

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 13 JANUARY 2023

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

[DOD Now Accepting Applications for New Military Spouse Career Accelerator Pilot](#) [*DOD News Service, 12 January 2023*]

*The Defense Department launched a 12-week paid fellowship program to expand employment opportunities for eligible military spouses. The Military Spouse Career Accelerator Pilot program provides spouses of currently serving members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Space Force, to include active, reserve and National Guard components, with paid fellowships at civilian employers across various industries and locations. Spouses can find more information about eligibility and learn how to apply for this unique opportunity on MySECO, the [website](#) of the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program.*

[Government-wide chief diversity officer eyes long-term plans to advance DEIA](#) [*Drew Friedman, Federal News Network, 13 January 2023*]

*After months of planning, and two council meetings so far, federal diversity leaders are trying to hammer out some more long-term changes, as well as build out agency pilot programs, to help advance the administration's DEIA priorities for the federal workforce. At the second council meeting in December, OPM also launched the [council's official website](#), and [published the charter](#) that will define the CDOEC's work going forward. The council plans to hold its next meeting sometime in March.*

[A Proclamation on Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2023](#) [*Joseph R. Biden, Jr., The White House Press Office, 13 January 2023*]

*Today, we honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by continuing his unfinished work to redeem the soul of America. This Sunday, I will pay my respects and express my gratitude for his life and legacy by speaking at services at his cherished Ebenezer Baptist Church. On this day of commemoration, service, and action, let us hold up a mirror to America and ask ourselves: What kind of country do we want to be? Will we honor Dr. King's legacy by rising together—buttressed by each other's successes, enriched by each other's differences, and made whole by each other's compassion? I believe we can.*

### [DOD MEMO](#)

[VA to Waive Medical Copays for Native American, Alaskan Native Vets](#) [*Patricia Kime, Military.com, 11 January 2023*]

*The VA is to publish an [interim rule](#) Thursday in the Federal Register announcing its intention to drop copays for veterans with a known tribal affiliation and seek public comment on the plan. The waiver is to be backdated to Jan. 5, 2022, but when exactly veterans can apply for reimbursement or see the change in billing remains to be determined. By law, the department has to give the public 30 days to offer comments on the interim proposal before publishing a final rule, VA officials said during a media roundtable Tuesday.*

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## CULTURE

[America's Biggest Museums Fail to Return Native American Human Remains](#) [Logan Jaffe, Mary Hudetz and Ash Ngu, *ProPublica*, and Graham Lee Brewer, *NBC News*, 11 January 2023]

*As the United States pushed Native Americans from their lands to make way for westward expansion throughout the 1800s, museums and the federal government encouraged the looting of Indigenous remains, funerary objects and cultural items. Many of the institutions continue to hold these today—and in some cases resist their return despite the 1990 passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. “We never ceded or relinquished our dead. They were stolen,” James Riding In, then an Arizona State University professor who is Pawnee, said of the unreturned remains.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Army expands “prep course” for low-scoring applicants after pilot](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 9 January 2023]

*The Army is doubling down on an ambitious accessions experiment that’s allowing hopeful soldiers with poor fitness or low aptitude test scores to attend a pre-basic training course to get them up to service entry standards, officials announced Monday. The service first launched its Future Soldier Preparatory Course in August 2022 amid a dismal recruiting year, which saw the Army land around 20,000 soldiers short of its authorized end strength.*

[Comic book follows Brittney Griner from college hoops to Russian jail](#) [Alicia Powell, *Reuters*, 12 January 2023]

*From college hoops to a Russian jail cell, the life of basketball star Brittney Griner is being told in a new comic book from [TidalWave Comics](#). Griner is part of the publisher’s Female Force series that celebrates women with inspirational stories.*

[Eatonville residents speak out against sale of land where oldest Black school used to stand](#) [Danielle Prieur, *WMFE Public Radio*, 13 January 2023]

*The site of the first school for Black children in Central Florida is up for grabs as Orange County Public Schools prepares to close the deal to sell the 100 acres of land on which it once stood. Some residents want the town of Eatonville to regain ownership over the historic site, while a developer plans to turn it into mixed housing. The school began with a donation of 300 acres of land from a northern White philanthropist. It focused on things like domestic work and agriculture, along with having a liberal arts curriculum.*

[Film helps renew search for 1st Black Navy pilot’s remains](#) [Thalia Beaty, *The Associated Press*, 11 January 2023]

