

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 29 OCTOBER 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Biden Administration Announces Executive Order To Close Educational Gap And Bring Equity For Black Americans](#) [Jamila Bey, *BET.com*, 19 October 2021]

*President Joe Biden signed an [Executive Order](#) on Tuesday (Oct. 19) that seeks to begin the necessary work to address and eliminate the racial disparities in U.S. education and, as a result, provide economic opportunity. The administration has directed a working group made up of senior officers across government agencies to study and to implement best practices that will improve education and ultimately financial outcomes for Black Americans. The Biden order specifically names “persistent racial and systemic injustices” as a root cause for why Black students are often steered into the poorest schools with least advancements. Subsequently, this lack of educational opportunities has often left those children, once grown, fewer and less lucrative career opportunities. Recognizing this, the executive order describes using internships, apprenticeships, and partnerships with private sector companies to expose Black students to careers and fields in which they are typically underrepresented. There are also plans to highlight education and training that will allow Black students to enter STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields.*

[A Pentagon definition for extremism is imminent](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 25 October 2021]

*A progress report from the Defense Department’s Countering Extremism Working Group is about three months late, but it’s nearly done, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told Military Times on Monday. The report, originally due in July, is supposed to include a list of mid- and long-term efforts for the working group, as well as an update on their first three tasks, as laid out by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin back in April. Previously, the DOD definition of extremist activity focused on planning, fundraising or other “active” participation in extremism groups, though membership was not banned. The new definition is expected to more specifically identify extremist behaviors, outside of a group setting, as several recent examples of extremist service members have been unaffiliated with an organization. In addition to the definition and a prevalence study, the working group will update procedures to screen for extremist sympathies in recruits and to educate transitioning service members about the possibility of being recruited by an extremist group after separation.*

[Treasury Department names first counselor for racial equity](#) [Ken Sweet, *The Associated Press*, 25 October 2021]

*The Treasury Department has hired a former JPMorgan Chase executive to head a new government program aimed at combatting racial inequality issues in banking and other financial-services industries. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Monday that Janis Bowdler will be the department’s first counselor for racial equity, part of a multi-pronged strategy by the Biden administration to deal with systemic racism found in many parts of the economy. Banking and finance have long had issues with racial inequity, from the lack of representation of Blacks and*

*other minorities at the highest levels of companies to ongoing issues of getting equal access to services for non-White borrowers.*

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## CULTURE

[A bilingual podcast delves into the Vanessa Guillén case](#) [Juliana Jiménez J., *NBC News*, 29 October 2021]

*The case of Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillén drew nationwide attention and ignited changes in the way the military handles abuse and sexual harassment. A [new limited-series podcast in English and Spanish](#), *Fort Hood: The Vanessa Guillén Case*, probes the killing of the Latina soldier and the questions it raises. Produced by Noticias Telemundo and The Story Lab, the seven-part series is narrated by Mexican actress Cecilia Suárez, a feminist advocate and United Nations activist. Beyond the investigation around Guillén and her family's insistent search for answers, the podcast examines the military base's record of sexual abuse, violence and disappearances. The series delves into what some soldiers have described as a culture of abuse and the repercussions of the #MeToo movement and demands for greater accountability and change in the U.S. Army.*

[Charlotte unveils new street signs honoring the first African-Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps](#) [*WBTV.com*, 28 October 2021]

*The City of Charlotte on Thursday unveiled the new Montford Point Street signs, honoring the legacy of the first African Americans who enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1942. Thursday's renaming ceremony marks the second street renaming to take place as part of the city's Legacy Commission work. The former Phifer Avenue now becomes Montford Point Street, in honor of the Montford Point Marines. "We all must know our history, and if we don't know our history, history stands to repeat itself," said President of the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. Dr. James T. Averhart Jr. Some Charlotteans were among the early Black recruits who trained at Camp Montford Point near Jacksonville, N.C. and contributed to the Allied victory in World War II. "This is not just Black history, or Marine Corps history, it's American history and the world needs to know about the story of the Montford Point Marines," said Averhart Jr. The only surviving original Montford Point Marine in the Charlotte area passed away earlier this month. The first African American Marine to arrive at Montford Point in 1942 was Charlotte native Howard Perry.*

[CMSAF Leadership Library, 2021](#) [Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Joanne S. Bass, *The Pentagon*, 28 October 2021]

*Teammates, it is no secret that we are at an inflection point in our Air Force. As Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, says "good enough today will fail tomorrow." We need leaders at all levels who can think strategically, and execute tactically. To that end, I'm bringing you a reading list that will flex and evolve as we build the Air Force we need to compete, deter and win across all domains. As a lifelong learner, I am constantly adding to my reading list—looking for new ideas that can challenge my assumptions and help me grow beyond my own limitations. As*

*your 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, I am committed to sharing this information with you, in the hope that you will apply it and eventually grow beyond us all. We are the best Air Force in the world because of our people. I encourage each of you to take up the mantle of a learning leader, who continues to challenge the status quo and take us to new heights. I am honored to serve alongside you, and I look forward to seeing you all out in our Air Force.*

[\[DOD PROFESSIONAL READING LISTS\]](#)

[“Dehumanizing” and “racist.” Native leaders decry Braves’ “Tomahawk chop” ahead of World Series game in Atlanta](#) [Nicquel Terry Ellis, CNN, 28 October 2021]

*Native groups and advocates are demanding that the Atlanta Braves eliminate the “Tomahawk chop” symbol and gesture from its branding and game day traditions, saying the team is perpetuating racist stereotypes as the Braves take the national stage in the World Series. Leaders from the Native community said this week it’s past time for the Braves to join other professional sports teams such as the Cleveland Guardians and Washington Football Team in removing offensive imagery and mascots which they say reduce Native people down to caricatures. The Braves’ name and “Tomahawk chop” have long garnered criticism from Native groups and tribal communities, but the team has stopped short of eliminating the name and Tomahawk symbol or chopping gesture that has been a game day tradition since 1991. The conversations about the “chop” were renewed earlier this week when Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred defended the Braves’ name and symbol saying the Native American community in the Atlanta region is “wholly supportive of the Braves program, including the chop. For me, that’s the end of the story.”*

[Marshall “Major” Taylor: The first Black American world champion & his fight to the top](#) [Matt Warwick, BBC Sport, 28 October 2021]

*Born in 1878 and raised in Indianapolis, [Marshall] Taylor lived part of his young life with his friend’s wealthy parents, who gave him his first bicycle and helped tutor him. When they moved to Chicago, aged 12, he found an unlikely form of work which would be the launchpad to a career he could never have imagined. Owners of the Hay and Willits bike shop paid him \$6 a week to perform tricks to attract customers. He did so dressed in military uniform, earning his nickname “Major”. A move with mentor, Louis “Birdie” Munger to the comparatively more racially tolerant Worcester, Massachusetts—also a cycling heartland of the era—made his transition into racing among White athletes a little easier. Less than a year after announcing himself on the racing scene in New York, Taylor was wrestled to the floor and strangled unconscious by a competitor he beat into second place following a sprint race in Taunton, Massachusetts. Dr Marlon Moncrieffe, author of the book *Black Champions in Cycling* says: “He would take to the track, full of verve and power, breaking long-standing track speed records that had been set by champion White cyclists. While this was much to the delight of the majority White crowds, who saw the grace in Taylor’s efforts, it was to the disgust of the White racers. Taylor was warned that if he ever showed up to their meetings to cause them embarrassment, his life would be in danger.”*

