

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 10 JUNE 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[DOD Pays Tribute to LGBTQ+ Service Members](#) [David Vergun, *DOD News*, 7 June 2022]

*Pride Month is a time to come together to honor the contributions of LGBTQ+ service members, said Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen H. Hicks, who spoke today at the 11th LGBTQ+ Pride Ceremony at the Pentagon. As President Joe Biden recently stated, Pride Month is a time to remind the LGBTQ+ community that they are valued and deserve dignity, respect and support, she said. The Defense Department strives to lead on issues related to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, including for LGBTQ+ people, she said. “We will continue to advance policies and programs to develop and nurture a leadership pipeline of diverse talent and create pathways for everyone at DOD to realize their potential. We know that organizational climates affect our workforces’ experiences. More to the point, it affects our warrior readiness. Therefore, we are directing initiatives to improve leaders’ skill development and foster more effective, inclusive team environments,” she said.*

[The EEOC Will Keep Online Mediation Around Post-COVID](#) [Natalie Alms, *Government Executive*, 7 June 2022]

*The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency that enforces anti-discrimination laws in the workplace, released new studies last week that it says show “overwhelming satisfaction” with the agency’s pivot to online services during the pandemic. The studies focused on the EEOC’s mediation program, an alternative to investigation and litigation processes to help parties reach a resolution for a discrimination charge. Because of the pandemic, the agency had to shift online in 2020. The agency says that it will continue to offer online mediation even after the risk of in-person meetings posed by the pandemic ends. The agency released two [new studies](#), both dated Feb. 18, 2022, on June 1. One centers on people participating in mediation, the other on those doing the mediating. These are part of an ongoing line of studies contracted by the agency and done by academics.*

[U.S. sees heightened extremist threat heading into midterms](#) [Ben Fox, *The Associated Press*, 7 June 2022]

*A looming Supreme Court decision on abortion, an increase of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and the midterm elections are potential triggers for extremist violence over the next six months, the Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday. The U.S. was in a “heightened threat environment” already, and these factors may worsen the situation, DHS said in the latest [National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin](#). “In the coming months, we expect the threat environment to become more dynamic as several high-profile events could be exploited to justify acts of violence against a range of possible targets,” DHS said. It’s the latest attempt by Homeland Security to draw attention to the threat posed by domestic violent extremism, a shift from alerts about international terrorism that were a hallmark of the agency following its creation after the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.*

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## CULTURE

[Army watchdog to review the new soldier experience to curb early separations](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 8 June 2022]

*Investigators for the Army inspector general will spend the rest of the year reviewing the experience of the service's newest recruits and why some want to leave the military before their first enlistment ends. Teams began visiting 38 bases in March to inspect the new soldier experience, from recruits arriving at basic training to troops shipping out to their first duty assignment, Army officials said Monday. Nearly 30% of soldiers leave the Army within their first 36 months, according to a 2020 RAND Corp. report titled "Predicting 36-Month Attrition in the U.S. Military." By comparison, the Marines lose about 18.5%, according to the same report. Data analyzed in the report came from fiscal years 2002 through 2013. To prevent soldiers from dropping out of service, the report suggested the services "focus on recruits during their times of greatest risk," which for the Army begins to increase and outpace the other services at about the sixth month.*

[The big LGBTQ+ wage gap problem](#) [Megan Carnegie, *BBC News*, 9 June 2022]

*A decade after graduation, college-educated workers in the U.S. who self-identify as LGBTQ+ earn 22% less than their heterosexual cisgender counterparts, according to [preliminary findings](#) published in the Social Science Research Network in April 2022. A year after graduation, the earnings gap was 12%—meaning the figure almost doubles within a decade, with a range of forces responsible for deepening the disparity over time. The overall picture a [number of studies](#) paint is that LGBTQ+ workers often, consciously or unconsciously, steer clear of some occupations and workplaces they perceive they may not fit into or won't be welcoming to them. LGBTQ+ men tend to pick female-dominated occupations [more frequently than other men](#). Although not categorically connected with sexual orientation, this particular sample group said they avoided professions perceived to be masculine or macho, and sought out ones that are more female dominated, in the hope of finding a more comfortable work environment.*

[Explicit coin with police logo concerns Black troopers](#) [The Associated Press, 3 June 2022]

*A challenge coin inscribed with the Maryland State Police logo along with graphic imagery and offensive language has some troopers concerned because they see it as a potential response to allegations of racial discrimination within the agency. The Baltimore Sun [reports](#) that photos of the coin obtained by the newspaper show the state police insignia with images of female anatomy and references to people being offended. Maryland State Police became aware of the coin in January and the agency is investigating its creation, including whether someone in the agency was involved with the coins' "design, manufacturing/purchase or sale," spokeswoman Elena Russo said in an email. Russo said the agency hasn't identified the person "responsible for this violation of Department policy" and urged anyone with information on who created it to contact internal affairs. Investigations of other coins have led to disciplinary or administrative actions, she said.*

