

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 24 JUNE 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Biden to name 1st Native American U.S. treasurer to head Mint](#) [Fatima Hussein, *The Associated Press*, 21 June 2022]

*A Native American is being appointed U.S. treasurer, a historic first. The White House on Tuesday announced President Joe Biden's intent to appoint Marilynn "Lynn" Malerba as his administration establishes an Office of Tribal and Native Affairs at the Treasury Department, which will be overseen by the U.S. treasurer. The treasurer's signature appears on U.S. currency. "For the first time in history, a Tribal leader and Native woman's name will be the signature on our currency," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in remarks prepared ahead of the announcement. Malerba, who is the lifetime chief of the Mohegan Indian Tribe, previously worked as a registered nurse, according to the tribe's website, and has served in various tribal government roles. The tribe's reservation is located on the Thames River in Uncasville, Connecticut.*

[Pentagon committee on women in the military is back in business](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 22 June 2022]

*After taking in a break in 2021 while the Defense Department did a review of dozens of advisory boards, the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services is getting up and running again. Five chairs were sworn in on March 22, and Wednesday, [DOD announced a list of 14 new members](#), including retired female flag/general officers from across the services. DACOWITS first stood up in 1951, as the services began to integrate women as full-fledged troops for the first time. The committee holds public, quarterly meetings and publishes an annual report of recommendations. The [most recent report](#), published in 2020, recommended some broad moves, like increasing oversight and research on outreach programs targeted at recruiting young women, as well as incorporating best practices from the private sector for retention.*

[Statement by President Joe Biden on the 50th Anniversary of Title IX](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 23 June 2022]

*Fifty years ago, Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink—the first woman of color elected to Congress—led the effort to write and pass Title IX, which President Nixon signed into law. Title IX stated that no one should be excluded from participation or face discrimination on the basis of sex in any education programs or activity receiving federal assistance. It consisted of just 37 words of legislative language, but it transformed our nation. This is what America is all about: possibilities. Millions of women and girls have benefited from the change that Title IX helped make possible. More women and girls are participating and excelling in countless fields—from professional sports, to science, math, and technology than ever before. Yet there is more work to do. As we look to the next fifty years, I am committed to protecting this progress and working to achieve full equality, inclusion, and dignity for women and girls, LGBTQI+ Americans, all students, and all Americans.*

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## CULTURE

[The Army is now officially allowing more tattoos](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 23 June 2022]

*The Army [announced on Thursday](#) that soldiers are now allowed to have tattoos on their hands, behind their ears, and back of their neck, though they are limited to specific sizes and quantities. The Army's tattoo policy was last revised in 2015, removing the size and quantity limits on tattoos on the arms or legs. However, tattoos were still not allowed to be above the neckline or on the wrists and hands, aside from one ring tattoo. Now, soldiers can have one 1-inch visible tattoo on each hand, in addition to a ring tattoo and an unlimited amount of tattoos between the fingers that are not visible; one 2-inch tattoo on the back of their necks; and one 1-inch tattoo behind each ear. The tattoo on the neck is not allowed to wrap around the side of the neck, and the ear tattoos cannot go past the earlobe. While Army officials said on Thursday that it was an effort to mirror social norms, it's also a change the service hopes will boost recruiting numbers, which have been dropping across the board for all military branches.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[“Diamond Dorms”: Langley’s First Sergeants’ Rooms Now Used as Safe Space, Emergency Shelter](#)

[Dave Ress, *The Daily Press (Newport News, Va.)*, 19 June 2022]

*The top enlisted airmen at Langley Air Force Base thought they had a better idea for their first sergeant rooms—the spaces usually set aside for hospitality functions or meetings. The base’s First Sergeants Council decided to convert its four first sergeant rooms into places for airmen in emergency situations—for instance, a safe place to escape domestic abuse. Senior Master Sgt. Emily Mandarich, 1st Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, had a sense of what was needed when she arranged an ad hoc shelter on another base for one of her airmen. The airman had been raped and had decided to file a formal report. She needed a place to go so she wouldn’t be home when the roommate was notified he was under investigation. That’s when the idea came up of using one of that base’s first sergeant rooms as a shelter, “and provide everything she would need for a few days until she could return safely to her home to gather her things.” Mandarich said.*

[eBay seller says coins depicting Haitian migrant incident at border may be sold again](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, *NPR*, 17 June 2022]

*A Utah man has found himself in the middle of a controversy this week over a set of challenge coins he sold on eBay featuring a shocking image. The coins depict the now-infamous, real-life image of a Border Patrol agent chasing down Haitian migrants along the U.S.-Mexico border last September. “It’s strictly a business for me,” he told NPR over the phone. And it’s apparently a popular one at that. Once the eBay listing of this particular coin made its rounds, Christiansen said, it was “flying off the shelf” at one point. Interest was big enough to inflate the cost of one coin to nearly \$500. Though the coins are emblazoned with “U.S. Border Patrol” and phrases like “You will be returned” and “Reining it in since May 28, 1924” (the date the Border Patrol was established), the agency’s leadership maintains it is not an official Customs and Border Protection (CBP) coin.*

[First soldier ever awarded two Medals of Honor subject of new graphic novel](#) [Sarah Sicard, *Military Times*, 23 June 2022]

*George Armstrong Custer, known best for his “last stand” at Little Big Horn, was famously audacious in battle. However, what you might not know is that he had a little brother named Thomas Custer, who proved legendary in his own right. The younger Custer is the subject of the [latest in a series of graphic](#)*

[novels](#) by the Association of the United States Army commemorating Medal of Honor recipients. Thomas Custer was the first soldier in U.S. history to be given two Medals of Honor for two distinct and separate acts of valor. During the Civil War, Custer was just 16 and lied about his age to enlist in the Union infantry before commissioning as a cavalry officer. He was awarded his first Medal of Honor for a charge led against an enemy barricade at the Battle of Namozine Church in Virginia. On April 3, 1865, at just 20 years old, he took 14 prisoners and managed to snatch the Confederate flag from its holder's hands—creating chaos for the enemy, according to Defense Department records.

