

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 11 FEBRUARY 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Congress approves sex harassment bill in #MeToo milestone](#) [Michelle L. Price, *The Associated Press*, 10 February 2022]

*Congress on Thursday gave final approval to legislation guaranteeing that people who experience sexual harassment at work can seek recourse in the courts, a milestone for the #MeToo movement that prompted a national reckoning on the way sexual misconduct claims are handled. The measure, which is expected to be signed by President Joe Biden, bars employment contracts from forcing people to settle sexual assault or harassment cases through arbitration rather than in court, a process that often benefits employers and keeps misconduct allegations from becoming public. Significantly, the bill is retroactive, nullifying that language in contracts nationwide and opening the door for people who had been bound by it to take legal action. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who has spearheaded the effort, called it “one of the most significant workplace reforms in American history.*

[Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Are Necessities in U.S. Military](#) [Jim Garamone, *DOD News*, 9 February 2022]

*Diversity, equity and inclusion in the military are necessities for the United States, Bishop Garrison, the senior advisor to the secretary of defense for human capital and diversity, equity and inclusion said. Some 41 percent of the military identify as members of minority groups, and that number will grow larger, Garrison said. He noted that the percentage of minorities drops as they rise up the ranks. “Their numbers tend to begin to decline in terms of service; they tend to get out, and there could be a variety of reasons as to why that actually is,” he said. “We need to take a very data-driven approach to get a better understanding as to what’s actually happening here. What is the problem? And how can we address it?” Garrison said the need for diversity, equity and inclusion to be a consideration or a part of all decisions in the military.*

[The Marines likely won’t gender-integrate boot camp at the platoon level](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 8 February 2022]

*In 2019, with the passing of the next year’s National Defense Authorization Act, members of Congress thought they had finally forced the Marine Corps to accept full gender integration, which would see men and women train side-by-side in the same platoon at recruit training. However, language in the law left room for interpretation. And it appears the Marine Corps is heading down a path that will see the service integrate boot camp at the company level, but leave platoons segregated by gender. Platoon-level integration would be an opportunity to start chipping away at misogynistic attitudes that exist within the Marine Corps, said Kyleanne Hunter, a Marine veteran and an adjunct fellow with the Center for New American Security. “When we look at the issues around sexism, the issues around harassment and assault that continue to plague the military, part of training that behavior out comes from completely integrating from day one,” Hunter, a former Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra pilot, told *Marine Corps Times* in a Thursday phone call.*

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## CULTURE

[16 Penn swimmers issue letter in support of new transgender athlete rules](#) [Joe Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 4 February 2022]

*Sixteen members of the University of Pennsylvania women's swimming and diving team sent a letter Thursday to the university and the Ivy League applauding [USA Swimming's new policy](#) for transgender athletes and arguing against teammate Lia Thomas' participation in the Ivy League Championships this month. The letter urges Penn and the Ivy League to support the swimmers "as biological women, and not engage in legal action with the NCAA to challenge" USA Swimming's new policy. USA Swimming, the sport's national governing body, released a new policy for elite transgender athletes Tuesday. The policy requires trans women to undergo hormone therapy and have low testosterone levels (less than 5 nanomoles per liter of blood) continuously for at least 36 months before applying to compete at the elite level.*

[Air Force Making Uniform Changes with Women in Mind, While Space Force Is Working to Fix Those Baggy Pants](#) [Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 9 February 2022]

*Tracy Roan has been busy the last couple of years. Having served as the chief of the Air Force Uniform Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, since 2018, Roan has helped shape some of the most progressive and drastic clothing changes for the branch, as well as the development of the Space Force's new service dress uniform. In the past two years alone, airmen have seen once unlikely changes, many of them focused on the comfort of women: longer hairstyles for women, the development of a maternity flight suit and a wrap-style dress for pregnant airmen. One of the primary reasons the Air Force has been on the leading edge of uniform changes for women is demographic: The service has the largest percentage of women in the ranks at 21%. One of the main focuses of the Space Force dress uniform was to create items that could be unisex, something Roan said that can be welcoming to non-binary service members.*

[Alabama revisits pairing KKK leader and Black student names](#) [Jay Reeves, *The Associated Press*, 10 February 2022]

*The University of Alabama is reconsidering its decision last week to retain the name of a one-time governor who led the Ku Klux Klan on a campus building while adding the name of the school's first Black student. Trustees will meet publicly in a livestreamed video conference on Friday to revisit their decision to keep the name of former Alabama Gov. Bibb Graves on a three-story hall while renaming it Lucy-Graves Hall to also honor Autherine Lucy Foster, the University of Alabama System said. The decision to honor Foster alongside a one-time KKK grand cyclops was criticized harshly by some. An editorial in the student newspaper said Graves' name doesn't belong beside Lucy's, given his association with the violent, racist organization. "The board's priority is to honor Dr. Autherine Lucy Foster, who, as the first African American student to attend the University of Alabama, opened the door for students of all races to achieve their dreams at the university. Unfortunately, the complex legacy of Governor Graves has distracted from that important priority," it said.*

[Army expands two-year enlistment options as new screenings kick in](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 8 February 2022]

*Army Recruiting Command officials announced Monday that the service is expanding its short-term career offerings, though the move comes amid recruiting turmoil caused by a new prescription drug screening system. A [press release](#) said that two-year active duty enlistments are now available for 84 jobs across the force, “ranging from infantry and combat engineers to paralegals and aviation operations specialists.” The service’s recruiters are also learning to work with a new screening process—the Medical Review of Authoritative Data—that allows officials at entrance processing stations to access systems that provide applicants’ entire prescription histories from authoritative sources, according to the Military Entrance Processing Command’s [annual report](#).*

[Awkwafina issues statement addressing accusations that she has used a “blaccent”](#) [Eric Levenson, *CNN*, 6 February 2022]

