

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 21 OCTOBER 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[CMSAF Leadership Library: October 2022](#) [Chief Master Sgt. Joanne S. Bass, CMSAF Public Affairs, 18 October 2022]

As Airmen, we uphold a commitment to the Profession of Arms, which requires us to continually grow and develop ourselves and each other. I'm excited to share [six new books](#) that I believe will help you grow into your best version. Our people will always remain our most competitive advantage, and I couldn't be more proud to serve alongside you. Aim High!

[Department Recognizes 28 Civilian, Military Personnel for Enabling Disability Inclusion](#) [C. Todd Lopez, DOD News Service, 20 October 2022]

"Today, we celebrate the core element of our unmatched strength as a military and Department of Defense—our people," said Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen H. Hicks. "Maintaining that strength requires tapping into every reservoir of talents and skills that America has to offer. That includes people with disabilities—who bring so much to this department through their talents, skills, education and motivation to serve." This year's awards ceremony, held virtually online, recognized four departmental components and 28 civilian and military personnel. Among those are engineers, analysts, instructors, machinists, IT specialists, human resources managers and software developers, Hicks said.

[DOD moves forward with plans to help victims of sexual assault as reports hit all-time high](#) [Alexandra Lohr, Federal News Network, 26 September 2022]

In spite of ongoing efforts to combat sexual assault, a recent survey showed the armed services have a bigger problem than ever. Using words like "tragic" and "disappointed," top military personnel testified before the House Armed Services Committee last week to describe how they plan to fix the problem. The Army's Gilbert Cisneros, undersecretary for personnel and readiness, told lawmakers the Army now has the framework in place to track the progress and effectiveness of its sexual assault prevention programs. The centerpiece of the Defense Department's response will be a hiring effort.

[OPM: Federal Employees' Engagement "Stabilized" in 2022, but Morale Continues to Fall](#) [Erich Wagner, Government Executive, 20 October 2022]

Federal employees reported a similar level of engagement in their jobs when they responded to the government's annual survey of workplace attitudes, although morale continues to drop. The Office of Personnel Management on Thursday published preliminary data from the [2022 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey](#), although the agency's full report will not be available until next month.

[The Pursuit of Diversity in Naval Special Warfare](#) [Ensign Andrea Perez, U.S. Navy Public Affairs, 19 October 2022]

Since the birth of the SEAL teams, NSW's commitment to embracing diversity, equality and inclusion left a positive and lasting impact on its culture. With an eye towards tomorrow's fight, NSW leadership recognizes it has to work hard to move the needle and welcomes each diversity accomplishment along the way.

CULTURE

[“1776” comes back to Broadway, but this time with a multicultural, all-woman cast](#) [Jim Beckerman, *NorthJersey.com*, 14 September 2022]

The revival of the 1969 musical, a co-production of the American Repertory Theater and Roundabout Theatre Company and due to open at the American Airlines Theatre on 42nd Street, will be all women.

[Air Force Needs to Cultivate More Hispanic Officers, SECAF and Report Say](#) [Greg Hadley, *Air & Space Forces*, 14 October 2022]

The Department of the Air Force needs to do a better job of identifying, recruiting, and mentoring Hispanic officers—especially at its very highest ranks, according to a new report and Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall. Speaking at a conference sponsored by the Air Force’s Hispanic Empowerment and Advancement Team (HEAT) and hosted by the Air & Space Forces Association on Oct. 14, Kendall highlighted the scarcity of Hispanic or Latino general officers as an issue that he and other Air Force leaders have been focused on as of late.

[Anna May Wong will become the first Asian American to be on U.S. currency](#) [Ashley Ahn, *NPR*, 18 October 2022]

The U.S. Mint will begin shipping coins featuring actress Anna May Wong on Monday, the first U.S. currency to feature an Asian American. Dubbed Hollywood’s first Asian American movie star, Wong championed the need for more representation and less stereotypical roles for Asian Americans on screen. Wong, who died in 1961, struggled to land roles in Hollywood in the early 20th century, a time of “yellowface,” when White people wore makeup and clothes to take on Asian roles, and anti-miscegenation laws, which criminalized interracial relationships.

