

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 22 JULY 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[After 246 years, Marines set for their first Black four-star general](#) [Rachel Chason and Dan Lamothe, *The Washington Post*, 20 July 2022]

In the late 1980s, Maj. Ronald Bailey met a young Marine he knew had promise. Michael E. Langley was a powerlifter who dominated flag football games, an intellectual who set records for how many training courses he wrote and a problem-solver whose bosses frequently tapped him to mediate workplace disputes. More than three decades later, Langley will be under the microscope yet again after being nominated to lead all U.S. military forces in Africa as chief of U.S. Africa Command. His Senate confirmation hearing is Thursday, and if he's confirmed, Langley would become the first Black person to receive four stars since the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps 246 years ago. Over that time, more than 70 White men have risen to the Marines' highest ranks.

[Legendary Blue Angels Squadron Announces First Female Jet Pilot](#) [Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 18 July 2022]

The Navy's aerial demonstration squadron—the Blue Angels—announced that it has selected its first female jet pilot in the unit's 76-year history. In a social media post Monday, the Blue Angels announced that F/A-18 Super Hornet pilot Lt. Amanda Lee has been selected to join the famed unit. Lee is currently assigned to the "Gladiators" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106 out of Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia. The Blue Angels' first female pilot was Marine Maj. Katie Cook, who joined the squadron in 2015 to fly the KC-130 Hercules logistics aircraft affectionately known as "Fat Albert."

[The military may be required to start tracking suicides by job assignments](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 21 July 2022]

Defense Department officials would be required to better track whether certain military jobs lend themselves to higher incidents of mental health distress and suicide attempts under language inserted in the Senate's annual defense authorization bill draft. The provision's sponsor—Sen. Angus King, I-Maine—calls the idea a common-sense move to get as much information as possible to understand and prevent why some troops and veterans consider self-harm. Army and Marine Corps officials have reported 72 suicides among service members so far in 2022, down more than 10% from the same time in 2021. Navy, Air Force and Space Force officials have not publicly released midyear figures.

CULTURE

[After more than 30 years, a multiday women's Tour de France is back](#) [Tom Goldman, *NPR*, 22 July 2022]

Bicycle racing's most famous competition, for men, ends Sunday in Paris. But on the same day, in the same city, another version of the Tour de France begins. And this one is for the world's best female riders. It's been more than 30 years since women have competed in a viable, multistage Tour de France. In 1955, a five-stage loop from Paris to Normandy marked the first women's Tour de France. But it only lasted a year. It wasn't until 1984 that organizers tried again. A multistage event called the Tour de France Feminin ran for six years. It featured three wins for French cycling legend Jeannie Longo. She won the last event in 1989. That Tour folded, like other versions after, because of uneven media coverage and sponsorship. The sport's governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), has been raising minimum salaries for women competing on professional teams. Team budgets are growing, as is prize money across the board.

[Air Force colonel goes scorched earth on fellow officers in fiery resignation letter](#) [Max Hauptman, *Task & Purpose*, 20 July 2022]

Air Force Col. Kenneth Bode was, until very recently, the commander of the 959th Medical Operations Squadron, based out of the San Antonio Military Medical Center at Joint-Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. On July 19, 2022, though, Bode resigned his command a day before his scheduled departure, and spared no one in a memo detailing what he called a command that is "rife with cronyism and sycophancy." At least according to Bode's memo, the problems within this command are nothing new. "Following my formal complaints to the 59th MDW/CC about widespread harassment, defamation, inappropriate behavior, and toxic leadership, a commander-directed investigation (CDI) was conducted that examined interference with command authority, failure to maintain a healthy command climate, abuse of authority, and disrespectful/libel comments," reads the memo. "The investigating officer (IO) made findings substantiating five specific concerns among the nine I had raised."

[Army soldier uses TikTok to talk about trauma and to break stigmas. "I won't stop"](#) [Alison Cutler, *The Sacramento Bee* (Sacramento, Calif.), 21 July 2022]

*After serving in Iraq, Army Capt. Ryan Griffis had another challenge ahead of him: coming home. Griffis, a husband and father, told KKTV in an interview that he struggled to adapt to being home after being deployed, and was afraid of showing it because there's a stigma about weakness in the military. Then, he found a way to ground himself and help others—by posting videos on TikTok. "I won't stop until I'm heard around the world," Griffis writes on his videos. Millions of people are listening. Griffis' TikTok account @mrgriffis, where he shares his stories of trauma and difficulties with the hope that it will help other military members who experience similar problems, now has 1.4 million followers. "I just want people to know it's alright to not be alright," Griffis told *The Gazette*. "I want people to know that no matter what they're going through, they can make it through."*

[Beads, felt and bark are turned into masterpieces at Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#) [Max Barnhart, *NPR*, 19 July 2022]

Since this blog began in 2014, we have covered the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. It's a two-week event in Washington, D.C., that brings artists and artisans from around the world to share their crafts, their songs, their food. From our global perspective, we were most interested in talking to crafters from the

Global South—countries that may lack the resources of Western nations but that are incredibly resourceful when it comes to creating objects of beauty from the most ordinary elements. That would be: yak hair, tree bark and simple beads. In one tent, there's an intricate necklace so large that it covers the shoulders and chest—and it's not just decorative. It's a gift for engaged women. Family and friends tie knots into the strands at the bottom of the necklace, which serve as a kind of ledger. The knots indicate how much livestock, for example, they will be giving to the couple as a gift for the wedding.

