

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 19 AUGUST 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[Americans with Disabilities Act protects transgender people, judge rules](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 16 August 2022]

Transgender people are protected from discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a federal court of appeals judge ruled Tuesday. The ruling stems from a 2020 lawsuit filed on behalf of Kesha Williams, a transgender woman who was incarcerated in a Virginia men’s prison despite the fact that she had been receiving hormone replacement therapy for nearly two decades. The ADA, initially adopted in 1990, specifies that its interpretation of the term “disability” does not include “gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments,” as well as “transvestism” or “transsexualism”—both of which are outdated terms. Attorneys for the defendants argued—and the district court held—that that exclusion of the statute applied to Williams’ gender dysphoria, thus barring her ADA claim. On Tuesday, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled to the contrary, arguing that gender dysphoria is not a gender identity disorder at all.

[DOD Releases First Department-wide Social Media Policy](#) [C. Todd Lopez, *DOD News*, 15 August 2022]

The Defense Department today [released a policy](#) that for the first time spells out, from the highest levels of the defense community, how DOD military and civilian personnel should use official social media accounts to best advance the mission of the U.S. military and further instill trust in the credibility of the DOD. DOD Instruction 5400.17, titled “Official Use of Social Media for Public Affairs Purposes,” provides principles for social media use within DOD, direction regarding records management procedures for social media accounts, and guidance to ensure personal social media accounts are not misrepresented or misinterpreted as official accounts.

[SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#)]

[A Proclamation Titled National Employer Support Of The Guard And Reserve Week, 2022](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 19 August 2022]

Since our Nation’s founding, many courageous women and men have taken the oath to defend our Constitution by joining the National Guard and Reserve. During National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, we show our appreciation for the civilian employers who support and honor our brave service members and their families. The citizen Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard, and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen of the Reserve, are central to our Armed Forces and the security of our Nation. When activated, they answer the call to serve at a moment’s notice, sacrificing their personal and professional lives to protect our safety and freedoms. When they are not in uniform, these patriots from diverse backgrounds balance the competing demands of their families, their civilian careers, and their military responsibilities. NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 21 through August 27, 2022, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

CULTURE

[80 years later, Navajo Code Talker marks group's early days](#) [*The Associated Press*, 14 August 2022]
It's been 80 years since the first Navajo Code Talkers joined the Marines, transmitting messages using a code based on their then-unwritten native language to confound Japanese military cryptologists during World War II—and Thomas H. Begay, one of the last living members of the group, still remembers the struggle. “It was the hardest thing to learn,” the 98-year-old Begay said Sunday at a Phoenix ceremony marking the anniversary. “But we were able to develop a code that couldn't be broken by the enemy of the United States of America.” Hundreds of Navajos were recruited by the U.S. Marines to serve as Code Talkers during the war. Begay is one of three who is still alive to talk about it. The Code Talkers participated in all assaults the Marines led in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945 including Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu and Iwo Jima.

[Academy apologizes to Sacheen Littlefeather for treatment when she refused Marlon Brando's Oscar in 1973](#) [Liz Calvario, *NBC News*, 16 August 2022]

*The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences apologized to the Native American activist and actor Sacheen Littlefeather, almost 50 years after she was met with disrespect and harassment as she declined Marlon Brando's Oscar. In 1973, Littlefeather became the first person to make a political statement at the Oscars ceremony. When Brando was announced as the best actor winner for his role in “The Godfather,” Littlefeather took the stage to make a powerful and poignant statement about the depiction of Native Americans in the entertainment industry. During her speech, Littlefeather was applauded and booed. She recently claimed in an interview with *A.frame*, the academy's digital magazine, that John Wayne physically assaulted her and took her off the stage.*

[A Civil Servant's Effort to Humanize Government, One Fed at a Time](#) [Natalie Alms, *Government Executive*, 19 August 2022]

*In the midst of growing distrust and, at times, vitriol against government employees, one federal employee is working to tell the stories of individual public sector workers. Brian Whittaker launched the project, called *Humans of Public Service*, or HOPS, in May. Currently, the project lives on social media platforms. He's motivated by this question—“how do I let the American public know that there are people in public service that actually care?” The feeling that he needed to do something came after the murder of George Floyd in 2020, although at that point, he wasn't sure what to do. “One of the big things that sort of hit me was just the shock of other people's shock,” said Whittaker, who is Afro-Latino. “I feel like the majority were opening up their eyes to the minority experience.” Whittaker knew that he couldn't singlehandedly solve these problems, but he could “highlight people of color within government that are doing great work that often aren't seen,” he said.*

[Services need clear guidance for granting tattoo waivers, report says](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 18 August 2022]

The military services now have some of the most liberal tattoo policies they've ever enacted, to include allowing neck, hand and ear tattoos in the Army, Navy and Space Force. But tattoo size and placement can still be a bar to enlisting or commissioning unless recruits can obtain a waiver. With the military recruiting environment tougher than ever, the services would benefit by more clearly laying out the waiver process, [according to a Government Accountability Office report released Wednesday](#). “Although each of the armed forces allows waivers for certain tattoo restrictions for recruits, the

policies do not always mention or provide clear guidance on the requirements for these waivers,” the report found. Essentially, though recruiters might tell their prospects to seek a waiver, tattoo policies don’t always lay out the process or provide any indication of the likelihood that one will be approved.

[Solange Knowles becomes first Black woman to compose score for NYC Ballet](#) [Olafmihan Oshin, *The Hill*, 17 August 2022]

R&B singer Solange Knowles has become the first Black woman to [compose a score for the New York City Ballet](#). The New York Times reported that Knowles’s score was written for a chamber ensemble made up of some of the artist’s musical collaborators and members of the company’s orchestra. Knowles, the younger sister of pop star Beyoncé, has established herself as an innovative interdisciplinary artist in the past years, drawing acclaim for albums including 2016’s “Seat at the Table” and 2019’s “When I Get Home.” The Houston, Texas, native also uses her platform to amplify societal issues, such as the Black Lives Matter movement.

[Stolen skulls of Black Philadelphians were displayed in an Ivy League classroom for years. They may soon receive a proper burial.](#) [Jacquelyne Germain, *CNN*, 13 August 2022]

Behind glass-fronted cabinets in a University of Pennsylvania classroom, the skulls of Black Philadelphians whose remains were either graverobbed or unethically obtained were on display until 2020. For nearly six years, students had been taking introductory and advanced anthropology classes surrounded by a couple hundred skulls that made up only a fraction of the massive Morton Cranial Collection, named after Samuel George Morton, a physician and anatomy professor who used racist pseudo-science to advance White supremacist ideas. Penn Museum is petitioning the Philadelphia Orphans’ Court for permission to rebury the skulls in Eden Cemetery, a historic Black cemetery right outside Philadelphia. Woods said if the court approves the burial, the museum hopes to hold an open, interfaith ceremony at the cemetery in the fall to commemorate the reburials.

