

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 5 AUGUST 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Air Force Pilot Program Centralizes Resources for Sexual Assault, Harassment Survivors](#) [Greg Hadley, *Air Force Magazine*, 4 August 2022]

*The Department of the Air Force launched a pilot program Aug. 1 to centralize resources for survivors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic abuse, and other forms of “interpersonal violence.” The Integrated Response Co-Location Pilot program is being tested at seven locations across the DAF to evaluate the effectiveness of a more-encompassing approach to responding and assisting survivors, [an Air Force release stated](#). The pilot program follows on a November 2021 report from the Air Force’s Interpersonal Violence Task Force, which found that more than 35,000 Airmen and Guardians said they had experienced some form of behavior in the past two years that the task force identified on a “Continuum of Harm.” Those behaviors, 81 in total, included everything from physical violence to sexual harassment to workplace bullying and hazing.*

[Female DEA agents will receive a settlement, three decades after filing a sex discrimination case](#) [Drew Friedman, *Federal News Network*, 1 August 2022]

*A group of former special agents at the Justice Department’s Drug Enforcement Administration will soon receive a settlement from a sex discrimination case, three decades after its original filing. The [\\$12 million settlement](#), which the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission finalized on July 22, will go to 71 agents who filed claims in the class-action lawsuit. The case centered on a systemic discrimination practice at DEA, which denied qualified female special agents overseas positions, a type of experience that led to faster promotions and frequently went to male agents. The litigation covered cases of sex discrimination between 1990 and 1992, during which DEA managers turned down many female special agents for overseas assignments in favor of their male counterparts. “It’s great that this has been settled for all the women. But it’s too long—30 years to have to go through this,” former DEA special agent Ann Garcia, who originally filed the case on March 17, 1993, told Federal News Network. After leaders repeatedly denied Garcia’s applications to overseas positions, despite her qualifications, she filed the case on behalf of all the female agents who were being denied assignments.*

[Supreme Court sets Oct. 31 arguments for landmark college affirmative action cases](#) [Ariane de Vogue, *CNN*, 3 August 2022]

*The Supreme Court said Wednesday that it would hear two major cases concerning race-based affirmative action at Harvard and the University of North Carolina on October 31, setting the stage for a landmark opinion that could gut precedent that allows colleges to consider a student’s race when deciding which students should be admitted. Lower U.S. courts have ruled in favor of Harvard and the University of North Carolina, holding that the programs used race in a sufficiently limited way to fulfill compelling interests in diversity. The challenges are being spearheaded by conservative activist Edwin Blum. The Harvard challenge is brought under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits schools receiving federal funds from discriminating based on race. The UNC lawsuit similarly claims Title VI grounds, as well as a violation of the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of equal protection of the law, which covers state institutions.*

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## CULTURE

[Anchorage police officers violated policy in traffic stop where woman used “White privilege card,” deputy chief says](#) [Tess Williams, *Anchorage Daily News* (Anchorage, Alaska), 4 August 2022]

*The Anchorage Police Department found that two officers violated policy during a July traffic stop in which a woman showed them a “White privilege card” instead of a driver’s license, but it’s unclear what—if any—disciplinary actions resulted. The situation was brought to the police department’s attention two days after it occurred because of a Facebook post made by Mimi Israelah, who was stopped by officers on July 7, and was widely shared on social media. In the post, Israelah took a selfie with Anchorage police officer Nicholas Bowe as she held up a “White privilege card,” which she said worked in place of a driver’s license. APD Chief Michael Kerle issued a broad [statement](#) referencing discrimination and cultural awareness shortly after Israelah’s Facebook post triggered backlash, but it did not directly mention the incident.*

[Army should ban flying of Confederate streamers but allow 29th Infantry Division’s Civil War patch, commission says](#) [Svetlana Shkolnikova, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 August 2022]

*The commission charged with eliminating commemoration of the Confederacy in the U.S. military recommended Monday that the Army ban the flying of Confederate campaign streamers on unit flags but allow the 29th Infantry Division to keep a blue-gray patch referencing the Civil War. A 1949 exception to Army regulations allows 457 Confederate battle streamers to be displayed and 48 Army units have at least one of them, according to the Naming Commission. The commission also recommended a change to the description text of the blue-and-gray shoulder patch worn by the Army’s 29th Infantry Division but said the design of the patch could stay the same. The yin-yang symbol used on insignia throughout the division has represented the blue uniforms of Union soldiers and the gray uniforms of Confederate soldiers since World War I.*

[Beyoncé will change a lyric in her latest album after accusations of ableism](#) [Amina Kilpatrick, *NPR*, 2 August 2022]

*Beyoncé will change a lyric in one of the songs on *Renaissance* in order to remove an offensive and ableist term. On the album’s 11th track, “Heated,” which features Beyoncé and Drake among its writers, is the word “spaz,” a term that disability activists have called an ableist slur. Beyoncé’s publicist told *NPR* over email that the lyric will be changed. While saying it’s important that people are held accountable for their actions, some people have noted the higher standard that Black women face compared with other artists. Black disability activist Vilissa Thompson previously told *NPR* how White artists who use ableist language do not receive the same visceral reaction as Black artists.*

[Coast Guard chief petty officer recognized for contributions to under-represented communities](#) [Master Chief Petty Officer Mike Hvozda, *Coast Guard News Service*, 1 August 2022]

