

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 3 MARCH 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

[Army approach to sexual assault prevention may overlook hazing and male victims, study finds](#) [John Vandiver, *Stars and Stripes*, 28 February 2023]

Sexual assault prevention programs in the military rely too heavily on college date-rape scenarios that differ from the way many troops experience such attacks, according to a new study that suggests the Army must adapt prevention efforts to its own social reality. The Rand Corp., in a [U.S. Army-commissioned study](#) released Monday, found that reported assaults by male soldiers on women were unsurprisingly the most common form of sexual violence. But the study also revealed statistically significant numbers of sexual assaults in which a man was the victim, either in hazing situations or in cases of assault by a woman.

[Navy issues new “playbook” for addressing sailors’ mental health needs](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 28 February 2023]

The Navy released a [“Mental Health Playbook”](#) Tuesday that aims to facilitate mental health conversations between commanders and their sailors and eliminate the oft-perceived stigma associated with seeking help. “This playbook is designed to assist Navy leaders in preventing, mitigating or addressing mental health issues within your commands,” it states. “This work begins well before a mental health issue occurs. It starts with the climate our leaders create and how you lead the people in your care.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[A Proclamation on Women’s History Month, 2023](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 28 February 2023]

During Women’s History Month, we celebrate the countless women who have fought tirelessly and courageously for equality, justice, and opportunity in our Nation. We also reaffirm our commitment to advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls in the United States and around the world. We are mindful that we are building on the legacy of both recognized trailblazers and unsung heroines who have guided the course of American history and continue to shape its future.

[Trading on Patriotism: How Extremist Groups Target and Radicalize Veterans](#) [Travis Tritten, Konstantin Toropin, Drew F. Lawrence and Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 22 February 2023]

**Note:* This article is the first in a series looking at how extremist groups target veterans for recruitment and the paths toward and away from radicalization.*

Ken Parker had been out of the Navy for about two years and was struggling to find a good job when he went to his first Ku Klux Klan rally. He’d watched TV shows about White supremacists, and saw that the KKK had planned a rally in a small North Carolina town that wasn’t too far away, billed as a “family event for Whites only” with a cross-burning at dark, according to local media reports. Parker, frustrated over a lousy economy and a lack of job prospects, went to the 2012 gathering, which had been chased across the border into rural Virginia by protesters.

CULTURE

[Asian, Pacific Islander studies could become mandatory in Florida schools](#) [Randy Rauch, *Spectrum News 13*, 21 February 2023]

If some state lawmakers get their way, Florida schools may soon be required to teach the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The legislation, Senate Bill 294, would require Florida schools to teach the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including information about their cultures and contributions to American society.

[#BoycottHersheys spreads on Twitter over Women's Day campaign](#) [Danielle Wiener-Bronner, *CNN*, 2 March 2023]

Calls to boycott Hershey are spreading on Twitter in response to the chocolate company's International Women's Day Canadian campaign, which includes a trans woman. It's the latest example of a brand generating a strong but mixed reaction to a promotional campaign that touches on cultural or societal issues. Fae Johnstone, a queer, trans and feminist activist, posted about being included in the Her for She campaign in a series of tweets on Wednesday. It "means a lot to be included, as a young(ish?) trans woman," Johnstone wrote. "I grew up with few trans role models. Many young trans folks haven't met a trans adult. I hope this campaign shows trans girls they can dream big and change the world too." Johnstone's posts were met with praise and support, but also anger at Hershey, much of which included anti-trans rhetoric.

[Cadets at the service academies can now have children while attending school](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 March 2023]

Four cadets at the Air Force Academy were allowed to continue their studies during the last year after having children due to a policy change enacted by Congress, according to academy officials. Prior to lawmakers approving the change in 2021, the cadets would not have been permitted to have children and could have been forced to leave school. The change impacts all three of the Defense Department's service academies, though officials for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., said they are waiting for the Pentagon to issue a new formal policy, which was mandated by Congress to be implemented by January.