[The U.S. military is getting caught up in a war on drag shows](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 18 August 2022]

The Russian invasion of Ukraine grinds on. China continues to threaten Taiwan. But the Defense Department is getting pulled into an entirely different kind of conflict: The war against drag shows. A new bill introduced by Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-Wis.) would prevent the Defense Department from using any money toward “organizing, promoting, or hosting drag shows as a means of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.” Grothman, who co-sponsored legislation that would have prevented any money from funding chief diversity officers and similar positions within the Defense Department, said he believes troops should constantly focus on winning wars, and drag shows are an unnecessary distraction that will ultimately leave service members less prepared to fight and win.

[Wisconsin school board votes in favor of pride flag ban](#) [The Associated Press, 17 August 2022]

A Wisconsin school board voted in favor of a policy that prohibits teachers and staff from displaying gay pride flags and other items that district officials consider political in nature. The Kettle Moraine School Board voted unanimously Tuesday to keep a code of conduct in place that the superintendent recently interpreted as forbidding district employees from displaying political or religious messages, including pride flags, and Black Lives Matter and We Back the Badge signs. Staff also may not say in emails what their preferred pronouns are. Most of those who spoke at Tuesday’s packed board meeting opposed the policy. “If you have a policy that says ‘nothing political,’ does that mean you can’t have a sign up that says, ‘Support our Troops,’ or ‘Believe Women’ or ‘Save the Planet?’ By some people’s

definitions, all of those things are political,” said Christine Donahoe, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin.

DISCRIMINATION

[Colorado to spar over discrimination case in Supreme Court](#) [Jesse Bedayn, *The Associated Press*, 12 August 2022]

Colorado is urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold its anti-discrimination law in the face of a challenge by a Christian web designer who does not want to create custom wedding websites for same-sex couples and claims the state law violates her right to free speech. In a brief filed Friday with the court, lawyers for the Colorado State Attorney’s Office said Colorado’s anti-discrimination law only requires that a business sell its goods or services to all members of the public and does not regulate speech. “The Act addresses what a business does and not what it says. Any burden the Act might impose on a business’s expression therefore does not violate the First Amendment,” they said. The high court is expected to hear the case of Lorie Smith this fall. Smith, who runs a graphic and website design business in the Denver area, wants to expand into wedding website services but says her Christian beliefs prevent her from designing a wedding website or graphics for a same-sex couple.

[Disqualified for disabilities, railroad workers fight back](#) [Josh Funk, *The Associated Press*, 18 August 2022]

After Terrence Hersey had a stroke on the way home from his railroad job in 2015, he underwent months of therapy to learn how to put words together in sentences and learn to walk again. He had to relearn how to get in and out of a car and how to dress himself before his doctors eventually cleared him to return to work with no restrictions. Hersey is among hundreds of Union Pacific employees who are fighting back with federal lawsuits after losing their jobs because of health issues. Although they make up only a small percentage of the railroad’s more than 30,000 employees, their cases could prove costly to Union Pacific and could hinder the companies’ efforts to fill scores of open jobs at a time when all of the nation’s railroads are dealing with worker shortages. Former Union Pacific workers have filed at least 15 other federal lawsuits, and more than 200 other complaints are pending with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that are likely to turn into lawsuits. Seven other cases have been settled.

[“Don’t Say Gay” law confuses some Florida schools](#) [Anthony Izaguirre and Adriana Gomez Licon, *The Associated Press*, 15 August 2022]

Some Florida schools have moved library books and debated changing textbooks in response to a law critics call “Don’t Say Gay”—and some teachers have worried that family pictures on their desks could get them in trouble. As students return from summer break, educators are cautiously adjusting and waiting to see how the new law governing lessons on gender and sexual orientation will be interpreted and enforced. The new law, championed by Florida’s GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis, bans lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade as well as material that is not deemed age-appropriate. Most educators do not expect a major change in lesson plans—one of the key reasons critics cited in saying the law was unnecessary was that teachers do not cover such subjects in early grades anyway. But some worry it sets a tone that will leave LGBTQ teachers and kids feeling ostracized.

[In rare move, school librarian fights back in court against conservative activists](#) [Tyler Kingkade, NBC News, 13 August 2022]

A Louisiana school librarian is suing two men for defamation after they accused her of advocating to keep “pornographic” materials in the parish library’s kids’ section. It’s a rare example of an educator taking legal action against conservatives who use extreme rhetoric in their battle against LGBTQ-themed books. Amanda Jones, a librarian at a middle school in Denham Springs, Louisiana, filed a defamation lawsuit Wednesday, arguing that Facebook pages run by Michael Lunsford and Ryan Thames falsely labeled her a pedophile who wants to teach 11-year-olds about anal sex. Jones, the president of the Louisiana Association of School Librarians, was alarmed and outraged by the verbal attacks, which came after she spoke against censorship at a Livingston Parish Library Board of Control meeting. She said she’s suing the two men because she’s exhausted with the insults hurled at educators and librarians over LGBTQ materials.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Pennsylvania governor signs executive order banning conversion therapy](#) [Jo Yuracaba, NBC News, 16 August 2022]

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf signed an executive order Tuesday to ban conversion therapy, a discredited form of therapy that seeks to change someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity, for minors. The executive order directs state agencies to discourage conversion therapy for people of all ages, and to instead promote evidence-based practices for supporting LGBTQ people. The order also directs the Department of Human Services, among other agencies, to ensure that state funds are not being used to provide or reimburse for conversion therapy. The executive order makes Pennsylvania the 26th state to at least partially bar the practice for minors, according to the Movement Advancement Project, an LGBTQ think tank. Twenty other states and Washington, D.C., completely ban the practice, while five states partially ban conversion therapy for minors.

[Sesame Place to implement diversity initiatives after racial bias incident](#) [Kiara Alfonseca and Kendall Ross, ABC News, 10 August 2022]

Following a barrage of online allegations of racial bias and one [\\$25 million class action lawsuit](#), Sesame Place has announced initiatives to help expand its “commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.” These efforts include comprehensive racial equity assessment, an anti-bias training and education program as well as enhancements to pre-existing diversity, equity and inclusion programs. Sesame Place is a licensed park partner of Sesame Workshop and is owned by Sea World. Attorney B’Ivory LaMarr, who represents the family of two young Black girls who claimed they were dismissed by a Sesame Place character during a visit, will be meeting with the SeaWorld CEO alongside parents and civil rights leaders on Aug. 11.

