

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 20 JANUARY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

[5 years later, MSPB releases results of federal sexual harassment study](#) [Drew Friedman, *Federal News Network*, 16 January 2023]

When the Merit Systems Protection Board had to pause many of its statutory responsibilities during five years without quorum, agencies saw a long absence of the board's comprehensive studies on the implementation of federal merit system principles. Now, after regaining quorum, MSPB has published the first of many of these long-awaited, nonpartisan reports. Specifically, the board's December publication dove into the [prevalence of sexual harassment in the federal workforce](#). But MSPB collected the data for the report about six years ago.

[DOD finance chief sexually harassed subordinates, used racial slur](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 19 January 2023]

The Pentagon's former chief financial officer made sexually suggestive comments to subordinates, used the N-word and drank alcohol at work without authorization, according to a Defense Department inspector general's report released Thursday. Officially, Douglas Glenn was performing the duties of Pentagon comptroller in April 2021 when the inspector general investigated him for a litany of bad behavior, including unsubstantiated allegations that he disparaged his staff and "screamed" at subordinates in the Pentagon's hallways, [according to the report](#).

[First Native American woman in space steps out on spacewalk](#) [Marcia Dunn, *The Associated Press*, 20 January 2023]

The first Native American woman in space ventured out on a spacewalk Friday to prep the International Space Station for more solar panels. NASA astronaut Nicole Mann emerged alongside Japan's Koichi Wakata, lugging an equipment bag. Mann, a Marine colonel and test pilot, rocketed into orbit last fall with SpaceX, becoming the first Native American woman in space. She is a member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Northern California.

[Year of the Rabbit? Not so fast! Vietnam's Lunar New Year to celebrate the cat](#) [Minh Nguyen and Thinh Nguyen, *Reuters*, 20 January 2023]

As China, Japan and other East Asian countries prepare to celebrate the start of the Lunar Year of the Rabbit on Sunday, the people of Vietnam will be an exception—welcoming instead the Year of the Cat. There is no official explanation for when and why the Vietnamese embraced the cat instead of the rabbit. Another smaller difference in the otherwise almost identical celebrations of the 12-year Chinese Zodiac cycle is Vietnam's adoption of the ubiquitous water buffalo in the Year of the Ox.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

CULTURE

[Biden admin releases first plan to support Asian American, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian communities](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 17 January 2023]

The Biden administration on Tuesday released its first national agenda aimed at addressing the range of disparities that Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities face. More than two dozen officials and community leaders gathered to formally unveil a strategy that was spearheaded by the [White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders](#). It includes action plans from 32 different federal agencies. Among the administration's priorities are combating anti-Asian hate and discrimination, the disaggregation of data across the communities and better language access, according to the report.

[Flyers' Provorov cites religion for boycott on Pride night](#) [Dan Gelston, *The Associated Press*, 18 January 2023]

Flyers defenseman Ivan Provorov cited his Russian Orthodox religion as the reason he did not participate in pregame warmups when the team wore Pride-themed jerseys and used sticks wrapped in rainbow Pride tape. The jerseys and sticks were being auctioned off by the Flyers following the game, with proceeds going to the team's charity and its efforts to grow the game of hockey in diverse communities.

[New book explores life, legacy of "bold" female Marine killed in Iraq](#) [Irene Loewenson, *Military Times*, 18 January 2023]

Among the rows of white headstones in Arlington National Cemetery is one dated Dec. 6, 2006, bearing a distinctive six-word motto: "Be bold. Be brief. Be gone." It belongs to Marine Maj. Megan McClung, the highest-ranking female Marine officer to die in the Iraq War and the first female U.S. Naval Academy graduate ever to be killed in action. After more than a decade of corresponding with McClung's family, friends and colleagues, Tom Sileo completed "Be Bold: How a Marine Corps Hero Broke Barriers for Women at War," published by [Fidelis Publishing](#) on Nov. 11, 2022.