[More Ink on Heads, Fingers Allowed in Updated Coast Guard Tattoo Policy](#) [Patricia Kime, Military.com, 26 October 2021]

*Coast Guard men, women and recruits now have more options to show off tattoos on their fingers or behind their ears under a new policy the service announced Monday. The Coast Guard last updated its tattoo policy in 2019 to broaden the pool of potential recruits and allow members flexibility in decorating their bodies. Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz said in his first “State of the Coast Guard Address” in 2019 that the service’s leadership needed to look at its policies to draw service members and retain them. All the military services have issued updates in recent years to address similar concerns, as well as trends in the general population where they hope to attract recruits. As part of a sweeping review of military personnel policies in 2016, then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the services’ tattoo policies could be excluding recruits who otherwise would be qualified for military service.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[New series sheds light on Air Force Basic Military Training](#) [Sarah Sicard, *Military Times*, 28 October 2021]

*When potential military recruits consider a life in service, questions about basic training are typically among the first asked. While there are resources aplenty, particularly for Army basic training and Marine Corps boot camp, the Air Force’s barrier to entry is slightly more enigmatic. In an effort to provide transparency to would-be airmen about what they’re getting into, the service is releasing an eight-episode YouTube series that follows five recruits on their journeys from civilian to service member. “The [docuseries](#) is an unprecedented look into the Air Force’s only Basic Military Training at JBSA-Lackland,” according to a statement from Air Force Public Affairs. The episodes will share never-before-seen footage from BMT, filmed through the eyes of their five subjects. The service’s production crew chronicled these trainees’ experiences beginning in their hometowns and ending at graduation. Episodes will be released on Thursdays at 7 p.m. CST from Oct. 28 through Dec. 23, with the exception of Thanksgiving, and they run between 37 and 43 minutes.*

[Painting of Yale namesake and enslaved child back on display](#) [Dave Collins, *The Associated Press*, 27 October 2021]

*An early 18th-century painting depicting Yale University’s namesake with an enslaved Black child has been returned to public display at one of its museums even as art experts investigate its origins and campus discussions about the school’s ties to slavery continue. The nearly life-size, oil-on-canvas portrait shows Elihu Yale and family members sitting at a table with tobacco pipes and wine glasses, while an enslaved boy with a metal collar locked around his neck looks on. In the background, children believed to be Yale’s grandchildren are playing. The Yale Center for British Art removed the painting from display in October 2020 to conduct a technical analysis, which continues and includes efforts to identify the boy, as well as to confirm the identities of the others. Over the years, some patrons expressed concerns about the depiction of an enslaved child, but that was not a reason for removing it, said Courtney Martin, the center’s director.*

[Passing: On crossing the color line](#) [CBS News, 24 October 2021]

*It’s been a theme in Hollywood for years, from “Imitation of Life,” to “The Human Stain.” And off-screen, the subject of “passing”—crossing the color line—is just as complex. Lise Funderburg is the author of [“Black, White, Other,”](#) and is also mixed race. She said passing*

describes when a member of a particular group is perceived as a member of another. “I’ve talked to people who are gay who talk about ‘being straight’ passing,” said Funderburg. “No one they encounter will necessarily know the full breadth of their identity unless they choose to tell it to people. And it is up to you to either disabuse them of that notion, or to correct that, or to challenge that—or not.” This week, a new film will put passing into the spotlight again. Based on the 1929 novel by Harlem renaissance writer Nella Larsen, [“Passing”](#) tells the story of two Black women, one who actively passes for White, the other who does not. Rebecca Hall directed the film. “It’s about racial passing, but it is also about these other modes of performance, these other binaries—male, female, gay, straight,” Hall said. “Identity is this sort of cross-section between the story we tell about ourselves, and the one that society tells, puts on us.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Sneakers generated \\$70B last year. Black retailers saw little of that.](#) [Curtis Bunn, *NBC News*, 23 October 2021]

The guest bedroom in Earl West’s home in suburban Atlanta looks more like a sneaker warehouse. From floor to ceiling, covering the entire space, shoe boxes filled with some of the most exclusive sneakers, in various colors and designs, are stacked on top of shoe boxes. Inside them are nearly 900 pairs of sneakers valued in West’s estimation at more than \$100,000. West is among the thousands of people in America, especially Black males, who are fixated on sneakers, so much so that they are the drivers of a market that pulled in \$70 billion in 2020, [according to the market research company Statista](#). At the same time, there is a harsh reality: While Black culture has made sneakers an invaluable element to any wardrobe and Black consumers are at the heart of that financial tide, Black retailers of the coveted items are hard to find. Nike released a sustainability report in March that opened with a word from its president and chief executive officer, John Donahoe, saying, “Our brand would not be what it is today without the powerful contributions of Black athletes and Black culture.” And yet, while some retailers are working on changing the disparity, those “contributions” generate little in the way of Black wealth.

[Stripping military bases of Confederate names stirs passions](#) [Robert Burns, *The Associated Press*, 24 October 2021]

Civil War history casts a long shadow in Virginia, the birthplace of Confederate generals, scene of their surrender and now a crossroad of controversy over renaming military bases that honor rebel leaders. In and around Blackstone, about 50 miles southwest of Richmond, that shadow can stir passions when talk turns to nearby Fort Pickett. Some are troubled by Congress requiring the Pickett name be dropped as part of a wider scrubbing of military base names that commemorate the Confederacy or honor officers who fought for it. In all, the names of at least nine Army bases in six states will be changed. Others here say it’s high time to drop the names. “Change them!” says Nathaniel Miller, a Black member of the town council who was stationed at Pickett after he returned from Vietnam in 1973. “It should have happened a long time ago,” he says, because the names are a reminder of slavery and a period in American history when Black people had no voice.

[U.S. State Department issues first passport with X gender marker](#) [Chandelis Duster, *CNN*, 27 October 2021]

*The State Department has issued the first U.S. passport with an “X” gender marker as it seeks to implement gender-inclusive policies, the department announced Wednesday. The department announced in June it would update its procedures to allow applicants to self-select their sex marker for passports and that it “will no longer require medical certification” if an applicant’s self-selected sex marker doesn’t match the sex listed on other official identity documents. “As the Secretary announced in June, the Department is moving towards adding an X gender marker for non-binary, intersex, and gender non-conforming persons applying for a U.S. passport or CRBA,” State spokesperson Ned Price said in a [statement](#). “I want to reiterate, on the occasion of this passport issuance, the Department of State’s commitment to promoting the freedom, dignity, and equality of all people—including LGBTQI+ persons.” The option with the new marker will be offered to routine passport applicants after the department finishes system and form updates in early 2022, Price also said.*

[Why many Black employees don’t want to return to the office](#) [Khristopher J. Brooks, CBS News, 25 October 2021]