[Army Secretary tells leaders to stand up for soldiers “IRL or online” after telling them to stay out of “culture wars”](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 14 October 2022]

Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth re-clarified her position on Friday concerning the ongoing discussion across the service about leaders sticking up for their soldiers online: Do it. “There has been confusion on an issue where there should be none,” Wormuth tweeted Friday morning. “So let me be clear: I expect @USArmy leaders to stand up for women—and all Soldiers—who are unduly attacked or disrespected.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Diwali to become public school holiday in NYC from 2023](#) [Shawna Chen, *AXIOS*, 20 October 2022]

Diwali will become a public school holiday in New York City starting next year, Mayor Eric Adams (D) announced Thursday. Why it matters: Diwali, a celebration of light over darkness that starts on Oct. 24 this year, is one of the most sacred holidays observed by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists. Some 200,000 New Yorkers celebrate Diwali each year, per state Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar (D), who introduced a bill to recognize the holiday.

[Hampton University’s Byron Perkins becomes first HBCU football player to come out as gay](#) [Marty O’Brien, *The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, Va.)*, 21 October 2022]

Hampton University football player Byron Perkins this week announced publicly that he is gay, joining a small number of Division I college football players ever to do so. He is believed to be the first from a Historically Black College and University to come out as gay publicly.

[How the filmmakers behind “Till” depicted Black trauma without showing violence](#) [Harmeet Kaur, CNN, 16 October 2022]

Chinonye Chukwu didn’t want to make a movie about Black trauma. The director of the newly released film “Till,” which centers on Mamie Till-Mobley as she fights for justice after the killing of her son, said she wasn’t interested in depicting the moment that Emmett Till was brutally beaten to death in 1955 Mississippi. “The story is about Mamie and her journey, and so it wasn’t narratively necessary to show the physical violence inflicted upon Emmett,” Chukwu told CNN. “As a Black person, I didn’t want to see it. I didn’t want to recreate it.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Ralph Lauren accused of plagiarizing indigenous Mexican designs](#) [Reuters, 20 October 2022]

The wife of Mexico’s president on Thursday accused luxury American clothes brand Ralph Lauren (RL.N) of plagiarizing indigenous designs, which she described as an appropriation of the work of the country’s pre-Hispanic cultures. The U.S. fashion retailer has pledged that all new products using indigenous designs following its summer 2023 season will be created under a model of “credit and collaboration”.

[“Rings of Power” series reveals another underdiscussed aspect of representation](#) [Kimmy Yam, NBC News, 14 October 2022]

Polynesian scholars are pointing out “Lord of the Rings” productions have traditionally been filmed on their land, but with Pacific Islander actors relegated to the background. The new prequel on Amazon Prime did slightly better with representation, but experts stopped short of declaring it true progress.

[There are more women on TV but ageism persists, says new study](#) [Elizabeth Blair, NPR, 18 October 2022]

The annual [Boxed In study](#) from San Diego State University looked at over 3,000 characters and more than 3,800 credits in the 2021-2022 television season to determine the number of women working both on screen and behind the camera.

[This LA music festival centers mariachi, a symbol of Mexican culture](#) [Adam Perez and Virginia Lozano, NPR, 15 October 2022]

The largest mariachi music festival in the United States took place this summer at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. The 33rd annual MARIACHI USA centered a genre that’s rooted in folk traditions and has become a symbol of Mexican culture. The show honored Vicente Fernández, an icon of ranchera music, and highlighted songs made popular by the legend.

[This photography book puts Black actors in Hollywood’s most iconic movie moments](#) [Marc Rivers, NPR, 15 October 2022]

*In photographer Carell Augustus’ new book “Black Hollywood: Reimagining Iconic Movie Moments”, he takes some of cinema’s most memorable images—think Gene Kelly in *Singin’ in the Rain* or Janet Leigh’s fateful shower in *Psycho*—and casts them with Black actors and actresses, placing them in spaces that have been longed denied to them.*

[Woke Army or Woe Army: What really happened in the social media controversy rocking the force?](#)

[Peter W. Singer, *Task & Purpose*, 12 October 2022] [OPINION]

The current controversy that's embroiled the force began in September when news broke that Maj Gen. Patrick J. Donahoe, commander of the Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia, had his scheduled retirement put on pause. Reporters quickly pieced together that the pause was due to an Army Inspector General investigation into allegations of misconduct linked to Donahoe's social media use.