[New monument dedicated to MLK and Coretta Scott King opens in Boston](#) [Zoe Sottile, *CNN*, 15 January 2023]

Just a few days before what would have been Martin Luther King Jr.'s 94th birthday, "Embrace," a monument dedicated to King and his wife, Coretta Scott King, has been unveiled in Boston, where they first met. The 20-foot tall, 40-foot wide statue "symbolizes the hug Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shared with his wife, Coretta, after he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and celebrates their time in Boston when they met as students," according to Embrace.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[South Korea vows to fix name errors of soldiers at U.S. memorial](#) [Zamone Perez, *Military Times*, 13 January 2023]

South Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs said Tuesday that it would correct misspelled and missing names at the Korean War Veterans Memorial's newest focal point: a remembrance wall with the names of U.S. and Korean soldiers killed in action during the Korean War. Latino service members were also impacted by the erroneous list. Many Puerto Rican service members used both paternal and maternal last names.

[The U.S. renames 5 places that used racist slur for a Native woman](#) [Trisha Ahmed, *The Associated Press*, 12 January 2023]

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced Thursday that it has given new names to five places that previously included a racist term for a Native American woman. The renamed sites are in California, North Dakota, Tennessee and Texas, completing a yearlong process to remove the historically offensive word “squaw” from geographic names across the country.

[VA Changes Name of Only Medical Center Honoring Confederate Officer](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 19 January 2023]

The Department of Veterans Affairs quietly changed the name of its medical center in Richmond, Virginia, last week, relegating Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire to history. Executive Director J. Ronald Johnson notified department chairs that the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center is now the Richmond VA Medical Center.

DISCRIMINATION

[Deaf student’s lawsuit at center of Supreme Court case](#) [Jessica Gresko, *The Associated Press*, 18 January 2023]

The Supreme Court on Wednesday will hear a case that could make it more difficult for students with disabilities to resolve problems quickly when they’re not getting needed assistance in public schools. The question for the justices involves a federal law that guarantees disabled students an education specific to their needs. Lawyers for Miguel Luna Perez, a deaf student who attended public school in Sturgis, Michigan, said that for more than a decade the school system failed to provide him with a qualified sign language interpreter and misled his parents into believing he was on track to earn his high school diploma. Just before graduation, however, his family was told he qualified only for a “certificate of completion,” not a diploma.

[Supreme Court to hear challenge from ex-Postal Service worker who refused to work on Sundays](#) [Devan Cole and Ariane de Vogue, *CNN*, 13 January 2023]

*The Supreme Court agreed Friday to take up the case of a former US Postal Service worker who wants the justices to revisit a decades-old test for determining whether employers can deny religious accommodation requests. In the 1977 case, *Trans World Airlines, Inc. v. Hardison*, the court determined that employers could deny a reasonable accommodation request made by an employee under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and based on their sincerely held religious beliefs if the accommodation results in an “undue hardship” on the employer.*

[Texas medical schools accused of bias against White, Asian men](#) [Daniel Wiessner, *Reuters*, 10 January 2023]

A lawsuit filed Tuesday accuses six state-run medical schools in Texas of violating federal anti-discrimination laws by giving preferences to female and non-Asian minority applicants. The lawsuit by George Stewart, a White man who was denied admission to the schools, is the latest challenge to affirmative action policies that are commonly used by U.S. schools to boost enrollment of Black, Hispanic and female students.

DIVERSITY

[Columbia University names economist Nemat Shafik as first woman president](#) [Kanishka Singh, Reuters, 18 January 2023]

Columbia University named former Bank of England Deputy Governor and current London School of Economics President Nemat “Minouche” Shafik as its president, marking the first time a woman has been named to lead the renowned American educational institution. Shafik, an economist whose career has focused on public policy and academia, will become the twentieth president of Columbia University on July 1, the institution said in a [statement](#) on Wednesday.

[Soldier Becomes 1st Female Army Guard M1 Abrams Tank Master Gunner](#) [Army Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Hughes, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs, 13 January 2023]

Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Cox became the first female Army National Guard Soldier to graduate the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center’s M1 Abrams Master Gunner course last month, earning the title and additional skill identifier of Abrams Master Gunner.