*The comedian and actress Awkwafina issued a lengthy Twitter statement Saturday addressing criticism in the press and on social media that she has used a “blaccent,” or Black accent, and elements of African American language and mannerisms in her career. The Queens-born Asian American star, born Nora Lum, explained her view of the racial dynamics at play. “My immigrant background allowed me to carve an American identity off the movies and tv shows I watched, the children I went to public school with, and my undying love and respect for hip hop,” she wrote. “I think as a group, Asian Americans are still trying to figure out what that journey means for them—what is correct and where they don’t belong.”*

[Black scuba divers explore the wreckage of slave ships and the “untold American story”](#) [Jeffrey Brown and Anne Azzi Davenport, *PBS News*, 9 February 2022]

*Between the 16th and 19th centuries, millions of enslaved Africans were forcibly transported to the Americas across the Atlantic Ocean on a voyage known as the “Middle Passage.” One group is taking a literal deep dive into that history, in hopes of making some important discoveries and raising awareness of the implications it has for people today. Under the sea, a magical world, and, also, if you look hard enough and you know how to scuba dive, a living link to America’s tortured past. Jay Haigler has seen it. [Diving With a Purpose](#) is combining the importance of history and ancestral memory and understanding how that applies today, combining those things with scuba diving, which was a match made in heaven.*

[Black worker at Confederate site raises race complaint](#) [Kim Chandler, *The Associated Press*, 7 February 2022]

*Alabama welcomes visitors at the “First White House of the Confederacy,” a historic home next to the state Capitol where Confederate President Jefferson Davis lived with his family in the early months of the Civil War. The museum managed by the state’s Department of Finance says it hosts nearly 100,000 people a year, many of them school children on field trips to see such things as the “relic room” where Davis’ slippers and pocket watch are preserved. Near the gift shop, a framed article describes Davis as an American patriot who accomplished “one of the most amazing feats in history” by keeping the “north at bay for four long years.” Evelyn England, an African-American woman who worked for 12 years as a receptionist at the historic site, said*

*some visitors, both Black and White, were surprised to see her there. “I’m in a unique position because Whites don’t really want me here, and Blacks don’t want to come here,” England told The Associated Press.*

[Book aims to shine light on Romanian role in the Holocaust](#) [Stephen McGrath, *The Associated Press*, 6 February 2022]

*Maksim Goldenshteyn recounts a story his grandmother once told him about how, as a 4-year-old child, she snuck out of a Jewish ghetto during World War II to retrieve her favorite dolls that had been left behind when her family was forcibly evicted from their home in occupied Soviet Ukraine. “She knew, even at that age, that because she had lighter hair and blue eyes, she could pass for a local Ukrainian girl,” said Goldenshteyn. “She put on a kerchief and slipped out of the ghetto.” It’s one of the stories that Seattle native Goldenshteyn tells in his book, [“So They Remember,”](#) which recounts—with a blend of intimate family memoir and historical research—the Holocaust in Transnistria, a territory in occupied southern Ukraine that was controlled by Romania, a close ally to Nazi Germany for most of the war. Awareness of Romania’s role in the Holocaust, at home and abroad, is far less than that of the Nazis’ role. But in Romanian-controlled territories under the military dictatorship of Ion Antonescu, between 280,000 and 380,000 Jews, plus some 12,000 Roma, were killed during the war.*

[DEVCOM leads effort to make warfighter footwear more inclusive](#) [Jane Benson, *DEVCOM Soldier Center Public Affairs*, 3 February 2022]

*Army Footwear Researchers at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center, or DEVCOM SC, are investigating the need for, and potential impact of boots made specifically for females. The effort will help to determine if there is a need for female-specific footwear lasts—lasts are the forms on which footwear is constructed. Anita Perkins is a footwear research engineer in the Soldier Protection Directorate at DEVCOM SC and the technical lead for the Army Combat Boot Improvement effort, as well as the cross-service Female Fit and Size effort. “The goal of this effort is to improve the fit of combat boots for female service members, ultimately improving Soldier performance, enhancing comfort, and preventing injuries,” said Perkins. “Fit is a significant factor in footwear comfort. Improperly fitted boots can play a significant role in Soldier performance and increase injury risk, ranging from blisters to stress fractures.”*

[“Finally”: Tuskegee Airmen honored 73 years after competition win was “swept under the rug”](#) [Christine Fernando, *USA TODAY*, 11 February 2022]

*The 332nd Fighter Group, better known as the Tuskegee Airmen, made history in 1949 as winners of the first Top Gun contest, a gunnery competition that drew top pilots from across the Air Force. But when their names were announced, the room remained quiet. There was no applause. A photographer snapped a single photo of the team with its trophy, which was left in storage for 55 years afterward. “Our victory was swept under the rug,” retired Lt. Col. James Harvey III, former fighter pilot with the 332nd Fighter Group, told USA TODAY. “They didn’t see us as legitimate competitors,” Harvey said. “We as a race weren’t supposed to be able to do anything, except maybe sing and dance. That’s about it. But you don’t pay any attention to that. You go out and do what you have to do.” On Jan. 11, a plaque was mounted at Nellis Air Force*

Base to honor the group's win. The [AARP produced a 10-minute documentary](#) on the journey toward that recognition. "Finally," Harvey said. "It's been 73 years, and we finally got that recognition."

[Have Mexican American moderates been overlooked in Latino civil rights history?](#) [Raul A. Reyes, *NBC News*, 10 February 2022]

*As a young man, Guadalupe San Miguel Jr. was enmeshed in the activism of the Chicano Movement of the late 1960s and '70s. Now a grandfather and professor of history at the University of Houston, San Miguel, 72, is out with a [new book](#) that offers a different perspective on the activism of that era. With "In the Midst of Radicalism," San Miguel looks at the role that moderate Latinos played in the Mexican American civil rights movement. Although this group has not received the same attention as their more radical counterparts, San Miguel argues that their work was equally valuable—and still resonates in Latino politics today. The Mexican American civil rights movement took off in the late 1960s, a time when César Chávez became a household name and groups like MALDEF (the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) were founded. However, Mexican Americans had been fighting for equal rights since at least the 1920s. In 1931, Latino parents in Lemon Grove, California, banded together and helped win the first school desegregation case in U.S. history.*