*The League of [United Latin American Citizens \(LULAC\)](#) recognized District 7’s offload coordinator, July 28, as the 2022 Excellence in Service Award recipient for the Coast Guard at the 93rd LULAC National Convention and Exposition in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Chief Petty Officer George Soto, a native from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, was honored at the event during the Defenders of Freedom Breakfast. Soto was recognized as an outstanding person who advances diversity, education, economics, and health in communities, with a focus on under-represented populations. Additionally, Soto dedicated over 100 hours to planning and presenting one of District 7’s largest diversity celebrations during Hispanic Heritage Month to educate the workforce on several Hispanic and Latin American cultures.*

[Formula 1 launches campaign to tackle online abuse](#) [Andrew Benson, *BBC Sport*, 31 July 2022]

*Formula 1 has launched a campaign to end abuse online and at events, in the wake of racist, sexist and homophobic incidents at the Austrian Grand Prix. Drive It Out will bring together drivers, teams and stakeholders to block and report abuse online. And they will be pressuring social media platforms to take greater action. F1's actions will apply to any abuse witnessed of drivers, teams, fans, broadcasters or journalists. The move comes after a rise in abuse surrounding F1, both at events and online. In Austria last month, fans reported numerous incidents of abuse against minorities and women at the Red Bull Ring.*

[A group of Orthodox Jews in Brooklyn is reviving the golden age of cantorial music](#) [Jon Kalish, *NPR*, 3 August 2022]

*Jeremiah Lockwood comes from a family of cantors, the spiritual leaders that guide Jewish congregations in prayer and song. His grandfather, the late Jacob Konigsberg, served as a cantor in several cities and performed in concerts outside of religious services, always hoping to inspire people with liturgical music. It's no surprise that Lockwood would incorporate cantorial music in his own band, The Sway Machinery, and wrote his dissertation about Chasidic cantors in Brooklyn who sing in a way that is reminiscent of the golden age of cantorial music, which began in the 1920s. While in grad school, Lockwood stumbled upon a YouTube video of cantors at an informal Chasidic sing-along known as a kumzits, a kind of cantorial jam session where solos are handed off with the point of a finger. The video inspired Lockwood to produce the new album [Golden Ages: Brooklyn Chasidic Cantorial Revival Today](#), which was recorded at Daptone Records, an analog recording facility known for soul music.*

[How "Reservation Dogs" became a breakthrough hit for Indigenous representation](#) [Adam Kemp, *PBS News*, 2 August 2022]

*Native TV featuring actual Native stories. The concept seems like a simple one, but for fans, and the cast and crew of "Reservation Dogs," the hit FX on Hulu show, nuanced examples of what life is like growing up on "the Rez" are few and far between. The show, which premieres a new season Aug. 3, follows the exploits of four Indigenous teenagers—played by D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, Devery Jacobs, Paulina Alexis and Lane Factor—living on a reservation in rural Oklahoma who are working (and scrounging) in hopes of making it to California. While "Reservation Dogs" is a comedy by genre, co-creators Sterlin Harjo, who grew up in Holdenville, Oklahoma, and New Zealand director Taika Waititi have said they wanted to illustrate real problems facing Native youth and not shy away from the difficulties and inequalities of Native American life.*

[The Marine Corps wants to develop media literacy training. It won't be easy](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Marine Corps Times*, 1 August 2022]

*Inside the Marine Corps' newest doctrinal publication is a hint at a new initiative—one focused on training the rank-and-file to be media literate. The phrase "media literacy" appears six times in *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 8—Information*, released in June. Robust training to this end is required, the document's authors state, both to preserve force resiliency and to deny enemy influence attacks based on disinformation. Eric Schaner, a Marine Corps senior information and policy strategist who co-authored the document, made clear that this effort was in its nascent stages. While no other service has a formalized media literacy training program, officials noted that this initiative was not completely out of the blue. Multiple previous iterations of the defense budget bill have called on the Defense*

Department to furnish annual training to troops and civilians to make them resilient to disinformation and foreign influence.

[NFL appeals ruling that Deshaun Watson of Cleveland Browns should be suspended six games](#) [Jake Trotter, *ESPN*, 3 August 2022]

*The NFL on Wednesday appealed the six-game suspension for Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson, seeking a tougher penalty under the league's personal conduct policy in the wake of disciplinary officer Sue L. Robinson's ruling Monday. Robinson issued the six-game suspension Monday, writing in her [16-page report](#) that "the NFL carried its burden to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that Mr. Watson engaged in sexual assault (as defined by the NFL) against the four therapists identified in the Report." She also found that Watson engaged in conduct that posed "a genuine danger to the safety and well-being of another person, and conduct that undermines or puts at risk the integrity of the NFL." Although two grand juries in Texas declined to pursue criminal charges against Watson earlier this year, the NFL has been investigating whether he violated its personal conduct policy since 2021.*

[Oklahoma schools now require "biological sex affidavit" for student athletes](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 29 July 2022]

*Oklahoma public schools have started requiring students from kindergarten to college to complete "biological sex affidavits" if they want to compete in school sports, in accordance with a state law that took effect earlier this year. Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signed a bill in March that bans transgender student athletes in public elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and colleges from competing on the sports teams of their gender identity as opposed to their sex assigned at birth. The [document](#), which is part of Woodall Public Schools' 2022-2023 athletic policy, requires a parent or guardian to attest to their child's sex assigned at birth and requires that it be notarized.*

["Social contagion" isn't causing more youths to be transgender, study finds](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 3 August 2022]