[Grinston's great expectations: SMA says he and the Army must change the service's culture](#) [Rick Maze, *AUSA Magazine*, 15 June 2022]

*Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston has taken on a unique mission, trying to convince an Army built on uniformity, drills and common procedure to embrace its many differences. In an interview, Grinston acknowledged the undertaking may be difficult, but the task isn't hard to understand. The Army needs to define the culture it finds acceptable, then stick to it, he said. That means acting when something happens outside the cultural norm. This is a bottom-up effort to build cohesive and self-correcting teams, where soldiers hold each other to higher standards and aren't afraid to take an active role in preventing bad conduct, especially sexual harassment and assault, discrimination and other issues that hurt the team's performance, he said.*

[How one young history buff is preserving the Gullah Geechee community on TikTok](#) [Maya Eaglin, *NBC News*, 20 June 2022]

*The Gullah Geechee people make up one of the oldest and most extraordinary communities in the United States. But if you've never heard of them, it might be because their history is often sifted out of textbooks, and the longevity of their culture is now in danger. This distinctly African American community began on the eastern coastal islands—spanning from Florida all the way up to North Carolina in the 1600s. Slaves, mostly from West Africa, lived in complete isolation from the continental United States, separated by rivers, swamps and waterways that weren't easy to cross. "That created an environment for us to create our own culture, outside of when White American culture developed," said Akua Page, a Gullah Geechee tour guide, entrepreneur and content creator from Charleston, South Carolina. But now, the language, and culture, face a new threat. "Gullah is now considered an endangered language, because my generation and younger—you're not going to find us fluent in speaking actual Gullah," Page, 28, said.*

[Internet data produce a racist, sexist robot](#) [Jill Rosen, *Futurity*, 21 June 2022]

*A robot operating with a popular internet-based artificial intelligence system consistently gravitates to men over women, White people over people of color, and jumps to conclusions about peoples' jobs after a glance at their face. The work is believed to be the first to show that robots loaded with an accepted and widely used model operate with significant gender and racial biases. Researchers will present a [paper](#) on the work at the 2022 Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (ACM FAccT). "The robot has learned toxic stereotypes through these flawed neural network models," says author Andrew Hundt, a postdoctoral fellow at Georgia Tech who co-conducted the work as a PhD student at Johns Hopkins University's Computational Interaction and Robotics Laboratory CIRL. "We're at risk of creating a generation of racist and sexist robots but people and organizations have decided it's OK to create these products without addressing the issues."*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Juneteenth celebrates just one of the United States' 20 emancipation days—and the history of how emancipated people were kept unfree needs to be remembered, too](#) [Kris Manjapra, *The Conversation*, 15 June 2022] [COMMENTARY]

*In my view as a scholar of race and colonialism, Emancipation Days—Juneteenth in Texas—are not what many people think, because emancipation did not do what most of us think it did. As historians have long documented, emancipations did not remove all the shackles that prevented Black people from obtaining full citizenship rights. Nor did emancipations prevent states from enacting their own laws that prohibited Black people from voting or living in White neighborhoods. In fact, based on my research, emancipations were actually designed to force Blacks and the federal government to pay reparations to slave owners—not to the enslaved—thus ensuring White people maintained advantages in accruing and passing down wealth across generations.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Openly gay Air Force command chief at Ramstein lends voice of personal experience for Pride Month](#) [Jennifer H. Swan, *Stars and Stripes*, 23 June 2022]

*Chief Master Sgt. Jeremiah Grisham walks through base housing every evening with his husband and his dog. But 15 years ago, Grisham never imagined he'd be where he is today: the top enlisted leader for the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing at Ramstein. As far as he knows, he's the only openly gay command chief in the Air Force. Until 2011, when the repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy took effect, openly gay and lesbian people were barred from serving in the U.S. armed forces. "I didn't really have a plan to make chief, let alone command chief," Grisham told *Stars and Stripes*. He shared his story during Pride Month, which is observed in June. Grisham, 42, came out to his military friends in explosive ordnance disposal and to his supervisors when he was a senior airman about 20 years ago.*

[Title IX: WNBA owner among women athletes running businesses](#) [Tim Booth, *The Associated Press*, 20 June 2022]

*Ginny Gilder wasn't well versed on what Title IX meant until she was a freshman at Yale, competing for the rowing team and taking part in one of the most famous protests surrounding the law. The co-owner of the WNBA's Seattle Storm was right in the middle of the "Yale Strip-In" in 1976 to protest inequities in the treatment of men and women rowers at the school. "What happened for me personally, I always say ... the experience radicalized me," Gilder said. "Because I grew up in New York City, Upper East Side. I was a Park Avenue, private school girl. I mean, you want to talk privilege, that would be me. So it was the first time I ever experienced discrimination." As Title IX marks its 50th anniversary this year, Gilder is one of countless women who benefited from the enactment and execution of the law and translated those opportunities into becoming leaders in their professional careers.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[U.S. orchestras including more work from women and minorities](#) [Alejandra O'Connell-Domenec, *The Hill*, 23 June 2022]

*American orchestras have long favored the repertoires of classical composers like Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky and have struggled to incorporate the music of living composers, especially those from marginalized groups. But a [new report](#) released this week from the Institute for Composer Diversity shows that orchestras are improving in terms of the diversity of composers whose music they perform. Now, work from women and minority composers makes up almost 23 percent of programmed work, a*

400 percent increase since 2015. “The goal of this report is to explore the repertoire programming of professional orchestras in the United States in the 2021-2022 season and to put that programming into context through a longitudinal examination of repertoire since 2015,” the report states. “To spoil the surprise, they are indeed programming differently. Much has improved, but there’s still more work to do.”