*The film “[Devotion](#)” reignited efforts to repatriate the remains of Jesse Brown, America’s first Black Navy pilot, who died in 1950 after having to crash land his damaged plane during the Korean War. Brown grew up in Mississippi, the son of sharecroppers, and succeeded in qualifying to be a pilot in the Navy, despite his training officer refusing to pin on his wings—just one of many racist insults and hurdles he overcame.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Free speech groups criticize Florida school for scrapping play](#) [Mark Kennedy, *The Associated Press*, 11 January 2023]

*Free speech groups have condemned the abrupt cancellation by Florida administrators of a high school student production of Paula Vogel's play "Indecent," which explores a flashpoint in Jewish and queer theatrical history. The coalition of free speech groups said the cancellation of "Indecent" is "deeply hurtful to LGBTQ+ students, including members of the cast, who see the rejection of the play as a denial of the historical experience of LGBTQ+ people and the persistence of discrimination against them."*

[Golden Globes host tears into Hollywood Foreign Press Association: "I'm here because I'm Black"](#) [Olafmihan Oshin, *The Hill*, 10 January 2023]

*Golden Globes host Jerrod Carmichael used his opening monologue Tuesday night to tear into the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), which hosts the awards ceremony, amid controversy surrounding the lack of diversity among its members. "Welcome to the 80th annual Golden Globe awards. I am your host Jerrod Carmichael," the 35-year-old comedian said at the beginning of his monologue. "And I'll tell you why I'm here. I'm here because I'm Black."*

[M&M's new all "female" package sparks outrage](#) [Jordan Valinsky, *CNN*, 10 January 2023]

*M&M'S is making a statement with its latest candy pack, which features an all-female set of characters—including Purple, its newest addition. It put the company once again knee-deep into culture wars controversy. Candy maker Mars announced that the limited edition all-female pack will include only Purple, Brown and Green—the candy's trio of female characters, who are upside-down on the package—to "celebrate women everywhere who are flipping the status quo."*

[Parades, block party, town hall and more set for Brevard MLK weekend](#) [J.D. Gallop, *Florida Today*, 13 January 2023]

*For David Jones, the lofty visions of dignity and diversity offered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. long ago sparked a personal mission of actively affecting social change through dialogue. On Monday, the holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader, Jones and several other up-and-coming community leaders will share their insights into how to make that change through a town hall in Melbourne. It will be one of at least nine public events held in Brevard County to recall King's life and legacy.*

[POV: I Didn't See You There](#) [Jennifer Robinson, *KPBS Television*, 6 January 2023]

*POV offers an intimate view of modern urban life, with its aggravations and unexpected moments of joy, from the point of view of first-time filmmaker Reid Davenport in the thoughtful documentary [I Didn't See You There](#)," "produced by Keith Wilson. Filmed from Davenport's physical perspective—a camera mounted to his wheelchair or handheld without himself being seen, the film serves as a clear rebuke to the norm of disabled people being seen and not heard.*

[Team Trans: The "life-saving" ice hockey team backed by the NHL](#) [Emma Smith, *BBC Sport*, 11 January 2023]

*When Kayden Maclay woke one November day last year, he and his team-mates faced a decision. In a few hours' time, they were scheduled to take to the ice. They had travelled from across the United States, Canada and beyond to come together in Wisconsin and play in a hockey tournament. But, overnight, while they slept, the context around the event had changed. A thousand miles away, in Colorado Springs, a familiar American story had played out. A lone shooter. An automatic weapon. Hundreds of bullets. More members of their community dead. The shooting, at Club Q, was a reminder*

for Maclay and his team-mates as to why they take the precautions they do—precautions few other teams would even consider.

[To recruit Gen Z, the top Marine makes an appeal to older generations](#) [Irene Loewenson, *Marine Corps Times*, 10 January 2023]

*Amid a recruiting crisis throughout the military, the top Marine general thinks young people need to hear more about the value of serving. And not just from him. “As a nation, we need more parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers and coaches to have candid conversations with young people about the value of military service,” Commandant Gen. David Berger wrote in an [opinion piece](#) Saturday in *The Dallas Morning News*.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[4 former NWSL coaches are banned permanently following an abuse investigation](#) [Kaitlyn Radde, *NPR*, 10 January 2023]