[“They set the pathway”: Two men reflect on the legacy of the Montford Point Marines](#) [Megan Western, WMAZ-TV, (Macon, Ga.), 15 January 2023]

The Montford Point Marines were the first African Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marines. “It started with them,” says Staff Sergeant Loren James Thomas. He says in 1941 President Roosevelt signed an executive order prohibiting discrimination in federal agencies. “From August 26, 1942 until September 9, 1949, when Montford Point was decommissioned, over 20,000 African Americans were enlisted and processed through Montford Point,” says Thomas. The group created a legacy that Thomas’ family carries. “My father was in the Marine Corps, and I saw what type of shape it put him in and I wanted to follow suit,” he adds.

[Wes Moore makes history as Maryland’s first Black governor](#) [Kelly Garrity, Politico, 18 January 2023]

Democratic Gov. Wes Moore made history Wednesday, officially assuming office as Maryland’s first Black chief executive during a ceremony at the state’s capitol building in Annapolis. But for Moore—the nation’s third Black governor and the only one currently serving—the road to the office was about more than breaking the glass ceiling. “This journey has never been about making history,” said Moore, an Army veteran, author and former nonprofit director, during his inaugural address. “It’s about marching forward. Today is not an indictment of the past. Today is a celebration of our collective future.”

EXTREMISM

[3 Active-Duty Marines Who Work in Intelligence Arrested for Alleged Participation in Jan. 6 Riot](#)

[Konstantin Toropin, Military.com, 19 January 2023]

Three Marines were arrested Wednesday for their participation in the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, according to court documents unsealed Thursday. Micah Coomer, Joshua Abate, and Dodge Dale Hellonen—three men identified by investigators as active-duty Marines—were arrested on four charges each stemming from their participation in the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol.

[Jan. 6 defendant convicted on separate weapons charges](#) [Matthew Barakat, The Associated Press, 19 January 2023]

The conviction Wednesday night against Hatchet Speed, U.S. Navy Reservist, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria comes a month after a jury failed to reach a verdict in his first trial, resulting in a mistrial.

Speed's case is noteworthy not only because of his alleged participation in the Jan. 6 riot with the far-right Proud Boys group, but also because he espoused antisemitic views in undercover recordings and discussed strategies for eradicating the Jewish population in the U.S.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Meditation and mindfulness offer an abundance of health benefits and may be as effective as medication for treating certain conditions](#) [Hilary A. Marusak, *The Conversation*, 12 January 2023]

Many people look to diet trends or new exercise regimens—often with questionable benefit—to get a healthier start on the new year. But there is one strategy that's been shown time and again to boost both mood and health: meditation. In late 2022, [high-profile study](#) made a splash when it claimed that meditation may work as well as a common drug named Lexapro for the treatment of anxiety. Over the past couple of decades, similar evidence has emerged about mindfulness and meditation's broad array of health benefits, for purposes ranging from stress and pain reduction to depression treatments to boosting brain health and helping to manage excessive inflammation and long COVID-19.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Social isolation linked to an increased risk of dementia, new study finds](#) [Kaitlyn Radde, *NPR*, 17 January 2023]

Socially isolated older adults have a 27% higher chance of developing dementia than older adults who aren't, a [new study by Johns Hopkins](#) researchers found. The study did not find significant differences by race or ethnicity. However, more than 70% of the participants in the study were White—with particularly small sample sizes of Hispanic, Asian and Native participants—and the authors call for further research on the topic.

INTERNATIONAL

[Britain vows new law to ban conversion therapy for LGBT people](#) [Sachin Ravikumar, *Reuters*, 17 January 2023]

Britain will seek to ban conversion therapy targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, cracking down on so-called treatments that claim to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Conversion practices, which may include extreme or harmful methods, are aimed at suppressing or preventing a person from being gay or existing as a gender different from the sex recorded at birth. A 2017 national LGBT survey people found that 5% of respondents had been offered conversion therapy and 2% had undergone it, with over half of it done by religious groups.

[Church of England apologizes for treatment of LGBTQ people](#) [Danica Kirka, *The Associated Press*, 20 January 2023]

The Church of England formally apologized Friday for its treatment of LGBTQ people, even as it said that same-sex couples still won't be allowed to marry in its churches. The apology from the church's bishops came in a report following five years of debate on the church's position on sexuality. Same-sex marriage has been legal in England and Wales since 2013, but the church did not change its teaching when the law changed.