[Cities and Towns Embrace “Summer Fridays” for Their Workers](#) [Daniela Altimari, *Route Fifty*, 19 July 2022]

The concept of “summer Fridays” is taking hold in the public sector. Once a perk enjoyed mainly by tech workers and creative types, the push for a shorter workweek and flexible hours during summer months is spreading to the government workforce. The trend is driven by increased competition for workers as well as a growing recognition of the benefits that a balanced work life can offer, for both the employee and the employer. A [2019 survey](#) by Gartner Inc., a technology research and consulting firm, found that 55% of all employers offered summer Fridays in 2019, a 43% jump over the 2012 number. Some communities have adopted summer Fridays as a matter of necessity. In Hood River, Oregon, City Hall, the public works department and the fire station office are all closed Fridays until at least Labor Day due to a shortage of workers.

[CSAF Leadership Library: July 2022](#) [Charles Q. Brown, *SECAF Public Affairs*, 21 July 2022]

As we continue to Accelerate Change to the Air Force our Nation needs, we must be mindful of organizational lessons from the past. Historical analysis allows us to synthesize patterns in the character of warfare and incorporate them into our future Air Force design through initiatives like Action Order D and the Operational Imperatives. In “Winning the Next War: Innovation and the Modern Military,” Stephen Rosen analyzes military and technological innovations during war and peacetime and offers prescriptions for managing uncertainty. We remain the world’s most lethal and professional Air Force because of our Airmen. Continue to elevate your leadership skills by challenging your thinking. Fly, Fight, & Win...Airpower Anytime, Anywhere!

[Emmett Till’s house, Black sites to get landmarks funds](#) [Don Babwin, *The Associated Press*, 19 July 2022]

Emmett Till left his mother’s house on Chicago’s South Side in 1955 to visit relatives in Mississippi, where the Black teenager was abducted and brutally slain for reportedly whistling at a White woman. A cultural preservation organization announced Tuesday that the house will receive a share of \$3 million in grants being distributed to 33 sites and organizations nationwide that are important pieces of African American history. Some of the grant money from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund will go to rehabilitate buildings, such as a bank in Mississippi founded by businessman Charles Banks, who won praise from Booker T. Washington; the first Black masonic lodge in North Carolina; and a school in rural Florida for the children of Black farm workers and laborers.

[Encore: 50 years ago, PFLAG’s founder marched with her gay son. How’s it keeping up in 2022?](#) [Neda Ulaby, *NPR*, 22 July 2022]

Jeanne Manford made headlines 50 years ago when she marched with her openly gay son at the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade—an early Pride event in New York City. Such behavior from a straight mom was unheard of at the time. The following year, Manford founded an organization for people like herself—PFLAG, which originally stood for Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays. The

culture has changed in immeasurable ways, says PFLAG board member Kay Holladay. She remembers how in the early 1980s when her son came out to her, she did not know any gay people. Her Southern Baptist church in Norman, Okla. did not accept LGBTQ members. “We had nobody to talk to. We had no other families. We had no resources.” Holladay and her husband felt lost and isolated. They went to the public library to educate themselves but found nothing of use. However, they read about PFLAG in the syndicated advice column Dear Abby and that inspired them to co-found a local chapter. This year, they were grand marshals of Norman’s Pride parade.

[Expert: Survey shows morale drop among feds—but similar issues weigh on wider workforce](#) [Nathan Abse, *Federal Soup*, 18 July 2022]

The Office of Personnel Management conducts the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS), collecting the opinions and measuring the relative engagement and morale of feds on an annual basis. A leading nonprofit good government group, the Partnership for Public Service, follows up using the OPM’s survey data to create its Best Places to Work analysis. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the usual rhythms and releases produced from these efforts, but this month PPS and its partner Boston Consulting [released their report](#). Their analysis offers the usual lists—ranking agencies large and small, as well as reporting interesting overall trends. Most striking this year, drawing on data from the end of 2021, is the generally downward movement of federal employee engagement—a phenomenon seen across almost all large departments.

[How to be an anti-racist? W. Kamau Bell’s new handbook says “Do the Work!”](#) [Denise Sullivan, *Datebook*, 14 July 2022] [REVIEW]

If there was ever a time for a handy and humorous take on navigating societal breakdown and racial disharmony, it’s right now. [“Do The Work! An Antiracist Activity Book,”](#) conceived by East Bay authors and activists W. Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz, provides a contemporary and historical context for America’s inequities. It’s also packed with comics, pop quizzes, crossword puzzles and exercises that casually drop knowledge on anti-racist and civil rights history. The short, clever sections on American racism’s greatest hits and misses—from redlining maps to inappropriate refrains like, “I don’t see color”—are delivered with a nod and a wink. But the workbook also offers a serious reading list for further study, including the classic “Black Skin, White Masks” by Frantz Fanon and newer standards, like Michelle Alexander’s “The New Jim Crow.” Perhaps this doesn’t sound like much fun, but Schatz and Bell’s approach is encouraging and hopeful as a blueprint for disrupting White supremacy and defeating racism.