*The National Women’s Soccer League [announced](#) permanent bans for four coaches and sanctions for eight more employees on Monday after an investigation found widespread, systemic misconduct and abuse. Former coaches Paul Riley of the Portland Thorns and the North Carolina Courage, Rory Dames of the Chicago Red Stars, Richie Burke of the Washington Spirit, and Christy Holly of Racing Louisville were permanently banned. Riley and Holly engaged in sexual misconduct and verbal abuse across multiple teams, and Dames and Burke engaged in emotional abuse and made racist and sexist remarks to players, according to the report jointly released by NWSL and its players association last month detailing the findings of their joint investigation.*

[Judges skeptical that employer required to allow veteran’s service dog](#) [Daniel Wiessner, *Reuters*, 10 January 2023]

*A U.S. appeals court panel on Tuesday seemed hesitant to revive a Union Pacific Railroad engineer’s claim that he should be able to bring his service dog to work to prevent migraines and anxiety caused by his military service. Judges on an 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel in St. Louis expressed concerns that a ruling in favor of the engineer, Perry Hopman, could open employers up to a flood of lawsuits claiming they violated federal law by denying accommodations that would mitigate symptoms of workers’ disabilities.*

[The nation’s largest organization for blind people faces lawsuit alleging widespread sexual misconduct and lack of accountability](#) [Emma Tucker, *CNN*, 6 January 2023]

*The lawsuit against the National Federation of the Blind was filed by attorneys representing Alyssa Mendez, 20, who is legally blind and says she was repeatedly sexually assaulted when she was 16 by her instructor, Michael Ausbun, while attending a training program in 2018 at an NFB-affiliated center in Louisiana. The lawsuit, filed in Baltimore City Circuit Court, is seeking damages from the NFB on four counts, including battery; negligence; negligent hiring, training, supervision and retention; and violation of requirements to report suspected abuse of a child under Maryland law.*

[Transgender youth health care bans have a new target: adults](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 13 January 2023]

*The bill filed ahead of the legislature’s February start would bar health care providers in Oklahoma from administering or recommending gender-affirming medical care including puberty blockers,*

*hormones and surgeries for patients younger than 26 years old, punishable by an unclassified felony conviction and the possible revocation of their medical license for “unprofessional conduct.” With Bullard’s proposal, Oklahoma joins nearly a dozen other states seeking to heavily restrict or ban access to gender-affirming health care for transgender youth and adults in 2023.*

[Trial set for Black soldier suing police over violent stop](#) [Ben Finley, *The Associated Press*, 7 January 2023]

*A U.S. Army lieutenant who was pepper sprayed, struck and handcuffed by police in rural Virginia, but never arrested, will argue to a jury that he was assaulted and falsely imprisoned and that his vehicle was illegally searched. Video of the 2020 traffic stop got millions of views the next year after Caron Nazario filed the federal lawsuit that is now being heard, highlighting fears of mistreatment among Black drivers and intensifying the scrutiny of the boundaries of reasonable, and legal, police conduct.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Air National Guard flight nurse first to receive highest flying award](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Military Times*, 10 January 2023]

*An officer in the Minnesota Air National Guard was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross medal—the nation’s highest award for aerial achievement—over the weekend for rescuing troops during the evacuation of Afghanistan. Maj. Katie Lunning, a critical care nurse assigned to the 133 Airlift Wing, was presented the prestigious medal during a ceremony on Jan. 7 in St. Paul, Minnesota, according to a service release. Lunning’s achievement marks the first time an Air National Guard flight nurse has earned the award.*

[An Army family doctor now leads the Defense Health Agency](#) [Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 11 January 2023]

*The system that delivers health care for more than 9 million service members, retirees and their family members has a new director: Army Maj. Gen. Telita Crosland. She becomes the Defense Health Agency’s fourth director in its nearly 10 years of existence, and the first African American in that position.*

[Diversity of U.S. workplaces is growing in terms of race, ethnicity and age—forcing more employers to be flexible](#) [Adia Harvey Wingfield, *The Conversation*, 5 January 2023]

*Increased immigration, longer life expectancy and a decline in birth rates are transforming the U.S. workforce in two important ways. The people powering this nation’s economy include far more [people of color](#) and workers over 55 than was the case four decades ago. And this diversity will keep growing in the years ahead, [economists predict](#). The share of U.S. workers who are non-White, Latino or both nearly doubled to about 40% in 2019 from roughly 23% in 1979, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. With more older people staying economically active, over 37 million U.S. workers are 55 and up today. They account for [nearly 1 in 4 of the 160 million Americans engaged in paid work](#). In 1979, fewer than 1 in 7 U.S. workers were in that age group.*