*"Social contagion" is not driving an increasing number of adolescents to come out as transgender, according to a [new study published Wednesday in the journal Pediatrics](#). The study also found that the proportion of adolescents who were assigned female at birth and have come out as transgender also has not increased, which contradicts claims that adolescents whose birth sex is female are more susceptible to this so-called external influence. The "social contagion" theory can be traced back to a [2018 paper published in the journal PLOS One](#). Dr. Lisa Littman, who at the time was a professor of behavioral and social sciences at Brown University, coined the term "rapid onset gender dysphoria," which she described as adolescents experiencing a conflict between their birth sex and gender identity "suddenly during or after puberty." These adolescents, she wrote, "would not have met the criteria for gender dysphoria in childhood" and are experiencing dysphoria due to social influence.*

[Space Force Drops Garrison Name in Favor of "Space Base Delta"](#) [Greg Hadley, *Air Force Magazine*, 2 August 2022]

*Garrisons are out—Space Base Deltas are in. The Space Force has switched up how it refers to the organizations responsible for mission support functions, saying the new designations better reflect their function and place within the service's structure. "The naming convention of Space Base Delta more accurately characterizes the function and structure of the organization in relation to the mission deltas/units that they support," a Space Force spokesperson told Air Force Magazine. Space Base*

*Deltas will continue to be distinct from space mission deltas, the USSF's organizations that are similar to "Army Brigade Combat Teams or Air Force Expeditionary Wings in that they enable laser focus on specific mission sets that pull together unique capabilities and highly-trained warfighters to deliver combat effects," the spokesperson said. As part of the switch from Garrisons to Space Base Deltas, the units will receive new emblems and insignia, the spokesperson confirmed.*

[The Space Force is scrapping the annual fitness test in favor of wearable trackers](#) [Eric Schmid, NPR, 2 August 2022]

*Annual physical fitness tests are a cornerstone of military life. Each service has its own take on the once-a-year assessment required by the Department of Defense. But the country's newest military branch is ditching that model. Members of the Space Force, called Guardians, won't have an annual test. Instead, they will get smart rings or other wearable fitness devices to keep track of their physical activity throughout the year. The devices also will be programmed to give feedback about mental health, balanced eating and sleep. U.S. Space Force leadership says the approach will prioritize the general wellness of service members beyond just one physical assessment each year. The annual tests have spurred eating disorder symptoms and other unhealthy behaviors in some military members. The change is still taking shape and won't be fully implemented until 2023. Until then, Guardians still have to complete one more Air Force fitness test—a timed 1.5 mile run and one minute each of pushups and situps.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[DOJ files civil rights charges against four Louisville officers over Breonna Taylor killing](#) [Harper Neidig, *The Hill*, 4 August 2022]

*The Justice Department on Thursday charged four Louisville police officers with federal civil rights violations over the 2020 killing of Breonna Taylor, alleging they falsified documents in seeking a search warrant of her home. "The federal charges announced today allege that members of the Place Based Investigations Unit falsified the affidavit used to obtain the search warrant of Ms. Taylor's home, that this act violated federal civil rights laws and that those violations resulted in Ms. Taylor's death," [Attorney General Merrick] Garland said. Current and former Louisville Metropolitan Police officers Joshua Jaynes, Brett Hankison, Kelly Goodlett and Kyle Meany are all charged with violating Taylor's civil rights. Jaynes, who was fired from the department for allegedly using false information to obtain the search warrant, also faces charges of conspiracy and falsifying records in a federal investigation.*

[EXPLAINER: Is Alex Jones' trial about free speech rights?](#) [Michael Tarm, *The Associated Press*, 2 August 2022]

*Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones arrived at a Texas courthouse for his defamation trial for calling the Sandy Hook Elementary School attack a hoax with the words "Save the 1st" scrawled on tape covering his mouth. Although Jones portrays the lawsuit against him as an assault on the First Amendment, the parents who sued him say his statements were so malicious and obviously false that they fell well outside the bounds of speech protected by the constitutional clause. The ongoing trial in Austin, which is where Jones' far-right Infowars website and its parent company are based, stems from a 2018 lawsuit brought by Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, whose 6-year-old son was killed in the 2012 attack along with 19 other first-graders and six educators. Here's a look at how the case relates to the First Amendment.*

[Judge shortens road to decide NFL racial discrimination suit](#) [Larry Neumeister, *The Associated Press*, 4 August 2022]

*A judge on Thursday made it likely she'll rule in weeks rather than months whether NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell gets to decide the merits of racial discrimination claims made by Black coaches against the league and its teams, saying an effort to gather more evidence seems like "an impermissible fishing expedition." U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni said in a written ruling that lawyers for coaches Brian Flores, Steve Wilks and Ray Horton cannot gather additional evidence from defendants to support their arguments that the lawsuit in Manhattan federal court should remain in court rather than be sent to arbitration. Her ruling makes it likely that a decision on whether to move the case to arbitration or let it remain in Manhattan federal court will be decided in weeks rather than months.*

[RAP Act Introduced in Congress Would Bar the Use of Lyrics as Evidence in Court Proceedings](#) [Shirley Halperin and Ethan Shanfeld, *Variety*, 27 July 2022]

