him a hypocrite," attorney Tim Parlatore told *The Post*. Scheller hopes to avoid jail time and secure either an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions, *The Post* reported. A favorable discharge would allow Scheller to retain some military perks, according to *The Post*.*

[\[UPDATED\]](#)

RACISM

[In Nevada, sundown town history has cultural impacts for Washoe tribal members](#) [Paul Boger, KUNR Public Radio, 4 October 2021]

When the Washoe were pushed out of their Native lands, the tribe was robbed of vital cultural practices such as its annual pine nut harvest and fishing in Lake Tahoe. Makley says one Bureau of Indian Affairs agent reported the tactics as a way to “properly civilize” the Washoe people. Meanwhile, the nearby Stewart Indian School, built in the 1890s, had the mission of conforming Native children to White society. And while some parents chose to send their children to the boarding school, other children were taken away without their family’s knowledge or consent. Fillmore says that forced assimilation shamed many into abandoning Native traditions. “We have generations of people who heard their language spoken at the home, but they were chastised and told to not speak their language as far as being successful in American society,” Fillmore explained. In a 1984 interview with the University of Nevada, Reno’s Oral History Program, 70-year-old Washoe elder Bernice Auchoberry described her understanding of the law. “The Indians weren’t allowed in town after 6 o’clock,” she said. “When the whistle blew you had to be on your way home. If you were caught on the street, or anywhere, you got put in jail.”

[Racist Housing Policy from 80 Years Ago Still Affects Maternal Health](#) [Mark Michaud, Futurity, 7 October 2021]

Housing policies established more than eight decades ago that effectively trapped people of color in low income and segregated neighborhoods continue to affect the health of residents to this day, specifically resulting in poor obstetric outcomes such as pre-term birth, [researchers report](#). Beginning in the 1930s and 40s, the federal government created thousands of area descriptions for cities across the U.S. First created by the federal Home Owners’ Loan Corporation (HOLC), these policies were adopted by the Federal Housing Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs and delineated areas where mortgages could be insured. The term “redlining” comes from the color that was used on HOLC maps to identify neighborhoods comprised predominately of people of color and labeled “hazardous”. In the current paper, researchers focused on the region surrounding Rochester, New York. Using a New York State database of live births from 2005 to 2018, the team identified pre-term births (less than 37 weeks) by zip code, demographic characteristics of individuals, including race, and community survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau on income, poverty, and educational attainment.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“Tremendous feeling of justice” as San Jose apologizes for discrimination](#) [Natasha Chen, CNN, 11 October]

Connie Young Yu’s grandfather was working in the fields of San Jose, California, on May 4, 1887, when he saw thick smoke rising from the thriving Chinatown of 1,400 people. “He was looking up and he could see smoke. The smoke... just covered the sky,” Young Yu said. The arson fire that destroyed the neighborhood was just one of a shocking list of wrongs for which the city of San Jose [formally apologized](#) in late September, marking the first time in about 130 years the city has documented its historical role in passing anti-Chinese policies. The apology and resolution describes a time when San Jose’s critical agriculture and railroad industries relied heavily on Chinese immigrant labor, while anti-Chinese conventions were held in the city. It

continues to list ways San Jose had played a role in anti-Chinese violence: the city had condemned all Chinese laundries, declared its Market Street Chinatown as a public nuisance, and when arsonists burned it down, refused permits for the Chinese to rebuild in another location. Reported hate crimes against Asians in 16 of the nation's largest cities and counties increased 164% in May 2021, compared to May of the previous year, [according to a study](#) by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at Cal State University, San Bernardino.

[Vincent Chin's family never got the justice they wanted. But his case changed things for those who came after him](#) [Harmeet Kaur, CNN, 10 October 2021]

*Vincent Chin was celebrating his bachelor party at the Fancy Pants strip club in Detroit when he and another patron got into a fight. "It's because of you little motherf***** that we're out of work," a White autoworker named Ronald Ebens yelled at the 27-year-old Chinese American, as a dancer who worked there later recalled. With Chin on one side and Ebens and Nitz on the other, the brawl escalated. After the group was kicked out of the club, the fight continued and Ebens and Nitz eventually chased Chin down outside of a nearby McDonald's. With the help of Nitz, Ebens beat him over the head with a baseball bat again and again. Four days later, Chin died. Despite legal proceedings in state and federal courts, the assailants would never spend a full day in jail. Chin's case paved the way for subtler changes around hate crimes, sentencing guidelines and victims' rights. And it brought Asian Americans of varied backgrounds together under one movement. "If we couldn't bring justice to Vincent Chin, we had to make sure that his legacy—what we had learned and what we had fought for—didn't go away," said Helen Zia, an activist and former journalist who is now the executor of the Vincent and Lily Chin estate.*