[Native Americans fight for items looted from bodies at Wounded Knee](#) [Dana Hedgpeth, *The Washington Post*, 17 July 2022]

With the flashlight from her smartphone, Renee Iron Hawk peered into the dust-covered glass and wood cabinets inside a small, dark museum in Barre, Mass. She and a handful of other American Indians looked at pairs of beaded moccasins, a dozen ceremonial pipes, and a few cradleboards, used by women to carry infants on their backs. The items are among as many as 200 artifacts that were stolen from the bodies of the 250 Lakota men, women and children slaughtered by the U.S. Army in 1890 during the Wounded Knee massacre in South Dakota. They’d ended up in an obscure museum attached to a public library in a rural town 70 miles from Boston. How a collection from one of history’s worst atrocities against American Indians ended up in Barre is almost as painful as the memory of the massacre.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Nina Otero-Warren—Latina Champion of Women’s Voting Rights and Education in New Mexico—](#)

[Will Soon Grace U.S. Quarters](#) [Anna María Nogar, *The Conversation*, 14 July 2022]

Adelina “Nina” Otero-Warren was an activist who fought for women’s voting rights during the 20th century. She was the first Latina to run for Congress and the first Latina superintendent of the Santa Fe public schools. She is one of several women whose images are being featured on the U.S. quarter in 2022. The quarter in her honor is set to be released on Aug. 15, 2022. Here, Anna María Nogar, professor of Hispanic Southwest studies at the University of New Mexico, writes about Otero-Warren’s work and legacy.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Survey raises serious questions about the future of the all-volunteer force](#) [Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 18 July 2022]

The results of a [new survey](#) of military and veterans and spouses—including details on financial difficulties—raise concerns about the future of the military, said the executive director of the organization that conducted the survey. Fewer military, veterans and spouses are likely to recommend military service, according to the findings, and the reasons are related to their own well-being, said Shannon Razzadon, president and executive director of the Military Family Advisory Network. The MFAN report also pointed to a root cause of many problems that military families have understood for years: the military move. In 2021, those who had recently experienced a permanent change of station reported negative or very negative experiences with the reimbursement of moving costs, at 40%; effects on spouse employment, at 38%; and change in cost of living, at 56%.

[U.S. Army to likely miss recruiting goal of new troops by nearly 40,000 over the next 2 years](#) [Barbara Starr and Ellie Kaufman, CNN, 19 July 2022]

The U.S. Army is now projecting that for the next two years it will massively fail to recruit as many troops as it hoped, falling short by nearly 40,000 new recruits, according to the latest estimates and testimony from the Army’s second highest leader. “We’ve got unprecedented challenges with both a post-Covid-19 environment and labor market, but also private competition with private companies that have changed their incentives over time,” General Joseph Martin, vice chief of staff of the Army, told the House Armed Services readiness subcommittee on Tuesday. The good news for the Army is the people who are joining appear to be willing to stay. The retention goal for FY22 was 55,900. As of July 7, the Army has already exceeded its goal by reenlisting 57,738 soldiers, according to Colonel Catherine Wilkinson, an Army spokeswoman.

DISCRIMINATION

[Ousted Air National Guard commander Leslie Zyzda-Martin sues for records about her removal](#) [Bruce Vielmetti, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 18 July 2022]

Air National Guard Col. Leslie Zyzda-Martin reached a career high in September 2020 when she was named commander of Wisconsin’s Volk Field. Brig. Gen. David W. May called her the “right officer for the right command at the right time,” citing her passion, drive and “the heart to get the job done with integrity and decisiveness.” Just 14 months later, however, May publicly announced he was removing Zyzda-Martin from the post, citing investigations into command climate and unspecified alleged misconduct. Zyzda-Martin, now of Sioux City, Iowa, says she’s never gotten adequate explanation and has now sued the Office of Information and Privacy of the National Guard Bureau. Her lawsuit

contends the office has violated the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by not responding to her request for records about her employment by the statutory deadline.

[Senate Trying to Block Military Transfers Based on Potentially Discriminatory State Laws](#) [Rebecca Kheel, Military.com, 20 July 2022]

The military would be barred from considering state laws in deciding where to station service members under an amendment that was included in the Senate's version of the annual defense policy bill. The amendment comes after Military.com reported in May that the Army was drafting a policy that could allow soldiers to request a move if state or local laws discriminate against them based on gender, sex, religion, race or pregnancy. During a closed-door meeting last month, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 18-8 to prohibit the Pentagon from using the "agreement or disagreement of a member of the Armed Forces with the State laws and regulations applicable to any duty station when determining the duty assignment of the member."