*In what is positioned to address a growing issue for music artists, particularly in the hip-hop genre, a new bill has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressmen Hank Johnson (GA-04) and Jamaal Bowman (NY-16). Titled the Restoring Artistic Protection Act (RAP Act), it seeks to protect artists from the use of their lyrics against them as evidence in criminal and civil proceedings. As a release announcing the proposed legislation astutely notes referencing the 2021 case *Bey-Cousin v. Powell*: "Freddy Mercury did not confess to having 'just killed a man' by putting 'a gun against his head' and 'pulling the trigger. Bob Marley did not confess to having shot a sheriff. And Johnny Cash did not confess to shooting 'a man in Reno, just to watch him die.'" Specifically, the RAP Act would impact the Federal Rules of Evidence by adding a presumption "that would limit the admissibility of evidence of an artist's creative or artistic expression against that artist in court."*

[Sexual orientation is now protected by Michigan's civil rights law. What does that mean?](#) [Rose White, *Michigan Live (Grand Rapids, Mich.)*, 29 July 2022]

*Michigan law now bans discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation, the state's highest court says. A landmark 5-2 ruling from the Michigan Supreme Court Thursday ensures LGBTQ people are protected from discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, education and public accommodations under the state's civil rights law. "This is very, very significant," said Jay Kaplan, the Nancy Katz & Margo Dichtelmiller LGBT Rights Project staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan. The Michigan Supreme Court ruled the word "sex" in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976 encompasses sexual orientation. Under the law, religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status and marital status are rights protected from discrimination. "It's made it clear that if you're a business and you're open to the public, you don't get to pick and choose who you're going to serve in violation of civil rights laws," Kaplan said.*

[Washington state probes Christian university's anti-LGBTQ employment policy](#) [Zachary Schermele, *NBC News*, 2 August 2022]

*A private Christian university in Seattle is being investigated by the state of Washington over an anti-LGBTQ hiring policy that has prompted months of campus turmoil. State Attorney General Bob Ferguson released a statement Friday confirming his office sent a letter to Seattle Pacific University in early June seeking information regarding its alleged discrimination against LGBTQ staff members through its "[employee lifestyle expectations](#)" policy. The policy requires staffers to refrain from "cohabitation, extramarital sexual activity and same-sex sexual activity," and those who violate it face disciplinary action, including the possibility of employment termination. The [June letter](#) did not*

*outwardly accuse the university of violating the state's anti-discrimination laws, but it said state prosecutors had "learned of information" that suggested the university was violating state law by discriminating against faculty and staff on the basis of sexual orientation.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Increasing women police recruits to 30% could help change departments' culture](#) [Cheryl Corley, NPR, 31 July 2022]

*Women make up just 12% of the law enforcement officers in the country and 3% of police leadership. One of the efforts to increase those numbers is called the [30x30 initiative](#). The program aims to have women make up 30 percent of the recruits in police training classes by 2030. Maureen McGough, chief of staff at the Policing Project at New York University School of Law, is one of the founders of the initiative. "It's not just about getting women in the door," she says, "but on transforming police agencies by taking a deep look at policies, procedures and culture." Nearly 200 agencies across the country have signed onto the project. Interest surged after the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the protests that followed. The Madison Police Department was one of the first to pledge its support.*

[Meet the Nonprofit Leader Who Is Working to Reverse the "Dismal" Numbers of Women in Federal Law Enforcement](#) [Courtney Bubl , Government Executive, 29 July 2022]

*The percentage of women in federal law enforcement jobs has decreased since 2008 despite broader government efforts to improve gender equity, and one nonprofit is working hard to reverse that trend. "It's kind of dismal," said Cathy Sanz, president of the [Women in Federal Law Enforcement](#), of the roughly 13% of federal law enforcement officers who are female, which is down from 16.4% in 2008. "There hasn't been a lot of progress, even in the state and local arena, it's at 12% and it's been at 12% since 2007." Sanz's group has roots that date back to the 1970s, shortly after women were first allowed to work in federal law enforcement. The organization provides training programs, scholarships, networking and mentorship opportunities.*

[This Ivy League school will welcome its first female president after more than 250 years](#) [Zoe Sottile, CNN, 30 July 2022]

*Dartmouth College, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the United States, is set to welcome its first-ever female president: Sian Leah Beilock, the current president of Barnard College. Beilock will serve as the Ivy League school's 19th president, and the first female president in its more than 250-year history, according to a press release published by Dartmouth last week. She takes the office July 1, 2023, and will succeed Philip J. Hanlon, who announced in January he would step down next year. Dartmouth, founded in 1769, began admitting women in 1972. The New Hampshire university enrolled 4,556 undergraduate students in 2021, according to its website.*

[U.S. Military Women Show Support at Historic Lebanese Graduation](#) [Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Anita Chebahtah, U.S. Navy News Service, 2 August 2022]

*A half-dozen female officers from the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. Army Central Command and U.S. Air Force Central Command traveled to Lebanon to attend the graduation ceremony and show support to 46 women who became the first to ever complete Lebanon's full three-year officer program. Previously, women were only able to earn an officer commission in the Lebanese Armed Forces by attending a six-month officer training course after finishing their university education.*

*As a result, female officers only worked in specialty fields such as medicine, human relations and security. The majority of the 46 newly commissioned female graduates were also the first to join the Lebanese Armed Forces' combat arms field. The top three cadets in a total graduating class of 121 were women. "These women are a reflection of the tenacity of women who serve in the armed forces around the world and break barriers and glass ceilings every day," said Ensign Rochelle Brown from U.S. 5th Fleet.*