[White House Can’t Just Retaliate Against and Discipline Its Employees Willy-Nilly, Panel Rules](#) [Eric Katz, Government Executive, 11 August 2022]

Career employees at the White House are entitled to appeal suspensions and firings and maintain whistleblower protections, according to a federal board that ruled against administrations that have sought leniency in dealing with workers in close proximity to the president. The Merit Systems Protection Board sided with White House staffers in a pair of recent rulings, saying they were entitled to the same civil service protections that are afforded to the rest of the federal workforce. In cases that dated back to the Obama and Trump administrations, the White House argued its employees were

technically appointed by the president and therefore should not hold the same rights as other civil servants.

DIVERSITY

[Bionic hand can be updated with new gestures, anytime, anywhere](#) [Paul Sandle, *Reuters*, 16 August 2022]

Australian swimmer Jessica Smith has had an uneasy relationship with prosthetics since a childhood accident, but her convictions are being challenged by a British bionic hand that can be updated remotely anywhere in the world. The 2004 Athens Paralympian was born without a left hand. Her parents were advised to fit a prosthesis to help with her development, but the device caused her to upset a boiling kettle when she was a toddler, causing burns to 15% of her body. Knowing it would be an emotional challenge, Smith was fitted with the device in April at the age of 37. Bionic hands convert electrical impulses from the muscles in the upper arm into movement powered by motors in the hand, enabling a user to hold a glass, open a door or pick up an egg. Simon Pollard, who founded Covvi five years ago, said he wanted to add bluetooth to the device to allow the company's specialists to update it via an app.

[Elected Officials Past "Child-bearing Age" Bristle at Lawmaker's Tweet](#) [Sahalie Donaldson, *Route Fifty*, 18 August 2022]

Where's the line between ageism and saying that having more younger elected officials would be a good thing? Impassioned conversation about the topic was reignited this week after [New York] state Sen. Alessandra Biaggi doubled down on comments she made last month that members of Congress who are "past child-bearing age" are more likely to be disconnected from the issues they claim to fight for and less likely to fight fiercely. But the real public response came this week after Biaggi embraced an attack mailer toward her campaign for the 17th Congressional District that featured a blown up image of the tweet with the words "All of us who are 'past child-bearing age' have one word for Alessandra Biaggi: goodbye." The attack mailer hones in on perhaps the most inflammatory part of the senator's original remarks and leaves the rest out, including a clarification that her point isn't that elders shouldn't hold political office—rather, that they are already well represented and must make space for younger leaders.

[First woman takes command of Naval Test Wing Atlantic](#) [U.S. Navy News Service, 11 August 2022]

Capt. Elizabeth Somerville became the Navy's first woman to command Naval Test Wing Atlantic after a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Aug. 11. Somerville takes command alongside the wing's first woman civilian director, Deb Salamon. "This test wing is charged with an important mission: deliver lethality to our Sailors and Marines," said Somerville. "It's a huge challenge but this team is up for it—flight test is the ultimate team sport." Somerville is an EA-6B Prowler and EA-18G Growler naval flight officer with more than two decades of experience in operational and developmental aviation.

["Inclusive Barbies are a major step in my life"](#) [Ellie Cleverley and Iqra Farooq, *BBC News*, 17 August 2022]

"It's a major step in the toy industry and in my life. It made me feel proud of who I was." James Stewart is among those celebrating the new Barbie dolls that are being released today. Mattel, the company that makes them, has released a range of more diverse dolls. For the first time, Barbie is seen with a hearing

aid, a prosthetic limb and a wheelchair, while a Ken doll has the skin condition vitiligo. James, who has the skin condition, says it “felt quite surreal” to hold. The 17-year-old—who is now a model—was bullied at school because of vitiligo, where white patches of skin appear on different parts of the body. James says it took him “a while to regain my self-confidence”, but he hopes more representation will benefit future generations.

[Marine astronaut to lead NASA mission to International Space Station](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Military Times*, 18 August 2022]

Becoming a Marine is no small feat, so becoming a Marine turned astronaut might simply sound out of this world. Not, however, for Col. Nicole Mann, 45, a former F/A-18 Hornet and Super Hornet test pilot who will lead the upcoming SpaceX Crew-5 team to the International Space Station. While she is not the first woman—or Marine—to travel to space, Mann’s journey to reach the stars nonetheless demonstrates her remarkable commitment to serve her country and the world. Her career includes more than 2,500 flight hours in 25 types of aircraft and 47 combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to her NASA bio. As mission commander, Mann will be responsible for all phases of the flight, from launch to re-entry. In addition to her upcoming Crew-5 mission, Mann has also been selected to join NASA’s Artemis program, which aims to perform the first lunar landing mission since 1972.

[NBA diversity study finds job gains by minorities, women](#) [Aaron Beard, *The Associated Press*, 10 August 2022]

A diversity report found the NBA posting nearly across-the-board gains in hiring of minorities and women after a small, one-year dip in its overall grade. [Wednesday’s report card from The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport \(TIDES\)](#) at the University of Central Florida gave the NBA an overall A grade, with an A-plus for racial hiring and a B-plus for gender hiring. The report annually examines hiring for positions with franchises and in league leadership, with this study using data from the 2021-22 season. A year earlier, the league saw its overall grade dip to a B-plus despite its status as the leader among men’s professional leagues evaluated by TIDES. It was the first time the NBA had failed to register at least an A-minus since 2006, though institute director and lead report author Richard Lapchick noted then that the decrease had been due largely to a methodology change to include team ownership.

[Olympic champion Ellia Green finds liberation in transition](#) [Dennis Passa, *The Associated Press*, 16 August 2022]

*Ellia Green realized as a young child—long before becoming an Olympic champion—that a person’s identity and a gender assigned at birth can be very different things. Now, about 20 years later, one of the stars of Australia’s gold medal-winning women’s rugby sevens team at the 2016 Olympics has transitioned to male. Green, who has kept the same name, told *The Associated Press* it was the best decision of his life. Realizing that sharing his experience could be lifesaving for others is what compelled Green to go public in a video to be shown Tuesday to participants at an international summit on ending transphobia and homophobia in sport. The only other transgender or gender diverse Olympic gold medalists are Caitlyn Jenner and Quinn, who goes by one name and was part of Canada’s winning women’s soccer team in Tokyo last year.*

[The Oversight Community Is Taking These Steps to Be More Diverse and Inclusive](#) [Courtney Bubl , *Government Executive*, 12 August 2022]

A group of federal watchdogs is working to make the oversight community more diverse, inclusive, equitable and accessible through personnel practices as well as the work they do, which aligns with the Biden administration's goals for the federal workforce at-large. The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency established a diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) work group in April 2021, which has membership from over 25 IG offices. Earlier this summer the group [released a roadmap](#) to help IG offices of all sizes advancing DEIA. The 65-page roadmap gives recommendations on how to increase DEIA in these areas: continuous education; staffing, recruitment and hiring; promotions and professional development; performance and recognition; diversity of business suppliers; stakeholders and partners; safe and inclusive workplaces; and data collection and use. It also provides lists of resources and how to measure results for each.