[How one Black leader sees trademarking Juneteenth as protection of Black culture](#) [Claretta Bellamy, *NBC News*, 3 June 2022]

*There was a wave of anger from Black Twitter users last month when Walmart released its Juneteenth-themed ice cream, with a flavor created by the New York-based company Balchem. Spotting a*

trademark symbol for Juneteenth on the product's label, many on social media criticized both companies for trying to capitalize off Black culture. But what got missed in the uproar was a simple fact: Someone else had claimed the term before any of the major companies could. That person was Mario Bowler Sr., an assistant director at his alma mater, Lincoln University, a historically Black university in Pennsylvania. When Biden declared Juneteenth a national holiday last year, Bowler said one of his first thoughts was that the holiday would be exploited by those taking advantage of it with "ill intention," which led him to apply for a trademark.

[Meet the South Carolina native who created the transgender pride flag](#) [Holly Poag, *The State* (Columbia, S.C.), 7 June 2022]

Monica Helms dabbled with dressing as a woman in the secrecy of her own room while serving as a crew member on the USS Francis Scott Key submarine in Charleston in the 1970s—and she was almost caught by her superiors. Two decades later, Helms created the renowned Transgender Pride Flag in 1999. The road to boldly expressing her creativity and love for the transgender community was arduous. Born in Sumter in 1951, Helms prayed to God when she was 5 years old to make her a girl. While serving in the U.S. Navy and stationed in San Francisco in 1976, she went out in public for the first time dressed as a woman. "I was very quiet about it, of course, obviously. It felt natural," Helms said. The United States military counted "homosexual acts" as grounds for discharge in the 1970s. Helms left the U.S. Navy in 1978. Throughout the '90s, Helms was encouraged by Mike Page, the creator of the bisexual Pride Flag, to create a transgender pride flag. She first flew it in 2000 in a Pride Parade in Phoenix.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[A newly issued U.S. quarter celebrates Cherokee leader Wilma Mankiller](#) [Harmeet Kaur, *CNN*, 6 June 2022]

A new quarter released on Monday celebrates a legendary figure who spent her life advocating for Indigenous people. Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, is the third woman to be honored as part of the U.S. Mint's "American Women Quarters Program." The "tails" side of the coin depicts Mankiller in a traditional shawl looking to the future, with the seven-point star of the Cherokee Nation at her side. The "heads" side still depicts George Washington—but in a portrait designed by the late sculptor Laura Gardin Fraser. At an event commemorating the release of the quarter on Monday, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. spoke about the legacy of the tribe's former leader.

[Space Force clarifies nail polish and lipstick policy](#) [Sarah Sicard, *Military Times*, 6 June 2022]

On May 23, the Air Force put out a [memorandum](#) establishing Space Force Dress and Appearance Standards, which included a graphic about its nail polish and lipstick policies. The image, which shows a diverse array of skin tones sporting various shades of nail polish and lipsticks, left service members questioning how the policy would be enforced. Users on the popular Facebook group *Air Force amn/nco/snco* took to the comment section on the image to voice their concerns. "Are we really still segregating colors based on skin color or vice versa?" asked user Michael Campbell. However, it seems the graphic is more or less a guide for commands to use. All the colors worn by the models are available to Guardians with any skin tone. The new policy establishes that a majority of colors shown, close to or within reason, can be worn by female Guardians.

[Tampa Bay Rays players' decision not to wear Pride jerseys stirs up fans](#) [Elizabeth Blair, *NPR*, 6 June 2022]

*It was supposed to be a show of unity in support of the LGBTQ+ community. For Pride Night at Tropicana Field, the Tampa Bay Rays wore special jerseys and caps sporting the rainbow-colored logo. Jason Adam [and others] “peeled off” the logo and wore the team’s standard cap, according to Tampa Bay Times writer Marc Topkin. Adam told Topkin that, while they respected the team’s decision to show its support of the LGBTQ+ community, they opted out for religious reasons. “A lot of it comes down to faith, to like a faith-based decision,” Adam said. “So it’s a hard decision. Because ultimately we all said what we want is them to know that all are welcome and loved here.” But, he continued, “When we put it on our bodies, I think a lot of guys decided that it’s just a lifestyle that maybe—not that they look down on anybody or think differently—it’s just that maybe we don’t want to encourage it if we believe in Jesus, who’s encouraged us to live a lifestyle that would abstain from that behavior, just like (Jesus) encourages me as a heterosexual male to abstain from sex outside of the confines of marriage.”*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Why Marvel has struck gold with Muslim superhero Ms Marvel](#) [Mohammad Zaheer, *BBC Culture*, 7 June 2022]