RELIGION

[Catholic Troops Can Refuse COVID Vaccine, Archbishop Declares](#) [Elizabeth Howe, Government Executive, 13 October 2021]

Catholic U.S. troops should be allowed to refuse the COVID-19 vaccine based solely on conscientious objection and regardless of whether abortion-related tissue was used in its creation or testing, the archbishop for the military declared in a [new statement](#) supporting service members who are seeking religious exemptions. Broglio previously has supported President Joe Biden's mandatory vaccination order for U.S. troops, citing the church's guidance that permits Catholics to receive even vaccines derived from fetal tissue, when no other vaccine option is available. In his new statement, the archbishop said that while he still encourages followers and troops to get vaccinated, some troops have questioned if the church's permission to get vaccinated outweighed their own conscious objections to it. "It does not," Broglio wrote.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Hindu priestesses fight the patriarchy, one Indian wedding at a time](#) [Lauren Frayer, NPR, 15 October 2021]

When Sharmistha Chaudhuri decided to get married in her native India, she faced a dilemma. Chaudhuri, 35, is a PR professional in Austin, Texas. She's independent, educated and has traveled the world. She wanted her wedding to reflect her liberal values and the equal partnership she has with her American fiancé. But Chaudhuri found some Indian wedding

traditions patriarchal. Hindu weddings are usually officiated by male priests. The bride's parents "donate" her to her in-laws. It's typically only the bride, not the groom, who prays for her new family's longevity—and gets her forehead anointed with colored powder to signify she's married. "I just knew that I didn't want to do this," Chaudhuri recalls. "It was more like, 'How can we do something less traditional?'" Her like-minded mother found a solution: Instead of priests, they hired four Hindu priestesses to perform a multilingual, egalitarian ceremony, stripped of patriarchal traditions. The priestesses belong to a Kolkata-based collective known as Shubhamastu—"let it prosper" in the ancient language of Sanskrit—that began revising Hindu wedding liturgy about 10 years ago.

SEXISM

[In face of heckling of an alleged sexual nature, Vermont high school girls soccer team speaks out for change](#) [Lorenzo Reyes, *USA TODAY*, 13 October 2021]

*In response to repeated heckling at an away game last Thursday that was allegedly sexual in nature, the Hartford High School (White River Junction, Vermont) girls' soccer team walked off the field with six minutes to play. When the Hurricanes next took the field, just two days later, they decided it was their time to be heard. "Really, what this is all about—and it's got echoes of the gymnastics scandal, the figure skating scandals and the NWSL thing—girls and women should be able to participate in athletics without being sexualized the same way that boys and men aren't sexualized," Hartford's girls' soccer coach Jeff Acker told *USA TODAY Sports*. "I played soccer my whole life. Never once was I sexualized by an opponent, by a fan, by a coach, by anyone. I was just a soccer player. Girls and women deserve that same opportunity at every level, but certainly at the high school level." "That opportunity was taken from my kids, simply because of their gender. This would never happen to a boy."*

[SCOTUS changed oral arguments in part because female justices were interrupted, Sotomayor says](#) [Ariane de Vogue, *CNN Supreme Court Reporter*, 13 October 2021]

Justice Sonia Sotomayor told an audience Wednesday that recent changes in the format of oral arguments were instituted in part after studies emerged showing that female justices on the court were interrupted more by male justices and advocates. Sotomayor said the [studies](#), including one by researchers Tonja Jacoby and Dylan Schweers in 2017, have had an "enormous impact" and led to Chief Justice John Roberts being "much more sensitive" to ensuring that people were not interrupted or at least that he would play referee if needed. She also said that it is a dynamic that exists not only on the court but in society as well. Sotomayor said that she had noticed the pattern "without question" before the system was changed on the bench and sometimes she would respond in a way that she knew was probably not ideal. "I interrupt back," she said. The comments came during a talk before New York University School of Law for a conference dedicated to diversity and inclusion. Sotomayor touched on the changing demographics of the country, the need for more professional diversity on the court, and what it has felt like to be the court's first Latina.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Ex-Washington Football Team employees say team offered payment for silence on alleged sexual harassment](#) [Jack Baer, *Yahoo News*, 14 October 2021]