[Volunteer soldiers clean historic Black cemeteries: “They deserve respect.”](#) [Lianna Hubbard, *The Daily Press* (Newport News, Va.), 20 June 2022]

Each month, soldiers volunteer their Saturdays hauling lawnmowers, weed wackers and rakes to two overgrown lots beside a bus stop. They toil under the sun, restoring two of Hampton, Virginia’s oldest Black cemeteries. The city of Hampton doesn’t maintain either cemetery. Only a handful of volunteer organizations take care of the more than 900 graves dating to the 1850s. On a recent Saturday, 30 volunteer soldiers arrived not to just help, but to honor the sergeant who introduced them to the work. Local volunteer organizations began cleaning the cemetery decades ago. Mary Christian, the first African American woman to serve as a state delegate, began the initiative. She started by caring for her family’s graves. Many historic graves around the cemeteries have slipped into disrepair as loved ones aged or moved out of town. Christian called on volunteers, and a network of local organizations—including the Do Gooders of Hampton Roads and Serve the City—grew around her.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## DISCRIMINATION

[Fina bars transgender swimmers from women’s elite events if they went through male puberty](#) [BBC Sport, 20 June 2022]

Fina, swimming’s world governing body, has voted to stop transgender athletes from competing in women’s elite races if they have gone through any part of the process of male puberty. Fina will also aim to establish an “open” category at competitions for swimmers whose gender identity is different than their birth sex. The new policy, which was passed with 71% of the vote from 152 Fina members, was described as “only a first step towards full inclusion” for transgender athletes. The [34-page policy document](#) says that male-to-female transgender athletes could compete in the women’s category—but only “provided they have not experienced any part of male puberty beyond Tanner Stage 2 [which marks the start of physical development], or before age 12, whichever is later”. The decision was made during an extraordinary general congress at the ongoing World Championships in Budapest.

[Navy, Air Force and Marines Say Transfers over Discriminatory State Laws Possible, But No Sign of Requests Yet](#) [Konstantin Toropin and Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 23 June 2022]

Amid a growing trend of state laws that target members of the LGBTQ community, the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force all say that they have existing policies and procedures in place to help service members transfer to new duty stations if they feel unsafe or discriminated against. However, the Navy explained that, as of June, it “has not received, and therefore not approved, any requests for safety transfers for reasons related to state laws or policies that may affect LGBTQ+ Service members or their dependent.” It is not clear whether that figure is the result of absent need, disapproval at lower levels of command, or a lack of awareness by sailors. LGBTQ members of the military—especially transgender troops—have seen quickly shifting policies and rules the past few years. Despite these changes, and the policies that the services say are in place to help service members, life for LGBTQ troops or dependents

is hardly simple. The [War Horse reported](#) that some still experience open decimation or intimidation—even on base.

[S.C. law lets health care providers refuse non-emergency care based on beliefs](#) [Victoria Hansen, NPR, 21 June 2022]

*The law gives medical practitioners the freedom to refuse any nonemergency service they object to morally, such as family planning, end-of-life care or prescribing medication. Grooms insists the bill does not discriminate, explaining, “It’s based on procedure, not on patients.” But Ivy Hill, the community health program director for the LGBTQ rights group Campaign for Southern Equality, says you can’t separate a person from the medical procedure that the person needs. “It is absolutely targeting people,” says Hill. The new law states, “the right of conscience is a fundamental and unalienable right.” But Allen Chaney, the director of legal advocacy for the ACLU of South Carolina, counters that discrimination is discrimination. “Saying that your conscience compels your discrimination doesn’t make it lawful,” says Chaney. He expects the law to be challenged because discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited under federal law. The American Civil Liberties Union is challenging a similar medical conscience clause in Ohio.*

[Texas school district bans hooded clothing and dresses for most students, saying it will promote professionalism](#) [Raja Razek and Elizabeth Wolfe, CNN, 24 June 2022]

*A North Texas school district has [updated its dress code](#) for the upcoming school year to ban hooded clothing as well as dresses and skirts for many of its grade levels, reasoning that the change will help students in their future careers. The bans quickly elicited a backlash from parents, students and others who view the policy as unnecessarily restrictive, prompting one high school student to create a petition to “fight unreasonable dress code changes” announced by the Forney Independent School District (FISD). The new policy, which applies to all 18 of FISD’s schools, prohibits clothing such as hoodies, coats and jackets with hoods inside the school, and also forbids students in grades five and above from wearing dresses, skirts or skorts. The district emphasized in its announcement of the policy change that the shift is intended to prepare students to enter the workplace. It also said the policy gives FISD “a positive and distinctive identity” and reflects the “values of the schools and community,” according to a statement and video released by the district.*

[Title IX’s next battle: The rights of transgender athletes](#) [Eddie Pells, *The Associated Press*, 19 June 2022]

*When the gender equity legislation known as Title IX became law in 1972, the politics of transgender sports was not even a blip in the national conversation. Today, it is one of the sharpest dividing points in American culture. “We’re at a time where Title IX is going to be exploited and celebrated,” said Donna de Varona, the Olympic champion swimmer who heads the Women’s Sports Policy Working Group, which seeks a “middle way” to be inclusive of transgender athletes while also not “forcing” what it sees as unfair competition. “But people aren’t going to look at the underbelly because it’s complicated and nuanced. And it has always been complicated and nuanced.” There are some 15.3 million public high school students in the United States and a [2019 study](#) by the CDC estimated 1.8% of them—about 275,000—are transgender. The number of athletes within that group is much smaller; a [2017 survey](#) by Human Rights Campaign suggested fewer than 15% of all transgender boys and transgender girls play sports.*