[DOD should engage military communities to maintain volunteer force](#) [Korie Wilkins, *Military Times*, 24 February 2023]

*The George W. Bush Institute issued a [series of policy recommendations](#) last month aimed at helping veterans, service members and their families successfully transition over to civilian life, and getting U.S. military branches closer to recruitment targets they missed or just barely met in 2022. In a series of articles, *Military Times* will examine each of these four recommendations.*

[For Military and Higher Ed, a Shared Dilemma](#) [Mike Haynie, *Inside Higher Ed*, 23 February 2023]
[OPINION]

In many ways, the same challenges facing the military are also disrupting higher education. Undergraduate enrollment has consistently declined in recent years. It's easy to cite the pandemic as the culprit, but higher education's enrollment crisis has been festering for more than a decade. As the cost of education increases, and as certifications and credentials emerge as a degree alternative, the opportunity cost associated with the traditional college experience has increased for many students and families.

[Naval Academy Honors President Jimmy Carter, Drops Confederate Name from Building](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 21 February 2023]

The engineering building at the U.S. Naval Academy has a new name: Carter Hall, honoring former lieutenant and Class of 1947 alumnus President Jimmy Carter. In a ceremony last week, Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro announced the change, noting that renaming Maury Hall for Carter is part of the process initiated under the congressionally mandated Naming Commission, which supported removing Confederate names from Defense Department buildings and installations.

[Navy to change name of warship honoring Confederate battle victory](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 27 February 2023]

The Navy will rename a warship that was originally named in honor of a Confederate battlefield victory in the Civil War, the service announced Monday. Changing the name of the guided-missile cruiser Chancellorsville to Robert Smalls, a former slave and sailor, is the latest move by the Defense Department to change the names of installations, buildings and assets that were once Confederate namesakes. The Navy announcement provides no timeline for the change, but stated that “the logistical aspects associated with renaming the ship will begin henceforth and will continue until completion with minimal impact on operations and the crew.”

[Neo-Nazis Protest Outside of Parade’s 1st Preview Performance on Broadway](#) [Meg Masseron, *Playbill*, 21 February 2023]

On February 21, as patrons lined up for the first preview performance of the Broadway revival of Parade—a musical about the true story of the false conviction and murder of a Jewish man named Leo Frank in 1915—members of a far-right, Neo-Nazi movement protested outside of the Jacobs Theatre. The individuals carried signs with hateful rhetoric hand-written, shouting at theatre-goers and attempting to give out antisemitic flyers to those in line to see the show. It was an ironic display of antisemitism considering that the Parade musical is an indictment against hatred. Parade, a musical written by Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry, dramatizes the life and tragic death of Frank, who was a Jewish factory manager living in Georgia in the early 20th century.

[Newspapers drop “Dilbert” after creator Scott Adams’ racist remarks](#) [David A. Lieb, *The Associated Press*, 27 February 2023]

Dilbert comic strip creator Scott Adams experienced possibly the biggest repercussion of his recent comments about race when distributor Andrews McMeel Universal announced Sunday it would no longer work with the cartoonist. Andrews McMeel Chairman Hugh Andrews and CEO and President Andy Sareyan said in a joint statement that the syndication company was “severing our relationship” with Adams. In the Feb. 22 episode of his YouTube show, Adams described people who are Black as members of “a hate group” from which White people should “get away.” Various media publishers across the U.S. denounced the comments as racist, hateful and discriminatory while saying they would no longer provide a platform for his work.

[Pentagon tells service members to stop displaying giant U.S. flags at major events](#) [Alexander Riedel, *Stars and Stripes*, 27 February 2023]

The Defense Department has a message for the service members being cheered on as they unfurl giant American flags horizontally at the Super Bowl and other major events: You’re not following the rules. In a Feb. 10 memo to its public affairs offices, the department said that having service members carry the

U.S. flag horizontally or land it on the ground after a parachute jump is no longer acceptable. The department's leaders have expressed concern over proper flag protocol and alignment with Title 4, United States Code, more commonly known as the U.S. Flag Code.