*Tennessee mom Ashley Brooks enjoys working in tech support at a Nashville firm, in large part because the job has been remote since the coronavirus pandemic erupted. But with her employer likely to summon employees back to the office in 2022, she is nervous: Like many Black Americans, Brooks finds the thought of returning to work discomfiting. Indeed, while polls suggest some employees are content to be back at their desks, Black workers told CBS MoneyWatch that being in a predominantly White workplaces often exacts an emotional toll. Such sentiments are common among people of color, including in corporate America. For decades, Black and Hispanic employees have [reported feeling marginalized at work](#) and being relegated to lower-paying roles even when their credentials qualify them for a higher-level position. Black women, in particular, say a typical workday often requires looking past microaggressions from co-workers, ignoring flippant comments about their natural hairstyles or suppressing emotions lest they be labeled an “angry Black woman.” An October [survey](#) of more than 10,000 workers from Future Forum, a research group focused on workplace issues, found that 66% of Black respondents want a flexible schedule, compared to 59% of White employees.*

[“Wings of Gold”: The female naval aviators who fought for combat flight equality](#) [James G. Zumwalt, *Special to Stars and Stripes*, 27 October 2021] [OPINION]

*It took the fight for women’s suffrage in the U.S. almost seven decades to achieve success. From the time the first woman began flying in 1908, it took 107 years for women to see all barriers to their flying military aircraft in combat lifted. [“Wings of Gold”](#) by Pulitzer Prize winner Beverly Weintraub details this long fight by women to take to combat flight as U.S. Navy pilots. The Wings of Gold worn on a military recipient’s chest are considered by many to signify the best pilots in the world. But the fight for women to wear them would require a series of evolutionary steps, created by America’s wars, to be successful. The Navy’s 19th Chief of Naval Operations (1970-1974), Adm. E.R. Zumwalt Jr.—who was this author’s father—took command of the Navy at a time when morale and retention were suffering and the service was experiencing its lowest reenlistment rates in history. With an all-volunteer military on the horizon, he set up study groups to explore what changes were needed to encourage reenlistment. Among many other problems identified, he concluded the Navy was underutilizing its female talent.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[Ex-Liberty spokesman says he was fired for raising concerns](#) [Sarah Rankin, *The Associated Press*, 16 October 2021]

*A former spokesperson for Liberty University is suing the evangelical Virginia school after being fired, alleging in a lawsuit filed Monday that his termination came in retaliation for voicing concerns that sexual misconduct accusations were mishandled. Scott Lamb, a vice president-level executive at the school where he was hired in 2018, said in an interview with The Associated Press that he pushed for answers about what was being done to investigate claims raised in a lawsuit filed over the summer by 12 women, and was continually dissatisfied. The women's lawsuit, which is still ongoing, alleged the school had a pattern of mishandling cases of sexual assault and harassment and had fostered an unsafe campus environment. A student-led movement has since been established to advocate for systemic reforms, and the nonprofit investigative journalism outlet [ProPublica published a deeply reported investigation Sunday](#) with findings similar to the allegations raised in the lawsuit.*

[Former hospital executive wins \\$10M in discrimination case](#) [The Associated Press, 26 October 2021]

*A former top executive in a North Carolina-based health care system who claimed in a lawsuit that he lost his job because he is a White male was awarded \$10 million by a federal jury on Tuesday. In his 2019 lawsuit, David Duvall said he lost his job as senior vice president of marketing and communication at Novant Health due to efforts to diversify top leadership positions, news outlets reported. The jury said Novant Health failed to prove that it would have dismissed Duvall regardless of his race. Duvall said in his lawsuit that he was fired in 2018 without warning or explanation shortly before his fifth anniversary with the company. He said he was replaced by two women, one Black and one White. Duvall, who worked in Mecklenburg County, accused Novant of violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits race and gender discrimination in the workplace.*

## DIVERSITY

[From small town to Army community—Equal Opportunity Boldly Moves Forward](#) [Maj. Khoran Lee, *DVIDS*, 20 October 2021] [OPINION]

*As an Equal Opportunity officer, we are implementing proactive EO programs to encourage the tough-but-necessary conversations to create working environments where all Soldiers can succeed. It is not an easy process, but is an opportunity toward progress. However, there is still plenty of work left to do regarding equal opportunity. The world is far from perfect, but I believe we're on the right track. It's just a matter of continuing to fight the good fight and not back down from doing the right thing in order to boldly move forward toward progress. When we have these tough conversations we break down barriers, confront our prejudices and remind ourselves that all who wear the uniform swore an oath willing to support and defend the constitution of the United States. I currently live in North Liberty, Iowa, but was raised in the small town of Lamoni, Iowa, which has a population of about 2,500 people. Lamoni is home to Graceland University,*

*which luckily allowed me to be exposed to a greater level of diversity, including in thought, race, religion, and socioeconomic—all more than what most small rural communities offer.*

[Illinois high schoolers survey if “queers” should use the bathroom with “normal people”](#) [Matt Lavietes, *NBC News*, 22 October 2021]

*A survey asking students if they think “queers” should be allowed to use the school restroom with “normal people” circulated at an Illinois high school this week, the latest of a recent slew of reported attacks on LGBTQ students across the country. The survey was distributed at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School in Anna, Illinois, on Wednesday by an unidentified number of students who called themselves the “Anti-Queer Association,” according to Rob Wright, the school’s superintendent. Michael Coleman, a board member of the Rainbow Cafe LGBTQ Center, [told WPSD-TV](#), an NBC affiliate that covers Southern Illinois and the surrounding area that students had been reaching out to the center in response. “They really feel very unsafe in that environment in Anna-Jonesboro and that they felt that nothing was going to get done,” Coleman said. In just the last several weeks, there have been a number of reported incidents of anti-LGBTQ harassment in schools. “We see this in the real world with adults having a hard time expressing their differences in an appropriate manner,” Wright said. “We have to start doing that with our students at this age, too, and know that everybody’s welcome and everybody deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.”*

[No longer a boys club: Iowa National Guard sees 1st enlisted female infantry soldier](#) [Jennifer Somers, *WQAD.com*, 25 October 2021]

*After returning from basic training in September, Pfc. Taylor Patterson of Ankeny, Iowa, broke gender barriers and became the first female enlisted infantry soldier in the Iowa National Guard. Patterson, according to a news releases from the Iowa National Guard, joined the guard in June 2020 and enlisted in infantry. Now, she serves with Company C, 168th Infantry after successfully completing training. The infantry, according to the National Guard, is the main land combat force and is responsible for defending the U.S. against any threat by land. Training for the infantry takes place in both the classroom and the field, and it requires a grueling 10 weeks and 3 days of basic training and 12 weeks of advanced individual training. “There obviously were a lot of guys who didn’t think the females were able to do that, but ... I am proving it to you,” Patterson said in the release.*

[Tobyhanna celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) [Danielle E. Weinschenk, *Army Public Affairs*, 27 October 2021]

*October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Team Tobyhanna is taking the opportunity to recognize the contributions of team members with disabilities, as well as those who support them. In addition to traditional federal hiring practices, Tobyhanna utilizes the Schedule A Hiring Authority, which provides non-competitive avenues for qualified applicants with disabilities to gain federal employment. The utilization of Schedule A is directly aligned with Tobyhanna’s long-range strategic plan, TOBY2028—specifically the “Invest in Our People” line of effort. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 61 million adults—one in four—in the United States live with a disability. Employees with disabilities have a robust support system at Tobyhanna, starting with the Equal Employment*