*In 2013, when Marvel announced that they were reimagining the comic book character of Ms Marvel—originally a blonde superpowered military hero—as a Muslim Pakistani-U.S. teenager called Kamala Khan, it was considered a controversial and risky proposition. Comic books, for the most part, have traditionally been male-dominated and White-centric—something Kamala was the antithesis of. Other attempts to diversify characters, such as creating a biracial Spiderman, had attracted backlash from some very vocal quarters of the fandom. In 2017, Marvel’s vice president of sales stated that feedback from retailers indicated that readers were being alienated by the push for diversity. “What we heard was that people didn’t want any more diversity,” he said. “They didn’t want female characters out there. That’s what we heard, whether we believe that or not.”*

[Yellowstone to rename peak honoring massacre leader to “First People’s Mountain”](#) [Adam Barnes, *The Hill*, 10 June 2022]

*Yellowstone National Park announced Thursday it changed the name of Mount Doane to First People’s Mountain as part of a larger effort to remove offensive place names in national parks. The announcement follows a unanimous vote by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to rename the 10,551-foot peak originally honoring the explorer and massacre leader Gustavus Doane. A [statement from the National Park Service](#) said the name change resulted from research showing Doane led the 1870 Marias Massacre where at least 173 American Indians, including children and the elderly, were killed. The attack was carried out in response to the alleged murder of a White fur trader. Yellowstone said it reached out to all 27 tribes associated with the park and received no opposition to the name change. U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced in November the agency would create a process to review and replace derogatory place names on federal lands.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[Deaf job applicant wins \\$225K settlement over discrimination](#) [The Associated Press, 8 June 2022]

*A Portland, Oregon, software company and its staffing agency will each pay \$112,500 to a deaf job applicant who said they refused to hire him because he requested a sign-language interpreter at a group*

job interview. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sued the firms last year on behalf of Indigo Matthew, a Portland man who applied to work as a product and pricing analyst in 2018, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported. The EEOC alleged that Matthew passed an initial screening and requested an American Sign Language interpreter for a group interview at Viewpoint. The firms refused to pay for the interpreter, according to the EEOC, because they “erroneously assumed that Matthew would need a fulltime interpreter if he was hired for the analyst position.”

[New policy keeps HIV-positive troops deployable, bars involuntary separation in some cases](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 7 June 2022]

A new Defense Department [policy](#) allows HIV-positive service members with an undetectable viral load to not only stay in uniform, but remain deployable. New guidance laid out in a memo released Tuesday reverses a previous policy that allowed commanders to involuntarily separate troops with HIV, prevent them from deploying—which can result in a discharge on its own—and prevent enlisted troops from attending officer candidate school and earning a commission. The update comes as DOD has been party to multiple recent lawsuits having to do with HIV and military service. In April, a federal judge in Virginia ruled that the services can’t discharge or prevent the commissioning of current service members based solely on HIV status.

[Starbucks notches legal win in battle against union organizers](#) [Jacqueline Ganun, *NPR*, 9 June 2022]

A federal judge has ruled that Starbucks did not have to reinstate or give accommodations to three employees who claim they were retaliated against for organizing a union. At a store in Phoenix, three employees who were advocating for a union say they were wrongfully dismissed. They claim they were forced out through intentional scheduling obstacles or denied accommodations through the Americans with Disabilities Act and put on leave. The National Labor Relations Board had asked a court to compel Starbucks to reinstate the workers and give ADA accommodations to one of them. The court on Wednesday ruled that Starbucks did not immediately have to rehire two of the employees. The third has returned to work at the store, but has not received accommodations, according to a shift supervisor. The case isn’t over yet—it will be heard by an NLRB judge on June 14. Injunctions are meant to give temporary relief to workers who have to wait for their cases to be heard in court, a process that can take months.

[State pays \\$395K to settle prison discrimination lawsuit](#) [*The Associated Press*, 8 June 2022]

The state [Maine] is paying \$395,000 to a former corrections officer to settle her claims of harassment and discrimination. Autumn Dinsmore resigned as a corrections officer this month as part of the settlement of her lawsuit filed last year. There was no admission of wrongdoing by the Maine Department of Corrections. Dinsmore worked at the Maine State Prison and Bolduc Correctional Facility. In her federal lawsuit, she said the department created a hostile work environment because of her gender and sexual orientation and that she endured sexual harassment. The lawsuit said Dinsmore was subjected to sexual overtures by male co-workers who asked her to send nude photos and who sent nude photos of themselves via Snapchat. Male co-workers also told her female corrections officers were unfit for prison work because of an assumption they would have relationships with male prisoners.