[Some Neck and Hand Tattoos OK for Airmen and Guardians Under New Policy Aimed at Helping Recruiting](#) [Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 2 March 2023]

The Air Force and Space Force are now allowing tattoos on the neck and hands, a policy change aimed at bringing younger talent into the ranks as the Air Force recovers from one of its toughest recruiting years in recent history. Under the new policy, airmen and Guardians are allowed to have one tattoo on each hand and one tattoo on the back of the neck; they cannot exceed one inch or portray obscene, racist or violent symbols. Previously, the services allowed only ring tattoos limited to a single band.

[As Tennessee, others target drag shows, many wonder: Why?](#) [Kimberlee Kruesi and Jeff McMillan, *The Associated Press*, 2 March 2023]

"If I hadn't been a girl, I'd have been a drag queen." Dolly Parton has uttered those words famously and often. But if she really were a drag queen, one of Tennessee's most famous daughters would likely be out of a job under legislation signed into law by Republican Gov. Bill Lee on Thursday. Lee signed off on the legislation without issuing a statement or having a public ceremony. The bill goes into effect July 1. The protestations have arisen fairly suddenly around a form of entertainment that has long had a place on the mainstream American stage.

DISCRIMINATION

[Seattle becomes first U.S. city to ban caste discrimination](#) [Deepa Bharath, *The Associated Press*, 22 February 2023]

The Seattle City Council on Tuesday added caste to the city's anti-discrimination laws, becoming the first U.S. city to ban caste discrimination and the first in the world to pass such a law outside South Asia. Calls to outlaw discrimination based on caste, a division of people based on birth or descent, have grown louder among South Asian diaspora communities in the United States. But the movement has been getting pushback from some Hindu Americans who argue that such legislation maligns a specific community.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Transgender athlete wins discrimination case against USA Powerlifting](#) [Jay Valle, *NBC News*, 2 March 2023]

USA Powerlifting lost a two-year court battle this week after a judge ruled that it had discriminated against transgender athlete JayCee Cooper by banning her from competing in women's competitions. The ruling also mandated that the sports organization "cease and desist from all unfair discriminatory practices" because of sexual orientation and gender identity and that it revise its policy related to sexual orientation and gender identity within two weeks.

[Trans people face "horrificing" rhetoric at statehouses](#) [Andrew DeMillo, *The Associated Press*, 27 February 2023]

It was pharmacist Gwendolyn Herzig's first time testifying before a legislative committee when she spoke to several Arkansas lawmakers in a packed hearing room this month about a bill restricting gender-affirming care for minors. Herzig, who is transgender, spoke out against the legislation and told

the panel that one of the biggest obstacles trans people face is a lack of empathy. Only a few minutes later, a Republican lawmaker asked her an inappropriate question about her genitalia. The exchange, which was livestreamed on the Legislature's website and has since been widely shared on social media, is an example of the type of demeaning questions and rhetoric that transgender people meet when they show up to statehouses to testify against new bills targeting their rights.

[U.S. agency sues Exxon for discrimination after nooses found at plant](#) [Reuters, 3 March 2023]

Exxon Mobil Corporation was sued for racial discrimination by a U.S. federal agency on Thursday, with charges alleging that the oil major failed to protect workers from harassment after nooses were found at one of its facilities in 2020. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) said in a statement that a Black employee at Exxon's chemical plant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, found a hangman's noose at his work site in January 2020. The EEOC said that at the time of this report, Exxon was already aware of three other such instances of nooses being displayed at the complex and a nearby refinery, and that a fifth noose was reported later in 2020.