## **EXTREMISM**

[Fueled by Virtually Unrestricted Social Media Access, White Nationalism is on the Rise and Attracting Violent Young White Men](#) [Sophie Bjork-James, *The Conversation*, 2 August 2022] [COMMENTARY]  
*Evidence is mounting that White nationalist groups who want to establish an all-White state played a significant role in the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol that left five dead and dozens wounded. As a cultural anthropologist who has studied these movements for over a decade, I know that membership in these organizations is not limited to the attempted violent overthrow of the government and poses an ongoing threat, as seen in massacres carried out by young men radicalized by this movement. Based on [my research](#), the internet and social media have made the problem of White supremacist hate far worse and more visible; it's both more accessible and, ultimately, more violent, as seen on Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol and the shooting deaths of ten Black people at a Buffalo grocery store, among other examples.*  
[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Guy Reffitt, Texas man who brought gun to Capitol on Jan. 6, sentenced to 87 months in prison](#) [Robert Legare, *CBS News*, 2 August 2022]  
*A federal judge on Monday sentenced Guy Reffitt, the Texas man convicted of bringing a handgun to the Capitol during the Jan. 6 attack, to 87 months in prison, the longest sentence so far related to the 2021 assault. A member of the far-right militia group the Texas Three Percenters, Reffitt was the first defendant to stand trial on charges stemming from the attack. He was found guilty in March of five criminal counts, including obstructing Congress' certification of President Biden's Electoral College win. The 7.25-year sentence was far shorter than the 15 years sought by prosecutors, who argued that the punishment should be more severe since Reffitt's actions amounted to terrorism. At a sentencing hearing on Monday in federal court in Washington, D.C., Judge Dabney Friedrich disagreed, citing other Jan. 6 cases in which prosecutors did not seek such an enhancement.*

[Life sentence for Canadian man who joined ISIS, narrated propaganda videos](#) [Salvador Rizzo, *The Washington Post*, 29 July 2022]  
*A Canadian man who was radicalized online, uprooted his life and joined the Islamic State in Syria, rising to a top position in the terrorist group's English-language propaganda arm, was sentenced Friday to life in prison. Mohammed Khalifa, 39, was the English-language narrator in approximately 15 Islamic State propaganda videos, including some of its most influential and violent fare, prosecutors said. Khalifa admitted he joined the Islamic State in 2013 and was captured in 2019 after a firefight with the Syrian Democratic Forces. He swore a fighting oath twice to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He sought and received a "fatwa," or religious dispensation, to battle the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Abu Badran, Syria, after Islamic State leaders had issued an order to flee.*  
[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[The Oak Creek massacre signaled the rise of White supremacist violence. But the warnings went unheeded](#) [Harmeet Kaur, CNN, 5 August 2022]

*No one in the Sikh community in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, could ever have imagined the horror that would unfold on August 5, 2012. But when Pardeep Singh Kaleka looks back on that tragedy, in which a White supremacist gunman killed his father and six others at a Sikh gurdwara, he wonders if they should have seen it coming. “There was a certain understanding that it could happen in life, it could happen in the streets, and it could happen in different places—but not at a faith site while people pray on a Sunday,” he told CNN. “At the same time, especially around the surrounding Milwaukee areas, there was a heightened sense of political tension with the changing demographics.” The Oak Creek shooting was a wake-up call—a harbinger of the racist, extremist violence that would again rear its head in other places like Charleston, South Carolina; Pittsburgh; El Paso, Texas and Buffalo, New York. But the warning signs were largely ignored, Kaleka and other Sikh community advocates say.*

[\[PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT\]](#) [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[West Virginia man sentenced to 3 years in prison for threatening to kill Fauci](#) [Brendan O’Brien, Reuters, 5 August 2022]

*A federal judge sentenced a West Virginia man to three years in prison by for sending intimidating emails to Anthony Fauci, including threats to kill the United States’ top infectious disease official over his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis in Greenbelt, Maryland, on Thursday sentenced Thomas Connally Jr., 56, of Snowshoe, West Virginia, to 37 months in federal prison and another three years of supervised release after he pleaded guilty in May to a federal charge of making threats against a federal official. In one email, Connally threatened that Fauci and his family would be “dragged into the street, beaten to death, and set on fire,” prosecutors said. In a plea bargain, Connally admitted he sent threatening emails to Fauci, hoping to intimidate and interfere with his official duties as the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases’ director and to retaliate against him for his handling of the pandemic, the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Maryland said in a statement.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Beach body ad edited out my prosthetic leg—model](#) [Matt Murphy, BBC News, 31 July 2022]

*A British model says she was left furious after the Spanish government used her image without permission and edited out her prosthetic leg. The photo was used as part of a body positivity campaign launched by Spain’s equality ministry. But Sian Green-Lord, 32, said she only found out about the campaign when friends messaged her about it. She is the second woman featured in the campaign to say her photos were used without permission. It features an illustration of five women—including one who has had a mastectomy—on a beach underneath the slogan “summer is ours too.” In a statement earlier this week, Spain’s Institute of Women said the campaign was a response to the “fatphobia, hatred and the questioning of non-normative bodies—particularly those of women, something that’s most prevalent in the summertime.”*

[Biggin Hill: “Mum was embarrassed about her WW2 medal”](#) [Tim Stokes, BBC News, 31 July 2022]

*Cpl Elspeth Henderson was among three female comrades to be awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the face of the enemy for their efforts during the Battle of Britain. Why was this honour questioned in some quarters, including by the airwoman herself? The raid killed 39 that day. Each of the three women would be awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the face of the enemy, a move that*

was questioned in some quarters. “It was controversial because Military Medals were viewed as men’s medals,” explains Heather Redfearn, Cpl Henderson’s daughter. The lives and work of women like Cpl Henderson form the basis of a new exhibition at the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum. At its peak, the WAAF had 182,000 members. They would carry out a huge range of activities to aid the war effort across the UK and beyond, from providing weather reports and deploying barrage balloons, to repairing aircraft and intercepting codes and ciphers.