## **DIVERSITY**

[Carolina Panthers' Justine Lindsay on Being the NFL's First Openly Transgender Cheerleader](#) [Lindsay Kimble, *People*, 6 June 2022]

*Justine Lindsay is ready for the Carolina Panthers to have a strong season—and for football fans to see a Black transgender woman shine. Back in March, Lindsay first announced that she'd been signed to the Carolina Panthers TopCats “as the first Transgender female.” In a new interview with BuzzFeed News, Lindsay, 29, said that no one outside of her family knew she was transgender—even her best friend—until she shared the TopCats news. She made the decision knowing that “whatever reaction I get from everyone, it does not matter.” The squad’s director, Chandalae Lanouette, told BuzzFeed that Lindsay had disclosed that she is transgender on her application, but that all that mattered when forming the team was the cheerleader’s incredible talent.*

[Rich Strike highlights horse racing’s lack of diversity](#) [Gary B. Graves, *The Associated Press*, 9 June 2022]

*When Rich Strike bolted into horse racing’s spotlight in a little over two minutes with his Kentucky Derby upset victory, he shared the stage with his handler, who has long toiled in the shadows constantly tending to the champion colt. Rich Strike’s attention stems for winning as a nearly 81-1 long shot, but groom Jerry Dixon Jr.’s new-found recognition comes from being one of few Black horsemen left in the sport once dominated by people who look like him. “I totally understand it because I was looking at something about the Derby and I saw how there were Blacks in the beginning,” said Dixon, 31 and a fourth-generation horseman who works with his father—trainer Jerry Sr.—for Eric Reed, who trains Rich Strike. A lack of diversity is one of the biggest obstacles to growth in horse racing, along with inconsistent safety and medication standards. The government stepped in to address safety and doping concerns, but there is no national program to increase diversity—by gender or race—in the industry.*

[State Department rethinks how it vets Foreign Service candidates to diversify ranks](#) [Jory Heckman, *Federal News Network*, 10 June 2022]

*The State Department is making the biggest change in decades to how it screens applicants seeking to join the Foreign Service. The agency, starting this month, will no longer use Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) scores as the sole criteria for who moves on to the next steps of the selection process. All Foreign Service applicants will still take the written test, but the State Department will no longer treat the FSOT as a “pass/fail gateway.” Instead, qualification evaluation panels will instead take a candidate’s personal narrative statements, and their background and qualifications—as well as their FSOT score—into consideration, to determine who will move on to the oral exam stage of the selection process. State Department officials, as part of a broader modernization of the agency, expect these changes will help [diversify the incoming ranks of the Foreign Service](#). Among its reforms, Secretary of State Antony Blinken appointed Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, a career employee with more than 30 years of experience, to serve as the agency’s first chief diversity and inclusion officer.*

## **EXTREMISM**

[41-year sentence for Ex-Air Force sergeant who killed guard](#) [The Associated Press, 3 June 2022]

*A former U.S. Air Force staff sergeant and alleged member of the “boogaloo” extremist movement was sentenced to 41 years in prison Friday for the fatal shooting of a federal security officer in the San Francisco Bay Area amid large 2020 protests against police brutality. Steven Carrillo, 33, had pleaded guilty earlier this year to a federal murder charge in the killing of David Patrick Underwood and to the*

*attempted murder of Underwood's colleague after federal prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty. In February, Carrillo admitted to posting messages on Facebook a day before the shooting asking anyone if they were "down to boog" and saying he was ready to act and not just talk. He also admitted firing 19 rounds from a homemade AR-15 rifle from the back of a white van being driven by a man he connected with online. "I aligned myself with the anti-government movement and wanted to carry out violent acts against federal law enforcement officers in particular," Carrillo said then.*

[Armed man arrested near Brett Kavanaugh's home charged with attempting to murder a U.S. judge](#)

[Katelyn Polantz, Joan Biskupic and Chandelis Duster, CNN, 8 June 2022]

*The Justice Department has charged the man who was arrested near Justice Brett Kavanaugh's house in Maryland early Wednesday with attempting or threatening to kidnap or murder a U.S. judge. The man, Nicholas John Roske, had called emergency authorities saying he was having suicidal thoughts and had a firearm in his suitcase, leading to his arrest, according to the criminal complaint. The affidavit said Roske was upset about the leak of the Supreme Court opinion related to abortion rights, an upcoming gun control case and the school shooting last month in Uvalde, Texas. "Roske stated that he began thinking about how to give his life a purpose and decided that he would kill the Supreme Court Justice" after breaking into his home. Roske planned to kill himself as well, the affidavit added.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Capitol attack's full story: Jan. 6 panel's chilling details](#) [Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick, *The Associated Press*, 8 June 2022]