[New Milford High grad is 1st woman leader of U.S. Army Chorus: “I feel really privileged to be here”](#) [Kaitlin Lyle, *New Haven Register (New Haven, Conn.)*, 8 January 2023]

*Former resident Bonnie Alger said she knew from a young age she was interested in singing and playing a musical instrument. She is now the first female Officer in Charge of the United States Army Chorus,*



which is part of the United States Army Band in Washington, D.C. “I feel really privileged to be here,” Alger said. “I work with really wonderful people every day. The U.S. Army Chorus is comprised of a whole bunch of extremely talented, intelligent musicians who care about music-making at the highest level and care about their country.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[New nation, new ideas: A study finds immigrants out-innovate native-born Americans](#) [Greg Rosalsky, NPR, 10 January 2023]

Many studies over the years have suggested that immigrants are vital to our nation’s technological and economic progress. Today, around a quarter of all workers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are immigrants. In a [fascinating new working paper](#), the economists link patent records to more than 230 million Social Security numbers. With this incredible dataset, they are able to suss out who among patent-holders are immigrants (by cross-referencing their year of birth and the year they were assigned their Social Security number).

[Purdue’s 1st Asian American president takes office weeks after school official mocks Asian languages onstage](#) [Kimmy Yam, NBC News, 11 January 2023]

Purdue University’s first Asian American president has taken office, weeks after a chancellor in its greater school system was criticized for what many considered to be a racist display onstage during a ceremony. Given Chiang’s new role, some have called on him to address Keon’s actions.

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[What is racial battle fatigue? A school psychologist explains](#) [Jeremy Grant, *The Conversation*, 11 January 2023]

When William A. Smith, [a scholar of education and culture](#), introduced the term “racial battle fatigue” in 2003, he used it to describe the cumulative effects of racial hostility that Black people—specifically faculty and graduate students—experience at predominantly White colleges and universities. In short, it takes a toll on their psychological, physical and emotional well-being. Since then, the term has been applied by scholars to [Hispanic undergraduates](#) and scholars have also applied the term to groups beyond the college campus, such as [teachers of color](#) and [students of color](#) at the K-12 level. Most of the research on racial battle fatigue deals with the matter within the context of education.

## INTERNATIONAL

[Girl Guides of Canada rename ‘Brownies’ to be more inclusive](#) [Scottie Andrew, CNN, 12 January 2023]

The Canadian equivalent of the Girl Scouts is dropping the name “Brownie,” the membership branch of some of its youngest scouts, after current and former scouts raised concern that it could harm Black members and girls of color. Now, 7- and 8-year-old members of the Girl Guides of Canada will be called Embers, a name chosen with the help of current scouts and adult alumni. Other scouting organizations, including Girl Scouts of the USA, still use the name Brownies, but the origin of the word itself is less important than the way it made girls feel, Girl Guides of Canada CEO Jill Zelmanovits said in a [statement](#).

[How reparation efforts in Barbados found an international spotlight](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, NPR, 7 January 2023]

*A kerfuffle about whether British actor Benedict Cumberbatch will have to pay reparations to descendants of slaves in Barbados made headlines this week. It's still unclear who exactly may become subject to legal action to atone for atrocities of slavery. But online buzz over famous Brits' ties to slavery, like Cumberbatch's, put wider attention on the fight for reparations in the Caribbean.*

[Nigeria's female bouncers show their strength fighting stereotypes](#) [Seun Sanni and Temilade Adelaja, Reuters, 12 January 2023]

*For years, Emem Thomas' body drew snarky remarks from slimmer classmates in southern Nigeria that shattered her confidence and natural affability. As teasing and taunts marred her teenage years, she gave up on dreams like competing in a local beauty pageant. Then she found a niche that values what Thomas now proudly describes as her "plus-sized" body type: the "Dragon Squad Limited", a team of female bouncers.*

[United Arab Emirates says it will teach Holocaust in schools](#) [Jon Gambrell, The Associated Press, 9 January 2023]

*The United Arab Emirates will begin teaching about the Holocaust in history classes in primary and secondary schools across the country, the country's embassy in the United States said. However, the announcement comes after the UAE normalized relations with Israel in 2020 as part of a deal brokered by the administration of President Donald Trump. "In the wake of the historic Abraham Accords, (the UAE) will now include the Holocaust in the curriculum for primary and secondary schools," the embassy said in a tweet, referring to the normalization deal that also saw Bahrain and ultimately Morocco also recognize Israel.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force Wants to Add Facial Recognition to Automated Base Entrance](#) [Aaron Boyd, NextGov, 9 January 2023]