DISCRIMINATION

[Boise settles federal gender discrimination lawsuit](#) [*The Associated Press*, 8 October 2022]

An Idaho city has settled a federal discrimination lawsuit with a former library employee who said they were harassed and discriminated against because they are non-binary and transgender, the Idaho Statesman reports. Perez filed a lawsuit against Boise, the former library director and other library and city employees in U.S. District Court in Boise last summer. Perez, who uses they/them pronouns, was represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

[Judge upholds Florida's ban on Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care](#) [Orion Rummier, *The 19th*, 12 October 2022]

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle on Wednesday upheld Florida's rule preventing Medicaid coverage of gender-affirming care for patients of all ages, denying the preliminary injunction sought by the transgender people affected by the policy. The Southern Legal Counsel and other groups argue that excluding gender-affirming coverage from Florida Medicaid violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and Section 1557, the nondiscrimination provision of the Affordable Care Act, by discriminating against transgender Medicaid beneficiaries based on their sex, nonconformity with sex stereotypes and gender identity.

[Landmark trial begins over Arkansas' ban on trans youth care](#) [Andrew DeMillo, *The Associated Press*, 17 October 2022]

The nation's first trial over a state's ban on gender-confirming care for children begins in Arkansas this week, the latest fight over restrictions on transgender youth championed by Republican leaders and widely condemned by medical experts. If the law takes effect, doctors who violate the ban could lose their licenses or face other professional disciplinary measures and could be sued.

[Muslims suing over watch-list status say U.S. tactics block scrutiny](#) [Rachel Weiner, *The Washington Post*, 16 October 2022]

Saadq Long was only allowed to visit his mother after FBI agents questioned her. He was strip-searched at an airport in Amsterdam and arrested when visiting Turkey. Nine years of such troubles, he came to believe, all arose from his placement on a list of suspected terrorists banned from air travel in the United States. Long, a veteran and Muslim convert, filed a lawsuit in federal court in Alexandria, Va. But as his lawsuit started moving forward in 2019, the government told him he had been removed from the list.

[Realtors apologizing for past discrimination, urging change](#) [Jim Salter, *The Associated Press*, 14 October 2022]

It's a struggle Black Americans have lived with for decades. Now, some leaders in the real estate industry are apologizing for past discrimination while promising to address problems that still remain. Last month, St. Louis Realtors—the St. Louis area's largest real estate trade group—issued a formal apology for past discriminatory practices. The National Association of Realtors issued an apology in 2020. Realtor groups in cities like Atlanta and Chicago have shown similar remorse.

[Supreme Court declines to consider overturning racist “Insular Cases”](#) [Lawrence Hurley, *NBC News*, 17 October 2022]

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to consider whether American Samoans have full U.S. citizenship at birth, a dispute that would have given the justices the opportunity to repudiate past rulings suffused with racist language that helped determine that those in U.S. territories would not have the same rights as other Americans. The challenge was brought by three American Samoans who live in Utah: John Fitisemanu, Pale Tuli, and Rosavita Tuli, as well as the Southern Utah Pacific Island Coalition, an advocacy group based in Utah.

[Teacher sues N.J. Olympian for saying she pulled hijab off 7-year-old's head](#) [Anthony G. Attrino, *NJ.com*, 17 October 2022]

The New Jersey teacher who faced a criminal investigation after an Olympian repeated allegations she pulled a hijab off a child's head has filed a lawsuit claiming the social media-fueled firestorm ruined her teaching career and led to threats on her life. Tamar Herman, a veteran teacher with the South Orange-Maplewood School District, says in court papers she was placed on administrative leave, had to move out of her home and required police protection after Ibtihaj Muhammad wrote about the hijab accusation on social media.

