

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 19 NOVEMBER 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Department of the Air Force releases addendum to Disparity Review](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, *Air Force News Service*, 9 November 2021]

*In addition to the two Inspector General Disparity Reviews released over the last year, the Department of the Air Force [released an addendum](#), which focused on the intersection of race, ethnicity and gender. The DAF IG Disparity Review Addendum follows the DAF's 2020 Racial Disparity Review, which addressed disparities impacting Black Airmen and Guardians, and the Sept. 2021 Disparity Review, which addressed disparities based on gender and among other racial and ethnic groups not covered by the RDR. Data from both reports was used to create the addendum. The data in the disparity reports released this year indicate females were generally equally or overrepresented in promotions, enlisted leadership, and professional military education designations. Females have also made gains in both overall accessions and racial-ethnic diversity in accessions when compared to their male peers. However, with few exceptions in the data, this addendum found the overrepresentation of White females in these categories may have masked the disparate promotion and opportunity representation of females from under-represented groups.*

[Department of Defense Releases Annual Demographics Report—Modest Increase of Women in the Active Duty Force](#) [DOD News Service, 10 November 2021]

*While the overall size and racial diversity of our military remained steady, the number of women serving in the active duty force, both enlisted and officers has grown slightly, according to the [newly released 2020 Demographics Profile of the Military Community report](#). This year's release of official DOD data is fully interactive, enabling users to customize how they view the latest data on the military community. "The annual demographics report provides a meaningful way to highlight the changing nature of our military. DOD remains committed to ensuring that our ranks are inclusive and reflect the country we serve," said Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr., undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Data highlighted in the report includes information from all services, including gender, race, age, education, family members, pay grades and other important facts. The 2020 report's interactive dashboard allows users to view the data by various criteria, such as service branch, gender, pay grade and state of current residence.*

[Extremist crimes among veterans on the rise for the past decade, study finds](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 18 November 2021]

*The number of veterans participating in extremism more than tripled over the past 10 years, according to a [report from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism](#), totaling nearly 24 new subjects each year. The finding comes from a dive into the Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States project, with details about numerous cases of extremist activity, the findings of which were released in July. While the 8% of troops/veterans in the PIRUS data is on par with the proportion of U.S. residents who are either currently serving or have previously served, the report found that women with military experience*

were significantly less likely to participate in extremism compared to their male peers. Though women make up 9% of U.S. adults with military experience, they are fewer than 2% of those who have been involved in known extremism crimes. In response to the disproportionate number of Jan. 6 arrests of troops and veterans, about one in five, the Pentagon earlier this year called for an anti-extremism standdown, then followed it up with a working group.

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## CULTURE

[Air Force builds strong tribal relationships with time, compassion, willingness to learn](#) [Jennifer Schneider, *Air Force Civil Engineer Center Environmental Directorate Public Affairs*, 15 November 2021]

*Listen to understand. For Air Force installation tribal liaison officers, strong tribal relationships aren't built in a day—it takes time, compassion and a willingness to learn. Supporting Air Force installations with effective and robust tribal engagement, and respecting the tribes' ancestral ties and sovereignty, is a critical goal for the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. "It is inherent in our trust responsibility as representatives of the federal government that we must respect Native Americans and tribal governments and ensure they have a voice in decisions that affect places that hold religious, traditional and/or cultural importance," said Alison Rubio, Air Force cultural resources subject matter expert. There are currently 574 federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and villages, each with its own unique culture and traditions. Air Force installations are built on land originally belonging to these diverse tribes, many of which still hold strong historic, cultural and traditional ties to their ancestral homes.*

[Air Force Turns to Virtual Reality for Suicide and Sexual Assault Training](#) [Brandi Vincent, *NextGov*, 15 November 2021]

*Texas-based Air Force officials and their spouses are being immersed in simulations of difficult sexual assault and suicide scenarios—via virtual reality—to become better equipped to deal with such encounters in their real-world military operations. A new training program designed to support staff was recently implemented by members of the 317th Maintenance Group at Dyess Air Force Base, marking the latest of multiple virtual reality-driven applications being deployed there. A [press announcement](#) on the effort confirmed that Air Force leaders on the base can request a commander's toolkit that will usher participants through the training—and also pinpoint where their units lack and might need to concentrate on any additional training. "With more than 1,000 personnel participating in virtual reality training, there has been a [170%] increase in very prepared responses, a [160%] increase in very confident responses and a 40 percent increase in the likelihood to intervene with a person who is dealing with a crisis," the release noted.*

[Army Expands Reviews of Command Sergeants Major in Bid to Weed Out Toxic Leaders](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Military.com*, 15 November 2021]

*The Army has begun a new program to take a closer look at command sergeants major eligible to lead brigades in an effort to weed out potentially toxic leaders. "It wasn't that the old system was*

*bad. It's just how do we pick a better leader?" Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston told reporters Monday. "We want to move into the 21st century with really good talent management and assess and ensure that we have the absolute best leaders for our soldiers. Our soldiers deserve the best we can give them." The program mirrors one recently launched for senior officers that has shown to give soldiers more fit and capable commanders, according to the Army Talent Management Task Force.*

[Army Recruiters on TikTok Dance Around Ban To Reach Gen Z](#) [Elizabeth Howe, *Government Executive*, 17 November 2021]

*U.S. Army recruiters are using TikTok to find young Americans and persuade them to enlist, despite an express order banning official use of the China-based social media platform. The practice highlights a growing challenge facing recruiters: how to reach young Americans who don't care if their favorite app is made in China, or controlled by it. Army leaders say they must "meet new recruits where they are"—meaning, on social media—to woo them away from the private sector and into uniform. They even know what apps are favored by their demographic targets. By one estimate, more than half of Generation Z—including the 17- to 24-year-olds the Army needs—use TikTok, the short-video sharing platform developed by Beijing-based ByteDance. But the Army is not on TikTok, thanks to a ban born of national-security concerns that some critics now argue were overblown or have gone unsubstantiated. And that's limiting recruiters' ability to go where roughly half of their prime targets spend at least part of their day.*

[A decades-long photography series about girlhood takes a tragic turn](#) [Jacqui Palumbo, *CNN*, 8 November 2021]