DIVERSITY

[7.2% of U.S. adults identify as LGBTQ, Gallup Poll finds](#) [Jo Yurcaba, NBC News, 22 February 2023]

The percentage of adults in the U.S. who identify as LGBTQ increased slightly year over year, to 7.2% last year, according to a [Gallup Poll](#) released Wednesday. While that's just a slight increase from 7.1% in 2021, it's more than double what it was a decade ago, when Gallup found just 3.5% of the U.S. population identified as something other than heterosexual in 2012. For the first time, the organization recorded the identities of LGBTQ people who said they are something other than lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plays crucial role in the FBI's mission](#) [Federal News Network, 23 February 2023]

Diversity, equity and inclusion within the Federal Bureau of Investigation plays a crucial role in the agency's mission to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution. A diverse workforce—with individuals from different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives—not only helps to promote equality and inclusiveness, but it leads to better problem-solving, creativity, and innovation. Just last year, the agency made stops at 11 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to encourage students to consider an FBI internship and learn more about the application process. Some of that involved helping students understand that the FBI needs candidates from many fields of study.

[Georgia Air National Guard names first Black Commander](#) [WSB-TV News (Atlanta, Ga.), 28 February 2023]

The first Black Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard assumed his new post on Tuesday. Major General Konata Crumbly spoke exclusively with Channel 2 investigative reporter Mark Winne about how critical of a period Georgia's Air Guard is with 1,300 new jobs coming to the state. "I'm not the first African American qualified, but I'm the first that was given the opportunity," Crumbly said. The newest commander was part of the ROTC at Florida A&M University, served as an Army helicopter pilot before moving to the Air Guard and piloting the J-STARS.

[How a pioneering pilot made the first attempt to break NASA's racial barrier](#) [John Yank, PBS News, 25 February 2023]

Space exploration has long fascinated humans, from the fantasy of the ancient Greeks to the moon landings of the last century. It's about pushing into new frontiers—and not just technological ones. In the last part of our series, “Hidden Histories,” we learn about Ed Dwight, a trailblazing Air Force pilot who helped pave the way for NASA’s Black astronauts.

[IAVA names female vet as top leader for the first time](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 27 February 2023]

Iraq War veteran Allison Jaslow was named the new CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America on Monday, giving the organization its first female leader and making her the first openly gay individual to lead a major U.S. veterans organization. IAVA has been a key voice in veterans’ issues—particularly the younger generation—since its founding in 2004. Unlike most of the legacy veterans organizations, which have leadership changes annually, Jaslow is only the third CEO in the organization’s history.

[Jennifer McClellan makes history as the first Black woman elected to Congress in Virginia](#) [Zoe Richards, *NBC News*, 21 February 2023]

Democrat Jennifer McClellan has made history as the first Black woman elected to represent Virginia in Congress, NBC News projected Tuesday. “It still blows my mind that we’re having firsts in 2023,” McClellan said in an interview. “My ancestors fought really hard to have a seat at that table, and now not only will I have a seat at the table in Congress; I’ll be able to bring that policymaking table into communities that never really had a voice before.”

[Marines scramble to recruit female drill instructors after COVID slump](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Marine Corps Times*, 24 February 2023]

As the Marine Corps hurtles toward congressionally set deadlines to integrate entry-level training at both of its boot camps, leaders say they’re most troubled by a basic math problem. About 9% of the Marine Corps is female—the lowest percentage of any military service—and female drill instructors historically have worked at a higher tempo and with less rest than their male counterparts to meet mission requirements, according to a [2021 University of Pittsburgh report](#) commissioned by the Marine Corps.

[Meet the highest ranking Filipino general officer in the National Guard. He’s from Hawaii.](#) [Annalisa Burgos, *Hawaii News Now (Honolulu, Hawaii)*, 19 February 2023]

Major General Roy Macaraeg of Honolulu is believed to be the highest ranking Filipino citizen soldier in the history of the National Guard. Governor Josh Green hosted a promotion ceremony for him earlier this month. Macaraeg said he was surprised to be the first general officer of Filipino descent in the Hawaii National Guard—much less the national organization—considering the diversity of the state. “In the Asian American community, we tend to be not vocal, right, you know, not aggressive. And I think, you know, part of it is really recognizing, you know, the opportunities and really going for the opportunities, right?” he said.

