

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[First Woman to Serve as “Chief of the Boat” on a Submarine Reports for Duty](#) [Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 31 August 2022]

The Navy’s submarine community has announced a new historic first for women in the silent service: the first top enlisted sailor on a submarine. In a [statement](#) released Wednesday, the Navy announced that Master Chief Information Systems Technician (Submarine) Angela Koogler joined the Gold crew of ballistic missile submarine USS Louisiana as their Chief of the Boat on Aug. 22, 2022. Koogler, who has been in the Navy for 20 years, remarked that both her journey and that of female sailors is far from over. “We need to keep breaking down the barriers so that it just becomes all Sailors,” she said in the statement. “It’s important to integrate everybody and it shouldn’t matter as long as they get the job done.”

[OMB Looks to Update Federal Race and Ethnicity Data Standards](#) [Natalie Alms, *Government Executive*, 1 September 2022]

The federal government wants input on the standards that baseline government data on race and ethnicity as it works on the first refresh to the policy directive since 1997. Chief Statistician Karin Orvis [announced a formal review](#) to revise the policy directive in June. These standards were first developed in the 1970s as the government looked to enforce civil rights laws by monitoring equal access in areas like housing or employment. The policy directive is important because it governs the minimum, aggregated categories on race and ethnicity collected by agencies in the census and via surveys and forms. In this way, the data and how it’s collected influences policies and resource allocation. “Many respondents have long been dissatisfied with the identity options compared to their lived experiences,” a July [memo](#) on the current standards acknowledges.

[Reported sexual assaults across U.S. military increase by 13%](#) [Lolita C. Baldor, *The Associated Press*, 31 August 2022]

*Reports of sexual assaults across the U.S. military jumped by 13% last year, driven by significant increases in the Army and the Navy as bases began to move out of pandemic restrictions and public venues reopened, *The Associated Press* has learned. Mirroring the increase in those reports is the disclosure that close to 36,000 service members said in a confidential survey that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact—a dramatic increase over the roughly 20,000 who said that in a similar 2018 survey, U.S. defense and military officials said. According to officials, the overall increase is largely fueled by a nearly 26% jump in reports involving Army soldiers. It’s the largest increase for that service since 2013, when such reports went up by 51%. The increase in Navy reports was about 9%, the Air Force was a bit more than 2% and the Marine Corps was less than 2%, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the reporting has not yet been made public.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

CULTURE

[80th anniversary of Montford Point: Honoring the first Black U.S. Marines](#) [Akilah Davis, ABC News, 26 August 2022]

Eighty years ago, at the height of World War II, the first Black Marines arrived for basic training at Camp Montford Point, a segregated section of Camp Lejeune. Between 1942 and 1949, 20,000 men trained there. A ceremony was held at the Montford Point Marine Memorial to recognize those trailblazers who often go unmentioned in stories of African Americans in the military. “This is not Marine Corps history or Black history. This is American history,” said National Montford Point Marine Association President James T. Averhart. Four Montford Point Marines were guests of honor at Friday’s ceremony, including retired Marine Corp. George McIvory. He recalled what he saw when he first arrived to boot camp. “What I saw, I was ready to turn around,” said McIvory. “They want you to fail, but knowing me, I’m dogmatic. I don’t believe in giving up.”

[Anaheim officially designates “Little Arabia” neighborhood; 1st Arab-American district in nation](#) [Travis Schlepp, KTLA TV (Los Angeles, Calif.), 27 August 2022]

The city of Anaheim has officially recognized a populous borough known for its Arab-American residents and businesses as “Little Arabia.” It’s believed to be the first formally recognized Arab-American district in the country, according to Voice of OC. Rashad Al-Dabbagh, executive director of the Arab American Civic Council, called the formal designation a “historic moment” for the community. “Over the years, Arab Americans have transformed Brookhurst Street into a thriving cultural and business destination,” Al-Dabbagh said in a news release. “Our contributions to the city of Anaheim are finally being recognized with a formal designation of Little Arabia.” The Arab American Civic Council also announced that the City Council voted to conduct a study of the area to research district options, including the possible designation as a Cultural District, which would provide resources to help the area obtain funding for improvements and other

[Army program gives poor-performing recruits a second chance](#) [Lolita C. Baldor, The Associated Press, 28 August 2022]

Chaz Andrews has wanted to join the Army since he was 19, but he has failed the service’s academic test more than 10 times over the past decade. Now, at age 29, Andrews thinks he has a real shot to pass, thanks to a new Army program that gives lower-performing recruits up to 90 days of academic or fitness instruction to help them meet military standards. “I didn’t want to give up on it,” he said during a recent break in his classroom schedule at Fort Jackson, where he is one of more than 300 recruits who have been allowed to enlist in the new Army prep course. And if Andrews, who is from Brooklyn, New York, is able to raise his test score, he will be allowed to continue on to basic training. The program, which began in early August, is one way the Army is hoping to fill the ranks as it struggles with recruiting efforts that are expected to fall dramatically short of the goals this year. Army officials have described the situation as dire, with some predicting the service may fall 10,000 to 15,000 soldiers short of its recruiting target on Oct. 1, or as much as 18% to 25%.