*The Air Force is considering using facial recognition technology at base entrances and plans to start with a pilot program at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. The base has an automated system for approving vehicle access, but officials want to increase the speed and security of that system by adding facial recognition in the mix. Under the current plan, drivers would approach the access control platform and have their photo taken, which then would be matched against a verified ID or a photo gallery of people approved for access that day.*

[Polish officials say WWII trove of Jewish objects rare find](#) [The Associated Press, 11 January 2023]

*The discovery in central Poland of hundreds of objects that were most likely hidden by their Jewish owners during World War II provided a rare and precious find, officials said Wednesday. Around 400 items, including silver-plated menorahs, hanukkiah, tableware and daily use items were uncovered in the city of Lodz last month during the renovation of a house and yard. "Those residents who buried these items did so most likely thinking that they would one day return for them, that they would be able to retrieve them," Lodz Deputy Mayor Adam Pustelnik said. "Most likely, these people lost their lives" in the Holocaust, Pustelnik said. "Such stories are truly rare and precious and also are a great lesson for us all."*

[School lawsuits over social media harm face tough legal road](#) [Gene Johnson, The Associated Press, 11 January 2023]

*Like the tobacco, oil, gun, opioid and vaping industries before them, the big U.S. social media companies are now facing lawsuits brought by public entities that seek to hold them accountable for a huge societal problem—in their case, the mental health crisis among youth. But the new lawsuits—one by the public school district in Seattle last week, with a second filed by a suburban district on Monday and almost certainly more to come—face an uncertain legal road. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments next month over the extent to which federal law protects the tech industry from such claims when social media algorithms push potentially harmful content.*

[What Keeps Public Employees In Their Jobs? It's Not Just Pay](#) [Gordon Abner, *Government Executive*, 11 January 2023]

*Given that high turnover comes at a cost, we set out to answer the question, “What makes government employees want to leave their jobs?” Our analysis combined findings from 59 different studies to create one big, more accurate and more comprehensive study, using a method called meta-analysis. The results were surprising. [We found](#) that while factors such as pay and rewards and advancement and promotion have a negative relationship with turnover intention, meaning they decrease public employees’ desire to leave the organization, the effect sizes of these factors are small. In other words, they play a small role in turnover intention.*

[Why the Skilcraft Pen Has Been Used by the Military for 55 Years](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 10 January 2023]

*When it comes to nonlethal equipment, helmets and body armor come and go, but there’s one piece that has remained unchanged since around the time the M16 was first introduced: the Skilcraft pen. It would be very difficult to believe anyone who’s served in the military or worked in federal service hasn’t come across the workhorse of U.S. military bureaucracy at some point in their career. The government’s go-to ballpoint turns 55 years old in 2023 and shows no signs of being replaced any time soon. First introduced in April 1968, they are made by the National Industries for the Blind (Skilcraft is the NIB’s trade name), a nonprofit that provides training and employment for the visually impaired. They churn out a great product at just 60 cents per unit while living up to 16 full pages of government-mandated requirements.*

## **RACISM**

[Their families survived the Rosewood massacre 100 years ago. Here are their stories](#) [Nicquel Terry Ellis, *CNN*, 12 January 2023]

*In January 1923, a racist mob stormed the town of Rosewood, Florida, after a White woman claimed she was attacked by a Black man. In the massacre’s wake, at least six Black and two White people were killed and the once prosperous town was left decimated. Many Black families fled for safety, leaving their homes, land, and businesses behind. The story of the Rosewood massacre lay buried for 70 years, Jones said, until the state of Florida passed a bill in 1994 to compensate survivors and their descendants. It offered \$150,000 to survivors who could prove they owned property during the massacre and created a scholarship fund for descendants who attended in-state colleges.*

## **RELIGION**

[Islamic paintings of the Prophet Muhammad are an important piece of history—here’s why art historians teach them](#) [Christiane Gruber, *The Conversation*, 9 January 2023] [COMMENTARY]



*Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, recently dismissed Erika López Prater, an adjunct faculty member, for [showing two historical Islamic paintings of the Prophet Muhammad](#) in her global survey of art history. Following complaints from some Muslim students, university administrators described such images as disrespectful and Islamophobic. While many Muslims today believe it is inappropriate to depict Muhammad, it was not always so in the past. Moreover, [debates](#) about this subject within the Muslim community are ongoing. Within the academic world, this material is taught in a neutral and analytical way to help students—including those who embrace the Islamic faith—assess and understand historical evidence.*