[Solicitation: Become a certified Diversity and Inclusion change agent](#) [Annie Sheenan, U.S. Coast Guard News Service, 15 August 2022]

A group of certified Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) change agents are currently operating throughout the Coast Guard, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (CG-127) is looking for more folks to join the team. During group training sessions, change agents expand people's understanding of what diversity, inclusion, and equity mean by demystifying concepts such as privilege, oppression, identity, and intersectionality. They also coach leaders on embodying inclusive, aware, and empowering behaviors, and create safe spaces to discuss topics of race, ethnicity, class, gender, disability, and more. Change agents are a cornerstone of the [Diversity and Inclusion Education and Awareness Program \(DIEAP\)](#). After completing a six-month program, these agents provide diversity and inclusion (D&I) training sessions to members at the unit level as well as one-on-one coaching services to commanding officers, officers-in-charge, and program managers.

EXTREMISM

[Are extremism and violent crime rising among veterans, or are we just seeing more of it?](#) [Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, 17 August 2022]

The current and former service members who have joined extremist groups represent a tiny percentage of the entire population of troops and veterans. But it's also true that an increasing number of troops and veterans are taking part in extremist activities. Between 1990 and 2021, a total of 461 Americans with military backgrounds committed extremist crimes, [according to The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism](#), known as the START Center. Of that number, 120 were charged in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on Congress. Michael Jensen leads the domestic radicalization team for the [START Center, which maintains a database](#) of people in the United States who have been indicted or arrested for committing crimes inspired by extremist ideologies, including far-right, far-left, and Islamic beliefs. The most recent data shows that the number of Americans with military backgrounds who are committing extremist crimes has increased dramatically in recent years, he said.

[Biden to host unity summit against hate-fueled violence](#) [Zeke Miller, The Associated Press, 19 August 2022]

President Joe Biden will host a White House summit next month aimed at combating a spate of hate-fueled violence in the U.S., as he works to deliver on his campaign pledge to "heal the soul of the nation." The White House announced Friday that Biden will host the United We Stand Summit on Sept. 15, highlighting the "corrosive effects" of violence on public safety and democracy. Advocates pushed

Biden to hold the event after 10 Black people were killed at a Buffalo, New York, supermarket in May, aiming as well to address a succession of hate-driven violence in cities including El Paso, Texas, Pittsburgh and Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Biden will deliver a keynote speech at the gathering, which the White House says will include civil rights groups, faith leaders, business executives, law enforcement, gun violence prevention advocates, former members of violent hate groups, the victims of extremist violence and cultural figures. The White House emphasized that it also intends to bring together Democrats and Republicans, as well as political leaders on the federal, state and local levels to unite against hate-motivated violence.

[Faced with a Rise of Extremism Within Its Ranks, the U.S. Military Has Clamped Down on Racist Speech, Including Retweets and Likes](#) [Dwight Stirling, *The Conversation*, 11 August 2022]

While soldiers and sailors are certainly not excluded from the protection of the First Amendment, it is fair to say they operate under a diluted version of it. As one federal judge observed, the “sweep of the protection is less comprehensive in the military context, given the different character of the military community and mission.” The “right to speak out as a free American” must be balanced against “providing an effective fighting force for the defense of our Country,” a federal judge noted in a separate case. These and other federal judges point to the military’s need for good order and discipline in justifying this approach. While never precisely defined, good order and discipline is generally considered being obedient to orders, having respect for one’s chain of command and showing allegiance to the Constitution. Speech that “prevents the orderly accomplishment of the mission” or “promotes disloyalty and dissatisfaction” within the ranks harms good order and discipline, and can be restricted.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Former Army Ranger from Glenshaw charged with assaulting cops during Capitol riot set to be tried](#) [Torsten Ove, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 18 August 2022]

Former Army Ranger Robert Morss, the Glenshaw man charged with storming the Capitol and assaulting police in support of Donald Trump’s election lies, will go on trial without a jury on Aug. 29 in the District of Columbia. U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden on Tuesday set a bench trial date for Mr. Morss and three other defendants. All four face felony charges related to attacking police during the Jan. 6 insurrection, and all elected to choose a bench trial. A second group of accused rioters is awaiting trial. Mr. Morss, a 29-year-old Afghanistan combat veteran, faces a lengthy prison term if convicted. Federal prosecutors said he was a leader and an instigator during the riot. Video shows him attacking police in a Capitol tunnel, according to the FBI. He had previously tried to get some of the 53 counts against him tossed out, but the judge rejected his attempts. He will be tried along with Patrick McCaughey, of Ridgefield, Conn.; Tristan Stevens, of Pensacola, Fla.; and David Mehaffie, of Kettering, Ohio.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Gunman Who Targeted FBI Office Was a Navy, National Guard Veteran with History of Violent Social Media Posts](#) [Konstantin Toropin and Rebecca Kheel, *Military.com*, 12 August 2022]

The gunman who tried to breach the FBI’s Cincinnati office and engaged officers in a standoff that lasted hours before his death served on a nuclear submarine in the Navy and later in the National Guard. Ricky Walter Shiffer Jr., 42, is accused of trying to break into the FBI field office in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Thursday morning while armed, according to statements from the FBI and Ohio State Highway Patrol. Accounts appearing to belong to Shiffer posted numerous violent messages in recent weeks,

escalating after former President Donald Trump's home was searched by the FBI on Monday. Shiffer's social media posts on Twitter and Truth Social—all of which have been removed since the shooting—showed that he frequently engaged with right-wing conspiracies and suggested a need for violence.

[Pennsylvania Man Charged After Threatening to Murder FBI Agents Over Mar-a-Lago Search](#) [Frank Konkel, Nextgov, 16 August 2022]

A Pennsylvania man was arrested Monday for threatening violence against FBI agents following a slew of online posts he made last week, after FBI agents searched former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. According to court documents, 46-year-old Adam Bies of Mercer, Pennsylvania allegedly authored several posts on the social media platform Gab under the username "BlankFocus," including, "My only goal is to kill more of them before I drop," and "If You Work For The FBI Then You Deserve To Die." The FBI National Threat Operations Section Social Media Exploitation Team received a tip regarding the threats on Aug. 11 from the Domestic Terrorism Threat Monitor. Bies is charged with influencing, impeding or retaliating against federal law enforcement officers, which carries a maximum sentence of up to ten years in prison.