[Madam C.J. Walker, the first U.S. self-made female millionaire, gets her own Barbie](#) [Wynne Davis, NPR, 27 August 2022]

Madam C.J. Walker is joining Barbie’s lineup of Inspiring Women dolls. Walker, often referred to as the nation’s first documented self-made female millionaire, was known for her entrepreneurial skills as she

built her haircare and cosmetic brand from scratch. But aside from her beauty empire, Walker was also known for her philanthropic and social justice efforts, including her contributions to the NAACP anti-lynching movement. It's Walker's whole story that her great-great-grand daughter A'Lelia Bundles hopes younger generations will learn about through the new doll. "I hope that when little girls and little boys pick up the doll, that they will see something that's a little different than just a generic doll, that this is a doll who comes with a backstory," Bundles told NPR. "And as an entrepreneur and as a boss and as a philanthropist and a patron of the arts and somebody who cared about social justice, that they will perhaps see themselves and take one of those narratives." As the official biographer of Walker, Bundles worked with Barbie on creating the doll.

[University of North Dakota to return more than 250 boxes of Native American remains and artifacts, school president says](#) [Andy Rose, CNN, 31 August 2022]

The University of North Dakota is working to repatriate human remains and sacred artifacts taken from Indigenous communities, UND President Andrew Armacost said Wednesday at a news conference. More than 250 boxes of items were discovered in March, but university officials have not publicized the find until now at the request of tribal leaders. "We can now feel a sense of relief and hope because our ancestors will be returned to their rightful place, and that's home. We'll make sure of that," said Laine Lyons, a member of the Chippewa Tribe who works in the university's college of arts and sciences. Tribal artifacts have been taken frequently for academic research, but that is no excuse for the theft, Nathan Davis of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission said.

DISCRIMINATION

[Army veteran wins disability discrimination complaint case against Air Force, but he may still lose his home](#) [Sara Samora, Stars and Stripes, 31 August 2022]

Dave Bighia, 61, filed an equal opportunity complaint against the U.S. Air Force in 2014 after the service withdrew an offer for a historian job at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, because he had a heart condition. After years of legal battles, an administrative judge at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in San Antonio found in December that the Air Force had discriminated against Bighia in violation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The act prohibits a federal agency from discriminating against a person with disabilities. The judge ordered the Air Force to pay Bighia for damages, back pay, legal fees and expenses that could amount to an estimated \$1.6 million and reinstate the job offer—all by July 29.

[Children's hospitals are the latest target of anti-LGBTQ harassment](#) [Shannon Bond, NPR, 26 August 2022]

Hospitals and doctors around the country are facing harassment and even death threats over the medical care they offer to transgender kids. In many cases, they have been the subject of posts by a Twitter account called Libs of TikTok, as well as stories in conservative media outlets casting gender-affirming care as child abuse and mutilation. These false narratives about pediatric gender-affirming care are rooted in fundamental "misperceptions," said Dr. Angela Kade Goepferd, a pediatrician and director of the Gender Health Program at Children's Minnesota. "People have misperceptions that we're doing surgery on young kids. People have misperceptions that we are changing kids from boys into girls at a very young age," they said. They said care for transgender kids is wide-ranging, from efforts to help children socially transition to puberty-blocking medications, and is undertaken with the

input of pediatric psychologists, clinical social workers, hormone experts and endocrinologists, as well as families.

[“Why didn’t they give him the respect?” Black teen feels he has to leave school after refusing to cut his hair, parents say](#) [Meron Moges-Gerbi, CNN, 31 August 2022]

A Black South Dakota teen feels he has no choice but to switch schools after refusing to cut his hair, his mother said. Last week, high school freshman Braxton Schafer was facing the possibility of expulsion over the length of his hair, his mother, Toni Schafer, told CNN. But the school denies there was an ultimatum. The 14-year-old wears his hair in a traditional African twist known as locs. He has been at Bishop O’Gorman Catholic School system in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, since he was in the sixth grade. In a statement to CNN this week, the Bishop O’Gorman Catholic School Administration said, “it is a common practice at the beginning of the school year to have to visit with numerous students about the length of their hair.” On Thursday, Schafer sent an email to the school’s principal that explained the cultural significance of the length of her son’s hair. Schafer referenced Samson from the Bible as an example of the importance.