[NASA to name first woman as agency’s science chief, sources say](#) [Joey Roulette, *Reuters*, 27 February 2023]

NASA has picked a longtime solar scientist who heads its heliophysics division to become the U.S. space agency’s science chief—the first woman named to serve in the role, according to people familiar with the decision. Nicola Fox, former top scientist on the Parker Solar Probe mission studying the sun, will

be named this week as NASA's associate administrator for the agency's Science Mission Directorate, said the two sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the official announcement.

[The Quiet Determination Behind the Navy's Groundbreaking African American Reactor Officer](#)

[Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 24 February 2023]

*Last summer, Capt. Kimberly Jones quietly took on a new job aboard a new ship. Although both she and her commander knew the posting was historic, she said nobody felt the need to ratchet up the fanfare. Jones is the first African American woman to be entrusted with the job. She's also only the sixth African American ever to hold the position. Jones, who spoke with *Military.com* over the phone Tuesday, said that while she was going to college for engineering at Tuskegee University in Alabama, she wasn't thinking about the Navy as an option.*

[Siblings Create Total Force Success Stories](#) [137th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs, *DOD News*, 28 February 2023]

A framed letter on the wall of Chief Master Sgt. Alquintin Steele's office is a constant reminder that the right words at the right time can do more than motivate, encourage and support. The letter, written in January 2008, by now Lt. Col. Alecia Campbell, describes the lifelong influence that Steele's words have had. But back when those words were first spoken it was simply a big brother giving advice to his younger sister. Campbell had been recruited to play basketball at the United States Air Force Academy. Her older brother, now-Chief Master Sgt. Alquintin Steele, the senior enlisted leader for the 137th Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron, Oklahoma National Guard, drove her to Will Rogers Airport for her flight to Colorado Springs from Oklahoma City.

[A USDA commission issues recommendations on racial equity for farmers](#) [Ximena Bustillo, *NPR*, 28 February 2023]

The Equity Commission at the U.S. Department of Agriculture has [released its first report](#) detailing over 30 recommendations to bring equity to farming. The USDA Equity Commission was born out of a Biden executive order calling for federal departments to address racial equity and underserved communities. The equity commission and its recommendations are born out of a broader attempt to fix a broken past. Nearly two decades ago a class action lawsuit led by Black farmers against the USDA was settled. Then there was a class action from Native Americans, Hispanic farmers, and women farmers. Even after lawsuits from minority groups, many others including smaller farmers as well as young and beginning farmers say they are constantly left out of USDA's programs and structure.

EXTREMISM

[Capitol rioter who tweeted threat to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez sentenced to 38 months in prison](#) [Hannah Rabinowitz and Holmes Lybrand, *CNN*, 23 February 2023]

A Texas man was sentenced to more than three years in prison Wednesday for assaulting police officers during the U.S. Capitol riot and threatening Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on Twitter shortly after the attack. Garret Miller, 36, pleaded guilty in December to charges related to his conduct on January 6, 2021. He was arrested weeks after the riot—on Inauguration Day—while wearing a shirt that said: "I was there, Washington, D.C., January 6, 2021." According to court documents, Miller brought gear with him to DC, including a rope, a grappling hook and a mouth guard, and prosecutors said he was "at the forefront of every barrier overturned, police line overrun, and entryway breached within his proximity that day."