*Opportunity (EEO) Office, whose mission is promote and support EEO in the workplace through compliance with applicable laws.*

## **EXTREMISM**

### [2 neo-Nazi group members \[including U.S. Army veteran\] sentenced to 9 years in prison](#)

[Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 28 October 2021]

*Two neo-Nazi group members were sentenced on Thursday to nine years in prison each in a case that highlighted a broader federal crackdown on far-right extremists. FBI agents arrested former Canadian Armed Forces reservist Patrik Jordan Mathews, U.S. Army veteran Brian Mark Lemley Jr. and a third member of a group called The Base four days before a pro-gun rally in Virginia in January 2020. The judge who sentenced Mathews and Lemley to prison concluded that they intended to engage in terrorist activity. U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang’s decision to apply a “terrorism enhancement” to their sentences significantly increased their recommended prison terms under federal guidelines. The closed-circuit television camera and microphone in their apartment also captured Mathews and Lemley talk about breaking racist mass killer Dylann Roof out of prison where he is on death row, assassinating a Virginia lawmaker, destroying rail lines and power lines, derauling trains and poisoning water supplies, prosecutors said. The Base and another White supremacist group called Atomwaffen Division have been leading proponents of “accelerationism,” a fringe philosophy that advocates using mass violence to hasten society’s collapse.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

### [Exploring hate: How antisemitism fuels White nationalism](#) [Hari Sreenivasan, *PBS News*, 24 October 2021] [AUDIO with transcript]

*Antisemitism is a core ideology in White nationalist movements and was part of what drove extremists at the 2017 Charlottesville “Unite the Right” protest. American University professor Pamela Nadell, former homeland security analyst Daryl Johnson, racial justice activist Eric Ward, and former White nationalist Derek Black join Hari Sreenivasan to discuss as part of our ongoing series, “Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism.”*

### [Facebook’s language gaps weaken screening of hate, terrorism](#) [Isabel Debre and Fares Akram, *The Associated Press*, 25 October 2021]

*In Gaza and Syria, journalists and activists feel Facebook censors their speech, flagging inoffensive Arabic posts as terrorist content. In India and Myanmar, political groups use Facebook to incite violence. All of it frequently slips through the company’s efforts to police its social media platforms because of a shortage of moderators who speak local languages and understand cultural contexts. Internal company documents from the former Facebook product manager-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen show the problems plaguing the company’s content moderation are systemic, and that Facebook has understood the depth of these failings for years while doing little about it. Its platforms have failed to develop artificial-intelligence solutions that can catch harmful content in different languages. As a result, terrorist content and hate speech proliferate in some of the world’s most volatile regions. Elsewhere, the company’s*

*language gaps lead to overzealous policing of everyday expression. But the documents show the problems are not limited to Arabic*

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

[U.S. Capitol rioter with Proud Boys ties to plead guilty, lawyer says](#) [Marshall Cohen and Em Steck, CNN, 27 October 2021]

*January 6 riot defendant with ties to the Proud Boys, who was recently profiled by CNN for promoting false-flag conspiracies about the insurrection, will plead guilty to a misdemeanor for illegally protesting in the Capitol building, his lawyer confirmed on Tuesday. Micajah Jackson has agreed to a plea deal with the Justice Department and will formalize the guilty plea at a court hearing on November 22, his defense attorney Maria Jacob told CNN. The agreement is similar to other plea deals that prosecutors have reached with rioters that aren't accused of violence. Jackson could receive up to six months in jail for the single misdemeanor. He appears to be the first Capitol rioter with ties to the Proud Boys to plead guilty. But his plea deal doesn't include any requirements to cooperate against the far-right group, his lawyer said. A few dozen people with ties to the Proud Boys have been charged in connection with the riot. The case received attention due to Jackson's vitriolic out-of-court comments about January 6, and his appearance at a rally last month in support of Capitol riot defendants.*

[White supremacists are returning to Charlottesville, but this time, they're on trial.](#) [Hannah Allam and Ellie Silverman, *The Washington Post*, 23 October 2021]

*As hundreds of White supremacists prepared to descend on Charlottesville, Va., in 2017, they hashed out logistics in private chat groups. They suggested a dress code of polo shirts during the day and shirts with swastikas at night. And they swapped tips on how to turn ordinary objects into lethal weapons, according to messages cited in court papers. Such detailed planning is central to a lawsuit filed by nine Charlottesville residents who allege physical harm and emotional distress during Unite the Right, the deadly two-day rally where a torch-carrying mob chanting "Jews will not replace us!" awakened the country to a resurgence of far-right extremism. After four years of legal wrangling, a civil trial begins Monday in a federal courtroom in Charlottesville, where a jury will decide whether the organizing of the rally amounted to a conspiracy to engage in racially motivated violence. Suing two dozen White supremacists and hate groups means that virtually everything about the trial is unusual. The judge has ordered litigants not to discuss the extraordinary security backdrop to the trial; personal security is the top expense for the plaintiffs. Potential jurors will be asked their opinions on, for example, Black Lives Matter and antisemitism. Court exhibits will include vile messages that come from more than 5 terabytes of evidence. To make their case, the plaintiffs' attorneys are dusting off a Reconstruction-era statute that was designed to protect newly emancipated Black people from the Ku Klux Klan.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[The Hidden Costs of Living Alone](#) [Joe Pinsker, *The Atlantic*, 20 October 2021]

*If you were to look under the roofs of American homes at random, it wouldn't take long to find someone who lives alone. By the Census Bureau's latest count, there are about 36 million solo*

*dwellers, and together they make up 28 percent of U.S. households. In the domains of work, housing, shopping, and health care, much of American life is a little—and in some cases, a lot—easier if you have a partner or live with family members or housemates. Those who live alone, to be clear, are not lonely and miserable. Research indicates that, young or old, single people are more social than their partnered peers. The difficulties of living alone tend to lie more on a societal level, outside the realm of personal decision making. For one thing, having a partner makes big and small expenditures much more affordable, whether it's a down payment on a house, rent, day care, utility bills, or other overhead costs of daily life. One [recent study](#) estimated that, for a couple, living separately is about 28 percent more expensive than living together. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), the share of American adults who aren't married and don't live with a romantic partner has also been growing, having jumped from 29 percent in 1990 to 38 percent in 2019.*

[What does being a “cultural fit” actually mean?](#) [Sophia Epstein, *BBC News*, 20 October 2021]  
*Job rejections are like break ups—they're never fun, but some are worse than others. “We were impressed by your resume, but you're not a cultural fit” is the “it's not you, it's me” of job rejections. It's vague, confusing and almost always means there was something about you personally they didn't like, but didn't want to say out loud. Sandra Okerulu experienced this firsthand earlier this year. The company told her that her experience was what they were looking for, and she'd get an email about a second interview shortly. But she heard nothing for days. “Then I got an email saying I wasn't a good fit, so they went with somebody else,” she says. “I wondered what would have been a good fit, because my resume matched up to what the company was looking for. So, is it because I'm not a guy, or is it because of my sexual orientation or the colour of my skin? You think about stuff like that.” Being assessed—or dismissed—for “cultural fit” is an issue that affects workers of all stripes. A rejection can leave demoralised candidates struggling to decode what they did wrong. It can also leave certain workers unable to access particular roles or sectors. And research shows it's actually in companies' interests to stop doing it if they want to build better teams.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[French sexual abuse victims denounce police mistreatment](#) [Sylvie Corbet and Arno Pedram, *The Associated Press*, 24 October 2021]