*As the Washington Football Team continues to juggle a litany of scandals, some of its most prominent accusers say the team offered a financial settlement in exchange for their public silence. Emily Applegate and Megan Imbert, two of Washington's many workplace misconduct accusers, told *The Washington Post* that lawyers for the team offered a payment in February in exchange for signing nondisclosure agreements and agreeing to stop doing news interviews and posting on social media about their experiences. Months later, the NFL's investigation into Washington, led by attorney Beth Wilkinson, has concluded with a \$10 million fine for the team but no public release of Wilkinson's findings, or even a written report. However, some of what Wilkinson dredged up found the light of day via the emails that led to former Las Vegas Raiders head coach Jon Gruden's downfall. Lisa Banks, attorney for nearly 40 team employees who have alleged workplace misconduct in Washington, released a statement on Wednesday calling for six of the NFL's top corporate sponsors—Verizon, Amazon, Nike, Anheuser-Busch, PepsiCo and Procter & Gamble—to pressure the league into releasing Wilkinson's findings.*

[“I was trapped”: Shipping giant investigates alleged rape of 19-year-old during federal training program](#) [Blake Ellis and Melanie Hicken, *CNN*, 12 October 2021]

International shipping giant Maersk has suspended five crew members and launched an investigation in the wake of an explosive blog post from a student at a federal service academy who said she was raped in 2019 on one of the company's ships when she was 19 years old. The anonymous author of the post said she is a current senior at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point, New York, which trains students to become commissioned officers in the armed forces and licensed Merchant Marine officers who work on ships transporting cargo and passengers worldwide. She wrote last month that she was the only female on a Maersk ship during her Sea Year, a mandatory program when students work on commercial vessels and experience what the school describes as their “first real opportunity for self-reliance.” In her account of what happened, she said that after leaving a port in the Middle East, engineers on the ship forced her and her fellow cadet, who is male, to down shot after shot of hard liquor one night, and that she woke up naked in her bed early the next morning and began to panic.

SUICIDE

[The military has a suicide crisis. Its leaders bear most of the blame](#) [Daniel Johnson, *Task & Purpose*, 15 October 2021] [OPINION]

Last year, the suicide rate among veterans dropped for the first time in 12 years, a reversal of a trend that has led to veterans having a much higher suicide rate than the non-veteran population. This is great news, and hopefully, a sign that progress is being made. The same cannot be said for the active-duty military, however, whose suicide rate rose during the same time period. Despite our wars in the Middle East ending or drawing down, the death by suicide rate continues to rise, indicating factors outside of warfare as the driver. From 2015 to 2020, the suicide rate among active duty service members has increased by 41%, and there are no signs of it stopping. At Fort Drum, New York in September, three soldiers died by suicide within 72 hours. The amount of stress on personnel that comes from knowing that their leaders, who speak about

honor, integrity and “choosing the hard right” are not looking out for their best interests, but instead their own, is unquantifiable. The reality personnel experienced on the ground over the past 20 years was not the reality their leaders wanted to see, even as service members attempted multiple times to inform them of the truth.

VETERANS

[It’s time to focus on treating ‘invisible wounds’ of veterans, advocates say](#) [Frank Larkin, *Military Times*, 14 October 2021] [COMMENTARY]

“Thank you for your service”—a phrase heard frequently on television commercials, in airports, and across city streets. But as our nation begins to reflect on the end of nearly 20 years of continuous war, we must also come to terms with the reality that while public gestures of appreciation are nice, our veterans and service members need action for the conditions that are taking their lives at record numbers—traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as “moral injury” of the psyche, most commonly referred to in aggregate as “invisible wounds.” Invisible wounds are not invisible to those that struggle with them every day or their families. They are invisible to the rest of us and to the system that is blind to them and has failed to aggressively pursue the answers.

[Women’s Army Corps Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday](#) [Wesley Farnsworth, *DOD News*, 13 October 2021]

The COVID-19 global pandemic, 9/11 World Trade Center terror attack and the moon landing are just some of the memorable events one World War II veteran witnessed before her 100th birthday Aug. 29. “It doesn’t seem real to be turning 100,” Lorraine Mulvaney Vogelsang said. “I’ve seen a lot in my lifetime, but it seems that the time goes so fast for the young people, and even faster for the older people.” Vogelsang didn’t complete high school because her mother became ill and needed help with the children. When her mother got better, she began working at a local laundry facility as a hand-presser until she joined WAAC, the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. Vogelsang served in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps from February to August 1943. In January 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation dropping “auxiliary” from the name. On Aug. 11, she transitioned from the WAAC to the Women’s Army Corps, where she served until her separation in August 1945 with the rank of sergeant. She said her parents weren’t thrilled about her joining the military. “Mom and dad weren’t too happy about it,” she recalled. “But they never did say they didn’t want me to go in.”