*With personal accounts and gruesome videos the 1/6 committee expects Thursday's prime-time hearing to begin to show that America's tradition of a peaceful transfer of presidential power came close to slipping away. It will reconstruct how the president, Donald Trump, refused to concede the 2020 election, spread false claims of voter fraud and orchestrated an unprecedented public and private campaign to overturn Joe Biden's victory. The result of the coming weeks of public hearings may not change hearts or minds in politically polarized America. But the committee's year-long investigation with 1,000 interviews is intended to stand as a public record for history. A final report aims to provide an accounting of the most violent attack on the Capitol since the British set fire in 1814, and ensure it never happens again. Security will be tight for the hearings. Law enforcement officials are reporting a spike in violent threats against members of Congress.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[A U.S. woman pleads guilty to leading an all-female ISIS battalion](#) [Shauneen Miranda, NPR, 8 June 2022]

*A U.S. woman pleaded guilty Tuesday to operating an all-female military group for ISIS in Syria. Allison Fluke-Ekren, 42, who became the leader of the ISIS battalion known as Khatiba Nusaybah, taught women how to use AK-47s and explosive devices, according to the U.S. Justice Department. "Over 100 women and young girls, including as young as 10 or 11-years-old, received military training from Fluke-Ekren in Syria on behalf of ISIS," prosecutors said in a statement. Fluke-Ekren, who used to live in Kansas, was part of "terrorism-related activities" in Syria, Libya and Iraq between 2011 and 2019, according to prosecutors. In 2014, prosecutors said Fluke-Ekren told a witness about her desire to carry out an attack on U.S. soil.*

[Veterans Make Up Most of Proud Boys Members Indicted on Sedition for Jan. 6 Violence](#) [Konstantin Toropin and Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 7 June 2022]

*Nearly all of the five members of the Proud Boys extremist group who were indicted by federal authorities this week for seditious conspiracy related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol are veterans, according to court documents and the military services. The indicted men include an Army combat veteran with a Purple Heart, two Marines who served in the infantry and logistics, and a sailor recruit who washed out in boot camp. The only non-veteran of the group was Enrique Tarrío, the former chairman of the Proud Boys, a far-right group that formed in 2016 and played a key role in the violence in Washington last year. The Proud Boys' veteran status and alleged roles in Jan. 6 raise new questions about the connection between military service and extremist activity following similar sedition charges in January against the Oath Keepers and its founder Stewart Rhodes, an Army veteran and former paratrooper.*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Exclusive: You've got the right to disconnect!](#) [Tom Temin, *Federal News Network*, 10 June 2022]  
[COMMENTARY]

*Yes, work can be demanding. Any federal functionary who's participated in the launch of some new emergency or short deadline program knows what it's like. Congressional reaction to the pandemic spawned several high-dollar programs for overnight launching. Now teleworking has taken over worldwide, bringing all of the office computing resources into people's homes. Without concern for Beltway traffic, Metro mobbing, or MARC train delays, employees have extended their own workdays, in some cases by hours. You know how that goes. Well I'll work to 6:30 just this once. Well, I'll work to 7 just this once. Pretty soon, you're always working. It so happens, in the land of 35-hour workweeks and cradle-to-grave governmental safety nets—the European Union—after-hours email is verboten, at least in some places. Belgian Minister of the Civil Service Petra De Sutter called it the “right of disconnection.”*

[Why your favourite colour is probably blue](#) [Mark Ellwood, *BBC Future*, 2 June 2022]

*From a young age we are primed to choose a favourite colour, but strangely as we grow up our preference often changes—and it's largely due to influences outside our control. One [study](#) of 330 children between 4-11 years old found they used their favourite colours when drawing a “nice” character and tended to use black when drawing a “nasty” character (although other studies have failed to find such links, so emotional associations and colour are far from straightforward). [Social pressures](#)—such as the tendency for girls' clothes and toys to be pink—also have a strong effect on colour choice as children get older. Put simply, we have favourite colours because we have favourite things. At least that's the gist of [ecological valence theory](#), an idea put forward by Karen Schloss, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the U.S., and her colleagues. Her experiments showed that colours—yes, even beige—are far from neutral. Rather, humans layer meaning onto them, mostly drawn from our subjective histories, and so create high personal reasons to find one shade repellent or appealing in the process.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Belgian royals in DR Congo: King Philippe laments racism of colonial past](#) [Emery Makumeno and Cecilia Macaulay, *BBC News*, 8 June 2022]

*Belgium's King Philippe has decried the racism meted out in the Democratic Republic of Congo under the colonial rule of his ancestors. "This regime was one of unequal relations, unjustifiable in itself, marked by paternalism, discrimination and racism," he said. The king was speaking in the grounds of DR Congo's parliament in Kinshasa. "On the occasion of my first trip to Congo, here, in front of the Congolese people and those who still suffer from it today, I wish to reaffirm my deepest regrets for these wounds of the past," the 62-year-old monarch said. Belgium's colonial record in DR Congo was one of the bloodiest in Africa.*

[Dutch police leaders vow to tackle racism in their ranks](#) [*The Associated Press*, 8 June 2022]