DIVERSITY

[The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Wants to Know Why It Isn't Able To Attract More Female Instructors](#) [Courtney Bublé, Government Executive, 19 July 2022]

The training center for federal law enforcement officers want to know what barriers women face in becoming instructors there. Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, housed within the Homeland Security Department, train law enforcement officers from over 100 federal agencies, as well as many state and local organizations. FLETC issued a [request for information](#) on Sunday looking for input from interested firms and organizations on a prospective barrier analysis, which centers on the GS-1801-12/13 Law Enforcement Specialist (Instructor) job series. It fits into DHS's "30x23 Women in Law Enforcement" initiative that was launched in December 2021 with the goal of increasing the number of female new hires for law enforcement positions by 30% by 2023, the notice stated.

[For State Transportation Agencies, a Long Road To Increase Diversity](#) [Daniel C. Vock, Route Fifty, 18 July 2022]

DOTs have often lagged when it comes to filling jobs with women and people of color. With a new emphasis on equity in the sector, there are signs that may finally be changing. When Shawn Wilson started his tenure as the head of the state transportation agency in Louisiana, one of his new jobs was to sign off on a prestigious award for civil servants. But when he looked over the list of past honorees, Wilson said, they were "100% White and probably 95% male." "This building has about 30% African Americans," Wilson, who is Black, recalls saying. "They have no one that reflects who they are. That's a mirror. They don't exist when you pass the mirror." "Until we find someone in this department [who reflects the department's diversity], I don't want to put any more names up," he said.

[Meet the first transgender military training instructor in United States Air Force](#) [Jonathan Cotto, KSAT News (San Antonio, Texas), 18 July 2022]

A military training instructor at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland not only serves our country by training the best in the United States Air Force, but also by serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration to many. Brandon Rodriguez is a military training instructor for the 321st Training Squadron and has been serving for over a decade. A San Antonio native, Brandon was born Brandi Rodriguez as part of an old school, traditional, loving Catholic family as the youngest of five. "I was about 26, when I learned what the term transgender was, so, I had no idea. So all the way up till I was 26-years-old still thought I

was probably the only individual that was thinking the way I did,” Rodriguez said. Rodriguez also says the military has made significant strides in the right direction when it comes to LGBTQ service and though he identifies as a man, it’s important the world knows he is transgender in an effort of inspiring others with a similar journey.

EXTREMISM

[First Active-Duty Service Member Sentenced for Jan. 6 Hit with Lengthy Prison Time](#) [Drew F.

Lawrence, *Military.com*, 21 July 2022]

James Phillip Mault was in the National Guard when he assaulted police during the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. Four months after taking part in the riot to upend the 2020 presidential election, he reenlisted in the active-duty Army, according to service records. Mault, 30, who is still serving as an Army specialist, became the only active-duty service member convicted and sentenced for the pro-Trump attack after being arrested at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was sentenced July 15 to three and a half years in prison for felony assault on law enforcement—one of the longest sentences among those convicted so far for Jan. 6. Mault is one of at least three National Guard members who assaulted the Capitol. Because he later reenlisted into the regular Army, he appears to be the first active-duty service member to be sentenced to prison in connection to the siege, according to data from George Washington University’s Program on Extremism.

[“I No Longer Feel Safe”: A Mayor Resigns, Citing Threats](#) [Molly Bolan, *Route Fifty*, 21 July 2022]

The first openly gay mayor of a small city in Oklahoma stepped down earlier this week, citing “threats and attacks bordering on violence.” The episode comes as local officials around the country increasingly confront harassment and other menacing behavior on the job. Adam Graham served in city government since 2019 in The Village, Oklahoma, first as a council member and then as mayor since May. In a resignation letter posted on Twitter Monday, he described how during the past month his tires were slashed, he had been followed home after city meetings, and he had been harassed or threatened while walking his dog or at Starbucks. Rebekah Herrick, a political science professor at Oklahoma State University who has researched harassment of local officials since 2016, said in an interview that she has seen the kind of surge in threats that Graham described. Herrick pointed to a [survey](#) she worked on in the fall of last year asking mayors if they’d noticed an increase in abuse in the past five years. “Most had,” she said.

[Senate NDAA to Pentagon: “Immediately” halt fight against extremism](#) [John M. Donnelly, *Roll Call*, 20 July 2022]

The Senate Armed Services Committee has called on the Defense Department to halt its programs to prevent and root out extremism in the ranks. The report accompanying the Senate’s National Defense Authorization Act, which was made public late Monday, states the committee’s view that “spending additional time and resources to combat exceptionally rare instances of extremism in the military is an inappropriate use of taxpayer funds, and should be discontinued by the Department of Defense immediately.” The language has not previously been reported in the press. While not legally binding on the Pentagon, it appears to send a signal of congressional opposition to efforts to counter extremist narratives in the military. The Defense Department initiative was fueled largely by the fact that dozens of people charged with ransacking the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, were former or current service personnel—about 17 percent of those charged.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Retired 4-star U.S. Army general: The best leaders listen to—and learn from—younger, less experienced people](#) [Annika Kim Constantino, CNBC, 19 July 2022]

It's easy to feel like your boss—or your boss's boss—doesn't listen to you. But a retired four-star U.S. army general says the best leaders are actually willing to listen to and learn from people who may be younger, less experienced and lower on the totem pole than they are. According to Gen. Stanley McChrystal, younger and more junior-level people often possess a wealth of valuable expertise that leaders may not be well-versed in. The most effective leaders allow those people to bring their expertise to the table, McChrystal said at a [TED talk in 2011](#), a year after retiring from the Army. McChrystal, who's known for leading the U.S. military's Joint Special Operations Command from 2003 to 2008 and U.S. troops in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010, added that a leader's willingness to learn from the people around them can expand their knowledge base and help solidify their status as trustworthy and dependable.