[How Black activists used lynching souvenirs to expose American violence](#) [Adrian Florido, Sarah Handel and Megan Lim, *NPR*, 8 February 2022]

*Photos showing the lynchings of African Americans in the 19th and early 20th century are some of the most troubling records of the racist history of the United States. But these black-and-white photographs are what filmmaker Christine Turner chose to focus on for her new documentary, "[Lynching Postcards: 'Token Of A Great Day'](#)". Turner examined hundreds of these pictures and primarily focused on the ones that people who attended these lynchings sent as postcards to family and friends.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Kraken's J.T. Brown, Everett Fitzhugh to Become NHL's 1st All-Black Broadcasting Team](#) [Paul Kasabian, *The Bleacher Report*, 10 February 2022]

*J.T. Brown and Everett Fitzhugh will form the first-ever all-Black broadcasting duo in NHL history when they call the Seattle Kraken's Feb. 17 road game against the Winnipeg Jets. Brown, 31, is the Kraken's television analyst alongside play-by-play announcer John Forslund. Fitzhugh, 33, is the team's radio voice. Forslund will be working a nationally televised NHL game on TNT Feb. 17, so Fitzhugh will shift to TV for the Jets matchup. ROOT Sports will carry the game. Brown played professional hockey for 11 years, including seven in the NHL with the Tampa Bay Lightning, Anaheim Ducks and Minnesota Wild.*

[A legacy of hope: Celebrating Harriet Tubman's 200th birthday in Maryland and beyond](#) [Donna M. Owens, *The Baltimore Sun*, 10 February 2022]

*Before she became the historic hero known as Harriet Tubman, Araminta Ross was born in early 1822 near Cambridge on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Some 200 years later, she is celebrated as a global icon of freedom. To mark the bicentennial of her birth, events are scheduled across the*

country, including Maryland, where Gov. Larry Hogan is expected to announce in March plans to commemorate the legendary abolitionist. Tubman's distinction as the first Black woman in the U.S. military is now being recognized. A scout, spy, and nurse for the Union Army during the Civil War, she helped plan and lead a major military operation: the Combahee River raid in 1863 with the all-Black 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment. As boats moved up the waterway, destroying bridges and Confederate supply lines, the effort would free more than 700 men, women and children from nearby rice plantations. Moreover, Tubman was a suffragist who championed women's right to vote.

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[Muscogee dismayed by nearly naked statue of Georgia ancestor](#) [Michael Warren, *The Associated Press*, 7 February 2022]

Atlanta plans to install a statue of a Native American man atop a 110-foot (34-meter) column in its new Peace Park, where it will tower over statues of 17 civil rights icons, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Developer Rodney Mims Cook Jr. calls Chief Tomochichi "a co-founder of Georgia" who prevented massacres by warmly inviting British Gen. James Oglethorpe to colonize his people's land in 1733. But Cook didn't ask the Muscogee about their ancestor, and now that he's unveiled the \$300,000 bronze statue, historians say it's all wrong. "Disrespectful" and "incredibly inappropriate" are some of the reactions three tribal historians shared with *The Associated Press*. They say the nearly naked figure presents an offensive and historically inaccurate conception of Native Americans as primitive savages, and glorifies a heavily mythologized figure blamed by the Muscogee for initiating a century of ethnic cleansing.

[Pentagon Exhibit Honors Military Contributions of African Americans](#) [*DOD News*, 9 February 2022]

African Americans have served valiantly in military service, from the colonial times to present day. Their service has been honored with a Pentagon exhibit that showcases their triumphs and struggles, as well as the injustices committed against them. The exhibit, spanning a corridor of the Pentagon, is titled "If We Must Fight; African Americans in Defense of Our Nation." President Joe Biden visited the corridor last year, shortly after becoming president. The exhibit tells the story in the broader political, social, cultural and economic context, explains the curator of the exhibit, and subject matter expert, retired Army Col. Krewasky A. Salter, PhD. Showing the whole story, the tragedies and the triumphs, gives the viewer [an] important context into the larger question of "why," he said.

[The story of how the Army's "Buffalo Soldiers" biked across America in 1897](#) [Max Hauptman, *Task & Purpose*, 10 February 2022]

From cavalry to an M1 Abrams tank, mobility has always been key to military maneuvers. More than a hundred years ago, there was the bicycle. With the invention of the modern, chain-driven bicycle and pneumatic tires in the 1880s, the bicycle had emerged as a new form of rapid transportation. Several European armies had begun experimenting with utilizing bicycles for scouting and courier purposes. In the United States, that task fell to a small number of infantry troops assigned to the 25th Infantry Regiment at Fort Missoula, Montana, among the Army's fabled "Buffalo Soldier" units comprised of Black soldiers. For almost two months in the summer

of 1897, a detachment from the 25th Infantry biked roughly 1,900 miles across the country, from Montana to St. Louis, Missouri, in an effort to prove the viability of the bicycle in military operations.

[Troy Kotsur is the first deaf man nominated for an acting Oscar](#) [Bill Chappell, NPR, 8 February 2022]

Actor Troy Kotsur is drawing a new wave of praise for his work in the film “CODA,” after he was nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar on Tuesday. Kotsur joins co-star Marlee Matlin as the only deaf actors ever to be nominated for an Oscar. Kotsur’s nomination is the latest step on CODA’s charmed journey. Last year, the film vaulted from a successful premiere at the Sundance Film Festival to land a distribution deal with Apple. CODA’s title stands for Child of Deaf Adults. And while that could be seen as a thumbnail sketch of its plot, it doesn’t account for the subtlety and emotional power that has drawn audiences in. The Oscar nod is Kotsur’s second major honor in recent days. After the British Academy Film Awards announced his supporting-actor nomination last week, an exultant Kotsur fell out of his chair celebrating.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## DISCRIMINATION

[A Disabled Activist Speaks Out About Feeling “Disposable”](#) [Rachel Scheier, Kaiser Health News, 4 February 2022]

In early January, one of the country’s top public health officials went on national television and delivered what she called “really encouraging news” on covid-19: A [recent study](#) showed that more than three-fourths of fatalities from the omicron variant of the virus occurred among people with several other medical conditions. “These are people who were unwell to begin with,” said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Walensky’s remarks infuriated Americans with disabilities, who say the pandemic has highlighted how the medical establishment—and society at large—treats their lives as expendable. Among those leading the protest was San Franciscan Alice Wong, an activist who took to Twitter to denounce Walensky’s comments as “ableism.” The founder of the [Disability Visibility Project](#), which collects oral histories of Americans with disabilities in conjunction with StoryCorps, Wong has spoken and written about how COVID-19 and its unparalleled disruption of lives and institutions have underscored challenges that disabled people have always had to live with.