[Sir Salman Rushdie attack suspect "only read two pages" of Satanic Verses](#) [BBC News, 18 August 2022]

The man accused of stabbing Sir Salman Rushdie has reportedly said he has only read two pages of the author's controversial novel "The Satanic Verses." Hadi Matar, 24, has pleaded not guilty to charges stemming from the assault at an event in New York last week. In an interview with the New York Post from jail, Mr Matar said Sir Salman was "someone who attacked Islam". But he did not confirm that his alleged actions were driven by a fatwa issued by Iran in the 1980s. Mr Matar is currently being held at Chautauqua County Jail, in New York state. Earlier this week, Mr Matar's mother said she had disowned her son after his alleged behaviour. "I'm done with him," Silvana Fardos said on Monday, adding: "I have nothing to say to him." Sir Salman suffered a damaged liver as well as severed nerves in an arm and eye injuries in the attack, but was taken off a ventilator on Saturday.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[The "illusion of knowledge" that makes people overconfident](#) [David Robson, BBC Worklife, 16 August 2022]

If you consider yourself reasonably intelligent and educated, you might assume that you have a fair grasp on the core ways the world works—knowledge about the familiar inventions and natural phenomena that surround us. If you are like many of the participants in psychological studies, you may have initially expected to perform very well. However, when they are asked to offer a nuanced answer to each question, most people are completely stumped—just as you may be, too. This bias is known as an ["illusion of knowledge"](#) You may think that these specific examples are trivial—they're the kinds of questions, after all, that an inquisitive child might ask you, where the worst consequence may be a red face in front of your family. But illusions of knowledge can afflict our judgement in many domains. In the workplace, for example, it can lead us to overclaim our knowledge in an interview, overlook the contributions of our colleagues and take on jobs we may be wholly unable to perform.

[Why Is "Quiet Quitting" A Thing for White People But Not For Their Black Co-Workers?](#) [Angela Johnson, The Root, 12 August 2022] [COMMENTARY]

I gotta be honest. I just learned about the term “quiet quitting” today. But once I started researching, I fell down a rabbit hole of articles and TikTok videos covering it as the latest workplace phenomenon employees are using to avoid burnout. Even TikTok creator Zaid Khan got in on the discussion, posting a now-viral video describing “quiet quitting” as “not outright quitting your job, but quitting the idea of going above and beyond.” Those trying to make “quiet quitting” a thing suggest it as an alternative to dealing with workplace burnout that doesn’t involve storming into your boss’ office with a letter of resignation. Clocking out at five, saying no to an extra project, and staying off email outside of normal business hours are just a few ways experts say you can put it into practice. Black people aren’t talking about this because for most people of color, “quiet quitting” is simply not a choice. [According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the unemployment rate for Black people (7.1 percent) was more than double that of Whites (3.2 percent) in December 2021.

INTERNATIONAL

[Benjamin Mendy: Women disposable to “predator” footballer, jury told](#) [BBC News, 15 August 2022]
Manchester City footballer Benjamin Mendy is a “predator” who “turned the pursuit of women for sex into a game”, a court has heard. The 28-year-old is accused of eight counts of rape, one of attempted rape and one of sexual assault. Opening the case, Timothy Cray QC said it had “very little to do with football” and more about men who “think they are powerful”. He said the women were “disposable” to Mr Mendy. The prosecution told the court how the footballer enjoyed a “privileged and moneyed lifestyle”, and that his “wealth and status” meant “others were prepared to help him to get what he wanted”. Mr Mendy, a French international, of Prestbury, Cheshire, is on trial alongside co-defendant Louis Saha Maturie, 41.

[Letter from Africa: How racism haunts Black people in Italy](#) [BBC News, 14 August 2022]
For Italian-Eritrean filmmaker and podcaster Ariam Tekle, there is no doubt that the recent killing of a disabled Nigerian street vendor, Alika Ogorchukwu, in Italy was a “racist murder”. A suspect—a White man named as Filippo Claudio Giuseppe Ferlazzo—has been ordered to remain in jail as the investigation continues. A police investigator said Mr Ogorchukwu was attacked after the trader’s “insistent” requests to the suspect and his partner for spare change. Nevertheless, his horrific murder - caught on video—has firmly put the spotlight on racism in Italy. In recent years Italy, a country long known for its history of mass emigration, has become one of Europe’s migrant hotspots. The country has struggled to cope with this historic reversal and to integrate migrants successfully into Italian society.

[New Zealand river’s personhood status offers hope to Māori](#) [Nick Perry, *The Associated Press*, 15 August 2022]
In 2017, New Zealand passed a groundbreaking law granting personhood status to the Whanganui River. The law declares that the river is a living whole, from the mountains to the sea, incorporating all its physical and metaphysical elements. The law was part of a settlement with the Whanganui Iwi, comprising Māori from a number of tribes who have long viewed the river as a living force. The novel legal approach set a precedent that has been followed by some other countries including Bangladesh, which in 2019 granted all its rivers the same rights as people. For many, its enhanced standing has come to reflect a wider rebirth of Māori culture and a chance to reverse generations of discrimination against Māori and degradation of the river. Whanganui Māori have a saying: Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au: I am the river, and the river is me.

[Red lips, white face: The cultural history of Japanese beauty](#) [Stars and Stripes, 16 August 2022]

Have you ever wondered about the development of Japanese beauty ideals that we see today? Although the trends have vastly changed, the modern look of Japanese fashionistas has its root buried deep into Japanese history. The chronicles called kojiki (“Records of Ancient Matters”) and nihon shoki (the second oldest book of classical Japanese history) reveal that even in ancient times, specific beauty customs such as of painting the face with red pigments did already exist. Diverse forms of makeup—such as cheek colors and facial powders—were imported into Japan, along with other cultural aspects from China and Korea. It is said that the first Japanese face powder was produced by a Buddhist priest. Apparently, he delighted the Japanese Empress with his newest invention so much that he set the trend for what should soon become one of the biggest cosmetic markets in the world.

[Saudi doctoral student gets 34 years in prison for tweets](#) [Isabel Debre, *The Associated Press*, 18 August 2022]

A Saudi court has sentenced a doctoral student to 34 years in prison for spreading “rumors” and retweeting dissidents, according to court documents obtained Thursday, a decision that has drawn growing global condemnation. Activists and lawyers consider the sentence against Salma al-Shehab, a mother of two and a researcher at Leeds University in Britain, shocking even by Saudi standards of justice. So far unacknowledged by the kingdom, the ruling comes amid Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s crackdown on dissent even as his rule granted women the right to drive and other new freedoms in the ultraconservative Islamic nation. The Freedom Initiative describes al-Shehab as a member of Saudi Arabia’s Shiite Muslim minority, which has long complained of systematic discrimination in the Sunni-ruled kingdom.