[Women are still less likely to aspire to leadership in business, despite decades of gender initiatives—we need to find out why](#) [Ekaterina Netchaeva, BBC Worklife, 29 June 2022] [COMMENTARY]

The global drive to increase social equality in recent years has been led by ongoing research about how women are underrepresented in leadership roles throughout the business world. For example, recent research shows that while the share of women in senior management roles is increasing incrementally, the “leaky pipeline” effect means that fewer women reach the highest positions in companies. This situation has compelled policy makers and business leaders to create diversity initiatives in an attempt to tip the balance. These initiatives tend to focus on eliminating bias and are aimed at various stages – from recruitment to promotion. Some companies also design flexible work options such as the ability to work remotely. Creating a culture of inclusion and support can also help, for example, by implementing mentorship and advocacy programmes.

INTERNATIONAL

[Antisemitism controversy at major art show ends with director's resignation](#) [Jacqui Palumbo, CNN, 18 July 2022]

The head of one of the world's most prestigious art exhibitions has resigned after this year's show became embroiled in a scandal over antisemitic imagery. Sabine Schormann, managing director of “Documenta,” which takes place every five years in Kassel, Germany, stepped down on Saturday. A statement from the exhibition's supervisory board expressed “its deep consternation that clearly antisemitic motifs were to be seen on the opening weekend of documenta fifteen.” Called “People's Justice,” the work features caricatures of Jewish military figures, including one that wears the SS insignia on a black hat and is depicted with fangs and the sidelocks worn by Jewish Orthodox men. Another figure, a soldier resembling a pig, has “Mossad” scrawled on its helmet.

[Czechs demolish pig farm on Nazi concentration camp for Roma](#) [Rob Cameron, BBC News, 22 July 2022]

Demolition work is to start on Friday on a Czech pig farm built on the site of a Nazi-era concentration camp for Roma. It ends decades of often bitter dispute between the farm's owners, the government and Roma rights groups. Historians say 1,309 Roma citizens were interned at Lety in South Bohemia during the war. Many children were among the 326 people who died there of malnutrition, maltreatment and

disease. The camp was staffed by Czech guards, rather than the Nazi SS, and none of them were convicted after the war. Czech historians and politicians have long clashed over Lety's history and exact role in the Holocaust. Lety was originally established by the Czechoslovak government two weeks before the Nazi occupation in March 1939, as a labour camp for "workshy citizens". In July 1942, the Nazi Protectorate authorities transformed it into a "gypsy camp", and the first Roma inmates arrived in the autumn.

[Daria Kasatkina: Russian calls for end to war and criticises country's attitude to homosexuality](#) [BBC News, 19 July 2022]

Russian tennis player Daria Kasatkina has criticised her country's attitude to homosexuality after coming out as gay and also called for an end to the war in Ukraine. Kasatkina, the world number 12, reached the French Open semi-finals last month. Homosexuality is not illegal in Russia but the spreading of "gay propaganda" among minors is prohibited and homophobia is widespread. "Living in the closet is impossible," Kasatkina, 25, said. "Living in peace with yourself is the only thing that matters." "So many subjects are taboo in Russia," she says. "Some of them more important than ours, it's no surprise. "This notion of someone wanting to be gay or becoming [gay] is ridiculous. I think there is nothing easier in this world than being straight. If there is a choice, nobody would choose being gay, why make your life harder, especially in Russia? What's the point?"

[Kenya election: Taking on the sexist bullies to stand](#) [Evelyne Musambi, BBC News, 17 July 2022]

Wavinya Ndeti has defied bullying, attempts to discredit her academic achievements and xenophobic slurs over her marriage to emerge as a front-runner for the powerful post of governor of a key county in Kenya's forthcoming general election. The 54-year old mother of four told the BBC she has had to "toughen up" because male competitors and some voters "see women as the weaker sex". Ms Ndeti adds that her attempt to be governor for Machakos county, near the capital Nairobi, has been met with opponents' supporters hurling insults at her, but she is undaunted. "When they come at me I'm usually encouraged because it shows that I'm doing something right," she says. In 2007, Ms Ndeti defeated 17 men to become the first female MP in Machakos, representing Kathiani constituency.

[Lebanon LGBTQ community suffers setback amid wider clampdown](#) [Kareem Chehayeb, The Associated Press, 18 July 2022]

Nour never felt entirely safe as a queer person in Lebanon. But in the past few years, the 25-year-old pharmacist had begun letting his guard down, meeting with friends in LGBTQ-friendly spaces in Beirut and even performing in drag shows. He now opts to stay at home, fearing for his safety more than ever after a wave of anti-LGBTQ hate speech that followed last month's decision by the Lebanese Interior Ministry to shut down any events aimed at promoting "sexual perversion." The setback is part of a broader clampdown on marginalized groups and freedoms that activists say aims to distract the public from Lebanon's spiraling economic and financial crisis, which has pulled over three-quarters of the population into poverty.