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[Education Department dismisses complaint against BYU over gay dating ban](#) [Brooke Sopelsa, NBC News, 10 February 2022]

The Education Department has dismissed a complaint against Brigham Young University after a month-long investigation into the private religious school’s treatment of LGBTQ students. The complaint stemmed from the university’s ban on same-sex romantic relationships. The department’s [Office of Civil Rights sent a letter](#) to BYU’s president Tuesday saying that while the Utah institution is subject to Title IX—a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination at schools that receive federal funding—it is also entitled to a number of exemptions because of its religious affiliation. The [university issued a statement](#) Thursday acknowledging the dismissal and

stating that it “had anticipated” the outcome “because OCR has repeatedly recognized BYU’s religious exemption for Title IX requirements.”

[VMI will change honor system that expels Black cadets at disproportionate rates](#) [Ian Shapira, *The Washington Post*, 5 February 2022]

*The Virginia Military Institute says it will change its student-run honor court to make it more fair to cadets as part of a response to a state-ordered investigation into racism and sexism at the school. VMI detailed the reforms in a progress report Friday, The Washington Post reported. The 70-page report, which the college gave to General Assembly members and the Virginia secretary of education, describes initiatives approved, enacted or begun last year. Those initiatives included mandatory diversity, equity, and inclusion training for administrators and members of VMI’s Board of Visitors, and changes to the Lexington school’s one-strike-and-you’re-out honor court system. Data obtained by the newspaper showed Black students at VMI were expelled by the honor court at a disproportionately high rate for the three academic years between the fall of 2017 and the spring of 2020. Though Black cadets made up about 6% of the student body, they represented about 43% of those expelled for honor code violations.*

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## DIVERSITY

[Anything can have DEIA if agencies look hard enough](#) [Amelia Brust, *Federal News Network*, 7 February 2022]

*Time for some word association: If I say “diversity, equity and inclusion,” you say, “race?” Maybe “women,” maybe “LGBTQ?” You think how many women are in my office, how many Black and brown people are in my office, how many Asian people, or openly queer people? Now if I add “accessibility” to that list you say, “disabilities” or can people in wheelchairs get around my office easily? You’re not wrong to interpret DEIA this way. Faces, bodies, last names, accents and proportionality all need to be included in federal agencies’ efforts to comply with the president’s Executive Order 14035, but they are not the full story. If people in your workplace, friend group, family, or maybe you, are still struggling to understand these principles, that’s not surprising. Our societal conceptualization of DEIA has changed dramatically over a short period of human history. Since 2004, DEIA’s share of Google searches has been almost nonexistent when compared to diversity and equity, yet the largest source of interest in the term so far has been in Washington, D.C.*

[How a Kansas town became one of the nation’s first majority-Black farming communities](#) [Fred de Sam Lazaro and Simeon Lancaster, *PBS News*, 7 February 2022]

*The wave of migration across the United States in the mid-1800s included people looking to live in open spaces, with land to grow crops and the opportunity to have a better life. After the Civil War, that included freed slaves and their families. The Kansas plains are filled with the lore of pioneers who, in the mid-1800s, laid the foundation of what would become America’s breadbasket. Less well-known is the smaller wave of newcomers for whom the journey meant something more. Nicodemus was one of several all-Black settlements that sprung up across the U.S. By the early 1880s, Nicodemus had a population of about 500. It had a bank, a post office,*

*and several businesses, and was poised for more growth, anticipating that the railroad would soon come through, the equivalent in those days of a town being hooked up to the Internet for the first time. Alas, the railroad decided to lay its rails a few miles to the south of this town.*

[The Justice Dept.’s Diversity Officer Job Listing Requires a Salary History, Despite a Mandate Discouraging the Practice](#) [Erich Wagner, *Government Executive*, 7 February 2022]

*The Justice Department’s effort to implement an executive order aimed at improving the diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility of the federal workforce has drawn raised eyebrows from some employees, as a job listing for the department’s chief diversity officer position appears to go against the spirit of a provision of the edict. Last year, President Biden signed an executive order tasking agencies with improving their approach to issues of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. It also tasks the Office of Personnel Management with examining whether it would be possible to bar agencies from asking job applicants for their salary histories, a practice that has been linked with the perpetuation of pay inequities seen by women, minorities and LGBTQ+ employees. Last month, the Justice Department advertised the creation of its chief diversity officer position on USAJOBS.com, but some employees noticed one issue with the job posting: it requires all applicants to list “your highest grade/step or salary achieved” for every job in an applicant’s employment history.*

[Meet the civilian nurse trying to become the first pre-service amputee to join the Navy](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 9 February 2022]

*Hannah Cvancara was born with a birth defect called fibular hemimelia that resulted in her left leg never growing correctly and the amputation of her left foot when she was just a year old. But 25 years later, she hasn’t let her reliance on a prosthetic leg stop her from living a full and physical life that includes surfing, rock climbing and long shifts on her feet as a civilian nurse. Now, Cvancara is trying to make history by becoming the first pre-service amputee to join the Navy, and the Nurse Corps in particular. Cvancara’s dad was an Air Force flight surgeon, so she grew up a military brat and felt the pull of military service from an early age. “It’s always been a part of my life, we moved around every few years,” the Spokane, Washington, resident told *Navy Times*. “I just really have always been interested in joining.” She tried to join the Navy before she began school but was turned down because of her condition.*