*Three decades after she began photographing the friends, the photographer Karen Marshall has published the longtime body of work in a new book, "Between Girls." But one face is absent just ten months into the series: the exuberant Molly, who welcomed Marshall into their lives and was the connecting thread between many of the young women. What started as a documentation of girlhood transformed into a more complicated story after Molly was hit by a car and killed while on summer vacation in Cape Cod. "I wanted to look at the emotional bonding that happens between girls at 16. That was my premise and my intention," Marshall said in a phone interview of her initial idea. After photographing the group during their junior year, however, she didn't know how to finish the series. "I hadn't gotten to that yet. And I was asking that question to myself...in senior year will something be a little different? And then (Molly) died. So that put me down another path."*

[Disney's Encanto celebrates Colombia's diversity, says musician Carlos Vives](#) [Reuters, 11 November 2021]

*Walt Disney's latest film "Encanto" celebrates Colombia's diversity, its people, and its music, and sends a message about overcoming challenges, said singer and composer Carlos Vives. Encanto tells the story of the Madrigal family, who possess special powers and live in a magical house in Encanto, a town hidden in Colombia's mountains. All the boys and girls in the family have unique gifts except Mirabel. However, when she discovers that Encanto's magic is threatened, it falls to her to save her home and family. "It shows that we all bring something important to this life and that we all have a special talent, gift, or charm and that sometimes life*

*has difficult moments, but the good in people always wins in the end,” Vives said. Encanto helps rehabilitate the image of Colombia—usually associated in Hollywood with drug trafficking and violence—said Vives, who sang the movie’s title song.*

[Harvey Milk: U.S. Navy launches ship named for gay rights leader](#) [BBC News, 7 November 2021]

*The U.S. Navy has launched a ship named after a gay rights activist forced to resign from the service because of his sexuality in the 1950s. The USNS Harvey Milk was launched in San Diego on Saturday in a service attended by Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro and Milk’s nephew, Stuart. It is one of six new ships to be named after famed U.S. civil rights leaders. Others include former Chief Justice Earl Warren and slain presidential candidate Robert Kennedy. Milk served as a diving officer and Lieutenant aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake during the Korean War. But he was forced out of the service following two weeks of interrogation about his sexuality in 1955. He later became one of America’s first openly gay politicians, elected in 1977 to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. But a year later he was shot and killed by Dan White, a former city supervisor with whom he had frequently clashed.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Heeding Tribal Leaders, States Ban Native Mascots](#) [Alex Brown, Stateline Daily, 10 November 2021]

*When Shawna Newcomb attended high school in Weymouth, Massachusetts, a decade ago, her team faced a rival nicknamed the “Wamps” after a local tribe—her tribe. Newcomb is a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag. As a cheerleader, she was expected to lead a chant of “Stomp the Wamps,” but she couldn’t bring herself to say the words. “I was ashamed to be Native American because of the stereotypes I would see, and oftentimes that was from a mascot,” she said. “People thought a Native American was this savage less-than-human.” After graduating, Newcomb became a teacher in Hanover, Massachusetts, where she helped lead her school’s mascot transition last year from the Indians to the Hawks. She’s now leading her tribe’s efforts to support a statewide bill that would ban the use of Indigenous mascots in public schools. More than two dozen schools in Massachusetts still use Native mascots.*

[A Navy medic and photographer uses art to reflect on his time in Afghanistan](#) [Joshua Ives and Jennifer Swanson, NPR, 11 November 2021]

*After 24 years of service in the Navy, Chief Petty Officer Joshua Ives retired in 2015. He sifted through more than 15,000 photographs taken during his time in Afghanistan to make [Noble Eagle](#), a mixed-media project that is part documentary, part personal reflection. The title of Ives’ photography project references Operation Noble Eagle, the name given to the military operation launched by the U.S. and Canadian governments in response to 9/11. Each military member who deployed to Afghanistan was assigned a Noble Eagle number, a unique identifier used for tracking that indicated the duties, roles and functions assigned to them. For Veteran’s Day, NPR talked to Ives about his military service, the Noble Eagle project and his reflections on Afghanistan, then and now.*

[“Sesame Street” makes history as it adds first Asian American Muppet to cast](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 15 November 2021]

*A new Muppet named Ji-Young will make history as the first Asian American muppet to join the cast of the iconic children’s television show “Sesame Street.” The 7-year-old Korean American girl is slated to debut Thanksgiving Day as part of a special titled “See Us Coming Together.” Like many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, her identity will straddle two cultures, says Alan Muraoka, who plays the owner of Hooper’s Store on the show and is also Asian American. “She’s a musician, she plays electric guitar, she’s a girl of the very modern American fabric,” he told NBC Asian America. “She recognizes the culture through her relatives—her grandmother, through her mother and through the food she eats and loves.” In the special—that centers around a “Neighbor Day” celebration and features celebrities ranging from actor Simu Liu to Japanese tennis pro Naomi Osaka—another child tells Ji-Young to “go home” in an off-screen incident. She subsequently seeks out friends and adults who, together, help her understand she’s “exactly where she belongs,” according to a press release on the episode. The moment serves as an entryway into discussions around anti-Asian racism, as the show provides a viewing guide and resources to conduct those conversations, the release said.*

[Twitter rolls out redesigned misinformation warning labels](#) [Barbara Ortutay, *The Associated Press*, 16 November 2021]

*Twitter users will soon see new warning labels on false and misleading tweets, redesigned to make them more effective and less confusing. The labels, which the company has been testing since July, are an update from those Twitter used for election misinformation before and after the 2020 presidential contest. Those labels drew criticism for not doing enough to keep people from spreading obvious falsehoods. The redesign launching worldwide on Tuesday is an attempt to make them more useful and easier to notice, among other things. Experts say such labels, used by Facebook as well, can be helpful to users. But they can also allow social media platforms to sidestep the more difficult work of content moderation—that is, deciding whether or not to remove posts, photos and videos that spread conspiracies and falsehoods.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[“Covid Hit Us Over the Head With a Two-by-Four”:](#) Addressing Ageism With Urgency [Judith Graham, *Kaiser Health News*, 5 November 2021]