*The most senior Dutch police officers vowed Wednesday to crack down on racism in their ranks after a documentary last month exposed a deep-rooted culture of bullying and discrimination. "The police top is clear: the organization has to set an example in tackling discrimination and racism," a statement on the police website said. The police announcement came after the documentary "De Blauwe Familie," or "The Blue Family," aired on national television last month around the second anniversary of the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minnesota police. Floyd's death sparked protests against racial injustice around the world, including in the Netherlands, a country often considered a beacon of tolerance, but which has in recent years been confronting entrenched discrimination in society.*

[Egypt races to restore Biblical sites along the "Holy Family Trail"](#) [Ahmed Shawkat, *CBS News*, 6 June 2022]

*Every year on the first of June, Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church and its members commemorate the holy family's escape to Egypt. According to the Biblical story, the Archangel Gabriel visited Joseph and told him to flee with his baby Jesus and his wife Mary to Egypt, to hide from King Herod of Judea, who would search for the child to kill him. The holy family is believed to have arrived in Egypt through Rafah, in the northeast of Egypt, and then moved across the country from place to place. During their 2,000-mile journey, they're believed to have made about 25 stops in eight of Egypt's modern-day governorates, or provinces. The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has been working since 2014 on developing and restoring all 25 locations along their path, hoping to lure visitors to travel the same route. Officials aim to get all of the sites registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List.*

[Priyanka Chopra blasts "shameful" Indian body spray ad promoting rape culture](#) [Kathleen Magramo, *CNN*, 6 June 2022]

*A television commercial for a male body spray has been taken off the air in India, after critics said it made light of gang rape. Bollywood celebrities including Priyanka Chopra, Richa Chadha and Farhan Khan are among those to have lambasted the commercial for Layer'r Shot, a brand of male fragrance, calling it "shameful," "disgusting" and "incredibly tasteless." Its controversial advert shows four men appearing to stalk a frightened-looking woman in a store before cutting to one of the men saying, "We're four, there's one, who takes the shot?" Only when the woman turns round does it become clear they are talking about the body spray—which one of the men then takes from a store shelf and uses. Many said the timing of the advert made it particularly insensitive, as it was broadcast just a week after a case in which a 17-year-old was allegedly raped by five men in the southern city of Hyderabad—the latest in a series of high-profile crimes against women and minority groups across the country.*

[Ryanair Afrikaans test: South African fury over language quiz](#) [BBC News, 6 June 2022]

*South Africans have condemned Irish airline Ryanair for making them take a test in the Afrikaans language on UK flights, calling it discriminatory. The country has 11 official languages, and many say they cannot understand Afrikaans—a language which was imposed during White-minority rule. The quiz contains questions on South African general knowledge. Ryanair defended the test, saying it weeds out those travelling on fraudulent South African passports. “Due to the high prevalence of fraudulent South African passports, we require passengers travelling to the UK to fill out a simple questionnaire issued in Afrikaans,” it said in a statement. “If they are unable to complete this questionnaire, they will be refused travel and issued with a full refund,” the airline continued.*

[Saxon Mullins: The woman changing Australia’s rape laws](#) [Tiffanie Turnbull, BBC News, 9 June 2022]

*Saxon Mullins says she once had romantic dreams of what her “first time” would be like. Instead she was paralysed by fear in a Sydney alleyway, aged 18, with a man she had met only minutes earlier. Ms Mullins has always maintained this incident—in 2013—was rape. It spurred her to push for legal reform in Australia, after a long court battle ended with a judge finding the man involved did not realise she hadn’t consented to sex. Last week—five years after she walked out of a court feeling defeated and powerless—her state introduced a law that would have jailed the man had it existed at the time. Under the new “affirmative consent” laws in New South Wales (NSW), a person must say or do something to communicate their consent for sex. Previously defendants could argue they reasonably believed they had consent—even if the alleged victim did nothing to convey it. Essentially, consent now relies on a person saying yes to sex, rather than the absence of them saying no.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Holocaust memorial chairman thanks pope for opening archives](#) [Frances D’Emilio, *The Associated Press*, 9 June 2022]

*The chairman of Israel’s Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial said he thanked Pope Francis on Thursday for giving scholars access to the Holy See’s World War II-era archives. Dani Dayan, who met with Francis at the Vatican, said the pontiff described the archives’ opening as “an issue of justice. Historians long clamored for access to the Vatican archives of letters and other documents spanning the years of Pius XII’s 1939-1958 pontificate, which overlapped with World War II. Over the decades, many have criticized Pius for not speaking out at the time against the mass deportations and systematic murder of Jews. The Vatican has long contended that Pius worked quietly behind the scenes to save lives during the Holocaust. But scholarly examinations of the wartime archives so far suggest that the people the Vatican worked hardest to save were Jews who had converted to Catholicism or who were children of Catholic-Jewish marriages.*