[National Guard’s first trio of Black senior enlisted leaders reflect on service](#) [Sgt. 1st Class Zach Sheely, *National Guard Bureau*, 10 February 2022]

*Before Command Sgt. Maj. John Sampa became the 12th command sergeant major of the Army National Guard and the first Black person to hold that position in 2018; he stood guard as a Texas State Trooper to defend a hate group’s right to free speech in 1998. He shares a photo of this scene—himself in front, protecting three hooded individuals, protesting during the murder trial of White men accused of dragging a Black man to death behind a truck—to emphasize the importance of duty, no matter the situation. “You’ve got to remember why you put the uniform on,” said Sampa. “It isn’t to take sides, and it is to serve. I was there to serve the people of the state of Texas at that time, and it was my duty.” For the first time, the three senior enlisted leaders for the National Guard were Black, according to National Guard Bureau historians. This includes Sampa for the Army Guard, Command Chief Master Sgt. Maurice Williams, for the Air*

*National Guard and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tony Whitehead.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## **EXTREMISM**

[The Army Vet Who Was Prepping Civilians for a “Pending” Civil War](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 9 February 2022]

*Christopher Arthur built a business off his military skills, conspiracy theories and eagerness for a second civil war—promising to teach potential students how to kill cops and military personnel, often by defending their homes with explosives and other deadly traps. Now, he faces 20 years behind bars. Arthur, 38, served in the Army as a cavalry scout, with a career oscillating between the National Guard and active duty that culminated in the rank of sergeant at the end of his nearly decade of service. Trading off of the training he’d received, and the reputation of and claims about his extensive experience as a soldier, he ran Tackleberry Solutions, a combat school for civilians. But his lessons weren’t intended for civilians to dip their toe into military-style training for fun. Arthur was seemingly preparing eager students in guerrilla warfare to fight against the U.S. military and law enforcement, based on a *Military.com* review of training materials he used.*

[Deputies: 3 charged Friday in connection with Jan. 29 antisemitic attack](#) [Asher Wildman, *Spectrum News 13 (Orlando, Fla.)*, 4 February 2022]

*Three participants in a Jan. 29 antisemitic demonstration were arrested Friday and accused of attacking a man because he was Jewish, officials said. Joshua Terrell, 46, and Bert Colucci, 45, both face a charge of battery with a hate crime enhancement. Jason Brown, 47, was arrested on a grand theft charge. According to the Anti-Defamation League, in the past two months there have been four antisemitic incidents in Central Florida alone. Many in the Jewish community said the arrests made Friday felt like a step in the right direction. Earlier in the week, Sheriff John Mina was asked about these incidents, and said his office was working with the Anti-Defamation League to identify the individuals involved, and thanked the community for sharing videos which helped identify them.*

[Ex-Air Force sergeant to change plea in officer killing](#) [The Associated Press, 8 February 2022]

*Steven Carrillo, 33, pleaded not guilty in July 2020 in the killing of David Patrick Underwood, who was shot on May 29, 2020, while he stood in a guard shack in front of a federal building in Oakland. Court records showed Carrillo, of Santa Cruz, is scheduled to change his plea Friday at a federal court in San Francisco. His attorney, James Thomson, did not immediately return an email Monday from The Associated Press seeking comment. On Jan. 31, federal prosecutors agreed to not seek the death penalty. Prosecutors say Carrillo had ties to the “boogaloo” movement, a concept embraced by a loose network of gun enthusiasts and militia-style extremists. The group started in alt-right culture on the internet with the belief that there is an impending civil war, according to experts.*

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[EXCLUSIVE: FBI probes pre-Capitol riot meeting of far-right groups](#) [Aram Roston, *Reuters*, 8 February 2021]

*The Federal Bureau of Investigation is probing a meeting in a downtown DC garage the day before the January 6 Capitol Hill riot between the then-leader of the Proud Boys extremist group, the now-indicted leader of the Oath Keepers militia and other far-right figures, according to two witnesses interviewed by FBI agents. Among the half dozen people gathered at a garage near the Phoenix Park Hotel was Oath Keepers head Stewart Rhodes, who was indicted this year on charges of “seditious conspiracy” in the insurrection. Proud Boys Chairman Enrique Tarrío, who was not present at the riot, was also at the garage meeting but left Washington afterward. The meeting put the heads of the nation’s two best-known violent far-right pro-Trump groups in immediate proximity to each other 24 hours before the breach of the Capitol.*

[He Spent 25 Years Infiltrating Nazis, the Klan, and Biker Gangs](#) [Paul Solotaroff, *Rolling Stone*, 30 January 2022]

*“Scott” was a top undercover agent for the FBI, putting himself in harm’s way dozens of times. Now, he’s telling his story for the first time to sound the alarm about the threat of far-right extremists in America. Scott is telling this story in the study of his farmhouse high up a hill in the Appalachians. It hunches like a fort on its timbered perch, with assault rifles and armor in the linen closet and kill-shot sight lines of the unmarked road running past his drive. As he talks, he screens footage that he took of those men through a hidden cam on his person. But he’s breaking his covenant now for the reason he took that footage: He is haunted by what the people onscreen will do if their movement—and their moment—aren’t thwarted. Over months of interviews with Scott and his former colleagues, hours-long conversations with domestic-terror experts, and wormhole dives down fascist portals on apps like Gab and Discord, a portrait emerged of a nation under threat from a thousand points of hate.*

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[Second person to plead guilty in plot to kidnap Michigan governor](#) [Kanishka Singh, *Reuters*, 7 February 2022]

*A second person charged in a plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2020 has agreed to plead guilty and testify at a trial in March, according to a federal court filing on Monday. Kaleb Franks, 27, will plead guilty to kidnapping conspiracy, in a plea deal approved by prosecutors and his lawyers. The charge carries a sentence of up to life in prison. In August last year, another man who pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the plot received a sentence of just over six years in prison, after he also agreed to testify against fellow extremists in the “Wolverine Watchmen” militia who were accused in the conspiracy. Ty Garbin was the first to be convicted of scheming to abduct Whitmer from her vacation home. Since the FBI said it uncovered the conspiracy by members of the militia group, more than a dozen men have been charged in state or federal court.*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[3 Steps for Addressing Employee Burnout](#) [Andre Claudio, *Route Fifty*, 7 February 2022]