*Earlier this year, the World Health Organization [announced a global campaign](#) to combat ageism—discrimination against older adults that is pervasive and harmful but often unrecognized. “We must change the narrative around age and ageing” and “adopt strategies to counter” ageist attitudes and behaviors, WHO concluded in a [major report](#) accompanying the campaign. Several strategies WHO endorsed—educating people about ageism, fostering intergenerational contacts, and changing policies and laws to promote age equity—are being tried in the United States. But a greater sense of urgency is needed in light of the coronavirus pandemic’s shocking death toll, including more than 500,000 older Americans, experts suggest. Some experts believe there’s a unique opportunity to confront this concern because of what the country has been through. See full article for some examples of what’s being done, particularly in health care settings.*

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

[Diversity in Government Digital Services a Win-Win](#) [Stephanie Chin, *Government Executive*, 12 November 2021] [COMMENTARY]

*The federal government makes around \$650 billion in purchases each year, including \$3 billion spent on IT services. These astoundingly high figures are encouraging to see because it demonstrates the raw purchasing power the federal government can provide as it looks to invest in the many capable businesses that dot our landscape. There is a catch, however. Many of these dollars go to larger corporations, which grow their wealth and influence at the expense of smaller businesses. It can be even more daunting for minority- or women-owned businesses to compete against larger businesses. These small businesses are just as qualified to be successful as the larger companies—and arguably, more agile and capable of driving change with technology that will advance equity and deliver for underserved communities. Still, there are a few barriers that need to be overcome in order to develop a more equitable landscape for small businesses, especially those in underrepresented communities.*

[NASA astronaut Jessica Watkins will make a historic trip as the first Black woman on the space station crew](#) [Megan Marples, *CNN*, 18 November 2021]

*NASA astronaut Jessica Watkins will become the first Black woman on the International Space Station crew. She is set to launch into space in April 2022 on the SpaceX Crew-4 mission, according to NASA. The astronaut has a long history with NASA, having begun her career there as an intern, and she previously held roles at NASA’s Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, and at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Countless people of color paved the way over the past half a century for Watkins to achieve her extraterrestrial dreams. Dr. Bernard Harris Jr. spent decades recruiting minority and female astronauts and would later become the first Black person to walk in space in 1995. Dr. Mae Jemison became the first Black woman in space while aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor in 1992. In 2013, Victor Glover Jr., a legislative fellow in the U.S. Senate, was selected as an astronaut and became the first Black person to hold a long-duration crew assignment on the ISS. He was a crew member from November 15, 2020, to May 2, 2021.*

[Pride and Purpose: Rosie the Riveters Inspire Women of Today](#) [Lisa Ferdinando, *DOD News Service*, 11 November 2021]

*The “Rosie the Riveters” of World War II are an inspiration to all generations for their courage and commitment and for blazing the trail that changed the way women were viewed in the workforce, one airman recalled. Millions of women during World War II stood up when their country needed them, entering the workforce to fill gaps left by men who were fighting the war. These women, popularly known as “Rosie the Riveters,” worked in factories, shipyards and elsewhere in defense production. Recruiting campaigns during the war urged women to enter the workforce as part of a patriotic duty to their country. An iconic depiction of a Rosie is a wartime poster of a strong, confident female worker flexing her muscle with the words emblazoned above: “We Can Do It.” The Rosies were bold, breaking down barriers and proving, without a doubt,*

*that women could accomplish the same tasks as men. The Rosies teach us the importance of staying true to yourself and living with commitment, Aberin said, adding: “You can change so much just by being you and finding purpose in the daily task.”*

[A woman just graduated the U.S. Army’s sniper school for the first time ever](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 8 November 2021]

*A Montana Army National Guard soldier is the first woman ever to graduate from the Army’s intensive, seven-week sniper course. The soldier, who the Army is not identifying upon her request, graduated the course at Fort Benning, Georgia, on Nov. 5, according to a Montana National Guard press release. She enlisted in the Montana Guard in Dec. 2020, and began the sniper course in September this year. Women in the Army have continued checking off accomplishments since all combat jobs in the military became fully available to women in 2015: women have graduated the Army’s extremely intense Ranger School; led Army Rangers in combat; and just last year, a National Guard soldier became the first to join the service’s elite Green Berets. It shouldn’t come as any surprise that “qualified sniper” would be added to that list.*

## **EXTREMISM**

[Alabama man arrested in DC for guns, explosives admits guilt](#) [*The Associated Press*, 12 November 2021]

*A north Alabama man arrested after police found multiple guns and incendiary devices in his pickup truck near the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 insurrection pleaded guilty Friday to weapons charges. Lonnie Coffman, 71, pleaded guilty two federal charges of possession of unregistered firearms related to Molotov cocktails found in the vehicle and at his home near Falkville, located about 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of Birmingham, prosecutors said in a statement. Coffman, who already was in custody, could receive as long as 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each of the federal charges and five years and a \$12,500 fine for the local offense, authorities said. In May, a judge refused bond for Coffman citing his participation in a militia training camp and large stockpile of weapons. According to earlier court filings, the FBI in 2014 identified Coffman as a participant at Camp Lonestar, a reported gathering place for Texas militia groups, and said he had information about two other militia groups. Coffman, an Army veteran who served two tours during the Vietnam War, dealt with depression and “often spoke about the difficulty he had dealing with the experiences from the war,” a court document quoted relatives as saying.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[The challenge of extremism in the military is not going away without a new perspective](#) [Anne Speckhard, Molly Ellenberg and T.M. Garret, *Military Times*, 16 November 2021]

[COMMENTARY]

This piece is excerpted and adapted from a larger research publication, which can be found [here](#). In February of 2021, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced that the U.S. military needs the troops’ help to both prevent and eliminate extremism and extremist ideologies within the ranks. The statement was made in response to the Jan. 6 Capitol Hill riot. [George Washington](#)

[University's Program on Extremism showed](#) that 12 percent of those charged with federal crimes related to the Capitol Hill riot on Jan. 6 2021, included military veterans or active-duty members. More than 25 percent of the rioters with military experience were commissioned officers, and 44 percent had been deployed at least once, raising legitimate concerns that they were weapons trained by our military and could be potentially very lethal actors. Perhaps the starkest finding regarding rioters with military experience, however, was that 37 percent of those with military experience were associated with violent extremist groups such as the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys, making them four times more likely to be part of such a group than rioters without military experience.