DIVERSITY

[Adobe Marks This Year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month By Redefining How The Disability Community Is Perceived](#) [Steven Aquino, *Forbes*, 5 October 2022]

Like Halloween, October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), and San Jose-based software maker Adobe is again marking the occasion. In a [blog post published](#) on Wednesday, the company's accessibility boss Andrew Kirkpatrick details what Adobe is doing throughout the month to amplify disabled workers and what he calls “[celebrating] intersectional identities.”

[Air Force personnel win multiple awards for advocacy](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, *Air Force News Service*, 17 October 2022]

Air Force personnel took honors in four separate categories Oct. 3 in the annual Excellence in Advocacy competition sponsored by the non-partisan organization Women in Government Relations. The Washington-based Women in Government Relations has issued the awards annually since 2013. According to the organization, the effort was conceived “to coincide with the first Professional Women in Advocacy Conference. The intent of the awards is to put the spotlight on everyday advocates who dedicate themselves to representing their issue, cause, or organization in the public policy arena.”

[The bizarre history of the U.S. military's ethnic battalions during World War II](#) [Max Hauptman, *Task & Purpose*, 19 October 2022]

During World War II, more than 11 million soldiers served in the Army. Only one small unit could count among its ranks three European royals, sons of the last Austro-Hungarian Hapsburg emperor. It was a small, almost entirely forgotten infantry battalion formed as part of an effort to recruit and train “free” units composed of soldiers with specific ethnic backgrounds, such as Greeks or Norwegians.

[Building a More Diverse Public Sector Hiring Pipeline](#) [Katherine Barrett and Richard Green, *Government Executive*, 13 October 2022]

Few in the public sector would believe—or admit that they believe—that hiring a diverse workforce isn’t beneficial. But hiring doesn’t even become a factor if a diverse mix of candidates aren’t applying for jobs in the first place. Around the country, some local governments have recognized this problem and are looking for ways to solve it. They’re taking steps like cultivating public-facing images and messaging that emphasizes how diversity is a priority in their workplaces, and they’re strengthening connections with colleges, and even high schools and middle schools, to expand their pool of potential employees.

[A high school artist was chosen to paint a mural. Then came the outrage](#) [Rachel Paula Abrahamson, *TODAY*, 17 October 2022]

A mural painted by a high school student came under fire when parents alleged it was promoting LGBTQ imagery and witchcraft. At a school board meeting on Oct. 10, parents accused the student artist of promoting witchcraft by including the Hamsa hand as well as the video game character that bears the likeness of a demon. Parents also objected to the use of LGBTQ colors.

[NHL, its workforce 84% White, sets baseline to up diversity](#) [Stephen Whyno, *The Associated Press*, 18 October 2022]

The NHL for the first time has done an internal demographic study of its staff and all 32 teams, and the results show that hockey has a lot of work to do to increase diversity at all levels. The [report released Tuesday](#) found that 83.6% of the NHL’s workforce is White and that men make up nearly 62% of the total, based on the 4,200 people who participated in a voluntary and anonymous survey (about 67% of all employees).

[A Proclamation on Blind Americans Equality Day, 2022](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 14 October 2022]

On Blind Americans Equality Day, we celebrate the essential contributions of blind and low-vision Americans, whose talents and strength shape every industry and every community.

[This Latino meteorologist helped spur Spanish-language changes to weather alerts. Studies show it can save lives.](#) [Albinson Linares, *NBC News*, 14 October 2022]

“Many times, people don’t receive that information [weather alerts] in their native language and that prevents them from going to shelter and, I must be clear: that is the difference between life and death,” said Trujillo, 25, a researcher at the University of Oklahoma and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The work of Trujillo and his fellow researchers has led to changes in the way Spanish-speaking communities across the country—regardless of their countries of origin and varying ways of saying a particular word—receive clear weather alerts that are easy to understand.