[Chloe Kelly: England winger’s celebration praised for empowering women](#) [Paul Battison, *BBC Sport*, 1 August 2022]

*An iconic goal followed by an even more iconic celebration. When Chloe Kelly scored the winning goal in extra time for England against Germany, securing a 2-1 win and the country’s first ever women’s major tournament victory, the 24-year-old celebrated in a way which could now inspire a generation. In revealing a sports bra by taking her shirt off and swinging it around her head in delight, the Manchester City winger created a moment which has united and empowered women. Within minutes of the goal going in, the positive effect the moment could have on young girls and women watching was clear. Kelly’s celebration was a throwback to retired USA footballer Brandi Chastain, who did the same thing when she scored the decisive penalty in the 1999 World Cup final.*

[Hockey Canada: A sex assault scandal disgraces country’s pastime](#) [Nadine Yousif, *BBC News*, 4 August 2022]

*Canada, the birthplace of ice hockey, is confronting a sexual misconduct crisis within its largest and most prominent sport. The fallout has many asking: is ice hockey facing a widespread reckoning? Hockey Canada, which manages programmes and teams in the country from entry-level all the way to world championships and the Olympic Games, has been rocked by public allegations of sexual assault against its players since earlier this year. The sports body—largely seen as Canada’s voice for ice hockey on the international stage—is now facing consequences not seen in its storied 108-year-old history. Experts say the issue has since ignited a national conversation about a culture of silence in the sport, and questions as to whether ice hockey’s place as the centrepiece of Canadian culture has shielded it from criticism and accountability.*

[Premier League players to limit taking a knee](#) [Dan Roan, *BBC Sport*, 2 August 2022]

*Premier League players will stop the pre-match anti-racism gesture of taking the knee before every match. Top-flight clubs started taking a knee to support the Black Lives Matter movement, which rose to prominence following the death of George Floyd in the United States in May 2020. Premier League captains took the decision after consulting with players. The gesture will instead be seen before certain rounds of games, including the Boxing Day fixtures and cup finals. Captains and players are said to believe that “less is more”—hoping when the knee is taken it will have greater impact. However, Crystal Palace forward Wilfried Zaha stopped in February 2021, saying at the time that “at the moment it doesn’t matter whether we kneel or stand, some of us still continue to receive abuse.”*

[Slave owner Sir Thomas Picton portrait returns in bid to reframe past](#) [Nicola Bryan, *BBC News*, 2 August 2022]

*The portrait was removed from National Museum Cardiff in November following scrutiny of memorials to slave owners. The museum commissioned two artworks from Trinidadian artists to reframe his legacy and give a voice to his victims. Previously, information accompanying the portrait of Picton, who was from Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, hailed him as a hero of the Battle of Waterloo. It had not included*

*his brutal treatment of the people of Trinidad, including the torture of 14-year-old Luisa Calderon. One of the new artworks—an installation called *The Wound is a Portal*—is by multidisciplinary artist Gesiye who is from Trinidad and Tobago and has Nigerian heritage. “I’m using tattooing to kind of bring people together to share this connected story, but also to create a space where we feel safe to have these conversations about things that are usually quite painful and that we might otherwise avoid talking about,” she said.*

[Zelensky opens door to same-sex civil partnerships in Ukraine](#) [Rob Picheta, Vasco Cotovio and Olga Voitovych, CNN, 3 August 2022]

*Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has opened the door to legalizing same-sex civil partnerships in the country, in response to a petition that called for equal marriage to be introduced in the war-ravaged nation. In a written reply online, Zelensky explained that it would be impossible to legalize same-sex marriages while the country remained at war, because it would require a change to the constitution. But he said his government had “worked out solutions regarding the legalization of registered civil partnership in Ukraine as part of the work on establishing and ensuring human rights and freedoms.” The call to introduce same-sex marriage in the country has been accelerated by the war, due to the number of LGBTQ+ people serving in the military and the greater legal protections that married civilians have.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Men have a high likelihood of outliving women, global study finds](#) [Adam Barnes, *The Hill*, 3 August 2022]

*Men have a high likelihood of outliving women globally, especially if they are married and educated, [according to a new analysis](#). Despite conventional theories relying on women’s generally longer life expectancies, researchers found between 25 and 50 percent of men have outlived women over the past 200 years. “A blind interpretation of life expectancy differences can sometimes lead to a distorted perception of the actual inequalities [in lifespan],” researchers wrote. [Data from 2020 shows](#) life expectancy for males worldwide is 71 years and 75 years for females. For the analysis published in the *British Medical Journal*, researchers sought to quantify the probability the men outlived women—utilizing the “out survival statistic”—using data from 199 populations across every continent over two centuries.*

[Native Americans’ life expectancy drops due to COVID-19](#) [Adam Barnes, *The Hill*, 1 August 2022]