[Ex-Ohio National Guardsman sentenced to 6 years after creating ghost guns, antisemitic threats](#) [Natalie Neysa Alund, *USA TODAY*, 1 March 2023]

An ex-corporal with the Ohio Army National Guard was sentenced Tuesday to nearly six years in prison after authorities said he created ghost guns and made antisemitic and violent statements online while employed to provide security services at synagogues and Jewish schools. Thomas Develin, 25, of Columbus, was sentenced Tuesday at U.S. District Court in Columbus to five years and 11 months in prison on federal weapons counts, online court records show. Later that day, DeVelin appeared a few blocks away in Franklin County Common Pleas Court and pleaded guilty to different charges: two counts of making terroristic threats and one count of attempted illegal manufacturing or possession of explosives.

[House Dems Call for Info on Racially-Motivated Cyber Attacks](#) [Alexandra Kelley, *NextGov*, 21 February 2023]

Democrat lawmakers are asking for an agency briefing to help gauge the level of domestic extremist threats to critical infrastructure on a physical and digital scale, particularly within the energy sector. Citing a recent attempt by two individuals to sabotage the electrical grids in Baltimore, Maryland that the Justice Department deemed as racially motivated, the lawmakers want to learn more about the prominence of attempted disruptions linked to domestic extremists.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Most young men are single. Most young women are not.](#) [Daniel De Vise, *The Hill*, 22 February 2023]

More than 60 percent of young men are single, nearly twice the rate of unattached young women, signaling a larger breakdown in the social, romantic and sexual life of the American male. Men in their 20s are more likely than women in their 20s to be romantically uninvolved, sexually dormant, friendless and lonely. They stand at the vanguard of an epidemic of declining marriage, sexuality and relationships that afflicts all of young America. In the worst-case scenario, the young American man's social disconnect can have tragic consequences. Young men commit suicide at [four times the rate of young women](#). Younger men are largely responsible for rising rates of mass shootings, a trend some researchers link to their growing social isolation.

[The perfect storm keeping women of colour behind at work](#) [Josie Cox, *BBC Worklife*, 1 March 2023]

Throughout the past three years, women around the world disproportionately suffered due to economic shutdowns. Their earnings, in many cases, have stalled or fallen relative to men's, and in many pockets of the labour market, women still struggle to climb to critical leadership positions. More women than men are leaving their jobs, unable to navigate corporate structures while balancing commitments outside of paid work. But buried in the narrative of women's recent struggles overall is another critical and often even more troubling storyline: the experiences of women of colour.

INTERNATIONAL

[Chinese Naval Aviation to Allow Female, Non-Military College Pilots for the First Time](#) [Dzirhan Mahadzir, *USNI News*, 21 February 2023]

For the first time, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is recruiting females and graduates from non-military colleges to be naval aviators, it announced through a recruitment drive released Monday.

The call for female aviators is part of the PLAN's naval pilots' recruitment this year, with successful candidates scheduled to enter the service in three or four years, [according to a brochure](#). Potential recruits must be recent graduates who are majoring in science, technology or engineering, although single undergraduates from certain streams who are under 24 as of June years old will also be considered. Candidates must also be loyal to the Chinese Communist Party with a clean political personal and family history, as well as no record of criminal or disciplinary punishment.

[Hilton Partners with Minus18 and Queer Icon Ruby Rose to Give LGBTQIA+ Teens across Australia the School Formal They Deserve](#) [Hilton Corporation News, 27 February 2023]

Hilton and charity organisation, Minus18, have announced a nationwide partnership that aims to give more LGBTQIA+ young people in Australia the right to free, inclusive and empowering school formals - launched today by queer icon and advocate, actor, model and DJ, Ruby Rose during Sydney's WorldPride. Hilton's support will see an expanded footprint for Minus18's Queer Formals program, enabling it to roll out in new cities and regional areas nationally from 2024, with the hope of providing LGBTQIA+ youth nationwide the opportunity to experience their school formal as their authentic selves.