*During the Covid-19 pandemic, stress levels and employee burnout have soared leading to a record-high quit rate with numerous unfilled positions. To attract and retain a talented workforce, employers must address the root causes of burnout, according to a [report by Gallup](#). While many employers are throwing money at the “great resignation” in hopes of attracting and retaining employees, this may not be an option for organizations still recovering from the pandemic’s economic destruction. Also, a higher salary may not satisfy job seekers who value their health and well-being over money, the report says. [Another report by Gallup](#) showed high levels of employee burnout nationwide. And even for employees engaged at work, burnout is highly probable if they are struggling or suffering in their personal lives. Burnout even is rising to new heights among managers, which poses a problem as supervisors significantly impact the engagement of workers.*

[How to live with your regrets](#) [David Robson, *BBC Worklife*, 9 February 2022]

*Like many negative emotions, regret is often seen as a purely undesirable feeling—one that we should quash whenever possible. Psychologists, however, have shown that it can be an eminently useful emotion. “It would be a very, very bad idea, I think, to eliminate regrets in your life,” says Aidan Feeney, a professor of psychology at Queen’s University Belfast. “It’s one mechanism for learning how to improve your decision-making—a signal that maybe you need to rethink your strategy.” [Feeney’s own research](#) has tested how the emotion is essential for developing an understanding of delayed gratification—our ability to put off a small reward now for a greater reward later. Research by Kristin Neff, an associate professor at the University of Texas, Austin, shows people who cultivate self-compassion tend to recover from stress and sadness more quickly, and—crucially—they are also more likely to change their behaviour in the future than people who are self-critical, so they do not make the same mistakes twice.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Ready for Another Pandemic Malady? It’s Called “Decision Fatigue”](#) [Jenny Gold, *Kaiser Health News*, 7 February 2022]

*Most all of us have felt the exhaustion of pandemic-era decision-making. Should I travel to see an elderly relative? Can I see my friends and, if so, is inside OK? Mask or no mask? Test or no test? What day? Which brand? Is it safe to send my child to day care? Questions that once felt trivial have come to bear the moral weight of a life-or-death choice. So it might help to know (as you’re tossing and turning over whether to cancel your non-refundable vacation) that your struggle has a name: decision fatigue. In 2004, psychologist Barry Schwartz wrote an influential book, [“The Paradox of Choice: Why More Is Less.”](#) The basic premise is this: Whether picking your favorite ice cream or a new pair of sneakers or a family physician, choice can be a wonderful thing. But too many choices can leave us feeling paralyzed and less satisfied with our decisions in the long run. And that’s just for the little things. Faced with a stream of difficult choices about health and safety during a global pandemic, Schwartz suggests, we may experience a unique kind of burnout that could deeply affect our brains and our mental health.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

**INTERNATIONAL**

[Australian MP in emotional plea over religion bill](#) [BBC News, 9 February 2022]

*A leading opposition Australian lawmaker has made an emotional plea not to rush through a controversial bill aimed at protecting religious people. Critics says the bill enables discrimination and would allow religious schools to exclude transgender students. Mentioning his late gay nephew, Labor MP Stephen Jones said the bill had not been thought through. “He was just 15 when he took his own life,” he told parliament. Prime Minister Scott Morrison introduced the Religious Discrimination Bill in November, and said it will ensure protection for religious people and organisations to express beliefs and avoid “cancel culture”. Under Australia’s federal Sex Discrimination Act, religious schools can expel a student or refuse to hire a teacher because of their sexuality or gender identity. Human rights and LGBT groups say it goes too far in giving people the right to discriminate against others. Equality Australia, a gay rights advocacy group, gave an example when the new legislation might be abused.*

[\[UPDATED\]](#)

[Canadian cabin resort changes out-of-touch name](#) [Forrest Brown, CNN Travel, 10 February 2022]

*The alpine setting for these vacation mountain cabins is beautiful—inside Jasper National Park in the province of Alberta in the Canadian Rockies. But for some people, the resort’s name was becoming increasingly ugly and problematic to ignore: Pocahontas Cabins. Now this collection of cabins run by Pursuit, a hospitality company that operates properties around the world, has a new, temporary name to go with a recent upgrade: Miette Mountain Cabins. A nearby campground has also had the same name change. The name change follows consultations with Indigenous communities with longstanding historical ties to the land that’s now Jasper National Park, according to a news release Pursuit sent CNN Travel via email, and a news release from Parks Canada.*

[Female-led Egyptian ensemble keeps rhythmic folk music alive](#) [Reuters, 7 February 2022]

*Backed by a troupe on drums and tambourines, 72-year-old Um Sameh performs songs that gradually crescendo against waves of percussion. One of the last practitioners of Zar music, she is part of an ensemble called Mazaher that was formed to keep the traditional art form alive. Zar was once practised in several countries in the region, and the group, in which women are the lead musicians, draws on variations of the music originating from southern Egypt and Sudan. Songs are passed down orally and are meant to serve as a form of musical therapy, says Um Sameh. She performs regularly at the Egyptian Center for Culture and Arts in Cairo, and has been singing since she was 13. “My history with the Zar started with my mother, because she used to be a ‘rayesa’ (leader),” she said. “When my mother was old, she made me the leader, just like her.”*

[Figureskating-Carrillo achieves “dream come true” with Mexican first](#) [Chang-Ran Kim and Gabrielle Tétrault-Farber, Reuters, 8 February 2022]

*Figure skater Donovan Carrillo has always stood out practising among young girls at home in Guanajuato, but he achieved his “dream come true” on Tuesday when he became the first Mexican to advance to the Olympic free skate final event. Training to become a world-class figure skater as a boy—or a man—has never been easy in Mexico, “where soccer is popular”, said the 22-year-old, adding he is coached alongside teenaged girls. But Carrillo, who bore the*