[This Marine went from a leg amputation to modeling and elite sports](#) [Irene Loewenson, *Marine Corps Times*, 21 October 2022]

At a 2021 competition for athletes with physical disabilities, Marine Corps veteran Annika Hutsler met a 10-year-old girl who, like her, had a leg amputation below the knee. The girl's mother asked Hutsler what she did for a living. Hutsler—whose ad for fitness brand Athleta had just come out—had recently left the Marine Corps and had started modeling.

EXTREMISM

[Chicago cop who allegedly lied about Proud Boys affiliation gets 120-day suspension, after watchdog pushed superintendent to review case and consider firing officer](#) [Annie Sweeney and Alice Yin, *Chicago Tribune*, 19 October 2022]

Chicago Police Department officials on Wednesday said that an officer who was investigated by the department for affiliating with a White nationalist organization and found to have given false statements about it will serve a 120-day suspension beginning next month.

[Ex-Air Force enlistee jailed after pleading guilty to “outrageous” conduct on Jan. 6](#) [Ryan J. Reilly, *NBC News*, 20 October 2022]

A federal judge ordered a Jan. 6 rioter to be jailed Thursday after he admitted to assaulting officers with chemical spray and breaking out a window at the Capitol, with the judge calling the defendant's conduct “outrageous.”

[Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism](#) [PBS.org, 15 October 2022]

Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism is a new public media content initiative about the roots and rise of hate in America and across the globe. Exploring Hate provides historical programming, examines present-day threats, and seeks to highlight responses that promote understanding, healing and civility. The initiative launched on April 13, 2021 with American Insurrection, a new documentary from the award-winning investigative PBS series FRONTLINE.

[Informant's Army past raised at trial tied to Whitmer plot](#) [Ed White, *The Associated Press*, 13 October 2022]

A defense lawyer lashed out Thursday at a star witness in a trial related to a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, accusing the Army veteran of “stolen valor” and questioning why he wasn't given a Purple Heart if he was truly injured in Iraq. The commotion occurred on the ninth day of trial in Jackson, Michigan, where three members of a paramilitary group, the Wolverine Watchmen, are charged with providing material support for a terrorist act.

[Testimony: Oath Keepers ready to use “any means necessary”](#) [Lindsay Whitehurst, *The Associated Press*, 18 October 2022]

Oath Keepers extremists were prepared to use “any means necessary” on Jan. 6, 2021, to stop the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's electoral victory, a member of the group testified Tuesday. The testimony from Jason Dolan came in the trial of Stewart Rhodes, the founder of the far-right militia group, and four associates facing seditious conspiracy and other charges.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Coming out about my bipolar disorder has led to a new deep sense of community](#) [Devika Bhushan, *NPR*, 15 October 2022] [COMMENTARY]

A few brave professionals have publicly shared their journeys with bipolar disorder—including psychologist Kay Redfield Jamison, physician Justin Bullock and entrepreneur Andy Dunn. Recently, while serving as California’s Acting Surgeon General, I chose to join their ranks. To help dispel stigma and to spread hope, I shared my own long path to diagnosis and recovery in a National Alliance on Mental Illness conference keynote speech, social media messages and a [personal essay](#) in the LA Times.

[Quiet quitting and the great resignation have a common cause—dissatisfied workers feel they can’t speak up in the workplace](#) [James Detert, *The Conversation*, 11 October 2022]

First there was the “great resignation,” in which record numbers of workers were quitting their jobs. That coincided with a flurry of unionizing efforts at major U.S. companies, including Starbucks and Apple. As a management professor who has studied worker behavior for over two decades, I believe these are all reactions to the same problem: Workers are dissatisfied in their current jobs and feel they can’t speak up, whether about organizational problems, unethical behavior or even just to contribute their knowledge and creative ideas.

[\[REPRINT\]](#) [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Senior leader embraces behavioral health to overcome abuse, racism and trauma](#) [Spc. Joshua Techens, *U.S. Army News Service*, 18 October 2022]

Sgt. Maj. Rafael Colon Hernandez, assistant chief of staff of medical at U.S. Army South, sat proudly in his office decorated with awards, coins and memorabilia from his more than 29 years of total service in the U.S. Army. Behind the pride of his honorable service, he reflected on countless moments of abuse, neglect, racism and combat-related trauma he had to overcome throughout his life.