[Lisa Smith: Ex-soldier turned IS member gets 15 month sentence](#) [Shane Harrison, BBC News, 23 July 2022]

A former Irish Defence Forces soldier who was found guilty of Islamic State (IS) membership has been given a 15-month prison sentence. Lisa Smith, 40, was found guilty in May of being a member of the group between 28 October 2015 and 1 December 2019. The court found her not guilty of financing terrorism by sending money to a man for the benefit the terrorist group. She was sentenced at the

Special Criminal Court in Dublin. The judge, Mr Justice Hunt, said it was serious for any Irish citizen and a former member of the defence forces to pledge allegiance to a foreign terrorist organisation.

[“Those people”: French minister’s LGBTQ remarks spark anger](#) [Angela Charlton, *The Associated Press*, 17 July 2022]

Pressure is mounting on a French government minister to quit over comments stigmatizing homosexuality and LGBTQ people, in the latest challenge to President Emmanuel Macron’s leadership. Caroline Cayeux’ remarks have hurt and angered many—including her colleagues—and prompted broader discussion around persistent discriminatory attitudes by people in power. The remarks set off shockwaves among LGBTQ people and those who fight against discrimination and abuse, and provoked calls for her resignation. A legal complaint was filed against her for public insult. Cayeux then tweeted her regrets, saying her words were “inappropriate,” and sent a letter to anti-discrimination groups to apologize. She told newspaper Le Parisien that the comments “do not at all reflect my views.”

[Women Climbers From Pakistan, Iran make history by reaching K2 summit](#) [Munir Ahmed, *The Associated Press*, 22 July 2022]

A woman from Pakistan and another from Iran appear to be the first females from their countries to reach the top of K2, one of the world’s highest and most dangerous summits, a mountaineering official said Friday. Samina Baig, a 32-year-old mountaineer from a remote northern village in Pakistan, hoisted her country’s green and white flag atop the peak of the 28,250 foot-high (8,610 meter) K2 mountain on Friday. They were among several women to successfully reach K2’s peak on Friday, according to Karrar Haidri, chief officer of the Pakistan Alpine Club, which helps coordinate between climbers and the government in the event of an emergency, but also prior to and during the climbs. He said a second Pakistani female climber, Naila Kiyani, was among the team to reach the top of the mountain, but it appeared that Baig had arrived to its peak a few minutes earlier.

MISCELLANEOUS

[A Georgia school logo has sparked outrage over similarities to a Nazi symbol](#) [Nouran Salahieh, *CNN*, 20 July 2022]

An elementary school in Marietta, Georgia, is halting the rollout of a new logo after an uproar from parents who pointed out its similarities to a Nazi symbol. The redesign portrayed an eagle over a hexagon with the letters “ES” inside, a design the district says was inspired by the U.S. Army colonel’s eagle wings. “The new logo & badges were chosen to represent the Eagle soaring into excellence and to honor the history of our great school,” reads the email to parents obtained by CNN. But some parents took to social media to voice their alarm over the design’s resemblance to a Nazi symbol that features an eagle over a swastika. The 1920s Nazi Eagle crest was developed by the Nazi Party in Germany and later appropriated by neo-Nazis and other White supremacists with different variations, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

[Holocaust survivors mark 80 years since mass Paris roundup](#) [Angela Charlton and Jade Le Deley, *The Associated Press*, 17 July 2022]

French President Emmanuel Macron decried his Nazi-collaborator predecessors and rising antisemitism, vigorously vowing to stamp out Holocaust denial as he paid homage Sunday to thousands of French children sent to death camps 80 years ago for one reason alone: because they were Jewish. Family by family, house by house, French police rounded up 13,000 people on two terrifying days in

July 1942, wresting children from their mothers' arms and dispatching everyone to Nazi death camps. France honored those victims this weekend, as it tries to keep their memory alive. For the dwindling number of survivors of France's wartime crimes, a series of commemoration ceremonies Sunday were especially important. At a time of rising antisemitism and far-right discourse sugarcoating France's role in the Holocaust, they worry that history's lessons are being forgotten.

[REPRINT]

[Medals of Honor for soldiers who perpetrated Wounded Knee massacre may be rescinded](#) [Davis Winkie, *Military Times*, 20 July 2022]

Lawmakers took a step last week towards taking back the nation's highest award for valor from Army troops who perpetrated one of the most infamous Native American massacres in U.S. history. The legislation to revoke the medals passed the House of Representatives as an amendment to the fiscal 2023 defense policy bill. Similar attempts have made it this far before, however, only to be stymied during compromises between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Some 20 soldiers received the Medal of Honor following the Dec. 29, 1890, massacre near Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota, where troops from the 7th Cavalry and accompanying artillery units killed hundreds of Lakota men, women and children. The U.S. troops had nearly completed confiscating weapons from a Lakota encampment when a struggle with a reportedly deaf man sparked a chaotic one-sided firefight.