[Lawmakers urge VA to provide more information about accessibility to its websites for individuals with disabilities](#) [Sara Samora, *Stars and Stripes*, 6 June 2022]

*Ten lawmakers wrote a letter Monday to Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough urging the agency to improve its websites to make them more accessible to people with disabilities. “This lack of compliance is a problem for the one-quarter of all veterans with a service-connected disability, as well as the 26% of the general public with a disability, including veterans, VA employees and people who might seek information from the department on behalf of a veteran,” the lawmakers wrote in the letter dated June 6. In December 2020, the Department of Veterans Affairs Website*

*Accessibility Act of 2019 was signed into law. The act ordered the VA to conduct a report on the accessibility of the agency's websites, attached files and web-based applications for people with disabilities. The report was supposed to identify which sites, files and applications were not accessible and were not compliant with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A plan on how the VA would address and improve accessibility was also required.*

[Veteran status will be considered in deportation cases, new ICE directive says](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 7 June 2022]

*When non-citizen veterans are detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, policy dictates that service records are considered when deciding whether to force deportation. But that policy hasn't always been followed in recent years. So on Tuesday, the Homeland Security Department announced a [new directive](#) to formalize it. Agency-wide guidance will follow, according to a Tuesday release from DHS, "to ensure service in the U.S. military by a noncitizen or their immediate family members is taken into consideration when deciding whether to take civil immigration enforcement actions against them and what enforcement action to take, if any." The formalized policy also requires training on veteran deportation cases, as well as mandatory tracking and reporting. The GAO report also found that agents were not asking about military service, and in some cases, didn't know that they were supposed to.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Supreme Court Makes Federal Officials "Absolutely Immunized" From Personal Lawsuits](#) [Eric Katz, *Government Executive*, 8 June 2022]

*The Supreme Court on Wednesday made it even more difficult for U.S. citizens to bring lawsuits against federal employees who violate their constitutional rights, narrowing the already limited path to do so. In *Egbert v. Boule*, the conservative majority on the court ruled an individual business owner did not have cause to bring an action seeking damages against a federal agent accused of physically assaulting him. The ruling set a broad precedent that legal experts said would make it virtually impossible to sue federal officials. In the majority opinion written by Justice Clarence Thomas, the court said interfering with the conduct of Border Patrol agents by allowing claims of constitutional violations to proceed would damage national security and the court system is not equipped to assess damages against federal personnel. In her dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the new precedent created by the majority essentially already overturned *Bivens*, as it strips those who "suffer injuries at the hands of other federal officers...of an important remedy."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## RACISM

[Muslim prison guard fired for allegedly filing false report](#) [Pat Eaton-Robb, *The Associated Press*, 7 June 2022]

*A Connecticut prison guard has been fired after an investigation found he fabricated a complaint about being the target of anti-Muslim harassment at work. The Correction Department confirmed Tuesday that Officer Shem Brijbalis was terminated on April 7 for violating the department's "policies and directives related to harassment and unprofessional behavior." The department began an investigation in May 2021 after Brijbilas filed a complaint about a fake incident report found inside the Cheshire Correctional Institution that included numerous racial slurs and references to White supremacy.*

*Brijbilas said he was targeted by the document, which was made to look as if he had written it. Part of it reads, “The White man has done so much for us People that we need to shut up and take what is given without complaints.” The incident led to calls for a hate crimes investigation from the Connecticut chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.*

## **RELIGION**

[Transgender Lutheran bishop resigns over racism allegations](#) [Deepa Bharath, *The Associated Press*, 7 June 2022]

*An openly transgender cleric from San Francisco, who made history last year with an appointment as a bishop by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has resigned amid allegations of racism after firing the pastor of a predominantly Latino congregation. The Rev. Megan Rohrer, who uses the pronoun “they,” led one of the church’s 65 synods, overseeing nearly 200 congregations in Northern California and northern Nevada. They were elected in May 2021 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod. In a letter to the synod Saturday, Rohrer said they were resigning because of “the constant misinformation, bullying and harassment” they experienced after the synod voted to remove the pastor of Mision Latina Luterana on Dec. 12, the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a significant holiday for congregants of the Stockton, California, church.*

## **SEXISM**

[Despite confusing fitness standards, Air Force didn’t play favorites with female special tactics trainee, IG says](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 9 June 2022]

*An Air Force inspector general investigation into alleged favoritism in the service’s special operations enterprise concluded that leaders did not bend the rules for a female trainee who pulled out of contention for an elite combat job. Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall green-lit the investigation after an anonymous letter posted to social media in January alleged that service officials are turning a blind eye to the captain’s poor performance as she ventures to become the first female special tactics officer. But the four-month inquiry found that Air Force special warfare standards were not lowered specifically to benefit women. “Facts did not support the letter’s claims of gender-based preferential treatment,” the report said. “The letter’s assertions are based mainly on ... ‘cultural norms,’ knowledge of half the story and widely spread speculation fueled by special warfare students, instructor cadre and operators.”*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Dozens of abuse survivors sue FBI over Nassar investigation](#) [Brendan O’Brien, *Reuters*, 8 June 2022]