INTERNATIONAL

[Ben Bril: The Dutch Jewish boxing champion sent to Nazi camps by Olympic team-mate](#) [Matthew Kenyon, *BBC Sport*, 16 October 2022]

Through the late 1920s and the 1930s Ben Bril became a serial champion, winning eight Dutch titles and national fame. But life in Amsterdam would change dramatically over those years—especially for Jews like him. Economic crisis, the rise of Nazi Germany and an associated increase in anti-Semitism in the Netherlands made discrimination against Jews increasingly prevalent. Bril experienced this directly when, despite his domestic success, he was left out of the Dutch team for the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

[Slovakia LGBT attack: Thousands gather at vigil outside Bratislava bar](#) [BBC News, 15 October 2022]

Thousands of people gathered at a vigil in Slovakia on Friday to commemorate two people killed outside a gay bar. The men were shot dead in the capital Bratislava on Wednesday, in a suspected hate crime. Organisers estimated that 20,000 people took part in the vigil, mourning the men’s deaths and demanding action on LGBT rights.

[Sweden ditches “feminist foreign policy”](#) [Merlyn Thomas, *BBC News*, 19 October 2022]

Sweden’s new foreign minister has ditched its pioneering “feminist foreign policy”, saying the label has become more important than its content. But Tobias Billstrom said “we will always stand for gender equality”. The previous left-wing government launched the policy in 2014, becoming the first in the world to put gender equality at the heart of its dealings with other nations.

[Switzerland discriminates against widowers, says European court](#) [Swissinfo.ch, 11 October 2022]

The European Court of Human Rights has upheld a complaint made by a Swiss widower alleging discrimination when it comes to survivor's pension entitlement. The Strasbourg-based court ruled that such a view of gender roles contributed to perpetuating prejudices and stereotypes regarding the role of men and women in society.

[Worry grows for Iran athlete who competed without her hijab](#) [Hyung-Jin Kim and Jon Campbell, *The Associated Press*, 18 October 2022]

An Iranian competitive climber left South Korea on Tuesday after competing at an event in which she climbed without her nation's mandatory headscarf covering, authorities said. Farsi-language media outside of Iran warned she may have been forced to leave early by Iranian officials and could face arrest back home, which Tehran quickly denied. The decision by Elnaz Rekabi, a multiple medalist in competitions, to forgo the headscarf, or hijab, came as protests sparked by the Sept. 16 death in custody of a 22-year-old woman have entered a fifth week. Mahsa Amini was detained by the country's morality police over her clothing.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Exploring new solutions for SOFA, spouse employment](#) [Teal Yost, *Military Family Magazine*, 14 October 2022]

For many military spouses, the prospect of moving overseas means weighing opportunities for adventure and experiencing a new culture versus the lack of employment opportunities or complete inability to work thanks to a document called a status of forces agreement (or SOFA). Deborah Bradbard, Ph.D., is well versed in SOFA and its impact on spouse employment. As a lead research associate at the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University (IVMF), she's authored many studies on the subject, including ["Understanding the Status of Forces Agreements \(SOFA\): Removing Barriers to Military Spouse Employment Overseas"](#) and ["SOFAs Overseas: A Portability Roadmap for Military Spouses and Their Employers."](#)

[Groundbreaking Study on Trauma-related Sleep Disorder](#) [Elaine Sanchez, *Military Health News*, 17 October 2022]

*A team of military and civilian researchers has identified a new sleep disorder that's been disrupting the lives of trauma survivors for decades, if not centuries. The *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine* published the [groundbreaking study](#), titled "Clinical and polysomnographic features of trauma associated sleep disorder"; on its site in August. The study, which spanned five years, included 40 service members who had experienced trauma, mainly from combat, and were experiencing dream enactment. That is when someone acts out dreams physically or verbally.*

[Group seeks women who aspire to serve in executive federal jobs, and is offering a shot at a great scholarship to help toward that goal.](#) [Federal Employees News Digest, 17 October 2022]

A long-established group dedicated to helping boost the career path of women at federal agencies—[Executive Women In Government](#)—this month launched its annual invitation for applicants to its mentoring program. The program offers a proven six-month training course for those who are accepted.