[Transgender people in North Carolina no longer required to provide proof of surgery to correct birth certificates](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 23 June 2022]

*Transgender people born in North Carolina are now able to alter their gender marker on their birth certificates regardless of whether they have undergone gender-affirming surgery, a federal judge said Thursday. Under a consent judgment issued by U.S. District Court Judge Loretta C. Biggs, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and other state government officials must provide corrected birth certificates to transgender applicants regardless of whether they have undergone gender-affirming surgery. Thursday's ruling stems from a lawsuit filed by Lambda Legal last year on behalf of three plaintiffs who were unable to obtain birth certificates reflecting their gender identity.*

## DIVERSITY

[First Black head of U.S. Air Force Academy on diversity in armed forces](#) [CBS News, 20 June 2022] [VIDEO]

*Lt. Gen. Richard Clark made history as the first Black superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy when he was appointed to the position in 2020. He joins "CBS Mornings" to discuss his experience and the importance of diversity in the armed forces plus how the academy trains cadets for a changing combat landscape.*

[Mayra Flores becomes the first Mexican-born woman sworn in to Congress](#) [Ethan Cohen, Melissa Holzberg DePalo, Gregory Krieg and Rachel Janfaza, *CNN*, 21 June 2022]

*Republican Rep. Mayra Flores of Texas on Tuesday became the first Mexican-born woman to be sworn in to Congress. "My very first day in office and it's a memorable one for sure. This is what dreams are made of; faith, family, and hard work," Flores tweeted Tuesday. Flores won a special election in Texas' 34th Congressional District earlier this month to fill the seat vacated by former Democratic Rep. Filemon Vela, the first time a congressional seat has changed parties since the 2020 election. She bested a field of four candidates—two Republicans and two Democrats—in the all-party contest.*

[National Guard Education Center Gets 1st Woman Leader](#) [Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy, *National Guard Bureau Public Affairs*, 21 June 2022]

*The first woman to head the National Guard Professional Education Center took command of the training institution in a ceremony June 16 at the PEC's campus at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas. Col. Catherine Cherry took over from Col. Leland Blanchard, who is moving on to head the Army Guard's operations directorate at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. Cherry comes from U.S. Army North, where she was the deputy director of the Training and Exercise Directorate and the ARNORTH senior Guard adviser. "When I was presented the opportunity to select you to be our commander here at PEC, it took me less than a half a second to say yes to this," said Jensen. "You are the right officer with absolutely the right skill set and experience to take this organization to the next step."*

[Office Of Naval Intelligence Sailor Becomes Second Female Acoustic Intelligence Specialist In Navy History](#) [U.S. Navy Public Affairs, 22 June 2022]

*Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Kate Haynes has become the second woman in U.S. Navy history to qualify as an Acoustic Intelligence (ACINT) Specialist after recently completing the rigorous self-paced training program. In her new position, Haynes will not only contribute to the expertise essential*

to antisubmarine warfare (ASW) operations but will also serve as a mentor for women in a historically male dominated field. In addition to Haynes, only one other woman has qualified; Senior Chief Sonar Technician Joy Chase was the first woman to become an ACINT Specialist in 2017, just seven years after women were first allowed to work on submarines.

[Suns hire first woman of color to NBA assistant GM job](#) [The Associated Press, 21 June 2022]

The Phoenix Suns have hired Morgan Cato as an assistant general manager and vice president of basketball operations, becoming the first woman of color to hold an assistant GM title for an NBA franchise. Cato comes to Phoenix after spending nearly a decade with the NBA league office, where she most recently worked as the associate vice president of business operations for NBA's league operations department. "We're excited to welcome Morgan to the Valley and to the Suns organization," Suns general manager James Jones said in a statement. "With the league office, Morgan played a pivotal role on countless initiatives to grow the game and strategically develop for it to be played at its best. The addition of her background and knowledge will allow us to elevate our basketball operations in several areas."

## EXTREMISM

[AI is "No Magical Shortcut" FTC Says in Fighting Disinformation Online](#) [Alexandra Kelley, NextGov, 17 June 2022]

The Federal Trade Commission issued a warning regarding the government's use of artificial intelligence technology to fight disinformation, deepfakes, crime and other online concerns, citing the technology's inherent limitations with bias and discrimination. Detailed in a [report](#) sent to Congress, officials at the FTC said that AI technology cannot play a neutral role in mitigating social problems online, specifically noting that using it in this capacity could give way to illegal data extraction from online users and conduct improper surveillance. "Our report emphasizes that nobody should treat AI as the solution to the spread of harmful online content," said Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection Samuel Levine. "Combatting online harm requires a broad societal effort, not an overly optimistic belief that new technology—which can be both helpful and dangerous—will take these problems off our hands."

[Auction of Nazi items, AR-15 style rifles sparks criticism](#) [Stephen T. Watson, The Buffalo News (Buffalo N.Y.), 19 June 2022]

Critics are condemning as inappropriate a Northtowns auction that features for sale World War II-era Nazi paraphernalia and the same model of assault rifle used in the Tops Markets attack. "However they frame it, they are making a profit on a horrific history. And there's no avoiding that," said Despina Stratigakos, professor of architecture and vice provost for inclusive excellence at the University at Buffalo, who has studied the burgeoning market for Nazi memorabilia. "And it is a thriving business, because there is a lot of money to be made." Is it appropriate to sell items from the period when Nazis held power in Germany? "The Jewish community opposes the resale of Nazi paraphernalia and others items that glorify a culture that perpetrated large scale genocide and the murder of six million Jews and millions of global citizens," Rob Goldberg, CEO of the Buffalo Jewish Federation, said in a statement.