*Native Americans’ life expectancy dropped by more than six years during the first two years of the coronavirus pandemic, [according to a new study](#). For the study, researchers compared life expectancy at birth in 2019 to 2020 and 2021 when COVID-19 cases were surging. Data was drawn from the CDC’s WONDER online database and the 2019 tables released by the National Vital Statistics System for Native Americans. They found that the pandemic lowered life expectancy for Native Americans from 72 years in 2019 to around 67 years in 2021 for both sexes combined. Native Americans loss in life expectancy at birth in 2020 was more than three years above that for White populations and 1.5 years above losses for Black and Latino populations, according to the study.*

[NBA legend and civil rights activist Bill Russell dies at 88](#) [Wayne Sterling, Patrick Sung and Ben Church, CNN, 1 August 2022]

*NBA legend Bill Russell, an 11-time NBA champion with the Boston Celtics and the first Black head coach in the league, passed away “peacefully” Sunday, according to a family statement from his verified Twitter account. He was 88. In addition to his sporting achievements, Russell was one of sport’s leading civil rights activists and marched alongside Martin Luther King Jr. when he gave his “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963. He also supported iconic boxer Muhammad Ali in his opposition to being drafted into military service. Former U.S. President Barack Obama took to social media to praise Russell’s contribution to both basketball and society. “Today, we lost a giant. As tall as Bill Russell stood, his legacy rises far higher—both as a player and as a person,” he said.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Nichelle Nichols, groundbreaking “Star Trek” actor, dead at 89](#) [Kalhan Rosenblatt, NBC News, 31 July 2022]

*Nichelle Nichols, the groundbreaking actor who played Lieutenant Nyota Uhura on the original “Star Trek” series, has died. Nichols’ death was confirmed on Sunday by her son, Kyle Johnson, on her website. Johnson said his mother died of natural causes. Nichols and her “Star Trek” character Uhura broke barriers as one of the first Black female leads on television. One moment that broke boundaries, in 1968, was a kiss between Nichols’ Uhura and William Shatner’s Capt. James T. Kirk on the episode “Plato’s Stepchildren.” The episode helped to re-shape what viewers thought of as acceptable on television and was an early statement about the acceptance of interracial marriages. After the original “Star Trek” ended, Nichols became a spokesperson for NASA, according to her website. She helped to recruit astronauts and appeared in PSAs. NASA credited Nichols with helping to recruit Sally Ride and Frederick Gregory, according to the Los Angeles Times.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[PTSD Treatment Works While Challenges Like Stigma Remain a Concern](#) [Janet A. Aker, Health.mil, 21 July 2022]

*Anyone who has been through a trauma—violent crime, sexual violence, natural disasters, mass shooting, or combat—can develop posttraumatic stress disorder. PTSD affects approximately 3.5% of U.S. adults every year and an estimated one in 11 people will be diagnosed within their lifetime, statistics show. Women appear to be twice as likely as men to have PTSD. Data available from the Military Health System Data Repository show that in 2021, approximately 2.2% of active-duty service members had a PTSD diagnosis. “PTSD is a psychiatric disorder of the inability to forget,” U.S. Public Health Service Capt. (Dr.) Joshua Morganstein succinctly explained. “Our memories diminish for things over time. In [PTSD], sometimes the opposite occurs where memories become even more amplified,” he explained. Stigma is one reason people may not seek out PTSD care. “They may perceive that they are weak, or that there’s something wrong with them if they need care. They may also be concerned about external types of stigma, where they worry that their friends or neighbors or coworkers or supervisors will think poorly of them,” Morganstein said.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Recruit’s training death was “avoidable,” Marines say. Was it also negligent homicide?](#) [Karl Puckett and Sofia Sanchez, *The Island Packet* (Hilton Head, S.C.), 4 August 2022]

*The death of Marine recruit Dalton Beals—who succumbed to the heat last June during training at U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in South Carolina—likely could have been avoided with better supervision and leadership, and may result in charges being brought against his drill instructor,*

*including the possibility of negligent homicide. That's according to a U.S. Marines investigative report obtained by the Island Packet and Beaufort Gazette. Those who complete the Crucible receive their Corps' Eagle, Globe and Anchor Emblem, and go on to graduate. Prior to the Crucible, the report says, recruits were unwilling to bring problems to the drill instructor's attention. His perceived indifference to the well-being of recruits "could have impacted Recruit Beals or other recruit's willingness to seek medical attention when Recruit Beals was clearly showing signs of heat injury during the Crucible," the report says.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **RACISM**

[Man charged with hate crime for attacking Asian woman with box cutter in New York City, police say](#) [Chantal Da Silva, *NBC News*, 3 August 2022]

*A 30-year-old man was arrested and charged with assault as a hate crime on Tuesday after allegedly attacking an Asian woman with a box cutter in Times Square, police said. Anthony Evans, of Manhattan, was apprehended Tuesday night over what the New York City Police Department described as an unprovoked attack on the 59-year-old victim. It comes as an [analysis of hate crime data](#) published earlier this year by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism found that anti-Asian hate crimes increased by 339% last year compared with the year prior, with cities including New York City, San Francisco and Los Angeles surpassing record numbers in 2020. The increase was part of an overall 11% rise in suspected hate crimes reported to police in a dozen of the largest cities in the U.S. The report found that Black Americans remained the most targeted group in most cities.*

## **RELIGION**

[AFIMSC Chaplain shares his "True North" calling](#) [David Ford, *Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Public Affairs*, 31 July 2022]