[South Africa sex crime: Authorities charge seven over gang rape](#) [Matt Murphy and Nomsa Maseko, *BBC News*, 10 August 2022]

A group of eight women were attacked while filming a music video at the mine near the town of Krugersdorp last month. Officials say they are illegal miners who dig for gold in disused shafts. The men were among more than 60 suspects who appeared in court on immigration and firearms charges. All are believed to be illegal migrants to South Africa. However, they are now expected to be tried separately because of the severity of their offences. One of the victims told the BBC the women were seeking “justice for all the girls that went through this...for the countless number of women who’ve been raped in this country”. The assaults sparked outrage in South Africa and has seen some urge authorities to do more to tackle a spate of violence against women.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force football team debuts new Space Force jerseys for game against Navy](#) [Ben Warwick, *CBS News*, 18 August 2022]

For the seventh year in a row, the Air Force football team will debut a new specialty jersey in what they call the “Air Power Series.” The jerseys are meant to honor a special unit or group in the branch. This year’s jerseys will honor the newest branch of the military, the U.S. Space Force. The jerseys are black with silver numbering, a blue name patch on the front, and an American flag on one shoulder and unit patch on the other. The back, where the name plate usually is, reads “Semper Supra,” Latin for “Always Above.” An alternate helmet shows two silver lightning bolts on the top of the helmet, a redesign of the blue lightning bolt traditionally on the side of the white helmet. The team will debut the jerseys on the field on the morning of October 1st, when Air Force hosts Navy.

[Army to kick off “bring your own device” pilot in coming weeks](#) [Jon Harper, *FEDSCOOP*, 17 August 2022]

The Army is about to begin a pilot for implementing a “bring your own device” (BYOD) concept that will allow soldiers to connect their personal communication and IT devices to Army networks. The effort will begin in September or early October, according to Lt. Gen. John Morrison Jr., deputy chief of staff, G-6. The initial focus will be on the National Guard and Reserve components, but the pilot will also be expanded to include active-duty troops as well as soldiers stationed outside the continental United States. The Army will onboard an initial cadre of “champions” for the initiative, which will include “technical users” and “regular old people” that will be using the capability. Having the technical users talking with other users at the beginning is expected to yield “amazing TTPs,” Morrison said, referring to tactics, techniques and procedures.

[Nafis Sadik, women’s health and rights champion, dies at 92](#) [Edith M. Lederer, *The Associated Press*, 16 August 2022]

Nafis Sadik, a Pakistani doctor who championed women’s health and rights and spearheaded the breakthrough action plan adopted by 179 countries at the 1994 United Nations population conference, died four days before her 93rd birthday, her son said late Monday. Nafis Sadik joined the U.N. Population Fund in 1971, became its assistant executive director in 1977, and was appointed executive director in 1987 by then Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar after the sudden death of its chief, Rafael Salas. She was the first woman to head a major United Nations program that is voluntarily funded. In June 1990, Perez de Cuellar appointed Sadik to be secretary-general of the fifth U.N. International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, and she became the architect of its groundbreaking program of action which recognized for the first time that women have the right to control their reproductive and sexual health and to choose whether to become pregnant.

[Pregnant Airmen Get More Privacy Under New Air Mobility Command Policy](#) [Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 12 August 2022]

Pregnant airmen with Air Mobility Command will now have more information about their gestation kept private from their units, under a new policy directive. The new policy allows airmen to access necessary medical care while still keeping the information about their pregnancy under wraps from their superiors, similar to rights under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. “Pregnancy is the only medical condition identified in profiles, personnel and readiness systems, making the diagnosis accessible to the unit before some women are able to process the news, determine viability, or even notify their own families,” Capt. Frances Castillo, the lead on the Air Force Women’s Initiatives Team, said in a press release. Knowledge of the pregnancy will be now brought to the attention of “limited leadership” and the base “health authorities” instead of having that information accessible to the whole unit, according to an [Air Force news release](#).

[WA activates alerts for missing Indigenous people—and forecasts more alerts overall](#) [Amy Radil, *KUOW Public Radio (Seattle, Wash.)*, 15 August 2022]

Washington state is the first in the nation to create a new missing persons’ alert specifically for Native Americans. It’s a victory for a movement that has worked to bring visibility to “Missing and Murdered Indigenous women.” They experience some of the highest rates of violence in the country. But the first use of this new system reveals how complicated some missing persons’ cases truly are. But even if families aren’t always reunited, the new alerts for missing Indigenous people are getting the word out

about a vulnerable population. Patricia Whitefoot is a member of the Yakama Nation in Central Washington. She became an advocate for missing Indigenous women after her sister Daisy disappeared in 1987. Whitefoot is a member of the state [task force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People](#), which has been developing recommendations to collect data and understand the factors contributing to disparate numbers of Indigenous women who are reported missing across the state.

RACISM

[Postal Service shuts Montpelier Station office over racial segregation exhibit](#) [Allison Brophy Champion, *Culpeper Star-Exponent* (Culpeper, Va.), 14 August 2022]

As with snail mail, information was slow in coming. But it's faster to realize that more conversation is needed about the difficult history of race in America, in Virginia and at James Madison's Montpelier. The U.S. Postal Service cites "unacceptable" history as the reason it closed the rural post office next to James Madison's Montpelier on State Route 20—Constitution Highway—in Orange County. Madison was the fourth U.S. president. The agency shut its Montpelier Station Post Office in June because it objected to an exhibit there about how the depot was once racially segregated, a Postal Service spokesman said. The display to which he referred is on a panel on one exterior wall of the depot and on panels inside the 1912 station. The post office had its own entrance, separate from the rooms in which the panels are shown. The exhibit depicts the depot's waiting room during Virginia's racially segregated era.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

["A punch in the gut." City council votes to dissolve police department after accusations emerge over a racist joke about slavery](#) [Jade Gordon and Preston Fore, *CNN*, 11 August 2022]

A city council in Alabama has voted to dissolve its three-member police department after the assistant chief sent a racist text message to other officers, according to the mayor, James Latimer. At an emergency meeting of the Vincent City Council on August 4, members moved to suspend with pay Chief of Police James Srygley and Assistant Chief of Police John L. Gross. The third officer, Lee Cardin, resigned later that evening after the council voted to pursue fully dissolving the department. Angry residents had called for the assistant police chief to be fired at a City Council meeting August 2 after the text message, which included a racist joke about slavery, surfaced on social media, CNN affiliate WBRC reported.