[Far right groups shift focus to LBGTQ events. Their hateful aim hasn't changed](#) [Emma Bowman, NPR, 20 June 2022]

*Two incidents in which far-right extremists targeted LGBTQ events earlier this month marked what appeared to be a shift in focus for White supremacist activists. Earlier iterations of Patriot Front and the Proud Boys were among the neo-Nazi factions who sought to intimidate the Charlottesville, Va., community at the “Unite the Right” rally in 2017. So, why would members of a White supremacist group—many of whom, in the case of the Idaho event, had traveled from other states—choose to target a local Pride event? Extremism researchers say the far-right activists are seizing on an opportunity of heightened attention around cultures that they have always seen as a threat to their hateful interests. “Groups like Patriot Front and the Proud Boys have relied on misogyny and homophobia as a core of their brands,” said Devin Burghart, president of the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights. “So it’s not surprising to see them step out front in the current moment.”*

[FBI: Naval reservist said he stormed Capitol with Proud Boys](#) [Michael Kunzelman and Nomaan Merchant, *The Associated Press*, 23 June 2022]

*A U.S. Naval reservist who was assigned to an agency that operates spy satellites told an undercover FBI agent that he stormed the U.S. Capitol with members of the far-right Proud Boys extremist group and has espoused anti-government and antisemitic ideologies, federal authorities said in court records unsealed on Thursday. Hatchet Speed was arrested on Wednesday in McLean, Virginia, on misdemeanor charges stemming from the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, including disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, court records show. The FBI says Speed, whose birth name was Daniel Abraham Speed, is a petty officer first class in the U.S. Naval Reserves and was assigned to the Naval Warfare Space Field Activity at the National Reconnaissance Office. After the Capitol riot, Speed bought at least 12 firearms over the span of a few months and spent more than \$50,000 at firearm and firearm-part retailers, a prosecutor said in a court filing. “This firearm-buying spree is alarming in light of statements that Speed has made in which he has espoused the use of violence to further his anti-government and anti-Semitic ideologies,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexis Loeb wrote.*

[He Liked the Pro-America, Pro-Constitution Vibe. But He Liked the Rage, Too.](#) [Sonner Kehrt, *The War Horse*, 23 June 2022]

*Since the attack on the U.S. Capitol a year and a half ago, where some 15% of the rioters had a military background, the military and veteran community has grappled with the problem of far-right extremism within its ranks. Just this month, the Justice Department indicted five members of the Proud Boys on charges of sedition stemming from the Jan. 6 insurrection. Four of them were veterans, including one who had been awarded a Purple Heart. But veterans’ presence can bring a perception of credibility to these groups—particularly militia groups, where their numbers are larger. Since at least the Vietnam war, the loss of support and identity that many veterans feel when they leave the military, combined with the effects of trauma and sometimes a feeling of being abandoned by their country, have left some veterans vulnerable to extremism, experts say. While in recent years, the military and veterans groups have been more willing to confront this problem than in the past, extremist groups know about and capitalize on this vulnerability.*

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## HUMAN RELATIONS

[The employees who transitioned genders during remote work](#) [Yvonne Marquez, *BBC Worklife*, 23 June 2022]

*When the world slowed down at the start of the pandemic, 36-year-old Jo Parcell had more time to contemplate their gender identity. Due to the safe space the pandemic provided, Parcell is one of a group of people who came out as transgender or non-binary while working remotely during the pandemic (not all transitions to non-binary pronouns and gender identity indicate a person is transgender, although this is how Parcell identifies). According to trans workers and experts interviewed by BBC Worklife, not only do they report a lack of comprehensive trans-inclusive policies around name and gender changes, but some now also say they face [social challenges](#) that may arise from colleagues disrespecting their new name and gender. The issue is particularly pertinent in the U.S., where conversations around gender identity and transgender visibility have increased in recent years.*

[Government Leadership and the Power of Mindfulness](#) [Andrew Feldman and Marc Margolius, *Government Executive*, 23 June 2022]

*When we think about the skills that executives need to be successful, such as making good decisions, regulating their emotions and stress levels, and forming strong and healthy relationships with others, an important foundation for those skills should be mindfulness. Luckily, there are simple but powerful steps that anyone in a leadership position, or hoping to be in one in the future, can take to gain its benefits. So what is mindfulness? It means taking time—even just a split-second pause in an important or stressful conversation—to be aware of one’s thoughts and emotions. It also means consciously choosing how one responds rather than reacting impulsively or defensively. While the concept might strike some as touchy-feely, it’s a [well-researched technique](#) with proven benefits for those who manage large and complex organizations—and one that’s especially useful in a government environment where a hasty decision can face harsh public scrutiny.*

[The Military Pushed Me to Listen and My Worldview Shattered. Now, I Can Rebuild.](#) [Amanda Huffman, *The War Horse*, 22 June 2022] [COMMENTARY]

*Growing up in a lower-middle-class family in a small central California town, I lived a sheltered life as a skinny, shy, quiet White girl surrounded by people like me. Although I could run fast and far, managing one pushup on my toes was a struggle—let alone the 18 pushups required for the physical fitness test. Throughout my training, I began to learn about the Air Force: rank, saluting, core competencies, mission, and more. I knew I had to be ready. No one told me I would have to prove myself, but I have always had to prove myself. And joining the military as a woman was likely to be a challenge. At the time, I had no idea every aspect of who I was would change, down to what I believed and how I viewed the world. I expected that joining the military would lead me to become more conservative—more rigid, less flexible. These are the rules, and they’re in black and white. I assumed seeing the world and meeting new people would reinforce what I already believed. Instead, over the years, I have seen my convictions slowly crack and crumble under the weight of all I learned and saw.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Colombian voters elect country’s first Black vice president](#) [Manuel Rueda and Astrid Suarez, *The Associated Press*, 20 June 2022]