[QAnon backer sentenced to 14 months for attack on Army reservists](#) [The Associated Press, 18 November 2021]

A QAnon supporter accused of attacking two U.S. Army reservists in a Milwaukee suburb earlier this year was sentenced Thursday to 14 months in federal prison. Prosecutors say Ian Alan Olson, of Nashotah, drove a car spray-painted with QAnon slogans to the Wisconsin Army Reserve Center in Pewaukee on March 15 and shouted, "This is for America" before firing two or three paintball rounds at the soldiers. His gun then jammed. The rounds did not hit the reservists, who initially believed Olson was holding a real firearm. One of the servicemen tackled Olson and held him to the ground until police arrived, investigators said. Federal court documents accuse Olson of telling jail staff after he was arrested that he had just returned from Washington D.C., where he failed to deliver his message. He allegedly said he would cause a "mass casualty" event and that people would remember his name.

["QAnon Shaman" is sentenced to over 3 years for role in Capitol riot](#) [Tim Stelloh, NBC News, 17 November 2021]

The Arizona man known as the "QAnon Shaman" will serve 41 months in prison after storming the Capitol on Jan. 6, a federal judge ruled Wednesday. Federal prosecutors had asked that Jacob Chansley, who pleaded guilty in September to a single count of felony obstruction of an official proceeding, serve 51 months followed by three years of supervised release. They also asked that he pay \$2,000 in restitution. With his furry horned hat, 6-foot spear and bare tattooed chest, prosecutors described Chansley as the "public face of the Capitol riot" in a sentencing memo. He was among the initial throng to enter the building, and once there, he used a bullhorn "to rile up the crowd and demand that lawmakers be brought out," the memo said. In the Senate gallery, Chansley shouted obscenities and scaled the chamber's dais, the memo continued. There, he photographed himself, refused to leave when law enforcement ordered him to and left a note that read: "It's Only A Matter of Time. Justice Is Coming!"

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[5 Ways to Turn Your Anxiety into Something Useful](#) [Eileen Reynolds, *Futurity*, 5 November 2021]

In an effort to neutralize some of the shame and stigma associated with the condition, Suzuki, a professor of neural science at New York University, likes to begin her talks by citing that as much as 90% of the world's population suffers from what she calls "everyday" anxiety—as distinct

*from clinical disorders, for which 28% of Americans have received a diagnosis at some point in their lifetime. So we've all got it—whether it comes in the form of difficulty focusing, clamming up in meetings or in social situations, or tossing and turning with nighttime worries about family, finances, or the future. And, of course, we'd all be better off and happier without it, right? Not quite, Suzuki says. Sure, it isn't pleasant, but it isn't meant to be, she suggests, pointing to its ancient evolutionary purpose: to alert us to potential threats and help us come up with a plan to make sure we stay safe. Through her research on the brain—which includes work on the formation of short- and long-term memory, as well as how aerobic exercise improves memory, learning, and higher cognition—Suzuki has come to respect and even appreciate anxiety.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[The conversational habits that build better connections](#) [David Robson, *BBC News*, 11 November 2021]

*“There is no such thing as conversation,” the novelist and literary critic Rebecca West famously wrote in her collection of stories, *The Harsh Voice*. “It is an illusion. There are intersecting monologues, that is all.” In her opinion, our own words simply pass over the words of others without any profound communication taking place. The pandemic has surely heightened our awareness of these sensations. After long periods of isolation, our hunger for social contact is greater than ever—and it is even more disappointing to feel that a void remains between us and others, even when rules of physical distancing have been lifted. If this rings true for you, help may be at hand. During the past few years, [psychologists studying](#) the art of conversation have identified many of the barriers that stand in the way of a deeper connection, and the ways to remove them.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Azeem Rafiq: What England's cricket racism scandal is all about](#) [*BBC News*, 17 November 2021]

*Over the past few weeks English cricket has been hit by allegations of racism by a former Yorkshire player. A botched investigation into Azeem Rafiq's claims has now led to the resignation of several top officials at the county club. Azeem Rafiq is a 30-year old former professional cricketer who spent the majority of his career at Yorkshire County Cricket Club. He was born in Pakistan and moved to England when he was 10 years old. He captained England at youth level and eventually became captain of Yorkshire in 2012. In September 2020, he gave an interview to ESPN Cricinfo, in which he claimed that “institutional racism” at Yorkshire County Cricket Club had left him close to taking his own life. Rafiq says he suffered consistent abuse, including the use of racist language about his Pakistani heritage during his time at the club.*

[French dictionary sparks debate with non-binary “iel” pronoun](#) [Geert De Clercq, *Reuters*, 17 November 2021]

*French dictionary Le Robert has added the “iel” pronoun for non-binary people to its online edition, sparking heated debate in a country where grammar is sacrosanct. Le Robert, one of France's leading dictionaries, said in a statement on Wednesday that a few weeks ago it added the “iel” pronoun to its list of words after its researchers noticed growing usage of the pronoun*

*in recent months. In English, the gender-neutral “they” has been in use for some years by people who do not identify as male or female. Many public figures—including U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris—specify “she/her” or “he/his” as their preferred pronoun in Twitter profiles, email signoffs or CVs to show solidarity with non-binary people. The French government is squarely against the idea, and the Education Ministry has resisted earlier attempts at incorporating inclusive language in the school curriculum. “Inclusive writing is not the future of the French language,” Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer tweeted on Tuesday, adding that he supported ruling party MP Francois Jolivet’s protest against Le Robert’s move.*

[Malaysian transgender woman Nur Sajat: “I had to run away”](#) [Jonathan Head, *BBC News*, 19 November 2021]

*In September, news leaked that the Thai immigration authorities had made an unusual arrest in Bangkok. The detainee was Nur Sajat Kamaruzzaman, a glamorous, 36-year-old Malaysian cosmetics entrepreneur with a huge social media following. The Malaysian authorities immediately sought her extradition on charges of insulting Islam, which had been brought against her in January, and which are punishable by up to three years in prison. Nur Sajat’s offence was to wear a baju kurung, the traditional long-sleeved outfit worn by Malay women, at a private religious ceremony she held in 2018. Nur Sajat is a transgender woman, and as such she was given refugee status and allowed by Thailand to seek asylum in Australia. In the eyes of the Malaysian authorities, Nur Sajat is considered male, and under Islamic law, a man cannot dress as a woman.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[102 died at Native American boarding school in Nebraska](#) [*The Associated Press*, 14 November 2021]