[Equal pay: Football Association of Wales agree landmark deal](#) [Michael Pearlman, *BBC Sport*, 18 January 2023]

Wales' men's and women's senior players will be paid the same for representing their country for the first time. The Football Association of Wales [FAW] have agreed a deal that will see equal pay come into effect immediately. The Wales men's senior team have agreed to a 25% pay cut to enable a 25% rise for the women's team that will mean parity for representing Wales. Wales join other nations such as United States of America, England, Brazil, Australia, Norway and New Zealand in paying their players the same international match fee.

[Ex-Lyon player Sara Bjork Gunnarsdottir wins landmark maternity pay case against club](#) [ESPN News Service, 17 January 2023]

FIFPRO, the global football players' union, on Tuesday issued a reminder to all football clubs about women's rights after helping former Olympique Lyonnais player Sara Bjork Gunnarsdottir win a landmark maternity pay case against the club. Calling it the "first ruling of its kind since FIFA's maternity regulations came into force in January 2021," FIFPRO called upon all organisations to recognize the enforcement of "mandatory maternity regulations."

[FIFA fines Mexico Football Association \\$108K over homophobic chants at World Cup](#) [Muri Assunção, *New York Daily News*, 14 January 2023]

"The FIFA Disciplinary Committee has sanctioned the Mexican Football Association with a fine of [\$108,000]," soccer's international governing body said in a statement Friday. Mexico was also ordered to play one match in a FIFA competition "behind closed doors," or with no supporters allowed to attend. The sanctions are related to the breaching of article 13 of the organization's disciplinary code during games against Poland and Saudi Arabia in Qatar, officials said.

[Top Indian wrestlers accuse sports body chief of sexual harassment](#) [Reuters, 19 January 2023]

Olympic medal-winning Indian wrestlers have accused the chief of their sport's governing body and its coaches of sexually harassing female players and have vowed to protest until the federation is disbanded and its head investigated. Olympic bronze winners Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, and Commonwealth Games women's gold winner Vinesh Phogat, began a sit-in protest in the capital New Delhi on Wednesday, along with other athletes, as they went public with the allegations.

[U.K. government to block Scottish gender bill](#) [BBC News, 16 January 2023]

The U.K. government has decided to block a controversial Scottish bill designed to make it easier for people to change their legal gender. U.K. ministers say the draft law would conflict with equality protections applying across Great Britain. It is the first time a Scottish law has been blocked for affecting U.K.-wide law.

MISCELLANEOUS

[After 89 years, Coast Guard Academy and Springfield man use racist episode to teach a better future](#) [Ron Chimelis, *The Republican*, (Springfield, Mass.), 16 January 2023]

When Rear Admiral William G. Kelly learned of a dark episode from his cherished institution's past, the superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy was deeply astonished and profoundly bothered. That it happened in 1934 didn't dissuade Kelly from seeing if some healing could be done, and a positive result could finally be culled from such a miserable moment. The 1934 game at the Coast Guard

Academy was delayed as coaches and officials debated whether [Harrison] Fitch, whose graceful playing style had earned him the nickname “Honey” could play. Even Coast Guard’s northern location did not protect the player from mistreatment, perhaps in part because a high percentage of the academy’s students were from the South, which serves as a point of context but not an excuse.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“A treasure of humanity”: 102-year-old Nazi prosecutor is still pushing for peace](#) [Rich Schapiro, *NBC News*, 18 January 2023]

Ben Ferencz, the last surviving prosecutor from the Nuremberg trials, answered the phone in bright spirits. “Good morning,” he hollered. “Ask your questions.” Nearly 75 years had passed since Ferencz secured convictions against 22 Nazi death squad commanders responsible for the murder of more than 1 million Jews and others. The trials marked the first time in history that mass murderers were prosecuted for war crimes, and Ferencz was only 27 at the time. He went on to play a crucial role in securing compensation for Holocaust survivors and in the creation of the International Criminal Court at The Hague. Now, at 102 years old, he was sitting at his desk in Delray Beach, Florida, answering a reporter’s questions with wit and remarkable recall.