*The hashtag #DoublePeine (#DoubleSentencing) was launched last month by Anna Toumazoff after she learned that a 19-year-old woman who filed a rape complaint in the southern city of Montpellier was asked by police in graphic terms whether she experienced pleasure during the assault. French women's rights group NousToutes counted at least 30,000 accounts of mistreatment in tweets and other messages sent on social media and on a specific website. Despite recent training programs for French police and growing awareness around violence against women, activists say authorities must do more to face up to the gravity of sex crimes, and to eradicate discrimination against victims. Addressing the national issue last week, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said “there are questions that cannot be asked to women when they come to file a complaint.” “It's not up to the police officer to say whether there was domestic violence or not, that's up to the judge to do it,” he added.*

[Josh Cavallo: “I’m a footballer and I’m gay,” says Australian player](#) [BBC Sport, 27 October 2021]

*Adelaide United player Josh Cavallo has come out as gay, becoming the only current top-flight male professional footballer in the world to do so. The 21-year-old wrote on social media that he was “ready to speak about something personal that I’m finally comfortable to talk about in my life”. “I’m a footballer and I’m gay,” the midfielder said in an accompanying video. “All I want to do is play football and be treated equally.” Josh says it got to the point his mental health was affected and he was “going into dark places”. He’s chosen to speak while still an active player—something that marks him out from the likes of Thomas Hitzlsperger, who only came out publicly after retiring. In many ways, gay and bisexual men are more represented in football than you think. As Josh himself says, too many men have felt as if the only way to be successful in football is by hiding their sexuality—with many choosing to step away from the game altogether rather than being their authentic self.*

[South Korea’s military is considering updates to its rigid hairstyle policies](#) [David Choi and Yoo Kyong Chang, *Stars and Stripes*, 27 October 2021]

*The South Korean military is considering changes to “eliminate differences” in hair regulations between male officers and enlisted service members, a move welcomed by a human rights organization in the country. Grooming standards vary across the ranks and branches. In the navy, for example, male officers may choose between a crew cut, with hair no longer than 2 inches from the front and 1.18 inches from the top; or a standard cut with a side part extending up to 3.15 inches long. Meanwhile, male enlisted sailors are limited to a crew cut. In the South Korean air force, noncommissioned officers may part their hair “neatly” or wear a crew cut. Women serving in the navy and air force must “do their hair up neat,” according to military regulations, and their lengths and styles “must not disrupt the wearing of military caps.” The Center for Military Human Rights Korea, a South Korean nonprofit organization focused on social issues in the armed forces, applauded the potential changes.*

[UEFA sanctions Union Berlin for antisemitic abuse](#) [Ciarán Fahey, *The Associated Press*, 29 October 2021]

*UEFA sanctioned German soccer club Union Berlin on Friday with a partial stadium closure for the antisemitic behavior of some of its fans toward supporters of Israeli team Maccabi Haifa. UEFA said it had concluded its disciplinary proceedings against Union “for the racist behavior of its supporters” during the Europa Conference League game against Haifa at Berlin’s Olympiastadion on Sept. 30. It was the first soccer game involving an Israeli team played at the stadium built for the 1936 Olympics hosted by Nazi Germany. UEFA ordered Union to close sectors 13 and 14 “where the home supporters are seated” for its next game in the competition—against Dutch team Feyenoord on Thursday—and display a banner with the wording “#NoToRacism” and the UEFA logo in those sectors. Union had already identified one individual it said took part in the antisemitic abuse of Haifa fans and banned him from the club’s grounds and premises indefinitely. The club said it also contacted the German soccer federation to register a nationwide stadium ban against the unnamed man. “There is no tolerance whatsoever for discrimination at Union Berlin,” said club president Dirk Zingler, who slammed the “shameful and intolerable” abuse.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[\[The 2020 Census\] Painting By Numbers](#) [Hansi Lo Wang, Gene Demby, Alyssa Jeong Perry and Leah Donnella, *NPR*, 20 October 2021] [AUDIO]

*The 2020 census data is finally here! At first glance, it paints a surprising portrait of a changing United States: The number of people who identify as White and no other race is smaller; the share of multiracial people has shot up; and the country's second-largest racial group is—"some other race." But resident census-expert Hansi Lo Wang told us that when you start to unpack the data, you quickly find that those numbers don't tell the whole story.*

[Arlington Cemetery to recreate solemn 1921 procession to Tomb of the Unknowns](#) [Michael E. Ruane, *The Washington Post*, 27 October 2021]

*Arlington National Cemetery said Wednesday that it will host a public memorial procession and military flyover on Nov. 11 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknowns. The procession, which visitors can observe, will begin at the main entrance to the cemetery on Memorial Avenue near the welcome center. It will include troops from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), the Marine Corps Ceremonial and Guard Company, honor guards from the Air Force, the Navy, and the Coast Guard, and the U.S. Army Band, known as "Pershing's Own." A flyover will take place over the cemetery during the procession. On Nov. 11, 1921, a huge cortege accompanied the body of the World War I unknown soldier to the newly-established Tomb in the cemetery across the Potomac River from Washington. The war, which had claimed the lives of more than 100,000 Americans through combat and disease, and hundreds of thousands of French, British, Germans and others, had ended on Nov. 11, 1918.*

[REPRINT]

[Biden Team Wants to Know How Feds Feel About the Return to Office, Inclusion and More](#)

[Courtney Bubl , *Government Executive*, 22 October 2021]

*This week, the Biden administration launched a "pulse" survey to gain better insight into federal employees' feelings on engagement, inclusion and the return to office process. The President's Management Council, along with the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Personnel Management and General Services Administration, piloted this survey for about 2 million civilian federal employees at 24 major agencies. It will consist of three to four questions. This will "help inform the administration's actions on how best to support the federal workforce," wrote Pam Coleman, associate director of performance and personnel management at OMB, [in a post on October 18](#). "The email links to the survey questions, which should take only a few minutes to complete." "We created three versions of the pulse survey," an OMB spokesperson told *Government Executive* on Thursday, when asked for more details about the questions. "Some employees got questions about employee engagement, for example, while others got questions about their experiences with the reentry process, while still others received questions related to inclusion."*

[Civil rights pioneer seeks expungement of '55 arrest record](#) [Jay Reeves, *The Associated Press*, 26 October 2021]

*Months before Rosa Parks became the mother of the modern civil rights movement by refusing to move to the back of a segregated Alabama bus, Black teenager Claudette Colvin did the same. Convicted of assaulting a police officer while being arrested, she was placed on probation yet never received notice that she'd finished the term and was on safe ground legally. Now 82 and slowed by age, Colvin is asking a judge to end the matter once and for all. She wants a court in Montgomery to wipe away a record that her lawyer said has cast a shadow over the life of a largely unsung hero of the civil rights era. "I am an old woman now. Having my records expunged will mean something to my grandchildren and great grandchildren. And it will mean something for other Black children," Colvin said in a sworn statement.*