[In a first, a South Korean court says same-sex partners should get government benefits](#) [Se Eun Gong, NPR, 21 February 2023]

A South Korean appeals court ruled Tuesday that government health insurance should offer spousal coverage to same-sex couples. The landmark ruling is the country's first legal recognition of social benefits for same-sex couples. South Korea has not legalized same-sex marriage or civil unions. The 32-year-old plaintiff So Seong-uk sued the National Health Insurance Service in 2021, after the agency revoked his status as a dependent to his partner Kim Yong-min.

[Japan Air Force member sues government in sexual harassment](#) [Mari Yamaguchi, The Associated Press, 27 February 2023]

A Japanese air force serviceperson filed a lawsuit against the government on Monday, saying it had failed to protect her from verbal sexual harassment from a male colleague and then systematically covered up the problem for more than a decade. The plaintiff, who was only identified as a current member of the Air Self Defense Force, faced verbal sexual abuse starting as soon as she was assigned to Naha air base on the southern island of Okinawa in 2010, her lawyers said. The plaintiff is seeking about 11.7 million yen (\$85,800) in damages from the government for failing to protect her from the harassment and failing to create a better working environment, and for not countering the criticism she received for speaking out, causing her to suffer for more than 10 years, lawyer Daisuke Tabuchi told reporters.

[Tunisia's Saied denies racism but repeats view that migration is a plot](#) [Reuters, 23 February 2023]

The Tunisian president on Thursday repeated his assertion that an increase of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa was part of a conspiracy to change Tunisia's demographics and denied criticism by rights groups that his views were racist. Speaking to Interior Minister Tawfiq Charfeddine in a video posted online, Saied said his opponents had twisted his comments in order to spread discord. Rights groups have accused Saied of racism, called his statement on Tuesday fascist and announced plans to protest.

[Why singer Jully Black changed one word in Canada's national anthem](#) [BBC News, 21 February 2023]

When Canadian singer Jully Black walked on court to sing her country's national anthem at an NBA all-star game on Sunday, she was more nervous than she'd ever been. "I had a secret," she said. Performing live to a packed Salt Lake City stadium, she was about to alter the song's lyrics: "our home and native land" to "our home on native land". The one-word shift, a nod to indigenous rights, generated plenty of attention. And some say the change to the century-old anthem should be permanent.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force command climate investigation ends with Okinawa commander's removal](#) [Matthew M. Burke, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 March 2023]

The commander of an Air Force airborne air control squadron on Okinawa has been relieved after a "thorough" investigation into the unit's command climate, an Air Force spokesman said. Lt. Col. Alexander Demma was removed as leader of the 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron at Kadena Air Base on Feb. 2 due to a "loss of confidence in his ability to lead the organization," 18th Wing spokesman Lt. Col. Raymond Geoffroy wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes on Feb. 22. Geoffroy declined to provide further information about Demma's removal, citing privacy considerations. Demma was reassigned to administrative duties within the wing, Geoffroy said.

[James Abourezk, 1st Arab American U.S. senator, dies at 92](#) [Stephen Groves, *The Associated Press*, 24 February 2023]

James Abourezk, a South Dakota Democrat who grew up on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, became the first Arab American U.S. senator and was known for his quick wit as he advocated for populist causes, died Friday. He was 92. Abourezk served four years in the U.S. Navy following World War II. His job as a civil engineer took him to California, then back to South Dakota, where he worked on the Minuteman missile silos in the western part of the state. He attended law school and opened a solo practice in Rapid City.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[New research could help nurses, police detect bruises on people with dark skin](#) [Carrie Johnson, *NPR*, 21 February 2023]

For many cases of assault and domestic violence, investigations begin with a search for proof. But for victims with darker skin, it can be hard for nurses and police to detect bruises. That difficulty can stymie the care and the justice these survivors receive. But now, [new research](#) is trying to make that process more rigorous and effective. Katherine Scafide, an associate professor at George Mason University, worked as a forensic nurse for eight years. During that time, she noticed something about survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence with black or brown skin: it was hard to see their injuries.