RELIGION

[Columbia River's salmon are the core of ancient religion](#) [Deepa Bharath, *The Associated Press*, 16 August 2022]

From its headwaters in British Columbia where the Rocky Mountains crest, the Columbia River flows south into Washington state and then westward and into the Pacific Ocean at its mouth near Astoria, Oregon. For thousands of years, Native tribes in this area have relied on Nch'i-Wána, or "the great river," for its salmon and steelhead trout, and its surrounding areas for the fields bearing edible roots, medicinal herbs and berry bushes as well as the deer and elk whose meat and hides are used for food and ritual. That reliance transcends the material realm into the spiritual, as the acts of gathering, consuming and respecting those foods are inextricably linked to the tribes' religious practice. Each year the tribes honor the salmon, roots, berries, deer and elk—which they believe were originally placed in the land for their sustenance—with what are known as "first food ceremonies." When children catch

fish, dig roots or pick berries for the first time, they are stood up before their elders in the longhouse and recognized as food gatherers.

[Judge limits privilege defense in AZ Mormon sex abuse case](#) [Michael Rezendes, *The Associated Press*, 18 August 2022]

An Arizona judge overseeing a high-profile lawsuit accusing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of conspiring to cover-up child sex abuse has ruled that the church may not refuse to answer questions or turn over documents under the state’s “clergy-penitent privilege.” Clergy in Arizona, as in many other states, are required to report information about child sexual abuse or neglect to law enforcement or child welfare authorities. But an exception to that law—the privilege—allows members of the clergy who learn of the abuse through spiritual confessions to keep the information secret. The lawsuit accuses two Arizona bishops and church leaders in Salt Lake City of negligence in not reporting the abuse and allowing Adams to continue abusing his older daughter for as many as seven years, a time in which he also abused the girl’s infant sister.

[Religious schools exempt from USDA’s Title IX rules, can keep meal funding](#) [Julia Shapero, *AXIOS*, 15 August 2022]

Religious schools are not required to follow new Title IX rules on sexual orientation and gender identity in order to receive federal meal funding, the United States Department of Agriculture [announced on Friday](#). The USDA announced in May that it would interpret Title IX—which prevents discrimination based on sex at educational institutions—to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Under the new rules, schools would need to update their policies on discrimination to include sexual orientation and gender identity in order to remain eligible for federal meal funding. The USDA clarified its position on Friday, noting that educational institutions can obtain an exemption if there is “a conflict between Title IX and a school’s governing religious tenets.” The decision comes just a week after the Biden administration granted an exemption to a religious school in Florida. Grant Park Christian Academy had filed a lawsuit in late July, claiming that complying with the new rules would harm its “educational mission, free speech and religious exercise.”

SEXISM

[VMI’s male cadets were berating her. The 1997 Hell Week photo went viral.](#) [Ian Shapira, *The Washington Post*, 18 August 2022]

Megan Smith was lost. It was Aug. 20, 1997, a landmark week at the Virginia Military Institute. After a fierce battle that had gone all the way to the Supreme Court, the nation’s oldest state-supported military college had finally admitted women. Smith was one of them. Inside the school’s Gothic Revival barracks, the 17-year-old from Colorado was trying to survive Hell Week and VMI’s “rat line”—the intense boot camp-style training for freshmen, known on the Lexington campus as “rats.” But when Smith hustled the wrong way along an open porch overlooking the barracks courtyard, she was suddenly surrounded. Four beefy male upperclassmen in gray tunic-style uniforms and crisp white pants got in her face. The 5-foot-4, 120-pound freshman—one of 30 women at a school that had admitted only men for nearly 158 years—looked straight ahead as the cadets berated her. The exchange lasted maybe a minute. But Nancy Andrews, then a Washington Post staff photographer, caught the moment in an image seen around the world that symbolized VMI’s struggle to accept women into its ranks.

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SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Air Force tests a new way to help survivors of violence, harassment](#) [Zamone Perez, *Air Force Times*, 12 August 2022]

The Department of the Air Force has implemented a pilot program to measure the effectiveness of a new, more holistic approach to assisting survivors of sexual harassment and sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and cyber harassment. The six-month Integrated Response Co-Location Pilot, launched Aug. 1 at seven Air Force and Space Force bases worldwide, will centralize five support systems already in place, simplifying access and advocacy processes for airmen and guardians. The sexual assault response coordinator, sexual assault prevention and response victim advocate, domestic abuse victim advocate, victim's counsel and religious support team will all co-locate at the test bases, according to an Air Force release. By doing so, department officials hope to boost accessibility and support to survivors and prevent re-victimization.

[Browns' Deshaun Watson suspended 11 games, fined \\$5 million](#) [Tom Withers, *The Associated Press*, 18 August 2022]

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson will serve an 11-game unpaid suspension, pay a \$5 million fine and undergo professional evaluation and treatment as part of a settlement with the NFL following accusations of sexual misconduct by two dozen women. The league had sought to ban Watson for at least one year for violating its personal conduct policy. He was accused of sexually harassing and coercing the women during massage therapy sessions while he was with the Houston Texans. The settlement ends months of speculation and headed off a ruling from former New Jersey attorney general Peter C. Harvey, who was appointed by Commissioner Roger Goodell after the league appealed a six-game suspension issued by disciplinary officer Sue L. Robinson.

[College men say they want to help prevent campus sexual assault, but don't feel prepared to intervene](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 16 August 2022]

Most male college students want to do more to prevent sexual violence and harassment on their campuses, but a majority feel ill-equipped to do so, [new research suggests](#), demonstrating a need for more innovative assault prevention trainings and interventions. In a first-of-its kind report published Tuesday by the group It's On Us, researchers explored how to best engage college men in meaningful discussions about campus sexual assault prevention and reduction through nearly two dozen in-depth interviews with male students across the country. More personalized trainings, like single-gender rather than mixed-gender prevention programs, have seen greater success in improving rape awareness and empathy, as well as in reducing rape-supportive behaviors and acceptance of "rape myths," or stereotyped beliefs about sexual assault, [studies have shown](#). College men also reported that having strong non-male friendships or role models have had a big impact on their awareness of campus sexual assault, as well as their willingness to become involved and intervene in situations of gender-based violence.

[Family of slain Texas soldier seeking \\$35 million in damages](#) [Acacia Coronado, *The Associated Press*, 12 August 2022]

The family of a Texas soldier who was sexually harassed and killed at a military base near Killeen in 2020 filed a lawsuit Friday seeking \$35 million in damages from the U.S. government. The family of 20-year-old Vanessa Guillen is seeking damages on the basis of sexual harassment, abuse, assault, rape, sodomy and wrongful death. An investigation by military officials into the death of Guillen, who was

killed by a fellow soldier at U.S. Army base Fort Hood, found that she was also sexually harassed and that leaders failed to take appropriate action. The lawsuit describes two instances in which Guillen was harassed during her time as a soldier and Guillen's suicidal thoughts as a result of coping with the harassment, which she told family that she did not report for fear of retaliation. The lawsuit follows a decision Thursday by a three-judge panel from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco stating that an Army colonel could proceed with a lawsuit against a former Air Force General over a sexual assault allegation.