*Finding your True North - your authentic self, your purpose, your beliefs—can be a struggle for many today. In an Air Force where there has been an increase in suicides in recent years, helping people find and appreciate their unique selves is a calling for Chaplain (Capt.) Portmann Werner and the service's chaplain corps. "Life is full of struggles, and we could all use some support along the way," said Werner, a member of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center's Chaplain Corps Division and a mentor and proponent for the [True North](#) program. True North is a resiliency program that embeds providers and spiritual leaders within squadrons and groups to strengthen mental and spiritual health, two of the four pillars of Air Force resiliency. It was started by the Air Force Special Operations Command in 2010 to normalize help-seeking behavior, optimize performance and increase resiliency, and it is now available at 16 bases.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Devil's bargain: How sex crime plea deals let these soldiers retire and avoid registries](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 4 August 2022]

*In courts-martial, plea deals are between the convening authority—the general whose command is trying the case, advised by their staff judge advocate—and the accused. An Army spokesperson noted that the convening authority "must consider" input from the victim, but they're not obligated to follow their wishes. According to Philip Cave, a retired Navy JAG and experienced military defense attorney*

*who serves as a director of the National Institute of Military Justice, plea deals such as these are “a common practice.” He said that, like in civilian courts, the “vast majority” of UCMJ cases are resolved outside of trial, though sex offense cases are more likely to go to trial in the military. The seasoned defense attorney argued that pretrial agreements, even those that allow defendants to plead down to non-sexual charges, have their benefits: a relatively quick resolution to the case, as well as a predictable sentence. In some cases, prosecutors and victims either don’t fully understand or don’t support deals, explained retired Col. Don Christensen, who once was the Air Force’s top prosecutor but is now head of Protect our Defenders, a non-profit that aims to end sexual violence in the military.*

[GAO: VA Needs Better Data Collection, Analysis on Sexual Harassment](#) [Alexandra Kelley, NextGov, 1 August 2022]

*Problems with data collection and assessment continue to plague the Department of Veterans Affairs, specifically regarding information on sexual harassment incidents within the agency. Detailed in a [new Government Accountability Office oversight report](#), the VA was reportedly made aware of outstanding problems with its organizational structure surrounding sexual harassment reporting in 2020 following the GAO’s first report addressing the issue. The assessment of available data on incidents was listed as flawed, with GAO officials noting that the current VA reporting system did not require agency managers to document all complaints properly. The report notes that while the VA revamped its sexual misconduct reporting system to be mandatory, the post-collection assessment of this data is still lacking.*

[New sexual assault policies across the military](#) [Abigail Russ, Federal News Network, 28 July 2022]

*Military branches are taking a tougher stance to combat sexual assault to create safer environments for soldiers and encourage victims to come forward. The Army, Navy and Air Force are implementing new policies aimed at reducing assaults. The Defense Department has been battling sexual assault incidents for years and is in the process of implementing more than 80 recommendations from an independent review commission that finished its work last year. Experts estimated around 20,000 people are assaulted in the military each year, said Don Christenson, the former chief prosecutor for the Air Force and current president of Protect our Defenders.*

[Police chief took Army base roles despite harassment claims](#) [The Associated Press, 4 August 2022]

*A former police chief was able to move between postings at U.S. Army bases despite allegations that he sexually harassed women at one base and that his poor behavior may have played a role in a coworker’s suicide, [according to Army documents obtained by the Wisconsin State Journal](#). The newspaper reported that Ryan Cunningham became police chief at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin in 2016, months after an investigation at Fort Wainwright in Alaska found he sexually harassed a female Army sergeant and made unwanted advances toward her and other women while he was that base’s acting police chief. Cunningham resigned while the investigation was ongoing. An investigation at Fort McCoy, about 110 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Madison, found that Cunningham often used slurs to refer to his officers and the hostile working environment may have contributed to the suicide of James Hamilton, the base’s former director of emergency services, who died in 2020.*

## **SUICIDE**

[Former VA secretaries urge Senate to designate day to help veterans, service members at risk of suicide](#) [Sara Samora, Stars and Stripes, 4 August 2022]

*Seven former Department of Veterans Affairs secretaries sent a letter to the Senate on Thursday urging them to designate a day for people to contact a veteran or service member at risk of suicide. The day, dubbed National Warrior Call Day, is an initiative started by Feherty's Troops First Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by Golf Channel broadcaster David Feherty. The project aims to encourage service members to reach out to fellow troops who might be isolated in the hopes that they can become reconnected. The VA's 2021 National Suicide Prevention Annual Report states 6,261 veterans died by suicide in 2019. Firearm deaths accounted for more than 70% of veteran suicides that year. A 2021 Brown University report estimated 30,177 active-duty personnel and veterans of the post 9/11 wars have died by suicide, compared to more than 7,057 service members killed in post-9/11 war operations.*

## **VETERANS**

[Navajo Code Talker Samuel Sandoval dies](#) [Paradise Afshar and Nouran Salahieh, CNN, 31 July 2022] *During the war, [Samuel] Sandoval was one of hundreds of young Navajo men recruited to use an 813-word code based on the native Navajo language to send and receive military communications in the South Pacific Theater. The original Navajo recruits were tasked with developing an unbreakable code by using words from their language and encoding it with word substitution to transmit tactical information over telephone and radio. The Navajo language was chosen as a code because it was not written and very few people who aren't of Navajo origin could speak it, according to the CIA. The Code Talkers were used in every major operation involving the Marines in the Pacific theater, and are credited with helping the U.S. take Iwo Jima. Sandoval served in five combat tours, including Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Peleliu, and Okinawa, before he was honorably discharged on January 26, 1946, according to the Navajo Nation release.*