[Security Clearance Experts Encourage National Security Workers to Seek Mental Health Treatment](#) [Linda Kyzer, *Government Executive*, 22 July 2022]

There was a time when all counseling had to be listed on the SF-86 or self-reported to security officers. Concerns about whether or not reporting those issues would impact security clearance eligibility—and therefore put an end to a military or government career—caused many individuals to simply refuse to seek mental health treatment, despite issues caused by post-traumatic stress, marital issues, or even sexual assault. After years of debate and a strong push by the military and intelligence community, in 2017 the SF-86 was updated to indicate that counseling did not need to be listed, just specific mental health conditions, hospitalizations, and other mental health topics directly related to reliability and trustworthiness. Despite that change to the SF-86, many in the national security community still see mental health issues through a pre-2016 lens, with concerns that counseling or mental health treatment could negatively impact their careers.

[U.S. House passes bill protecting marriage equality](#) [Rose Horowitz and Moira Warburton, *Reuters*, 20 July 2022]

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a bill protecting gay marriage rights, after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade imperiled similar precedents that protected rights to same-sex relations and contraception. The bill, which passed the Democratic-controlled chamber by a vote of 267-157 with support from 47 Republicans, establishes federal protections for gay marriage and prohibits anyone from denying the validity of a marriage based on the race or sex of the couple. Under the House bill, states could still restrict gay marriage if the Supreme Court overturns its prior ruling. But such states would be required to recognize marriages that occurred in states where they remain legal.

[Watchdog Says That Racial and Ethnic Gaps Still Remain in the CDC's COVID-19 Data](#) [Natalie Alms, *Government Executive*, 21 July 2022]

There are known racial and ethnic disparities for COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, but the COVID-19 data at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has key gaps in terms of race and ethnicity for COVID-19 testing, cases, hospitalizations and deaths. The CDC's data give the agency only an “incomplete picture of COVID-19 disparities,” the agency’s watchdog says in a [new report](#). According to the report, CDC is addressing data issues in part through a [modernization initiative](#). One goal of the effort is to “make important data, including racial and ethnic data, more complete.” As of January 2022, 67% of the CDC's COVID-19 testing data doesn't have race and ethnicity info attached to it, and neither does 34% of the agency's case data. Death data is the most complete in terms of including race and ethnicity information.

MISCONDUCT

[Air Force scientist got his “really hot” prostitute a contractor job, court docs show](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Military Times*, 21 July 2022]

A recently unsealed search warrant details an extensive scam by Jim Gord, a senior researcher of advanced propulsion technologies at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and an unnamed female escort with whom he was in a sexual relationship. He urged a lab contractor and friend to hire the woman based on her fraudulent resume—and her looks—in 2017. He also moved federal funding around to pay her salary and named her as the chair of a scientific panel on engine and rocket technology despite her lack of experience. The scheme came to light in 2019, when Spectral Energies owner Sukesh Roy told military investigators that Gord, who managed the funding for his company's Air Force contract, was “engaging in unethical government contract negotiations, had communicated threats of violence and was regularly soliciting prostitution while on the installation and while traveling on official U.S. Air Force business,” according to a 2019 affidavit filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Online obituary sites show Gord died of an unnamed cause last year.

RELIGION

[Japan-based Marine takes her religious objection to COVID-19 vaccine to trial](#) [Joseph Ditzler and Jonathan Snyder, *Stars and Stripes*, 22 July 2022]

A Marine in Japan is awaiting court-martial in August on charges she said arose from her refusal to accept the COVID-19 vaccine. Lance Cpl. Catherine Arnett, 24, declined the vaccines on the basis they are produced using stem cell lines that descend from aborted fetuses, she told Stars and Stripes on July 1. Her request for a religious exemption, she said, was denied by the Marine Corps and again on appeal. “I believe that I’m protected from not having to get a vaccine if it contradicts my moral conscience or has components of it that now goes against my religious tenets,” she said. Her trial is scheduled Aug. 3-4 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni about 25 miles from Hiroshima, according to the court docket. The Marine Corps charged Arnett with violating articles 92 and 87 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Article 92 alleges failure to obey an order; article 87 alleges missing a movement.

[U.S. rabbi reviving Jewish roots in her family's Italian town](#) [Frances D'Emilio, *The Associated Press*, 20 July 2022]

From a rustic, tiny synagogue she fashioned from her family's ancestral home in this mountain village, an American rabbi is keeping a promise made to her Italian-born father: reconnect people in this southern region of Calabria to their Jewish roots, links nearly severed five centuries ago when the

Inquisition forced Jews to convert to Christianity. On a small wooden table near the synagogue's entrance sits a yellowed family portrait. In the photograph, is the rabbi's father, Antonio Abramo Aiello, as a child. Born in Serrastretta, he was studying for his bar mitzvah, the rabbi said, but before that religious coming-of-age ritual could take place, the young Aiello left with his family for the United States in 1923. His daughter, Barbara, would be born in Pittsburgh and ordained a rabbi when she was 51, in a small branch of American Judaism known as Reconstructionist movement.