[How Does Telework Affect The Hatch Act? Election Season Do's and Don'ts](#) [Courtney Bublé, *Government Executive*, 18 October 2022]

The midterms are fast approaching and federal employees who are teleworking full or part time might be wondering if that affects their compliance with the Hatch Act. Shortly after the shift to maximum telework during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Special Counsel issued guidance, underscoring that the rules are the same while working from home. Now with the midterms less than a month away, there might be renewed questions, even if employees are back in the office for some portion of the work week.

[More Than Half of People are Frustrated by Digital Government Services, Survey Finds](#) [Kristen Errick, *Government Executive*, 14 October 2022]

People want an easy-to-use digital government customer service experience, according to an Accenture [report released Wednesday](#), as more than half of respondents found it frustrating to access government services.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Sgt. Maj. of the Army to leaders: Stop using behavioral health as a universal band-aid for problems](#)

[Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 17 October 2022]

Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Grinston urged leaders last week to stop using behavioral health appointments as a band-aid for any problem their soldiers might be having. “It’s okay to seek help if you need help,” Grinston said. “But I do want to caution you that that is not the panacea for all your problems.”

[The University of Oregon will cover tuition and fees for in-state Indigenous students from any federally recognized tribe](#) [Alaa Elassar, *CNN*, 16 October 2022]

The University of Oregon celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day by announcing a [new program](#) that will cover tuition and fees for Indigenous tribal members residing in Oregon. The Home Flight Scholars Program was launched Monday and will immediately allow the estimated 150 to 175 eligible self-identified American Indian/Alaska Native undergraduate students on campus to receive financial assistance.

MISCONDUCT

[Airman Faked Racist Texts Claiming He Was Denied Special Duty, Investigation Finds](#) [Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 18 October 2022]

An airman at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona is facing punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice after an investigation showed he faked racist texts claiming he was denied a special duty assignment. While the messages between the Luke Air Force Base service members were determined to be fake during the investigation, they centered around a very real issue in the military. Beards are allowed in the Air Force only with a religious or medical waiver. Notably, some African American service members said that obtaining a shaving profile harmed their careers.

[The Army Can Predict When Some Leaders Are at Risk of Misconduct](#) [Elizabeth Howe, *Defense One*, 13 October 2022]

The U.S. Army has figured out when command sergeant majors are at risk of losing focus or even going bad—and has successfully used counseling to reduce instances of undesirable behavior, its top enlisted leader said Wednesday. And the Army has been successful, Grinston said. Because counseling for command sergeant majors is now required after they have served 10 or 11 months, misconduct has

trended downward for three years. The Army aimed to help these leaders before they'd been in their jobs for a year, when data shows the highest spike in instances of misconduct among command sergeant majors.

RACISM

[Justice Jackson's history lesson exposes "reverse racism" concerns](#) [Hassan Kanu, *Reuters*, 17 October 2022]

The newest U.S. Supreme Court justice made waves in one of her first days on the bench when she cited legislative history from the 1800s to point out that it's permissible to consider race when drawing electoral maps. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said on Oct. 4 that the Voting Rights Act was enacted explicitly to protect minority voting rights and is based on race-conscious Constitutional amendments. The statements caused a stir even though Jackson was simply stating the obvious—largely because the court's conservatives generally do not meaningfully discuss the history of race.

RELIGION

[Evangelical college students often feel misunderstood—what helps boost understanding between students of all faiths?](#) [Matthew J. Mayhew, Christa Winkler and Musbah Shaheen, *The Conversation*, 14 October 2022]

The Interfaith Diversity Experiences and Attitudes Longitudinal Survey, or [IDEALS](#), surveyed 9,470 college students from 122 institutions across the country at three times: the beginning of their first year, the end of their first year, and the end of their senior year, which wrapped up in spring 2019. As part of this project, conducted by a team of researchers from Ohio State University, North Carolina University and the nonprofit Interfaith America, we asked students about their attitudes toward religious, spiritual and secular groups, including but not limited to atheists, Jews, Muslims and evangelicals.