*As Colombia’s voters put aside a longtime antipathy to leftists and chose one as their new president, they also carved out another milestone—electing the country’s first Black vice president. When former leftist rebel Gustavo Petro takes office as president on Aug. 7, a key player in his administration will be Francia Marquez, his running mate in Sunday’s runoff election. Marquez is an environmental activist*

*from La Toma, a remote village surrounded by mountains where she first organized campaigns against a hydroelectric project and then challenged wildcat gold miners who were invading collectively owned Afro-Colombian lands. The politician has faced numerous death threats for her environmental work and has emerged as a powerful spokeswoman for Black Colombians and other marginalized communities.*

[Dame Kelly Holmes shares relief at coming out as gay](#) [George Bowden, *BBC News*, 19 June 2022]

*Dame Kelly Holmes says she is “getting rid of that fear” as the Olympic champion reveals she is gay. In an interview with the Sunday Mirror, the 52-year-old said she was both nervous and excited about coming out. “I needed to do this now, for me. It was my decision. I’m nervous about saying it. I feel like I’m going to explode with excitement,” she said. “Sometimes I cry with relief. The moment this comes out, I’m essentially getting rid of that fear.” Dame Kelly became only the third woman in history and the first Briton since Albert Hill 84 years earlier to win the 800m and 1500m Olympic double at the Athens games in 2004. She has achieved seven gold, eight silver and four bronze Olympic, Commonwealth and European medals throughout her athletic career.*

[French burkini ban upheld as Grenoble loses legal challenge](#) [Robert Plummer, *BBC News*, 21 June 2022]

*France's highest administrative court has upheld a ban on full-body “burkini” swimsuits in public pools, rejecting an appeal by the city of Grenoble. Last month, Grenoble authorised all swimwear, including burkinis, sparking a legal battle with the government. Burkinis are worn largely by Muslim women as a way of preserving modesty and upholding their faith. But the court said it could not allow “selective exceptions to the rules to satisfy religious demands”. The dispute went all the way to the Council of State after a local court in Grenoble suspended the ban on the grounds that it seriously undermined the principle of neutrality in public services. Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin also weighed in, describing the policy as an “unacceptable provocation” that was contrary to French secular values. France has strict laws on which swimming costumes can be worn and the issue of religious expression in public places is divisive.*

[“I had PTSD”: Culture of abuse in British gymnastics leaves lasting legacy on its victims](#) [Amy Woodyatt and Amanda Davies, *CNN*, 21 June 2022]

*For Claire Heafford, the abuse she says she suffered as a young gymnast has left a lasting mark on her life. Heafford, who’s now in her 40s, told *CNN Sport* she experienced symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after competing in British gymnastics in the 1990s, when she alleges, she was physically and emotionally abused. Now, she says she finally feels “vindicated,” after years fighting for reform in the sport through the organization she co-founded, *Gymnasts for Change*. Last week, an independent review concluded that British Gymnastics allowed for a culture of physical and emotional abuse and failed to provide a safe environment for gymnasts, with children body-shamed, belittled and abused. Released Thursday, [barrister Anne] Whyte’s [300-plus page review](#) concluded that British Gymnastics should have been aware of the “bullying, harassment and excessive control” that occurred in training clubs between 2008 and 2020.*

[Japan: Osaka court rules ban on same-sex marriage constitutional](#) [Zubaidah Abdul Jalil, *BBC News*, 20 June 2022]

*Japan’s ban on same-sex marriages does not violate the constitution, a district court in Osaka has ruled. The ruling dealt a blow to gay couples and rights activists, after another district court in Sapporo ruled*

*in 2021 that the failure to recognise same-sex marriage was “unconstitutional”. Japan’s constitution defines marriage as one between “both sexes”. It is the only country in the G7 group of developed nations that doesn’t allow people of the same sex to marry. Opinion polls show a majority of the general public is in favour of allowing same-sex marriage in Japan. Several areas—including Tokyo—have begun issuing partnership certificates, to help same-sex couples rent properties and gain hospital visitation rights.*

[Leaked barracks orgy video gets hundreds of British paratroopers barred from NATO mission](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 20 June 2022]

*British paratroopers are being barred from deploying to a NATO exercise in the Balkans after videos leaked online of soldiers having an orgy with a civilian woman in the barracks. According to The Times of London, military police earlier this month began investigating paratroopers of the 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment. The Times reported on June 7 that video clips “were circulated on social media” of a civilian woman engaging in a consensual orgy with the paratroopers in the Melville Barracks “while dozens watched.” The decision to bar the battalion from deployment came less than a week after Gen. Sir Patrick Sanders took over as the head of the U.K. Army. On June 16, Sanders sent a letter to senior leaders, calling the paratroopers’ behavior “unacceptable, corrosive and detrimental to the army’s reputation.” While the investigation determined that “no crime had been committed,” The Times reported, Sanders said the behavior and subsequent videos could have been used to “denigrate women.”*

[Transgender players banned from international rugby league](#) [Frances Mao, *BBC News*, 21 June 2022]

*Transgender players have been banned from women’s internationals while rugby league’s governing body does further research on its inclusion policy. International Rugby League (IRL) said it wanted to “balance the individual’s right to participate... against perceived risk to other participants”. Scotland Rugby League’s disability and inclusion director Mike Finn resigned from his post over the ruling. “IRL has decided we are not to be an inclusive sport,” he tweeted. He added that IRL had “yielded to a campaign of hate”. “Solidarity with all trans people, will be an ally always,” Finn concluded. The IRL’s move comes as a number of sports are considering transgender inclusion.*

## MISCONDUCT

[California’s top military brass rocked by homophobia, antisemitism, indecent exposure scandals](#) [Paul Pringle, *The Los Angeles Times*, 23 June 2022]