[The Quiet and Quintessential Public Servant: Dwight Ink, 1922-2021](#) [Tom Shoop, *Government Executive*, 25 October 2021]

*Dwight Ink, whose lengthy career and prominent role in several federal agencies earned him a reputation as the consummate public servant, has died at the age of 99, the National Academy of Public Administration announced Monday. Ink's illustrious career in government service spanned more than four decades. He held positions in every presidential administration from Eisenhower to Reagan. Known as "Mr. Implementation," Ink helped establish the Environmental Protection Agency and the Housing and Urban Development Department, and was instrumental in launching the war on poverty in the 1960s. He served as acting director of the General Services Administration under President Ford and helped design and implement the landmark 1978 Civil Service Reform Act during the Carter administration. In 2011, *Government Executive* magazine listed Ink among 20 of the All-Time Greatest Feds. Eight years later, *GovExec* named Ink to the inaugural class of the Government Hall of Fame. He was the star of the gala induction ceremonies held at the Washington National Cathedral, holding his trophy aloft with a huge grin, even though he was confined to a wheelchair.*

[Texas-based Air Force agency converting to mostly telework in "Office of the Future"](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 October 2021]

*After the coronavirus pandemic forced her to work from home, [Candice] Velazquez, a government information specialist with Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, or AFIMSC, said she was happy to learn the agency is retooling to become up to 70% telework. She now only goes into the office when the work of the day requires it—about twice a week. She said working from her home limited distractions and interruptions, allowing her to complete work at a faster pace. Throughout AFIMSC, supervisors were noticing that many employees were like Velazquez, meeting the same standard of work, but from home—and they were happy to be there. Following guidance from the Department of the Air Force released in May to incorporate more telework options into the post-pandemic workspace, AFIMSC is hoping to create and test a model that can be incorporated at other service agencies and bases where the local mission allows for it.*

[Veteran's daughter meets with descendants of Holocaust survivors freed with her dad](#) [Bobby Ross, Jr., *Military Times*, 24 October 2021]

*Anna Salton Eisen found the old pictures of Jewish prisoners who survived the Holocaust in a folder her late father, George Lucius Salton, kept most of his life. The Texas woman recognized*

*the names of some of the teens and young men from stories her father told. For three years, the baby-faced captives lived among the dead and dying in barracks and boxcars as Nazi captors moved them from Poland to France to Germany. George Salton was 17 when the U.S. Army liberated the Wöbbelin concentration camp in Germany on May 2, 1945. Over the next few years, the survivors scattered around the world. Salton proudly served in the same U.S. Army that had rescued him. He earned degrees in physics and electrical engineering. He worked in a high-level role at the Pentagon and held an executive position in the aerospace industry. Most of the survivors lost touch with each other. As Eisen began her research, she relied on names written in pencil on the picture backs or mentioned repeatedly in Salton's 2002 book, [“The 23rd Psalm: A Holocaust Memorial.”](#) But suddenly, the familiar names had faces.*

[Whistleblowers Risk Everything—Lawmakers Must Protect Them](#) [Dana Gold, *Government Executive*, 28 October 2021] [COMMENTARY]

*Two pivotal pieces of legislation pending before Congress would strengthen the weak U.S. whistleblower protection laws that lag far behind those in several other countries. One is the Whistleblower Protection Reform Act, which would protect corporate employees such as Frances Haugen, [Facebook]. It also would give whistleblowers a way to seek justice if they do suffer retaliation by creating a right to a jury trial. The Whistleblower Protection Improvement Act (WPIA), currently introduced as part of the Protecting Our Democracy Act (PODA), would strengthen protections for federal employees by prohibiting federal officials from interfering with an employee's ability to share information with Congress, prohibit retaliatory investigations, expand whistleblower protections to political appointees in the Senior Executive Service, and also provide much-needed access to jury trials for whistleblowers. More than ever, we need whistleblowers to come forward. Lawmakers may need them, too, as the impetus, or cover, to do their jobs. Hopefully our elected officials will honor these truth-tellers by exercising their own moral courage and swiftly pass these essential reforms to protect whistleblowers and, in doing so, protect us all.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Air Force professor admits concealing Chinese contacts](#) [The Associated Press, 25 October 2021]

*A longtime professor at a U.S. Air Force school in Alabama has pleaded guilty to lying to a federal investigator about his contacts with a Chinese official, prosecutors said Monday. Xiaoming Zhang, 69, a naturalized citizen of Chinese descent, taught at Air War College on Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. He faces up to five years in prison after pleading guilty to a charge of making false statements to a federal agent, according to a statement from the U.S. Justice Department. Zhang, who held a security clearance because of his work, wasn't accused of passing along secrets—just of concealing his face-to-face meetings and emails with a Chinese official, prosecutors said. The charge filed last month accused him of doing so from December 2012 until January 2017. A teacher at the Air War College since 2003, Zhang became aware that the official was trying to use their relationship to make contact with other possibly valuable people, said the statement.*

[Air Force says colonel who berated subordinates in leaked audio created “unhealthy” climate](#)

[David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 29 October 2021]

*An investigation into an Air Force colonel at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma found that the colonel failed to promote a culture of safety and failed to maintain a healthy command climate, according to leaked investigation results. Col. Gary Donovan, the commander of the 552nd Operations Group at Tinker, made headlines in July when he berated his airmen for not flying a training mission in dangerous conditions. The crew had to change their sleep schedules at the last minute to accommodate new training sorties, but were not given the “no-go pills” typically used to help airmen get the rest required by Air Force regulations before a mission. Three months later, an investigation has substantiated that the colonel erred in his handling of the situation. Investigators wrote that Donovan “did fail to promote a culture of safety by failing to adhere to Operational Risk Management Standards” in accordance with Air Force regulations. Donovan also “did fail to effectively lead his airmen by failing to maintain a healthy command climate which fosters good order and discipline, teamwork, cohesion and trust.”*

[Fort Hood Army officer suspended from duty after arrest in Austin on family violence charge](#)

[Emily Hilley-Sierzchula, *Killeen Daily Herald (Killeen, Texas)*, 27 October 2021]

*An Army officer stationed at Fort Hood was suspended from duty after being arrested by Austin police on a family violence assault charge, but one victim’s advocate says the Army’s delayed response to the allegation did not send the right message to the troops under the man’s command. Capt. Matthew P. Thwaites, 31, with Fort Hood’s First Cavalry Division, was arrested on May 25 on a charge of assault causing bodily injury to a family member, which is a Class A misdemeanor. A woman reported to police that Thwaites had beaten her and thrown her from a vehicle, leaving approximately 10 bruises, during an alleged domestic assault. “By the military not stepping in when there was a report of violence, they are creating the Col. Ray Owens of the world,” said Amy Braley Franck, founder and CEO of [Never Alone Advocacy](#). Ray Owens, a former commander of 1st Special Forces Group was charged with assault and kidnapping after an armed standoff with police in Washington state, and was allowed by the Army to be honorably discharged, keeping retirement pay commensurate with his current rank, according to an August report in *Army Times*.*