*Researchers say they have uncovered the names of 102 Native American students who died at a federally operated boarding school in Nebraska. The [Omaha World-Herald reports](#) that the discovery comes as ground-penetrating radar has been used in recent weeks to search for a cemetery once used by the school that operated in Genoa from 1884 to 1934. So far, no graves have been found. The Genoa school was one of the largest in a system of 25 federally run boarding schools for Native Americans. The dark history of abuses at the schools is now the subject of a nationwide investigation. When the school closed, documents were either destroyed or scattered across the country. Locating them has proved challenging for both the Genoa project and others working to gather information on the schools.*

[2 men to be cleared in 1965 assassination of Malcolm X](#) [*The Associated Press*, 17 November 2021]

*Two men convicted in the assassination of Malcolm X are set to be cleared after more than half a century, with prosecutors now saying authorities withheld evidence in the civil rights leader’s killing, according to a news report Wednesday. The *New York Times* reported Wednesday that Muhammad Aziz and the late Khalil Islam, who spent decades in prison for the crime, were being exonerated after a nearly two-year investigation by their lawyers and the Manhattan district attorney’s office. A court date is expected Thursday. “These men did not get the justice that they*

*deserved,” District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. told the newspaper. Vance tweeted that his office, the Innocence Project and a law firm would move to vacate the convictions, with more details to come Thursday. Aziz, Islam and a third man, Mujahid Abdul Halim—known at the time of the killing as Talmadge Hayer and later as Thomas Hagan—were convicted of murder in March 1966 and sentenced to life in prison.*

[OPM to Offer Same-Sex Spouses Another Chance at Survivor Benefits](#) [Erich Wagner, *Government Executive*, 16 November 2021]

*The Office of Personnel Management is set to announce that it will waive some rules governing who is eligible for survivor benefits for same-sex spouses. In a notice set to be published Wednesday in the Federal Register, OPM said it will waive the requirement that a same-sex widow or widower of a federal employee or retiree be married for at least nine months before the employee or retiree dies in order to receive benefits in some instances. Under the new notice, the same-sex widow or widower of a federal employee will be eligible for survivor benefits if they would have been eligible without the nine-month requirement and they were married prior to June 26, 2013, got married within a year of June 26, 2013, or if they got married within a year after June 26, 2015 and lived in a state that prohibited same-sex marriage any time after the Windsor decision in 2013.*

[Public allowed to lay flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for first time in nearly 100 years](#) [Veronica Stracqualursi, *CNN*, 9 November 2021]

*For the first time in nearly a century, members of the public will be able to walk on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier plaza and lay flowers before the sacred memorial site in Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday and Wednesday. It’s the first time in 96 years that visitors have been allowed to approach the Tomb, according to Karen Durham-Aguilera, the executive director of Army National Military Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery. The rare chance for the public to get close to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier falls on its centennial commemoration. Tuesday’s start of the flower ceremony also included a smudging ceremony and a prayer led by Crow Nation.*

[Space Force, Georgia Tech partner on STEM education, innovation](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, *Space Force News Service*, 12 November 2021]

*The U.S. Space Force established an agreement with the Georgia Institute of Technology Nov, 11, making Georgia Tech the latest entrant into the Space Force’s University Partnership Program. Lt. General Nina M. Armagno, U.S. Space Force director of staff, joined Georgia Tech Provost Steven W. McLaughlin and Executive Vice President for Research Chaouki T. Abdallah to sign the agreement. “At the heart of the Space Force’s University Partnership Program is the need to advance our science and technology to build the next generation of space capabilities, while developing the workforce of the future,” Armagno said. Georgia Tech joins 11 universities selected for the U.S. Space Force University Partnership Program in fiscal year 2021. The institutions were selected based on four criteria: the quality of STEM degree offerings and space-related research laboratories and initiatives; ROTC program strength; diversity of student population; and degrees and programming designed to support military, veterans, and their families in pursuing higher education.*

[The Spouse Angle Podcast: The Transition from Active Duty to Military Spouse](#) [*Military Times*, 14 November 2021] [AUDIO]

*An Air Force veteran who served in Afghanistan shares the story of her service and transition out of the military, as well as what she wants Americans to know on Veterans Day about military families' experiences. Georganne Hassel is a former Air Force captain who served for four years, including in Afghanistan. She says her military service remains the most cherished and formative chapter in her life. She has been married to her husband for 11 years.*

[The U.S. Army releases a two volume book about Operation Enduring Freedom](#) [U.S. Army Public Affairs, *Army News Service*, 17 November 2021]

*The U.S. Army Center of Military History released *Modern War in an Ancient Land: The United States Army in Afghanistan 2001–2014*, a two-volume history, today. These volumes, prepared by the Operation Enduring Freedom Study Group, present a first cut operational-level narrative of how the U.S. Army formed, trained, deployed, and employed its forces in Afghanistan from October 2001 to December 2014. At the same time, it delves into the tactical realm when such insights amplify the implications of operational decisions or occurrences. To write this history, the study group, led by Edmund J. “E.J.” Degen, embarked on an extensive research program that relied heavily on primary source documents. The group also conducted dozens of oral history interviews with key military and civilian leaders. These volumes include fifty maps, a wide range of campaign photography and artwork, and volume-specific indexes. The [two-volume book set](#) will be released as CMH Pub 59-1-1 and will be available in print, as an eBook, and as a free pdf download starting November 17, 2021.*

[Information Disorder Is Biggest Social Danger, Commission Warns](#) [Patience Wait, *NextGov*, 17 November 2021]

*The dangerous conundrum at the heart of our interconnected society is how to contain disinformation and misinformation. “Information disorder is a crisis that exacerbates all other crises. When bad information becomes as prevalent, persuasive, and persistent as good information, it creates a chain reaction of harm.” That is the opening sentence in [the report released yesterday by the Aspen Institute’s Commission on Information Disorder](#). The three co-chairs of the commission—Katie Couric, a TV journalist with decades of experience; Chris Krebs, the first director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; and Rashad Robinson, president of the advocacy group *Color of Change*—introduced the report and discussed its recommendations in a webcast Nov. 15. The three all agreed that the First Amendment should not be seen as an impediment to trying to minimize lies and half-truths. “The question of free speech is a straw man in some ways,” Robinson said. “It confuses and directs us away from” addressing the problem. “Freedom of speech doesn’t mean we have to live in a society without rules, [or] where lies outnumber the truth ... There have always been regulations to protect the public from harm” and hold accountable the people trying to cause harm.*