*A top general in the California National Guard violated government rules by having subordinates ferry his mother on a shopping trip, perform other personal errands for him and complete a part of his cybersecurity training. A second general allegedly made antisemitic and homophobic remarks, including that Jews are unrepentant sinners and that gay marriage is a reason terrorists attack the United States. And a colonel who serves as a Guard finance officer and had been recommended for promotion to general has been charged with exposing himself to three women in a restaurant. Those are among the latest embarrassing episodes to tarnish the Guard, a branch of the California Military Department that has been beset in recent years by allegations of cover-ups and retaliation against whistleblowers, a Times investigation based on Guard documents and interviews has found. Current and former Guard members say there is a widespread perception in the organization that high-ranking officers who engage in misconduct are protected from significant discipline.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## RACISM

[New York man charged with a hate crime after threatening and yelling at a Black lieutenant “you’ll never be White” in road rage incident, police say](#) [Katie Balevic, *Insider*, 18 June 2022]

*A New York man has been charged with a hate crime following a racist road rage incident that was caught on camera. The man, identified by police as 60-year-old William J. Ryan, claimed to be an “off-duty trooper” in Newburgh on June 11 when he intercepted Robert McLymore and his 18-year-old son, hurling racist slurs at the pair, who are Black. “I’m an off-duty trooper, you fucking stupid n---er,” Ryan said to McLymore, according to a video of the incident. “You’ll never be White! You’ll never be White!” McLymore, a pastor as well as a lieutenant with the Town of Wallkill Police Department, told CNN the encounter began when a man, later identified by police as Ryan, driving a red truck got angry and sped around him after McLymore slowed his car to let another car pass him. According to a press release from the Newburgh Police Department, Ryan was arrested for Menacing Second Degree as a Hate Crime, which is a Class E felony.*

[A racist Juneteenth sign at a Maine insurance agency sparks backlash online](#) [Jonathan Franklin, *NPR*, 22 June 2022]

*Residents in the town of Millinocket, Maine, say they are outraged and disappointed after a local insurance agency displayed a racist sign remarking on the Juneteenth holiday. “Juneteenth—it’s whatever... We’re closed. Enjoy your fried chicken & collard greens,” the sign stated in a large font. It was taped to the front of Harry E. Reed Insurance Agency in Millinocket on Monday. Steve Golieb, chair of the Millinocket Town Council, released a statement on Tuesday condemning the sign. Both Harry E. Reed Insurance Agency and Progressive insurance company did not respond to NPR’s request for comment.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## RELIGION

[Justices rule religious schools must get Maine tuition aid](#) [Mark Sherman, *The Associated Press*, 21 June 2022]

*The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that Maine can’t exclude religious schools from a program that offers tuition aid for private education, a decision that could ease religious organizations’ access to taxpayer money. The 6-3 outcome could fuel a renewed push for school choice programs in some of the 18 states that have so far not directed taxpayer money to private, religious education. The most immediate effect of the court’s ruling beyond Maine probably will be felt next door in Vermont, which has a similar program. The decision is the latest in a line of rulings from the Supreme Court that have favored religion-based discrimination claims. The court is separately weighing the case of a football coach who says he has a First Amendment right to pray at midfield immediately after games.*

[Thousands flock to Stonehenge to mark summer solstice](#) [*The Associated Press*, 21 June 2022]

*Thousands of druids, pagans and New Age revelers greeted the summer solstice at Stonehenge on Tuesday, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. About 6,000 people gathered at the ancient stone circle in southern England to watch the sun rise at 4:49 a.m. on a clear, crisp morning, local police said. It was the first time revelers have been permitted to gather at the Neolithic monument to celebrate the solstice since 2019. The sunrise was streamed online in 2020 and 2021 because of the*

coronavirus pandemic. The crowds raised their arms in the air and cheered as the sun rose over the horizon. Some performed pagan rituals and sang songs, and many hugged the ancient stones as part of the ceremony. Plenty others awakened early and made the trip there just to soak up the atmosphere.

[Worcester middle school stripped of Catholic status for flying BLM, Pride flags](#) [Sam Turken, *WGBH Public Television*, 16 June 2022]

*The Diocese of Worcester announced on Thursday that a Worcester Jesuit middle school may no longer call itself Catholic after continuing to fly Pride and Black Lives Matter flags on its campus. In his decree, Bishop Robert McManus argued the flags contradict Catholic faith and said the Nativity School of Worcester failed to follow his demands that the flags be taken down. As a result, the school may no longer host Mass or the sacraments on its campus, or sponsor them elsewhere around the Diocese of Worcester. Founded in 2003, the Nativity School is an accredited, tuition-free, all-boys school mainly serving students of color from low-income communities. School officials say they've kept the flags raised since January 2021 after students called on them to express support making "our communities more just and inclusive."*

## **SEXISM**

[Texas congressman blames women for "reduced" standards in the military](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 16 June 2022]

*Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas) wants to stop women from being drafted into the military because the hundreds of thousands of women currently serving are driving the standards down, he said in a Tweet on Wednesday. Roy, who is running for re-election to represent Texas' 21st district, tweeted that women volunteering in the military "cause the standards to be reduced." He did not specify which standards he believed women who volunteer to serve in the military were lowering. Roy, who has never served in the military, is far from the first lawmaker—or pundit—to claim without evidence that military standards are being reduced because women are joining the ranks. But his comments also stand in contrast with his own official biography, which says he is "committed to...supporting the men and women of the military."*

[Title IX: Strides for women of color in sports lag under law](#) [Annie Ma and Cliff Brunt, *The Associated Press*, 22 June 2022]