[Marine who filmed nude women in ship’s bathroom obstructed justice, appeals court rules](#)

[Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 27 October 2021]

*A Navy appeals court upheld the conviction of a Marine lance corporal who filmed female sailors showering aboard the USS Arlington, then tossed his camera overboard when he was discovered. A three-judge panel of the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals unanimously affirmed Lance Cpl. Steven L. Smith’s conviction of obstruction of justice earlier this month. His sentence of four months in jail, reduction of rank to private and a bad-conduct discharge was also upheld. The panel rejected his argument that the judge who accepted his guilty plea had erred because Smith was only “concealing his offenses” not obstructing justice when he disposed of his property. Over three months in early 2019, he repeatedly mounted his GoPro camera on a selfie stick and inserted it through a hole in the wall between his barracks room and the women’s bathroom.*

## RACISM

[A Black chief diversity officer lost a job offer after flagging racial bias](#) [Curtis Bunn, *NBC News*, 29 October 2021]

*Joseph B. Hill was four days from starting a new position as vice president, chief equity, diversity and inclusion officer at Memorial Hermann Health System in Houston, when he received an email that changed the trajectory of his career. The two-sentence note from Memorial Hermann’s human resources vice president, Lori Knowles, which was obtained by NBC News, read, “We regret to inform you that we are rescinding the offer of employment dated July 21, 2021. Hill’s case draws into focus concerns some experienced Black DEI officers expressed about the overall commitment by employers to making internal changes. After the social justice movement following the murder of George Floyd, many business leaders announced plans to address diversity imbalance in the workforce by hiring DEI personnel. However, the pledge to do so has gone unfulfilled on the director level, according to a [report](#) examining diversity in 2,868 American workplaces. The report indicated the percentage of Black DEI directors barely increased: from 11.3 percent in 2020 and 11.5 percent for 2021.*

[Schools debate: Gifted and talented, or racist and elitist?](#) [Bobby Caina Calvan, *The Associated Press*, 28 October 2021]

*Communities across the United States are reconsidering their approach to gifted and talented programs in schools as vocal parents blame such elite programs for worsening racial segregation and inequities in the country’s education system. A plan announced by New York City’s mayor to [phase out elementary school gifted and talented programs](#) in the country’s largest school district—if it proceeds—would be among the most significant developments yet in a push that extends from Boston to Seattle and that has stoked passions and pain over race, inequality and access to a decent education. From the start, gifted and talented school programs drew worries they would produce an educational caste system in U.S. public schools. Many of the exclusive programs trace their origins to efforts to stanch “White flight” from public schools, particularly in diversifying urban areas, by providing high-caliber educational programs that could compete with private or parochial schools.*

## RELIGION

[Pope Francis agrees to visit Canada amid calls for a residential schools apology](#) [Amanda Coletta, *The Washington Post*, 27 October 2021]

*Pope Francis has agreed to visit Canada “on a pilgrimage of healing and reconciliation” with Indigenous people, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops said Wednesday. The visit, for which a date has not yet been determined, follows the discovery this year of evidence of hundreds of unmarked graves on or near the sites of former residential schools for Indigenous children in several provinces. Those findings have breathed new life into long-standing calls from Indigenous leaders, Canadian lawmakers and residential school survivors for the pope to apologize for the Catholic Church’s role in the residential school system. Under that system, which operated for more than a century, some 150,000 Indigenous children were separated from*

*their families—often by force—and sent to the government-funded, mostly church-run schools to assimilate them. Physical, psychological and sexual abuse was rife.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Religious exemptions for the coronavirus vaccine examined case by case by military chaplains as deadlines approach for troops to get the shots](#) [Caitlin Doornbos, *Stars and Stripes*, 28 October 2021]

*Military chaplains say they are navigating a nuanced process of determining which service members get religious exemptions to avoid the mandated coronavirus vaccine as attorneys representing some troops contend their methods have led to unfair treatment in some cases. While the religious-exemption processes are established in service doctrines, military chaplains said their role in the process is complicated. Chaplains must determine whether service members are truthful in their religious objections to the vaccine or simply using faith to avoid a shot they don't want to take. It's a case-by-case process that requires the chaplains to make recommendations to the chain of command. "For those who are against the vaccine for religious reasons, the chaplains really determine the severity of their religious conviction," said Navy Capt. Richard Ryan, the chaplain overseeing the service's Pacific fleet. "The policy says it'll be on a case-by-case basis and it is based on the sincerity of the religious conviction."*

## SEXISM

[New dads are "losers" if they take 6 months paternity leave, prominent venture capitalist says](#) [Jordan Valinsky, *CNN Business*, 28 October 2021]

*A prominent venture capitalist is under fire for calling new dads "losers" if they take months of paternity leave. Palantir cofounder Joe Lonsdale responded to a tweet Wednesday about U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who took off work to care for his twin newborns. "Any man in an important position who takes 6 months of leave for a newborn is a loser. In the old days men had babies and worked harder to provide for their future—that's the correct masculine response." Buttigieg took off only two months for paternity leave, not six. Lonsdale's tweet sparked outrage in the venture capitalist world. Reddit cofounder Alexis Ohanian responded to Lonsdale's tweet, writing that he "proudly" took his full paternity leave and would do it again. "Turns out it helped me win even more," he said. Garry Tan, founder at Initialized Capital, defended his firm's four-month paternity leave. "Respect that people have different choices, but being a dad is awesome and there is more to life than work and money," he wrote on Twitter.*

[White House Reveals Nation's First Gender Equity Strategy, Aiming to Close the Pay Gap and Increase Abortion Access](#) [Candice Norwood and Chabeli Carrazana, *The 19th*, 22 October 2021]

*The White House's Gender Policy Council has published the nation's first strategy to achieve gender equity, a multi-part approach that centers economic security, abortion access and voting rights with a focus on ensuring that people from marginalized groups are prioritized. The strategy, [published Friday](#), is the culmination of work from the council, which was established via executive order shortly after President Joe Biden took office. It was designed to help guide how domestic and foreign policy that directly affects women, girls and LGBTQ+ people is shaped across the administration. At the center of the plan is a focus on intersectionality and addressing*

*specific systemic barriers for people of color and gender diverse people. The Gender Policy Council plans to prepare an annual report to the president that will track the administration's progress in meeting the goals outlined in the strategy. The Office of Management and Budget will lead the implementation.*

[\[FACT SHEET\]](#) [\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Women in the military pay more to keep their uniforms up to date. Two senators aim to change that.](#) [Mariel Padilla, *The 19th*, 21 October 2021]

*A woman who has been in the Army for 20 years has probably paid more than \$8,000 out-of-pocket for uniforms. A man with the same amount of service, however, paid around \$3,500, according to a [recent report](#) from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Similar disparities were found in the Navy and the Marine Corps. In April, several weeks after the GAO report was released, Democratic Reps. Julia Brownley of California and Jackie Speier of California and Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, the No. 3. House Republican, introduced a [bipartisan bill](#) to address gendered cost disparities in the military. Now, Sens. Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire, a Democrat, and Joni Ernst of Iowa, a Republican, are introducing a similar bipartisan bill in the Senate. In an exclusive to *The 19th*, Hassan said it was “absurd” that service members are forced to “fork over thousands of dollars” to pay for clothes they wear to serve the country. In addition to the military, police officers and corrections officials wear clothes originally designed for men, according to Lori Brown, a sociology professor at Meredith College. Women tend to be an afterthought. “This kind of sexism isn't new,” Brown said. “It is the cost of being female.”*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Amid scandal, Quenneville resigns as Florida Panthers coach](#) [Tim Reynolds, *The Associated Press*, 29 October 2021]