## **RACISM**

[Black Lives Matter, Pandemic Inequalities Drive Racial Impact Laws](#) [Elaine S. Povich, *Stateline Daily*, 5 November 2021]

*More states are trying to assess the racial impact of new laws, as the consciousness of many legislators has been raised by the murder of George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement and the pandemic's disproportionate effect on minorities. In many states, lawmakers long have used so-called fiscal impact statements to predict how much money proposed laws will cost or save. Now more legislators want to use racial impact statements to predict how a particular measure might harm—or help—racial and ethnic groups or widen racial disparities. Maine, Maryland and Virginia approved the use of such statements this year. About a dozen other states have similar legislation pending. The idea of assessing proposed laws' racial effects is not new—Iowa began using racial impact statements for criminal justice bills in 2008, and nine other states have applied them to a small slice of criminal justice-related measures in the years since, according to the Sentencing Project, a nonprofit that advocates against mass incarceration.*

[Black People Killed by Police at More Than Twice the Rate of Whites](#) [Andre Claudio, *Route Fifty*, 15 November 2021]

*Research shows that deaths at the hands of police officers impact people of certain races and ethnicities more, pointing to systemic racism in policing, [according to a scientific report in The Lancet](#). Recent high-profile killings by police have prompted calls for more extensive and public data reporting on police violence, which is an urgent public health crisis in the U.S., according to the study by the GBD 2019 Police Violence U.S. Subnational Collaborators. Black people are killed by police at nearly two and a half times the rate of White people, studies show. Widely publicized violent acts, such as police killings of Black people and decisions not to indict the officers involved in the incidents, may harm the mental health of Black communities, a [recent study in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found](#).*

[Harrah's New Orleans sued by Army officer who was refused entry](#) [Anthony McAuley, *The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, La.)*, 16 November 2021]

*A U.S. Army officer who was refused entry at Harrah's New Orleans Casino last month has filed a lawsuit against the gaming house and its parent companies alleging that she was racially profiled and humiliated by a security manager there. 2nd Lieutenant Deja Dashante Harrison's case already has received widespread public attention. Her video of the incident, in which a Harrah's security manager says he doesn't believe her identification credentials and proceeds to call the police, was posted on social media and already has hundreds of thousands of views. The lawsuit, filed Monday in Orleans Parish Civil District Court, details Harrison's account of what took place early in the morning on Oct. 5, when she, her brother and a friend tried to gain entry to the casino while celebrating a birthday.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Latinos With Darker Skin Face More Discrimination Than Those With Lighter Skin](#) [Andre Claudio, *Route Fifty*, 16 November 2021]

*Skin color is seen by Latinos as an important factor affecting their lives and life chances, [according to a report by The Pew Research Center](#). This includes getting ahead in the workforce and in shaping their daily life experiences and dealing with discrimination. Darker-skin Latinos face more discrimination than ones with lighter skin is a form of colorism, a practice of discrimination by which those with lighter skin are treated more favorably, [according to the](#)*

[National Conference for Community and Justice](#). While colorism can be tied to racism, it is not the same because racism is prejudice directed at members of a racial or ethnic group because of their origin, Pew says in its report. Pew's National Survey of Latinos, a bilingual, national survey of 3,375 Hispanic adults conducted in March, found that 62% of Hispanic adults surveyed say having a darker skin color hurts their ability to "get ahead" in the U.S., even by a little.

[Olympic gold medalist Suni Lee says she was pepper-sprayed in a racist attack](#) [Theresa Waldrop, CNN, 12 November 2021]

American gymnast Suni Lee, an Olympic gold medal winner and the first Hmong American to compete in the Olympics, said she was pepper-sprayed in a racist incident while in Los Angeles for her stint on "Dancing with the Stars." Lee was waiting for a ride after a night out with a group of girlfriends who were all of Asian descent, she told PopSugar in an interview. She said a car drove by and the people in it started shouting racist slurs like "ching chong," and telling the girls to "go back to where they came from," according to the article. Then, one of the passengers sprayed her arm with pepper spray before the car took off, Lee said. "I didn't do anything to them, and having the reputation, it's so hard because I didn't want to do anything that could get me into trouble. I just let it happen." Attacks against Asian Americans have skyrocketed during the pandemic. A coalition that tracks racism and discrimination against Asian Americans said there were at least 4,533 incidents reported in the first six months of this year.

[White Faculty and Staff at PCOM Address Biases Through "Unlearning Racism" Program](#) [Erik Cliburn, *Insight Into Diversity*, 17 November 2021]

At the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), White faculty and staff are working to address their biases and discuss their perceptions of race and White privilege through a unique endeavor known as Unlearning Racism. This innovative program was born out of a series of discussions hosted by PCOM's Office of Diversity and Community Relations in the wake of George Floyd's murder in 2020. The conversations tasked faculty and staff with reflecting on issues of race and social justice in facilitator-led small groups. One of the facilitators, Ellen Greenberg, founder of organization development consulting firm Partnering for Change and a PCOM clinical instructor, was randomly paired with an all-White group of participants. After the discussion, Greenberg—who is White—reflected that the racial makeup of the group made it possible for members to discuss issues of race without placing undue burdens on their colleagues of color. Launched in 2020, the program is now in its third cohort. Eventually, PCOM hopes to expand Unlearning Racism to include students as well.