*Once Tina Sloan Green took over the lacrosse program at Temple University in the years after the passage of Title IX, the landmark gender-equity law, she never stopped thinking about the girls who weren't playing. At practices during the 1970s, Sloan Green, the first Black woman to coach a college lacrosse team, noticed neighborhood kids peering through the fences at her players as guards kept them out. And when high school athletes were welcomed on the university's fields for training camps, most were White and from predominantly White suburban schools. "That was very, very disturbing to me to see that," she said. "And that was—that was the reality that I had to face ... Title IX was a complete help for women in sports but in my mind, there were still disparities." For girls of color, some women's college sports, such as lacrosse, equestrian, rowing or even softball, are ones they are unlikely to be exposed to in grade school. The reasons vary, though availability and costs can be major challenges for youth programs.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Another airman has gone public on social media with sexual assault allegations](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 20 June 2022]

*A second airman in fewer than two weeks took to social media to recount an alleged sexual assault in the Air Force. Airman 1st Class Heather King said on TikTok on Sunday that her 2021 reporting of an alleged sexual assault she experienced two years ago has led to her being retaliated against by her supervisors, shaking her faith in the Air Force. “If you’re not very familiar on reporting sexual assaults in the Air Force or in the military in general, just know that they are going to do everything in their willpower to get you discharged,” she said in her TikTok, which was viewed 13,000 times on the popular Facebook page Air Force amn/nco/snco. Service members using social media to identify themselves and report problems in their units is a remarkable break from the military’s usual policy, which is for service members to stick with their chain of command and resolve issues “in-house” behind closed doors. But for service members like Suchanek and King, who feel as if their careers or personal lives are already wrecked by alleged neglect or retaliation, taking to social media makes sense as a last resort.*

[Congress alleges “shadow” probe by Commanders owner Snyder](#) [Ben Nuckols, *The Associated Press*, 22 June 2022]

*Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder conducted a “shadow investigation” that sought to discredit former employees making accusations of workplace sexual harassment, hired private investigators to intimidate witnesses, and used an overseas lawsuit as a pretext to obtain phone records and emails, according to a document released by a House committee on Wednesday. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is investigating the Commanders’ workplace culture following accusations of pervasive sexual harassment by team executives of women employees. It released the memo ahead of a hearing Wednesday in Washington that featured testimony from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, appearing remotely from New York. The [29-page memo](#) alleges Snyder tried to discredit the people accusing him and other team executives of misconduct and also tried to influence an investigation of the team conducted for the NFL by attorney Beth Wilkinson’s firm.*

[Soldier “Sextortion” Cases Surged During the Pandemic, Army Statistics Show](#) [Drew F. Lawrence, *Military.com*, 22 June 2022]

*The number of “sextortion” cases reported to the Army’s Criminal Investigation Division almost tripled during the last three years, according to statistics provided by the division to Military.com, as some experts blame isolation during the pandemic. Sextortion is a category of sex crimes in which a scammer threatens to distribute or publicize someone’s “sensitive material” in exchange for money or sexual favors, [according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation](#). The material is sexual in nature and can include video recordings, pictures or messages used for blackmail and without consent from the victim. Ursula Palmer, executive director of the Military & Veteran Programs at the [Cybercrime Support Network](#), or CSN, was unsurprised at the statistics and said that this increase could be because of isolation and loneliness experienced by service members, veterans and families during the pandemic. Palmer, who is also a Gold Star spouse, recognizes that sex crimes are, in general, disproportionately [underreported](#), with experts pointing to the social stigmas surrounding being a victim.*

## SUICIDE

[Family says air base in Japan denied spouse mental health referral](#) [Seth Robson, *Stars and Stripes*, 20 June 2022]

*A spouse who took his own life last year at this airlift hub in western Tokyo was denied a referral to the base mental health clinic despite a history of prior suicide attempts, according to his family. An airman with base security on Feb. 16, 2021, discovered the body of Trevor Balint, 34, originally of Hubbard, Ohio, in a storage unit in the housing tower where he and his wife, Britni Balint, a Defense Department civilian programmer and analyst, lived on Yokota Air Base. Balint attempted suicide four times between 2010 and 2018, according to the death investigation by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, which cited his medical and mental health records. But those same records show that on April 7, 2020, Balint was considered an “intermediate risk,” with passive thoughts of suicide, Mott told Stars and Stripes by Facebook Messenger on June 8. A month later, on May 6, 2020, he sought mental health care at the 374th Medical Group but was turned away because the COVID-19 pandemic had restricted access to health care on base, Mott said.*

## VETERANS

[Biden praises Wounded Warriors as the “spine of America”](#) [The Associated Press, 23 June 2022]

*President Joe Biden on Thursday welcomed members of [Wounded Warriors Project](#) to the White House for the annual solider ride, praising the current and former military service members as the “spine of America.” More than two dozen veteran and active duty troops rode two laps around the South Lawn as part of the multi-day cycling event. The tradition of the soldier ride at the White House began in 2008. “You are the best that America has to offer,” Biden said. “You embody the soul and spirit of the nation.” The Wounded Warrior Project was founded in 2003 and assists veterans as well as families and caregivers of service members who suffered a physical or mental injury or illness while serving in the military on or after Sept. 11, 2001.*

[Black veteran groups seek policy agenda on racial inequities](#) [Aaron Morrison, *The Associated Press*, 23 June 2022]

*As a young man in Memphis, Tennessee, Robert Dabney Jr. wanted to blaze a path that could set his family up for a better life. So two weeks after high school graduation in 1998, at age 18, he joined the U.S. Army. During nine years of service that included two tours in Iraq, Dabney was a combat medical specialist. But after he left the Army in 2007 and returned to Memphis, married with children, he struggled to see what he’d gained from his service. “I had exchanged my youth, ambition and vigor for a future that is limited just because of my mental health,” said Dabney, who was formally diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression in 2013. His experience seeking treatment through the veterans health care system was plagued with challenges, he said. After navigating the system as a Black veteran, he wondered if he might help others find more culturally competent services that the federal government seemed ill-equipped to provide.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)