*More than 90 women filed lawsuits on Wednesday against the FBI, accusing former agents at the agency of botching the sex abuse investigation into onetime USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar, one of the law firms handling the case said. Olympic gymnastics gold medalists Simone Biles, Aly Raisman and McKayla Maroney were among the women who filed federal tort claims against the agency, seeking a total of more than \$1 billion, the California law firm of Manly, Stewart and Finaldi said in a statement. Federal tort claims law allows individuals who were injured due to negligence or a wrongful act or omission by the federal government to be compensated. The women accuse the FBI of mishandling credible complaints from numerous sources and failing to act on corroborating evidence*

*the agency received in July 2015. They say the FBI's inaction allowed Nassar to continue molesting young women and girls up until the time he was charged in 2016.*

[Service Members, Civilians Recognized for Sexual Assault Prevention, Victim Support](#) [*Space Force News*, 25 May 2022]

*The Secretary of Defense has prioritized eliminating sexual assault in the armed forces and taking care of victims. Across the Defense Department, its sexual assault response coordinators and members of military communities who ensure the secretary's goals are met. Last week, the department recognized the best of those individuals as recipients of the Liz Blanc Exceptional SARC of the Year Award and the Promoting Excellence in Prevention Award. The annual awards ceremony, this year held May 17 at the Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia, emphasized the importance of sexual assault prevention and response across the department, and also recognized the dedicated individuals who provide critical victim care and support as well as those working toward a prevention-focused community.*

[A sexual harassment scandal rocked Sonoma State. Now its president has resigned](#) [Colleen Shalby and Robert J. Lopez, *The Los Angeles Times*, 6 June 2022]

*Sonoma State President Judy Sakaki, who faced an outcry over her leadership amid a campus sexual harassment and retaliation scandal involving her and her husband, announced Monday that she is stepping down. The announcement marks the latest fallout from searing criticism over how California State University investigates and resolves sexual harassment and workforce retaliation complaints at its 23 campuses—a controversy that has shaken CSU's leadership ranks and led its chancellor to step down in February. The provost, Lisa Vollendorf, alleged she faced retaliation from Sakaki, her boss, after she reported the sexual harassment accusations about McCallum to top officials at the chancellor's office, records in the case show.*

[Why did so many soldiers do nothing to stop a sexual assault they saw coming?](#) [Kris Fuhr, *Task & Purpose*, 3 June 2022] [OPINION]

*During my time on the Office of Secretary of Defense Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, the words that came up repeatedly in every line of effort were "Survivor Centered." How could we ensure that we treated all service members in a trauma-informed manner that met the survivor's needs and restored their agency? A survivor-centered approach is one that restores trust in the process, eliminates retaliation, ensures frequent communication and manages the timeline from reporting through adjudication in a fair and efficient manner. At all times, it is focused on the needs of the survivor while ensuring due process and a fair trial for the perpetrator. The recent case of a captain in the Louisiana National Guard is the opposite of what the IRC intended.*

## VETERANS

[Despite promises of inclusivity, VA motto remains focused on men](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 9 June 2022]

*In his first message to Veterans Affairs staff shortly after confirmation in early 2020, Secretary Denis McDonough promised to make the department more "inclusive" as an institution, and to ensure that "VA welcomes all veterans, including women, veterans of color and LGBTQ veterans." But in the 16 months since, most VA facilities still welcome veterans with a motto emblazoned on the wall that is focused on men only, a message that is less-than-inviting for many veterans, critics say. "There have*

*already been so many good opportunities to change the motto and make it more inclusive to veterans who are women, transgender, gay,” said Kaitlynn Hetrick, government affairs associate at Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. Advocates say the motto is too specific for today’s diverse veterans community and have lobbied for a change to gender-neutral language: “To care for those who shall have borne the battle, and for their families, caregivers and survivors.”*

[Elite World War II soldiers to receive Congressional Gold Medal more than 70 years after the war](#)

[Celina Gore, CNN, 5 June 2022]

*When Army Capt. John Raaen, Jr. reached the shores of Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, it was already a scene of chaos. He was one of nearly 7,000 Rangers who served in World War II and were involved in daring missions around the world, according to the Descendants of World War II Army Rangers, a group of family members of these Rangers who are dedicated to honoring their service and preserving their legacy. Nearing the 78th anniversary of the landings at Normandy, the Army Rangers of World War II are one presidential signature away from receiving one of the nation’s highest awards, the Congressional Gold Medal, following a bipartisan effort in Congress to recognize their bravery and sacrifice. Today, Raaen is one of 13 Rangers who are still alive to tell their story.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)