*flag at the opening ceremony, wore Mexico proudly at the Capital Indoor Stadium, skating in a Mexican-designed black-and-gold-sparkled costume to music that included compatriot Carlos Santana's number Black Magic Woman. Carrillo is the first Mexican male figure skating Olympian since 1992 Albertville, when Riccardo Olavarrieta dropped out after the short programme.*

[Russia makes failed attempt to shut down prominent LGBTQ rights group](#) [Tat Bellamy-Walker, NBC News, 11 February 2022]

*The Russian government made an unsuccessful attempt to shut down one of the country's largest and most prominent LGBTQ rights groups, but human rights advocates say there are likely more attempts on the horizon. A court in St. Petersburg sidelined a lawsuit that had been filed by Russia's Justice Ministry on Tuesday. The suit accused the Russian LGBT Network of spreading "LGBT views" and engaging in activities that go against "traditional values." In the suit, Russian officials said they want to "liquidate" the Sphere Foundation, the legal group that operates the LGBTQ organization. The St. Petersburg-based Russian LGBT Network is known for leading actions against the country's anti-LGBTQ policies and actions, including Chechnya's anti-gay purge, which started making national headlines in 2017. Since then, at least 140 gay and bisexual Chechen men have been abused and detained in the semi-autonomous Russian region, according to Human Rights Watch.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Free tuition for military students part of push to help minority vets, families](#) [Leo Shane III, Military Times, 10 February 2022]

*Officials at Fayetteville State University made headlines last week by promising free tuition to all military members and families, but they don't want that to be their only outreach to the military community. "There has been a missing component of the national dialogue with higher education and veterans," said Siobhan Norris, associate vice chancellor for military affairs at FSU. "Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities and minority-serving institutions, they've been underrepresented, underfunded and have not really been given the proper attention. "We really feel that these will help create a national dialogue on the importance of having folks consider HBCUs for their educational endeavors." In addition, of 85 HBCUs surveyed, only about half (44) had an office dedicated to helping military connected students, and less than one third (27) participated in VA's Yellow Ribbon Program, which provides financial assistance for students whose GI Bill benefits do not fully cover their school tuition and fees.*

[Military Mentors Selected to Serve as Student Role Models](#) [David Vergun, DOD News, 7 February 2022]

*The Defense Department announced the 12 military officers selected to serve as military mentors in support of the United States Senate Youth Program's 60th Annual Washington Week, which will be held virtually March 6-9. This youth program is for outstanding high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing careers in public service, said Melanie Fonder Kaye, deputy assistant to the secretary of defense for strategic engagement, whose directorate oversees DOD's annual USSYP support. Through the competitive selection of a diverse team of officers to serve as*

mentors, DOD aims to give the students an understanding of its mission, people and interrelationships with the other branches of government, and the importance of public service, she said. Speakers for the program generally include the highest level elected and appointed officials in each branch of government.

[Tuskegee Airmen living legend “Woody” Woodhouse would like people to live by deeds instead of words](#) [Flint McColgan, *The Boston Herald*, 5 February 2022]

*Facta Non Verba. That’s Latin for “Deeds Not Words.” It’s the motto for Boston’s Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, a patriotic organization formed in 1638 to train young officers to serve the commonwealth, and a virtue that its first Black member, retired Lt. Col. Enoch “Woody” Woodhouse II, said he wished more people would embody. “The last two or three years, it has become more divisive because certain elements have surfaced,” Woodhouse, one of “20, 25” remaining members of World War II’s legendary Tuskegee Airmen, the all-Black fighter pilot unit, said on the state of race in American society. Two recent examples came to his mind: The hardline racist messaging of neo-Nazis who protested last weekend outside Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital and President Biden saying he will nominate a Black woman to the U.S. Supreme Court. “He should have said, ‘I’m going to nominate the best person, man or woman,’” Woodhouse said.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## RACISM

[Baseball Legend Jackie Robinson Was Court-Martialed for Refusing to Move to the Back of a Bus](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 6 February 2022]

*The U.S. military has always adapted to social change faster than the rest of the United States. President Harry S. Truman signed the order desegregating the military in July 1948. Almost four years to the day before, a future Major League Baseball Hall of Famer was facing a court-martial for six violations of the Articles of War. All because Jackie Robinson refused to move to the back of a bus. At this time, military buses on military posts were already desegregated, so when Robinson sat down in the middle of the row of seats, there should have been no problem. Despite the new regulation, the bus driver wanted to enforce the state law—segregation—and ordered Robinson to the back of the bus. Robinson explained the regulation to the driver and refused to move. Robinson was charged with insubordination, disturbing the peace, conduct unbecoming an officer, insulting a civilian woman and refusing to obey a lawful order of a superior officer.*

[Suspect indicted on murder as a hate crime charge in NYC attack on Asian man](#) [Chantal Da Silva, *NBC News*, 11 February 2022]

*A New York City man has been indicted on charges of second-degree murder as a hate crime in the April assault of a 61-year-old Chinese immigrant who died months after the attack. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg announced Thursday that Jarrod Powell, 50, had been charged in a New York State Supreme Court indictment in the April 23 attack on Yao Pan Ma. Ma died on New Year’s Eve after spending nearly eight months in the hospital following the attack. “The devastating death of Yao Pan Ma, a beloved father of two, occurred amidst a surge*

of anti-Asian attacks targeting our families, friends, neighbors, and New York values,” Bragg said in a statement. “As alleged, Jarrod Powell selectively attacked Mr. Ma for no other reason than his race.”

## SEXISM

[The invisible danger of the “glass cliff”](#) [Kelly Oakes, *BBC Future*, 6 February 2022]  
*Research shows* that women and people from ethnic minorities are more likely to be chosen to lead a company, sports team, or even country when it is in crisis mode. While those glass cliff positions can provide a way for some leaders to prove themselves, they come with significant downsides—including stress, burnout, and derailed careers. [Writing in The Times in 2003](#), journalist Elizabeth Judge claimed that women who had broken through the glass ceiling in British firms had “wreaked havoc on companies’ performance and share prices”, citing data suggesting that FTSE 100 companies with more women on their boards performed worse than those with only men. Researchers at the [University of Exeter in the UK set about investigating](#) the apparent correlation.