[A Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day, 2023](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 13 January 2023]

*On Religious Freedom Day, we reflect on our right to practice, pray, and preach our faiths peacefully and openly. Across the country, we practice many different religions. We celebrate many different traditions. And we honor our faiths in many different ways and places—from churches, to mosques, to synagogues, to temples. This religious freedom—this freedom to practice religion fully and freely or to practice no religion at all—is enshrined in our Constitution. And together we must continue to preserve and protect it.*

## **SEXISM**

[The sports world is still built for men. This elite runner wants to change that](#) [Terry Gross, *NPR*, 10 January 2023]

*Champion distance runner Lauren Fleshman still remembers the first time she lost a race to a boy. She was in middle school, and had developed a reputation as the fastest overall runner, the one who consistently won the mile. Until one day, she wasn't fastest. Fleshman became a coach and is now an activist working to promote equity in sports by recognizing the differences in male and female bodies. Her new book, [Good for a Girl: A Woman Running in a Man's World](#), is a memoir and a critique of how the sports world treats female athletes.*

## **SUICIDE**

[Cries for help pour into 988 mental health, suicide line](#) [Amanda Seitz, *The Associated Press*, 10 January 2023]

*When Jamieson Brill answers a crisis call from a Spanish speaker on the newly launched national 988 mental health helpline, he rarely mentions the word suicide, or “suicidio.” Brill, whose family hails from Puerto Rico, knows that just discussing the term in some Spanish-speaking cultures is so frowned upon that many callers are too scared to even admit that they're calling for themselves. “However strong stigma around mental health concerns is in English-speaking cultures, in Spanish-speaking cultures it is triple that,” said Brill, who helps people navigate mental health crises from a tiny brick building tucked away in Hyattsville, Maryland.*

[“Stick Around, We Need You”: The Navy Top Officer Opens Up About His Worry Over Suicide](#) [Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 11 January 2023]

*The Navy's top uniformed officer told a packed crowd of largely fellow Navy leaders and retired officers that one of the biggest problems that keeps him up at night is not Ukraine or Russia but the service's suicide problem. “I think it's the same thing that keeps [the master chief petty officer of the Navy]*

*awake at night: It's suicides," Adm. Michael Gilday, chief of naval operations, told an auditorium of more than a hundred people at the annual Surface Navy Association conference held in Alexandria, Virginia. "That problem, mental health, is a vexing problem for us," he added.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

### [Troops Who Hide Thoughts of Suicide More Apt to Store Their Firearms Unsafely, Study Finds](#)

[Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 10 January 2023]

*U.S. service members who keep thoughts of suicide to themselves are less likely to properly store their firearms, [new research has found](#). A small study focusing on 719 active-duty, reserve and National Guard firearm owners found that, of nearly 39% who said they had experienced suicidal thoughts in the previous year, those who said they sought mental health treatment were more likely to report storing their firearms safely. Those who hid their suicidal thoughts or didn't seek therapy demonstrated a propensity not to store their firearms safely, meaning they didn't use a trigger lock, cable device, gun safe or case.*

## VETERANS

### [Life is tough for Native American veterans. How one Navajo woman who served is working to help.](#)

[Ashley R. Williams, *USA TODAY*, 11 January 2023]

*It's not easy being a veteran on the Navajo Nation. Bernadine Tyler, an Army veteran who was raised in Shiprock on the Navajo reservation, knows the reality of the "great barriers" plaguing Navajo warriors all too well. It's why she's stepped in to help over 14,000 Native American veterans living on 27,413 square miles across three states. Tyler is the program lead for the [Diné Naazbaa Partnership](#), which works to improve veterans' quality of life. Diné Naazbaa translates to "Navajo warrior."*

### [New Law Expands VA Program for Veterans to Buy Vehicles Adapted for Their Disabilities](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 9 January 2023]

*Retired Army Chief Warrant Officer Neal Williams has owned several vehicles in the last 25 years that were modified to accommodate his wheelchair and let him drive with hand controls. For his first vehicle, Williams, who is paralyzed as the result of a combat injury in Vietnam, used a one-time grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs and drove it more than 250,000 miles, until it fell apart. New legislation signed Thursday by President Joe Biden changed that requirement. Now, Williams, 73, and other disabled veterans who need modified vehicles to get around, will be eligible for an automobile grant from the VA every 10 years.*