[Police: National Guard soldier raped unconscious woman in Wilkes-Barre](#) [Bob Kalinowski, *The Citizens' Voice* (Wilkes-Barre, Penn.), 13 August 2022]

A Pennsylvania Army National Guard soldier with the 109th Field Artillery is accused of sexually assaulting a woman last year in a Wilkes-Barre home, according to charges filed Thursday by city police. Alejandro Velazco, 24, of South Empire Street, is charged with involuntary deviate sexual intercourse with an unconscious victim and forcible rape. The alleged assault occurred during a 109th drill weekend when the woman and two of Velazco's fellow soldiers stayed over Velazco's residence the night before another drill session, police said. Following Velazco's arraignment by Magisterial District Judge Thomas F. Malloy Sr., he was released on \$25,000 unsecured bail. Efforts to determine Velazco's status with the National Guard were not immediately successful Friday.

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[Sexual Assault Case Against Former Joint Chiefs Vice Chair Gets Green Light from Appeals Court](#) [Konstantin Toropin and Rebecca Kheel, *Military.com*, 11 August 2022]

A federal appeals court has ruled that a civil sexual assault case filed by former Army Col. Kathryn Spletstoser against retired Air Force Gen. John Hyten can proceed, rejecting the government's arguments about immunity from lawsuits. The ruling not only allows a lawsuit that seeks thousands of dollars in damages from a man who was once one of the highest-ranking officers in the military, it could also smooth the way for future, similar lawsuits. The core of the argument put forward by Department of Justice lawyers was that Spletstoser was unable to sue Hyten—the former vice chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—because he was protected by a long-standing legal principle known as the [Feres Doctrine](#). Applied in this case, it meant that the government was effectively arguing that Spletstoser's sexual assault was an inherent part of military service and, as a result, civilian courts were not empowered to intervene.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SUICIDE

[Multiracial LGBTQ+ youth face heightened suicide risk: report](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 11 August 2022]

Multiracial LGBTQ+ youth face unique challenges that can put them at greater risk of negative mental health outcomes including suicide, according to [new research from The Trevor Project](#), a national LGBTQ+ youth suicide prevention and crisis intervention group. At the same time, multiracial LGBTQ+ young people also have a distinctive slate of protective factors, like family support, on their side that uplift their wellbeing and help prevent self-harm. In a report published Thursday by The Trevor Project, nearly half of multiracial LGBTQ+ youth, 48 percent, said they had seriously considered suicide sometime in the last year, compared with 45 percent of LGBTQ+ youth overall. Nearly one in five multiracial LGBTQ+ youth, 17 percent, said they had attempted suicide in the last 12 months,

according to the report, which uses data from The Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Mental Health—a study of nearly 34,000 LGBTQ+ 13- to 24-year-olds in the U.S.

[These Troops Bought Guns on Base. Then They Used the Firearms to Take Their Own Lives.](#) [Travis Tritten, *Military.com*, 12 August 2022]

Most service member suicides are tied to a personal firearm, [according to the Pentagon's latest annual suicide report](#). And having guns immediately at hand is often a key factor in suicides, the Pentagon said, based on decades of research. That's because suicide is often a sudden decision, as a [2018 Rand Corp. study concluded](#). Personal guns aren't allowed in barracks, but right now there's no requirement that base stores tell commanders when troops who live on base buy guns—or that commands let those stores know if troops have been deemed a suicide risk ahead of a purchase. Even as the military searches for ways to ease a years-long epidemic of suicides, with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin creating an independent commission of suicide experts who are mulling policies to reduce the number of troops who kill themselves, little has changed in terms of gun purchasing, with Congress blocking attempts to curb gun access to at-risk troops.

VETERANS

[Service dog helps ease Army veteran's anxiety](#) [Clara Niel, *The Frederick News-Post* (Frederick, Md.), 28 July 2022]

Joe Nieves, 40, sank into the couch of his living room. His service dog, Jem, a 3-year-old Labrador-golden retriever mix, hopped up next to him and rested her head on his thigh. Jem is a service dog specially trained to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, like Nieves. Jem is a buffer for Nieves when he feels overwhelmed or disconnected from the world, he said. Nieves, an Army veteran, was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and PTSD in 2006. Because of Jem, Nieves went to his first event in about five years—Awesome Con, Washington D.C.'s Comic Con convention, in June, which attracts tens of thousands of “geek culture” fans. Jem is trained to perform many tasks to assist Nieves. Most helpful, Nieves said, is how she helps him with anxiety in public. For example, she can be a barrier, standing either in front of or behind him to prevent people from getting too close.

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[“Those treatments saved my life”: The veterans who turn to psychedelic treatments for PTSD healing](#) [Ethan E. Rocke, *Task & Purpose*, 18 August 2022]

The first time Cory Poolman did an Iboga ceremony last year, the Navy SEAL veteran believed the powerful psychedelic medicine he took as part of the ritual had sent him to hell, literally. In a tiny village in the Central African nation of Gabon, the blond, hazel-eyed SEAL recently recalled that early episode in his long healing journey with a smile and a laugh. When Poolman left the SEAL teams in 2018, he was suffering from depression and anxiety. Though the nightmarish visions he experienced in his first Iboga journey were terrifying at the time, he's come a long way since venturing through some of the darkest parts of his psyche. “We are in a psychedelic renaissance, and not just in the United States, but around the world,” says Dr. Rick Doblin, founder and executive director of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS). Psychedelic research in the U.S. began its rise in the 1950s, slowly gaining speed before peaking in the late '60s and early '70s, when funding began to dry up in the wake of the politicization and cultural stigmatization of psychedelics.

[Warrior Games in Orlando: A showcase of injured military members' strength, skill and grit](#) [Patrick Connolly, *The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando Fla.)*, 17 August 2022]

The Department of Defense Warrior Games, which started in 2010, is coming to Walt Disney World's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex beginning Aug. 19, drawing active duty and veteran military service members from around the country. Teams representing the Army, Marine Corps, USSOCOM, Air Force, Navy and Canada will test their skills in archery, rowing, wheelchair basketball, cycling, powerlifting, swimming and more. After suffering horrific accidents while serving their country, injured service members find that the athletic competition and camaraderie found at this event give them a renewed sense of purpose and drive. The 2022 Warrior Games will take place at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort from Aug. 19-28; the event is free and open to the public. To learn more and see a schedule of events, visit dodwarriorgames.com.

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