SEXISM

[EEOC: Women Still Lag Far Behind Men in the Government's STEM Workforce](#) [Natalie Alms, *Government Executive*, 16 July 2022]

Women make up only 29.3% of federal government's employees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) roles, according to a [new report](#) from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that digs into gender using 2019 data. That's slightly ahead of women's 27% share of overall civilian STEM employment, according to [recent Census data](#). Maria Roat, who recently retired from her post as deputy federal CIO, told FCW that although the problem is well known, it doesn't currently get enough attention, and more importantly, action and accountability on progress being made. "This is where I think the government needs to take the next step—enterprisewide across the federal government—in how they do recruitment and retention starting at the lower grades," she said.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Army establishes independent prosecutor office, misconduct amnesty policy](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 18 July 2022]

The Army last week unveiled two new steps in its effort to revamp how it responds to sexual harassment and assault in the ranks, bringing the service closer to compliance with congressionally mandated reform targets. As required by the annual defense bill for 2022, the Army officially established an independent prosecutor's office, reporting to Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, according to a [general order made public Thursday](#). One of the Army's senior civilians overseeing reforms to its troubled Sexual Assault/Harassment Response and Prevention program, known as SHARP, indicated that more changes will come.

SUICIDE

[New 988 suicide prevention hotline gives vets, troops an easier option for emergency care](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 18 July 2022]

The new 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which launched this weekend, isn't aimed specifically at veterans, but advocates are hopeful that the resource will provide an easier venue for veterans and military members facing mental health emergencies. "The new shorter number directly addresses the need for ease of access and clarity in times of crisis, both for veterans and non-veterans alike," Dr. Tamara Campbell, acting Executive Director for the Department of Veterans' Affairs Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, said in a press event on Friday. "[VA officials] are working to update materials and communications with the new number to spread the word to veterans, their supporters and our community partners."

[The Warning Signs of Suicide and What to Do](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 19 July 2022]

While it often seems that suicides occur without warning, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says those considering suicide often exhibit certain behaviors. The CDC recommends being familiar with the signs and knowing what to do if someone needs help. [See the article for a list of warning signs.] According to the CDC, the more signs a person shows, the greater the risk. If someone close to you is exhibiting warning signs, the CDC recommends ensuring that the individual is not left alone and taking the following steps: removing any firearms, sharp objects, alcohol and drugs from the area; calling or texting the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988; and taking the person to an emergency room or medical professional.

VETERANS

[Money needed to build Navajo Code Talkers Museum, nonprofit tells NM lawmakers](#) [Noel Lyn Smith, *Farmington Daily Times* (Farmington, N.M.), 12 July 2022]

Efforts continue on building a museum in Tsé Bonito, New Mexico, which honors the Diné men who used the Navajo language to transmit secret military messages during World War II. While there have been some studies done on the land that will eventually hold the museum, the project needs money, presenters told New Mexico lawmakers on the Indian Affairs Committee during a July 11 meeting at the Báaháálí Chapter house. “We’re at a crossroads now to where we are pursuing any avenue of funds to build this museum,” said Regan Hawthorne, chief executive officer of the Navajo Code Talkers Museum Inc. With only four code talkers still alive, it is urgent to have the museum built and operating, he said. Approximately 300 acres has been designated for the structure near the Navajo Division of Transportation complex and its cost is estimated at \$46.6 million, according to presenters.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Muriel Engelman, front-line nurse in World War II, dies at 101](#) [Harrison Smith, *The Washington Post*, 19 July 2022]

As American soldiers fought to stave off a German offensive in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium, Muriel Engelman and her fellow Army nurses worked in snow, ice and ankle-high mud, tending to wounded GIs during one of the bloodiest battles of World War II. A dance-loving Connecticut native on the cusp of turning 24, Mrs. Engelman couldn’t imagine plunging a knife into anyone’s belly. She survived the battle—the German advance was halted that January—and went on to write a wry memoir, “Mission Accomplished: Stop the Clock” (2008), that Kirkus praised as “a must-read for WWII history buffs and lovers of homespun storytelling.” Mrs. Engelman was 101, and one of the last surviving Army nurses to serve near the front lines during World War II, when she died June 30 at a board-and-care home in Laguna Niguel, Calif.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[A New Addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Will Be Unveiled on Korean War Armistice Day](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 18 July 2022]

The Korean War ended in an armistice on July 27, 1953. The National Korean War Veterans Memorial was finished and dedicated 42 years later, on July 27, 1995. That same day, President Bill Clinton signed an amendment to U.S. Code Title 36 declaring July 27 as Korean War Armistice Day. At the memorial’s center are 19 statues of a unit on patrol, collectively known as “The Column,” a masterpiece by sculptor Frank Gaylord. It also has a reflective mural wall by industrial designer Louis Nelson, reflecting representative images of those who fought the war. In 2022, the memorial will receive a new addition, a 380-foot memorial wall listing the names of the 36,574 Americans and approximately

8,000 Korean Augmentation to the United States Army forces (KATUSAs) who were killed during the war.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)