[The Marines need more female drill instructors to make gender-integration work](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 9 February 2022]

*To make gender integration at boot camp happen, the Marine Corps will need to add more than 70 women drill instructors—a growing challenge that may make it more difficult for enlisted women to pursue other Marine Corps opportunities. Initially members of Congress believed the Corps would integrate at the platoon level. But the law was not explicit, and the Corps seems to be pursuing a path that would see it integrate at the company level. But even that level of integration would require the Corps to go from 134 women drill instructors to 207, according to documents the Marine Corps provided to Congress, which were viewed by Marine Corps Times. With enlisted women making up fewer than 9% of the enlisted Marine Corps, filling those billets may prove a challenge, the Marine Corps said in the document.*

[Sexism and the SOFA: How a 71-year-old U.S. military treaty and Italy’s rules derail women’s careers](#) [Alison Bath, *Stars and Stripes*, 7 February 2022]

*Samara Sloan turned down a shot at a lucrative investment banking job because a U.S.-NATO military treaty first written in 1951 makes no provision for her to legally work while her husband serves in the Navy. “That was a huge opportunity that I had to turn down with a very good salary,” said Sloan, who received the potential offer after moving to Naval Support Activity Naples in 2020. “It was a huge financial hit to my family.” Sloan didn’t have much choice. Italian law makes it practically impossible in most cases for military spouses and children living in the country under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement to work anywhere except on base—and many of the jobs there aren’t open to them. The agreement was written in an era when women were largely expected to stay home. The problem affects many dependents, regardless of age or gender. But it disproportionately affects women, who make up 92% of the military spouse community, a July 2020 Deloitte Insights report stated.*

## SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[AP investigation: Women’s prison fostered culture of abuse](#) [Michael Balsamo and Michael R. Sisak, *The Associated Press*, 6 February 2022]

*Inside one of the only federal women’s prisons in the United States, inmates say they have been subjected to rampant sexual abuse by correctional officers and even the warden, and were often threatened or punished when they tried to speak up. Prisoners and workers at the federal correctional institution in Dublin, California, even have a name for it: “The rape club.” An Associated Press investigation has found a permissive and toxic culture at the Bay Area lockup, enabling years of sexual misconduct by predatory employees and cover-ups that have largely kept the abuse out of the public eye. The AP obtained internal federal Bureau of Prisons documents, statements and recordings from inmates, interviewed current and former prison employees and inmates and reviewed thousands of pages of court records from criminal and civil cases involving Dublin prison staff.*

[Harvard faces Title IX lawsuit after 3 students claim sexual harassment, abuse and retaliation by professor](#) [Taylor Romine, *CNN*, 10 February 2022]

*Three graduate students in Harvard University’s anthropology department are suing the school, claiming it failed to protect students from sexual abuse and career-ending retaliation by a professor, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday. The plaintiffs, Margaret Czerwienski, Lilia Kilburn and Amulya Mandava, allege that John Comaroff, a professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology, “kissed and groped students without their consent, made unwelcome sexual advances, and threatened to sabotage students’ careers if they complained,” according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit further says that the university’s failure to act on reports of harassment by the professor demonstrates an “institutional policy of indifference: a system designed to protect the University, its reputation, and the faculty who sustain that reputation at the expense of its students.”*

[Red flags trailed ex-UCLA lecturer across elite universities](#) [Stephanie Dazio, *The Associated Press*, 8 February 2022]

*A trail of red flags about his behavior toward women followed Matthew Harris on an academic journey that took him to three of the nation’s most prestigious universities—Duke, Cornell and then the University of California, Los Angeles. Former graduate classmates at Duke and Cornell, where he studied before becoming a postdoctoral fellow at UCLA in recent years, described him as inappropriate and creepy, with obsessive behaviors like sending excessive emails and text messages to some women that became harassment and, in at least one case, sexual harassment. Another said she changed her morning routine at Duke for weeks after Harris learned her schedule and texted her messages like, “I’m here, where are you?” Last week, a SWAT team in Colorado arrested Harris after he allegedly emailed an 800-page document and posted videos threatening violence against dozens of people at UCLA, prompting the school to cancel in-person classes for a day. The so-called manifesto contained numerous racist threats and used the words “bomb,” “kill” and “shoot” more than 12,000 times.*

[U.S. Marine charged with cyberstalking in federal “sextortion” case](#) [Richard Winton, *The Los Angeles Times*, 9 February 2022]

*An active-duty Marine was in federal custody Wednesday on charges of cyberstalking as part of a “sextortion” campaign to obtain sexual images of women and their feet, authorities said. Johao Miguel Chavarri, 25, was arrested in Oceanside on Tuesday, where he is stationed at Camp Pendleton. He was due in U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday. Chavarri is accused in a criminal complaint of creating and using numerous online accounts to repeatedly stalk, harass and threaten women in his hometown of Torrance. Federal officials say that Chavarri used the online alias “Michael Frito” between May 2019 and January 2021 to coerce women to send him nude, sexually explicit or otherwise compromising photos and videos of themselves. Chavarri also created fake social media accounts mimicking some of his victims’ real names and then sent harassing messages to some of their friends and family members, authorities said.*

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

## **VETERANS**

[VA secretary vows to boost health care workers pay, benefits as department grapples with employee burnout](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 9 February 2022]

*Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough promised Wednesday to increase pay and improve conditions for health care workers in an attempt to mitigate the large number of employees leaving the agency. Speaking to workers at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, S.C., McDonough acknowledged the hardships faced by health care workers during the coronavirus pandemic. While salaries for medical staff have grown to historic highs in the private sector, they “haven’t moved” for VA employees, he said. McDonough vowed to work with Congress to increase pay caps for medical workers. He also outlined several other actions that he plans to take, including offering more bonuses, providing more advancement opportunities, expediting the hiring process, and allowing more remote work, among other steps. The VA is the largest health care system in the United States. It provides care to veterans at 170 hospitals and more than 1,000 outpatient clinics nationwide.*