DIVERSITY

[Nicole Mann says she is proud to be first Native American woman in space](#) [Ashraf Fahim, Reuters, 29 August 2022]

Nicole Aunapu Mann has waited nine long years for her chance to go into space. And if all goes according to plan, that wait will end on Oct. 03, when she will lead NASA’s Crew-5 mission to the International Space Station. Mann will be the first Native American woman in space. With her journey into space just weeks away, Mann says she will be taking a few mementos into orbit to remind her of home, among them a “dreamcatcher,” a traditional Native American protective charm. “That’s really, I think, an audience that we don’t get an opportunity to reach out to very often,” she said. The first Native American man in space was John Herrington in 2002. Mann, a member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Northern California, says that her upcoming mission has sparked excitement in her community.

[Peltola to become first Alaska Native, first female Alaska congresswoman](#) [Tim Rockey and Paul Choate, Alaska News Source (Anchorage, Alaska), 31 August 2022]

Democrat Mary Peltola will become the first Alaska Native representative in Congress and Alaska’s first female congresswoman, winning the ranked-choice election to replace the late Republican Rep. Don Young. Peltola—a former state legislator and Yup’ik woman from the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta — defeated Republican former Gov. Sarah Palin and Republican Nick Begich. In a Facebook live stream from Division of Elections Director of Elections Gail Fenumiai on Wednesday, Peltola was announced as the winner. “I’m honored and humbled by the support I have received from across Alaska,” Peltola said in a press release. “I look forward to continuing Don Young’s legacy of bipartisanship, serving all Alaskans and building support for Alaska’s interests in DC.”

EXTREMISM

[Ex-U.S. Air Force sergeant gets life in deputy’s killing](#) [The Associated Press, 26 August 2022]

A former Air Force sergeant who was linked to an anti-government extremist movement and in 2020 attacked law enforcement officials amid protests over the killing of George Floyd has been sentenced to

life in prison without parole in the killing of a Northern California sheriff's sergeant. Steven Carrillo, 33, pleaded guilty in June to all nine counts, including murder, for the killing of Santa Cruz County Sheriff Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller. Also in June, a federal judge sentenced Carrillo to 41 years in prison for killing David Patrick Underwood, a federal security agent who was attacked along with a colleague while guarding a federal building in Oakland. Prosecutors said that on June 6, 2020, Carrillo ambushed sheriff's deputies in Santa Cruz County who were responding to a report of a van containing firearms and bomb-making materials. Gutzwiller, 38, was killed and several other law enforcement officials were wounded.

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HUMAN RELATIONS

[Human Nature Can Steer People Away from New Things—and that Can Blind Them to Novel Threats](#)

[Sam Hunter and Gina Scott Ligon, *The Conversation*, 24 August 2022]

There's a military aphorism that generals are always fighting the last war. It's a natural human tendency to focus on the kinds of threats you're used to while playing down the likelihood or importance of some new sort of attack. As psychologists and counterterrorism scholars, we're interested in [malevolent creativity](#). Novelty is not solely the purview of the "good guys"—those who seek to cause harm are as capable of generating creative ideas as everyone else. So why do people tend to dismiss these types of novel threats, leaving themselves less protected? What social scientists call "[the originality bias](#)" provides insight into why it's so easy to forget that adversaries may be developing new tactics in pursuit of their malevolent goals. Although many people report a desire for new things and fresh ideas, [studies find](#) most are surprisingly resistant to novel thinking.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Language Patterns Reveal People's Hidden Feelings About Others](#) [Tim Christi, *Futurity*, 22 August 2022]

The language patterns a person uses in describing their feelings can reveal their true sentiments about other groups of people, [researchers report](#). "There are times when people might lie about how they feel toward others for impression management concerns," David Markowitz, an assistant professor in the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Communication, says of the study. Markowitz's research has included the study of deception and language, and the study of dehumanization and language. His new paper attempts to bridge those two areas of study. "We know from the deception literature there are language patterns that reveal an honest person from a deceptive person," he says. "And we know from dehumanization literature there are patterns in language that reveal someone who views outgroups as less than human compared to more human."