## RELIGION

[Dual devotion: A Sikh Marine can now wear his turban in uniform. But he wants more](#) [Philip Athey, *Military Times*, 18 November 2021]

In late September, 1st Lt. Sukhbir Toor, an -officer with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, stationed in Twentynine Palms, California, donned a turban in his Marine Corps uniform for the first time. But the limits placed on him by Manpower and -Reserve Affairs have caused the Marine to appeal to the commandant and consider a lawsuit. Religious accommodations have been a hot topic in recent months, as thousands of service members have been applying for religious

*accommodations to get out of the COVID-19 vaccine requirement on the basis of their faith or sincerely held beliefs. In Toor's case, with his turban and hair, the increased religious accommodation is positive but it does not go far enough, according to a senior staff attorney with the Sikh Coalition, which -represents the Marine legally. Given the importance of deployments to Marine officers in combat jobs, like artillery, the accommodations essentially are making Toor choose between his faith and his career, attorney Giselle Klapper said.*

## **SEXISM**

[Plan to Draft Women is Uniting Unlikely Political Allies](#) [Jacqueline Feldscher, *Government Executive*, 8 November 2021]

*China hawk Sen. Josh Hawley normally has little in common with anti-war group Code Pink. But the two are on the same side when it comes to keeping women out of the draft. "It's a weird pairing," said Kara Vuic, an expert on women in the military who teaches at Texas Christian University. "They're united because they don't want women going to war, whether that's because they don't want anybody going to war or because they think women should be in the home....It is bringing together people both for and against who probably agree with each other on absolutely nothing else." The objections are likely to fall flat. There is bipartisan support in both the House and Senate for the proposal requiring women to register. The House has already approved the bill, and the Senate Armed Services Committee voted the legislation out of committee with Republican support. The ACLU's more recent lawsuit made it to the Supreme Court, which declined to consider the case in June because Congress is actively considering the proposal.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Department of the Air Force releases findings on Interpersonal Violence survey](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, *Air Force News Service*, 9 November 2021]

*The Department of the Air Force [released findings from a force-wide Interpersonal Violence Task Force](#) Nov. 9, which studied the depth and scope of how Airmen and Guardians are affected by interpersonal violence. After the Secretary of the Air Force established the Interpersonal Violence Task Force in 2020, the team examined a broad range of 81 behaviors along what is known as the "Continuum of Harm" to determine if the DAF is keeping Airmen and Guardians safe, and providing needed support after they experience any kind of interpersonal violence. Additionally, most survey respondents who identified experiencing these behaviors did not inform someone in their chain of command, or a civilian or military law enforcement officer. Reporting of incidents to an authority, either by the victim or others, ranged from a low of 17 percent for intimate partner violence to a high of 40 percent for hazing. On the left side of the continuum, survey questions included behaviors such as "belittled and humiliated me" and "told lewd sexual innuendos or jokes or shared sexual stories." On the right side, survey questions included behaviors such as "intruded on my privacy by pestering, spying or stalking" and "pushed, shoved, or slammed me against something."*

[Gillibrand pushes to add military trauma compensation to Senate NDAA](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 November 2021]

*Advocates for military justice reform have spent the last decade pushing for commanders to be removed from the decision to prosecute sexual assault and harassment among service members. Now some of those same advocates want military victims of sex-related crimes to have the right to sue the government for negligence or failing to prevent the assault. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said she is pushing to get a vote this week on an amendment to the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act that would do it. Called the Military Claims Act, the amendment would allow service members who experience personal injury or death due to a sex-related offense committed by another service member to file a claim in the same way that civilians can. The member's next-of-kin could file in instances of death. About 20,000 service members are sexually assaulted every year, yet the military justice system only convicts about 200 troops annually for sex-related crimes, said Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., who has mirrored Gillibrand's work on the issue in the House. "It is time for us to take responsibility for a toxic environment in which many of our service members served. They come to serve. It's our duty to keep them safe," she said.*

[The Pentagon has said for years that tackling sexual assault is a top priority. A new report shows just the opposite](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 12 November 2021]

*A Defense Department inspector general report released this week shows that unrestricted reports of sexual assault have more than doubled in the last decade, but the Pentagon has not provided additional resources or training to its investigators to keep up with the growing case load. The [report released Wednesday](#), titled *Evaluation of Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution Capability within the Department of Defense*, found that the criminal investigative organizations of the individual military services didn't consistently assign certified lead investigators, or specially trained prosecutors, to cases that included sexual assault or domestic violence. As a result, investigations of those offenses were at times carried out "in a manner that was inconsistent with federal law and DOD policy." "Overall," the report said. "The [military criminal investigative organization] representatives told us their failure to assign certified lead investigators to every special victim investigation occurred because the number of certified investigators has not kept pace with the increase in the number of special victim investigations."*

["Sir, you know what he did to me"—An open letter to the Marine general handling my sexual harassment case](#) [Cybèle Greenberg, *Task & Purpose*, 16 November 2021] [COMMENTARY]

*Dear Major General Donovan. Last month, I was asked to provide you with a written recommendation after my complaint of military sexual trauma was substantiated. As this is a topic that continues to affect more than 50 percent of American servicewomen, I've decided to do so in an open letter. I believe that our best chance at changing this pervasive culture of abuse is by raising the iron curtain that usually keeps our military and civilian worlds apart, and engaging the American public in honest, transparent conversations. Here is my recommendation: I respectfully request that the Marine officer who continuously sexually harassed me over the course of several months not be allowed to remain in the service, let alone hold command.*

[Tesla subjects women to "nightmarish" sexual harassment at factory -lawsuit](#) [Jonathan Stempel, *Reuters*, 19 November 2021]

*Tesla subjects female workers to "nightmarish" conditions of rampant sexual harassment at its main factory, and supervisors turn their backs when complaints are brought, according to a new*

*lawsuit. Jessica Barraza, 38, said she has endured “near daily” catcalls and inappropriate touching in her three years at the electric vehicle maker’s factory in Fremont, California, where she works night shifts as a production associate. Barraza, a Modesto, California resident, said the final straw came on Sept. 28, when a man snuck up behind her and put his leg between her thighs as she clocked in from her lunch break. Barraza is seeking compensatory and punitive damages for violations of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. She also said that like many “tech employers,” Tesla requires many workers to sign arbitration agreements, keeping workplace disputes out of court, but that her agreement’s “unconscionable” terms make it unenforceable.*

[Veterans military sexual trauma disability claims still not being handled properly: watchdog](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 17 November 2021]

*Veterans Affairs officials insist they are getting better at processing disability claims related to military sexual trauma, but outside critics say more still needs to be done to restore victims’ faith in the department’s systems. Those kinds of claims have been problematic for VA processors for years, in part because those crimes often go unreported in the military. While veterans who claim post-traumatic stress disorder from combat are often only required to prove they served overseas, PTSD claims related to military sexual trauma often require veterans to detail their abuse and provide supporting evidence, even in cases where such actions could worsen a veteran’s mental health. Research from the IG office in recent years has estimated that VA processors have mishandled thousands of veterans’ military sexual trauma claims, including failures to give specially trained staff enough time to fully review the cases. Past department studies have suggested that as many as one in three female veterans and one in 50 male veterans experienced sexual assault while in the service.*