RACISM

[University: Student stabbed on bus because she is Asian](#) [*The Associated Press*, 14 January 2023]

A 56-year-old woman has been charged after an 18-year-old Indiana University student repeatedly was stabbed in the head on a public bus in an attack the school says was because the victim is Asian. The victim was treated at a hospital for multiple stab wounds. Her name was not released. Court documents show Davis said the victim was targeted because of her race, [according to WNDU-TV](#).

RELIGION

[Art professor sues Minnesota university that fired her over complaints about Prophet Muhammad images](#) [*CBS News*, 18 January 2023]

An adjunct professor is suing the Minnesota university that terminated her employment after a Muslim student objected to images of the Prophet Muhammad that she taught in a global art course. Meanwhile, the school admitted to a “misstep” and said it plans to hold public conversations about academic freedom. In her lawsuit, Erika López Prater, the professor, alleges that Hamline University—a small private school in St. Paul—subjected her to religious discrimination and defamation, and damaged her professional and personal reputation.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SEXISM

[Missouri House adopts new dress code for women requiring covering of arms](#) [Maureen Breslin, *The Hill*, 13 January 2023]

The Missouri House of Representatives proposed a bill Wednesday that would restrict women’s dress code in the state’s House, but would not tighten the dress code for men, eventually passing a version of the bill calling for women to cover their arms. The dress code was updated from 2021, in which women could wear “dresses or skirts or slacks worn with a blazer or sweater and appropriate dress shoes or

boots,” to now state that proper attire for women in the House would be “jackets worn with dresses, skirts, or slacks, and dress shoes or boots.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Air Force Academy Cadet Facing Court-Martial on Sexual Assault Charges](#) [Mary Shinn, *The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)*, 18 January 2023]

Women began outlining details of alleged sexual assault by an Air Force Academy cadet in a court-martial on Wednesday. Cadet Justin Couty faces allegations that he sexually assaulted four women in a case that will be decided by Judge Lt. Col. Dayle Percle. Couty chose to have his case decided by a judge, rather than a jury.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Air Force nurse convicted at court-martial for groping another officer](#) [Kyle Alvarez, *Stars and Stripes*, 13 January 2023]

A court-martial jury convicted Maj. Jorge Arizpe of two counts of abusive sexual contact and conduct unbecoming an officer, concluding a 5-day trial in which Arizpe’s lawyers accused prosecutors of overreach. Military judge Lt. Col. Lance Smith ordered an official reprimand, forfeiture of \$2,400 in pay and 35 days of confinement as punishment for Arizpe, who has been an Air Force nurse for 18 years, according to his civilian attorney, Sean Timmons. The case against Arizpe resulted from two episodes in 2021, the first at a barbecue he hosted at his house in Bury St. Edmunds and the second a remark he made to a woman who is 20 years younger and married to a service member.

[“Never the same”: Survivors of military sexual trauma turn to The Pink Berets for healing](#) [Haeven Gibbons, *The Dallas Morning News*, 17 January 2023]

Stephanie Gattas enlisted in the Navy at 18, excited to serve her country. Eight years later, the young woman returned home to Texas, angry, combative and haunted after enduring sexual harassment and a sexual assault. The perpetrators were her fellow sailors—some of whom held leadership roles. Driven by her personal experience, Gattas in 2015 founded The Pink Berets, a nonprofit that helps women service members and veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as mental and emotional trauma.

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SUICIDE

[Army Special Operators Seek to Reduce Suicide with “Bottom-Led” Approach](#) [Lauren C. Williams, *Defense One*, 17 January 2023]

The USASOC strategy, which was finalized in September, is based on Thomas Joiner’s [Interpersonal Theory of Suicide](#), which says individuals’ risk is highest if they don’t feel like they belong, are a burden, and have the means, such as access to firearms. So the updated approach aims to build a sense of community, create a sense of purpose, promote wellness and stress management, and collect data. The data will help target and track markers for overall wellbeing and catch vulnerable operators earlier.

[VA to pay for all emergency mental health care starting next week](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 13 January 2023]

Starting Jan. 17, all veterans will be able to access emergency mental health care free of charge at any Veterans Affairs medical facility or outside clinic, regardless of whether they are already enrolled in department health care services. Department officials announced the new policy on Friday as part of nationwide efforts to prevent suicide among veterans. According to the latest department data, about 17 veterans a day die by suicide.