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

INTERNATIONAL

[Australia enlists NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal on Indigenous reform](#) [Reuters, 27 August 2022]

Former U.S. basketball star Shaquille O'Neal will help Australia's new government implement reforms for an Indigenous voice to parliament, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Saturday said, standing alongside NBA Hall of famer. Albanese's centre-left Labor Party government is seeking a referendum, needed to change the constitution, on recognising Indigenous people in the constitution and mandating consultation with them on decisions that affect their lives. Details on the so-called

Indigenous voice to parliament will follow the national referendum on the question, which the government wants to hold in the parliament's current term. Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney told the news conference that O'Neal had requested to be involved and described the mission for change as "a noble task." Albanese said O'Neal, a four-time NBA champion, had a track record in the United States of working for social justice and "lifting people up who are marginalised."

[EuroPride 2022: Serbia will not host event, says president](#) [Malu Cursino, *BBC News*, 28 August 2022]

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has said September's EuroPride parade in Belgrade will not go ahead. Mr Vucic's announcement comes after thousands of people marched in protest against the event earlier this month. The president said he was not happy with the decision, but that Serbia had to concentrate on other issues, including trouble in Kosovo. The parade organisers have said the parade will go ahead anyway, with any ban "illegal". The international LGBT pride parade has been hosted in a different European city most years since 1992. In response, EuroPride 2022 organiser Marko Mihailovic said "the state cannot cancel EuroPride" and any attempt to do so would be a "clear breach of the constitution". Event organisers said Serbia's role as a host of EuroPride was "an important step along the path toward achieving equality for the LGBTI+ community in the Western Balkans."

[Miss England finalist becomes first in pageant's history to compete without makeup](#) [Jacqui Palumbo and Toyin Owoseje, *CNN Style*, 26 August 2022]

A Miss England finalist has become the first ever beauty queen to compete without wearing any makeup in the pageant's nearly century-long history. Melisa Raouf, a 20-year-old college student from south London, moved forward at the pageant's semifinals on Monday after opting for a barefaced look. Now, she'll compete in the finals this October for the crown. "It means a lot to me as I feel many girls of different ages wear makeup because they feel pressured to do so," Raouf said in an interview with the U.K.'s Independent newspaper. "If one is happy in their own skin we should not be made to cover up our face with makeup. Our flaws make us who we are and that's what makes every individual unique," she added.

RACISM

[BYU bans fan for use of racial slur at volleyball match](#) Ryan McDonald, *Deseret News* (Salt Lake City, Utah), 27 August 2022]

The BYU athletic department issued a ban of a non-student fan on Saturday for use of a racial slur during a Cougars volleyball match against the Duke Blue Devils at BYU on Friday night. On Saturday morning, Lesa Pamplin of Fort Worth, Texas, took to Twitter and indicated that her goddaughter, Duke player Rachel Richardson, was called a racial slur "every time she served" and "was threatened by a White male that told her to watch her back going to the team bus." Following BYU's first statement, Duke released a statement in which it said that its match Saturday in Provo against Rider as part of the doTERRA Classic would be played at an "alternate location" away from Smith Fieldhouse. "First and foremost, our priority is the well-being of Duke student-athletes," Blue Devils athletic director Nina King said in the statement. "They should always have the opportunity to compete in an inclusive, anti-racist environment which promotes equality and fair play.

[A new system to flag racist incidents and acts of hate is named after Emmett Till](#) [Jonathan Franklin, *NPR*, 23 August 2022]

Maryland has seen a slew of racist incidents over the last year—including targeted bomb threats at three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and vandals writing messages of hate on the doors of a church. Now, the state has launched an alert system to flag racist incidents and acts of hate. The Emmett Till Alerts system, named in honor of the 14-year-old who was abducted, tortured and killed in 1955 after being accused of whistling at a White woman, will act as a warning system if credible threats are made. “When the FBI director said often that the greatest domestic terrorism threat is White supremacists, we have to take hate crimes and terrorist threats seriously,” said Carl Snowden of the Caucus of African American Leaders of Anne Arundel County, Md., during a news conference announcing the system. The new warning system, which went into effect this week, will notify Black leaders across Maryland of any credible racist incidents or hate crimes that take place anywhere in the state.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[A plaque with the words “Ku Klux Klan” still hangs on a building at West Point](#) [Joe Hernandez, NPR, 31 August 2022]