*Joel Quenneville resigned as coach of the Florida Panthers on Thursday, two days after the second-winningest coach in NHL history was among those implicated for not swiftly responding to allegations by a Chicago Blackhawks player of being sexually assaulted by another coach during the 2010 Stanley Cup playoffs. The announcement was made shortly after Quenneville met with NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman in New York to discuss his role in the Blackhawks' response to claims from Kyle Beach that he was sexually assaulted by then-Blackhawks assistant Brad Aldrich. “I want to express my sorrow for the pain this young man, Kyle Beach, has suffered. My former team, the Blackhawks, failed Kyle and I own my share of that,” Quenneville said. “I want to reflect on how all of this happened and take the time to educate myself on ensuring hockey spaces are safe for everyone.” An [investigation](#) released Tuesday said Quenneville—who coached Chicago at that time—and others in the Blackhawks organization did not prioritize addressing Beach's allegations, presumably because they did not want to take away from the team's push toward a championship.*

[Congress Faces Decision on Military Justice Overhaul](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *Military.com*, 23 October 2021]

*Lawmakers are poised to finally overhaul the military justice system in an attempt to ease an epidemic of sexual assaults following years of failed Pentagon efforts, though it remains to be seen how far they will go. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., told Military.com this week he believes the various camps are already narrowing their differences, based partly on talks with Gillibrand, and an agreement may be near. “We’re all moving towards getting sexual assault cases and all sex crimes out of the hands of the commander and into the hands of a special prosecutor,” Smith added. “And I think we’re pretty close on getting an agreement on the details.” The Senate is expected to vote on its initial version of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, later this fall. The House passed its version of the NDAA, which more closely follows a set of Pentagon recommendations for military justice reform focused only on sex crimes, not all felonies.*

[Justice Department Obtains Consent Decree in Sexual Harassment Lawsuit Against Owners of Minneapolis Area Rental Properties](#) [U.S. Department of Justice Public Affairs, 25 October 2021]

*The Justice Department today announced that it has obtained a [consent decree](#) with Reese Pfeiffer and several other defendants to resolve allegations that Pfeiffer violated the Fair Housing Act (FHA) by subjecting 23 women to severe and repeated sexual harassment and retaliation at residential properties defendants own or manage in and around Minneapolis. The consent decree, entered today by the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, resolves a lawsuit that the department filed in Sept. 2020, as well as a related private lawsuit brought by Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid on behalf of three women who were subjected to Pfeiffer’s alleged sexual harassment. “All people deserve to feel safe in their homes,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke for the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “Sexual harassment in housing deprives individuals of that security. The Justice Department will not tolerate landlords who abuse their power by sexually harassing their tenants and will continue to work resolutely to hold such persons accountable and obtain relief for their victims.”*

[U.S. McDonald’s workers strike to protest workplace harassment](#) [Dee-Ann Durbin, *The Associated Press*, 26 October 2021]

*McDonald’s workers in 12 U.S. cities walked off the job Tuesday to protest what they say is an ongoing problem of sexual harassment and violence in the company’s stores. Several hundred workers were expected to participate in Chicago, Houston, Miami, Detroit and other cities, according to Fight for \$15 and a Union, a labor group that organized the strikes. This is the fifth time since 2018 that McDonald’s workers have struck the company over what they say are inadequate efforts to stop sexual harassment in its stores. At least 50 workers have filed charges against McDonald’s alleging verbal and physical harassment over the last five years. In April, McDonald’s announced it would require sexual harassment training, reporting procedures for complaints and annual employee surveys at its 40,000 stores worldwide starting in January 2022.*

## **SUICIDE**

[Maine senators join push to prevent military suicide](#) [*The Associated Press*, 24 October 2021]

*Maine’s U.S. senators have joined a push to try to prevent suicide among members of the military. Republican Sen. Susan Collins and independent Sen. Angus King said they’re helping*

*introduce the Save Our Servicemembers Act, which is also called the SOS Act. The senators said military suicides increased by 15 percent last year. The proposal would direct the Pentagon to evaluate the effectiveness of its suicide prevention efforts, the senators said. They said it would also seek to improve data collection and cut down red tape. The senators said the proposal “will help ensure that our heroes can access the mental health resources they deserve and that no servicemember is left without the support we owe them.”*

## VETERANS

### [American Veterans Share How Military Service Changed Their Lives in PBS Documentary](#)

[James Barber, *Military.com*, 25 October 2021]

*As Veterans Day 2021 approaches, PBS will air an ambitious four-part documentary series called “[American Veteran](#).” The series will focus on the personal recollections of the men and women who have served. From hosts to interview subjects, every voice you hear in the program will be a veteran. “American Veteran” will air on Tuesdays, starting Oct. 26, and continue until Nov. 16 at 9 p.m. ET and will stream at PBS.org and in the PBS Video app. In addition, they’ve produced a 10-part series of digital shorts and a nine-part podcast that will allow for an even deeper dive into the history of our men and women in military service. Each episode is hosted by a veteran. In order of appearance, we’ll hear from former Marine and “The Price is Right” host Drew Carey; Senator and Iraq War Army helicopter pilot Tammy Duckworth; Vietnam vet and “Dances With Wolves” star Wes Studi; and Army veteran and “Dancing With the Stars” winner J.R. Martinez.*

### [Program focused on women vets health care could become mandatory for transitioning troops](#)

[Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 26 October 2021]

*Health care transition training could become a requirement for female service members leaving the ranks under a proposal suggested by Congress to ensure that women are getting the information they need about post-military health care support services. “It should be a mandatory program, where women veterans are gathered together and in a safe place to talk about some of their issues and so the Department of Defense and their military branches understand what their issues might be,” said Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif., on Tuesday. “I think one of the issues is that women don’t even know about the program or have access to the program. And certainly if it’s not mandatory, they might miss it altogether.” As part of the discussion, lawmakers on the panel praised the [Women’s Health Transitioning Training program](#), jointly run by VA and Defense Department officials for the last three years to offer more targeted information on post-military health care and support services.*

### [Study reveals PTSD carries stigma for veterans, whether or not they suffer from it](#) [Breanna Molloy, *KXXV.com*, 26 October 2021]

*A [study](#) shows that PTSD carries a stigma for veterans, whether they suffer from it or not. According to a survey by The Cohen Veterans Network, Americans have big misconceptions about PTSD and how to treat it. According to the study, two-thirds of Americans believe most veterans suffer from PTSD. But the reality is that PTSD only impacts between 11-20% of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans. Dr. Cheryl Paulus, who has helped treat hundreds of patients with*

*PTSD, couldn't believe the results. "My first gut reaction was surprised," Paulus said. One in four Americans who were surveyed said they believed the majority of people with PTSD were violent and dangerous. The reality is that the majority of people with PTSD have never engaged in violence.*