## **SUICIDE**

[The Pentagon Is Failing to Screen Most Transitioning Troops for Suicide Risk, Watchdog Says](#) [Travis Tritten, *Military.com*, 12 November 2021]

*Most new veterans aren’t getting screened for suicide risk and may be missing mental health treatment in the crucial first years of transitioning to civilian life, despite a presidential order that the military provide the service, the Defense Department inspector general found in a [new report](#) released Friday. The Pentagon screened only about one-third—34% in 2020 and 30% in 2019—of transitioning troops, who face an overall risk of suicide that’s three times higher than active-duty service members, the IG reported. As the military grapples with a persistent suicide epidemic, the lack of transition screenings for those at higher risk of taking their lives may have impaired the Pentagon and the VA’s ability to predict health care needs and dole out benefits at discharge, and may have jeopardized the safety of veterans, according to the IG. “The overall DOD approaches and services for arranging continuity of mental health care are not resulting in uninterrupted care for all service members,” the watchdog said in the report.*

## **VETERANS**

[“It’s Shameful:” New Law Tackles Maternity Care for Female Veterans](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 16 November 2021]

*The Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to invest more in maternity care for female veterans and the federal government will be required to study the health of active-duty and former service members who have had babies or are trying to get pregnant after Congress passed legislation Tuesday. The [Protecting Moms Who Served Act](#), passed by the House in a 414-9 vote and now heading to President Joe Biden for a signature, allows the VA to spend \$15 million to improve coordination between the VA hospitals that treat female veterans and the community facilities that provide their obstetrics care. Most important to bill sponsor and Army National Guard veteran Sen. Tammy Duckworth, however, the new law will require the Government Accountability Office to study the maternal health of female veterans—a comprehensive look that Duckworth said is needed, given the high U.S. maternal mortality rates compared with other developed countries.*

[Maryland trans veterans seek VA coverage for surgery, but agency still drafting proposed rules](#) [Billie Jean Louis, *The Baltimore Sun*, 11 November 2021]

*Retired Navy mechanic Taryn Wilson of Baltimore says she experienced depression over the years because the sex she was assigned at birth did not match the one she sees herself as. Wilson, 44, who retired in 2018 after 23 years of service, wants to have gender confirmation surgery and was elated when the Department of Veterans Affairs announced June 19 that it will cover such procedures for former service members. However, the VA has yet to release details about when the surgeries will be offered and whether VA surgeons will perform them or if it will refer patients elsewhere. While no timeline has been established, the agency indicated it could take two years. The VA told *The Baltimore Sun* in an email this month that it was still assessing the number of veterans eligible for and interested in gender confirmation surgery. “Since the announcement, the VA has initiated the rule-making process, including drafting the proposed rule and Regulatory Impact Analysis, which will be published as part of the rule making,” a spokesperson wrote. “VA is also putting together teams that will develop the framework to provide a full continuum of care consistent with VA’s rigorous standards for quality health care.”*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[New bill would give descendants of Black World War II vets access to GI Bill benefits](#) [Shawna Mizelle, *CNN*, 11 November 2021]

*In honor of Veterans Day, congressional Democrats [reintroduced legislation](#) Thursday that would provide GI Bill benefits to descendants of Black World War II veterans. The GI Bill Restoration Act was introduced in the House by Majority Whip Jim Clyburn of South Carolina and Democratic Rep. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts. Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock of Georgia is set to introduce the legislation in the Senate, according to a news release on Clyburn’s website. If passed, the bill would extend to descendants and surviving spouses of Black WWII veterans access to the VA Loan Guaranty Program, which provides assistance for buying and building homes, and the Post-911 GI Bill educational assistance, which provides financial assistance for school or job training. The legislation also establishes a Blue Ribbon Panel “to study inequities in the distribution of benefits and assistance administered to female and minority*

*members of the Armed Forces and provide recommendations on additional assistance to repair those inequities,” according to the release.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Percentage of Veterans in the Federal Workforce Stagnates at 31%](#) [Courtney Bubl , *Government Executive*, 10 November 2021]

*The percentage of veterans in the federal workforce has remained stagnant in recent years, and a federal advisory council is looking to change that. Veterans made up about 31% of the federal workforce as of fiscal 2018, the most recent year for which the Office of Personnel Management had data, the Interagency Veterans Advisory Council said in its [first annual report](#). That figure did not change since fiscal 2014, said the report, which will be released Thursday but was shared with Government Executive ahead of time. The percentage of veterans in the federal workforce hired with veterans' preference has increased from 84% in fiscal 2014 to 86% in fiscal 2018 and the percentage of veterans in the federal workforce who were disabled increased from 37% to 46% over the same time period, said the report. In 2017 total military spouse appointments were 0.56% of federal new hires, which increased to 0.72% in 2018, the report noted. The council also pointed to a [July 2020 report](#) from the Government Accountability Office covering fiscal years 2014 to 2018 about retention and attrition issues for veterans in the federal workforce, which it is seeking to address.*

[Why This Singer Is the Only Woman Buried In Fort Bragg's Special Forces Cemetery](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 19 November 2021]

*Martha Raye isn't a name heard much these days. The comic actress and singer was a star of stage and screen who worked in show business for around 60 years by the time of her death in 1994. She was probably best known for her USO work during World War II, the Korean War and the war in Vietnam, where she entertained troops so often, she earned the nickname "Colonel Maggie." When the United States entered World War II, Raye was more than ready to perform for the troops. Her first stop came in 1942 when she was sent to England. From there, she took her USO show to North Africa with three of her friends, Carole Landis, Kay Francis and Mitzi Mayfair. Raye served on the front lines of America's 20th century conflicts for a total of 24 years, but to her, the Special Forces were heroes through and through. She entertained them in places no one else would go and tended their wounds at the same time. Raye never complained about the field conditions and lived the same way the deployed troops did the entire time. In 1993, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her lifetime of dedication to U.S. troops.*