A plaque with the words “Ku Klux Klan” written below a hooded figure holding what appears to be a rifle currently hangs on a building at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York. The marker referencing one of the country’s most infamous hate groups is garnering attention due to a special commission formed to look into connections to the Confederacy at U.S. military bases and other properties. In a [report released on Monday](#), the commission highlighted the presence of the Ku Klux Klan mounted marker at the entrance to Bartlett Hall, a science building at West Point, the U.S. Army’s elite training school. Though it noted that there are “clearly ties” between the KKK and the Confederacy, the plaque fell outside of its specific remit created by Congress, the commission said. Though the commission concluded that the KKK plaque was beyond its purview, the eight-member body found other assets linked to the Confederacy at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

[A Rochester couple denied allegations of racism. Then came a confession](#) [Vanessa Romo, NPR, 27 August 2022]

Mary Znidarsic-Nicosia and her husband, Nicholas Nicosia, wanted to clear their names after being accused of throwing a racist party. So, they made a plan and held a press conference this week. Step one: The wealthy, White couple from Rochester, N.Y., adamantly defended themselves against what Znidarsic-Nicosia called “false claims of racism.” The couple came under fire after being named in a notice to sue filed by Jerrod Jones, a Rochester firefighter, against the city and the fire department. Jones, who is Black, said his former captain, Jeffrey Krywy, ordered him and other firefighters to attend the party thrown by the Nicosias on July 7, while they were all on duty. The large backyard was decorated with Juneteenth flags and cups that were placed near buckets of KFC and bottles of Hennessy cognac, according to the document. The Nicosias’ lawyer, Corey Hogan, told NPR that theme of the party was anti-liberal—the invitation called it the “1st annual Liberal Smashin Splish Splash Pool Party,” but that it was being misconstrued by Jones as racist.

RELIGION

[Judge declined to halt ban on religious articles in Marine boot camp](#) [Todd South, Military Times, 26 August 2022]

A federal judge on Wednesday declined to temporarily halt the Marine Corps' ban on the Sikh turban, beard and other religious articles of faith in recruit training and certain deployment conditions. The legal action began in April after Capt. Sukhbir Singh Toor, Jaskriat Singh, Aekash Singh and Milaap Singh Chahal sought to wear their traditional articles of faith in those instances. The Marine Corps does not allow beards or faith articles to be worn in recruit training, except for medical condition waivers for the beard. Attorneys for the plaintiff shared a response on U.S. District Judge Richard Leon's decision Thursday with Marine Corps Times. They disagree with the decision and that the Marines are doing a, "disservice to both our clients and itself in denying religious rights." Eric Baxter, vice president and senior counsel at the law firm BakerHostetler, said, "The court's ruling sets up a false conflict between faith and service—but as the Marines have rightly said for decades, spirituality makes Marines stronger and more resilient."

SUICIDE

[LGBTQ Military Kids Attempted Suicide at Much Higher Rate Than Their Civilian Peers, New Research Finds](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 31 August 2022]

Military dependents who identify as LGBTQ have higher rates of attempted suicide as well as more anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts compared to those who don't have a parent serving, according to new research. In a [report](#) released Wednesday by The Trevor Project, a non-profit that provides crisis support to LGBTQ young people, 23% of the roughly 1,700 respondents to a survey said they had attempted suicide in the previous year, compared with 14% of non-military LGBTQ youth under age 24. The report, which derived its results from the non-profit's 2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, offers "crucial insights into the unique mental health challenges faced by LGBTQ youth" who have military parents, according to Jonah DeChants, a research scientist for The Trevor Project.

VETERANS

[NASA's Artemis moon launch will be historic. And a group of blind veterans will get to witness it](#) [Olivia Lloyd, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)*, 27 August 2022]

Anyone who's ever heard the deep rumble of a spaceship's takeoff knows a rocket launch is a sensory-rich experience. That's part of the reason why a group of 40 blind veterans are heading to Kennedy Space Center next week to experience the Artemis I launch in person, in coordination with Wisdom 4 The Blind and NASA. The group will be "able to hear it and feel the ground shake as this new rocket, which is one of the largest rockets ever built, will lift off and take the payload," said Benjamin Keeley, the co-founder of Wisdom 4 The Blind. "I might not visually be able to see it but I know that this is going to be an experience like no other, and I'm so thankful and so, so appreciative," said veteran Joseph "Blake" DeLoach, of West Palm Beach, who will be part of the group. Keeley and a friend at NASA, who is also blind, came up with the idea to organize a visit for a group of blind veterans to witness the launch. Keeley and co-founder of Wisdom 4 The Blind, Doug Cram, have been coordinating this effort for a little under a year.

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