[Native Americans recall torture, hatred at boarding schools](#) [Matthew Brown, *The Associated Press*, 15 October 2022]

After her mother died when Rosalie Whirlwind Soldier was just four years old, she was put into a Native American boarding school in South Dakota and told her native Lakota language was "devil's speak." Now 78 and still living on the reservation, Whirlwind Soldier said she was airing her horrific experiences in hopes of finally getting past them.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Air Force Offers More Privacy for Sexual Harassment Victims with New Policy](#) [Thomas Novelty, *Military.com*, 14 October 2022]

Sexual harassment victims serving in the Air Force and Space Force will now have more privacy and control over reporting incidents under a new policy the service introduced to protect service members. The policy, which went into place Sept. 30, allows Department of the Air Force service members to make an unrestricted sexual harassment report, which would trigger an investigation with the base's Equal Opportunity office, or a restricted report, which allows for confidential disclosure of an incident and doesn't notify the chain of command while still offering the victim advocacy services. Previously, those two options were limited to sexual assault cases.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Federal Prisons Are Discounting Inmates' Sexual Assault Allegations Against Officers](#) [Eric Katz, *Government Executive*, 13 October 2022]

The federal Bureau of Prisons is regularly excluding credible inmate testimony making or corroborating allegations of sexual assault and misconduct against agency employees, according to a new report, which found the informal policy could embolden bad actors to continue their inappropriate behavior. If a sexual assault allegation against an employee depends on an inmate's account, then BOP does not pursue a misconduct case, the Justice Department's [inspector general found](#) in a management advisory issued Thursday.

SUICIDE

[U.S. military suicide rate drops but still seeking "sustained" reduction](#) [Reuters, 20 October 2022]

The rate of suicide among active duty service members decreased by more than 15% between 2020 and 2021, a [new Pentagon report released on Thursday](#) said, even as officials said more time was needed to see if this signaled a real change.

VETERANS

[Fire Watch Episode 7: The Army of Families Caring for America's Wounded Vets](#) [Drew F. Lawrence, *Military.com*, 14 October 2022] [PODCAST]

These are the family members who were part of the Department of Veterans' Affairs caregiver program, a largely unsung army of thousands of friends, family members and guardians that quietly take care of veterans who cannot independently take care of themselves as a result of injury or illness incurred from their service. Many have quit their jobs to work full time as a caregiver, sacrificing an otherwise independent life to help their veteran do things like bathe, dress themselves, eat, take medication, and other daily tasks they couldn't do on their own.

[Military Women's Memorial honors its groundbreaking founder on 25th anniversary](#) [Acacia James, *WTOP News*, 16 October 2022]

The Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery celebrated 25 years with a weekend of events and a new facility named after its founder. On Sunday, the memorial dedicated the new Vaught Center, named after the memorial's founding president, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught. Servicewomen and supporters alike lined up to pay tribute and take photos with the 92-year-old veteran.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[More Same-Sex Couples Eligible for Survivor Benefits After VA Policy Change](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *Military.com*, 17 October 2022]

Same-sex spouses who were in long-term relationships with a veteran but were not legally able to marry before 2015 may now qualify for survivor benefits under a policy change announced by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The policy change took effect immediately, so newly eligible spouses can [apply now](#). Anyone who applies within the next year will get benefits backdated to Oct. 11, 2022, but the benefits are not retroactive beyond that.

[PA Guardsman Leads Project Building Houses for Cherokee Vets](#) [Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Monk, *National Guard News*, 14 October 2022]

A Pennsylvania Air National Guardsman with the 171st Air Refueling Wing led the construction of seven homes for tribal members of Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Senior Master Sgt. Mark Nicolia, the operations superintendent with the 171st Civil Engineer Squadron, led the planning effort and the first portion of the Cherokee Veterans Housing Initiative during the spring and summer. This three-year effort is part of the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training program, which will construct 21 homes for tribe members experiencing homelessness who are also U.S. Armed Forces veterans.