RACISM

[Hangman's nooses discovered aboard Norfolk-based destroyer](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Navy Times*, 1 March 2023]

Sailors discovered a series of hangman's nooses aboard a Navy destroyer last month, service officials confirmed Wednesday. On three separate occasions in February, officials said ropes were located near the racks of one service member on the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer Laboon, which is based in Norfolk, Virginia. In addition to counseling services and other arrangements, the unnamed sailor,

whose identity was withheld for privacy reasons, was offered transfer to another ship but declined, Fischer said in the statement.

RELIGION

[Chaplains to serve as counselors aboard all Navy destroyers by 2025](#) [Alex Wilson, *Stars and Stripes*, 27 February 2023]

The Navy plans to permanently assign chaplains to all destroyers by fiscal year 2025 in hopes they can fill a shortage of emotional, mental and spiritual counselors aboard those ships. While the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps already has permanent positions aboard larger vessels such as aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships and guided-missile cruisers, the service is planning to add 48 positions over the next two years to guided-missile destroyers, Naval Surface Forces spokesman Cmdr. Arlo Abrahamson told Stars and Stripes by email Feb. 16. Chaplains historically supported destroyers at the squadron level, with two assigned to each destroyer squadron, Abrahamson said. Bases with large numbers of ships, such as Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia or Naval Station Mayport in Florida, have more chaplains.

[Working Sundays at USPS? Former mail carrier tells SCOTUS that's against his religion](#) [Jory Heckman, *Federal News Network*, 24 February 2023]

A former mail carrier is telling the Supreme Court the Postal Service didn't go far enough to accommodate his religious beliefs when it scheduled him to work Sundays. In a filing before the Supreme Court this week, legal counsel for Gerald Groff, a former rural carrier in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, argued USPS failed to demonstrate that meeting his religious accommodation not to work on Sundays was an "undue burden" on the agency. Groff's attorneys describe him as an "Evangelical Christian who observes a Sunday Sabbath, believing that day is meant for worship and rest." The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case, Groff v. DeJoy, on April 18.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[The Bureau of Prisons Needs to Do More to Address Inmate-on-Staff Sexual Harassment, a Watchdog Says](#) [Courtney Bubl , *Government Executive*, 23 February 2023]

The Federal Bureau of Prisons should conduct regular risk assessments about the pervasiveness and severity of inmate-on-staff sexual harassment, with a specific emphasis on risks for female staff, according to its watchdog, which found this is a bureau-wide problem. That is one of nine recommendations from the Justice Department inspector general in a [report released on Thursday](#) based on multiple congressional inquiries regarding concerns about the safety of prisons bureau employees.

SUICIDE

[Fixing the Navy's suicide crisis, without more mental health personnel](#) [Ken Falke, *Military Times*, 20 February 2023] [COMMENTARY]

Headlines over the past several months have highlighted the U.S. Navy's challenge of suicide within its ranks. Most disturbing, in every article there is a call for more mental health providers and no discussion of leadership training, except calls for leaders to ensure their sailors engage in "enhanced suicide prevention courses." Just to put things into perspective, in India, where there are over one

billion citizens and roughly 5000 mental health professionals, the country's suicide rate is 12.7 per 100,000 people. In the United States, where we have approximately 330 million citizens and approximately 700,000 mental health providers, our suicide rate is 16.1 per 100,000 people.

[Keeping firearms out of easy reach key to preventing military suicides](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 24 February 2023]

Limiting easy access to guns, including those purchased on base, is one of the top ways the Defense Department could cut down on military deaths by suicide, according to an independent commission tasked with reviewing the Defense Department's suicide prevention programs. Firearms are used in 66% of suicides among active duty troops, 72% among reservists and 78% in the National Guard, according to the [commission's report](#), whereas guns are employed in roughly half of suicides in the U.S. overall.

VETERANS

[Benefits Denied: Older Black Veterans Battle for GI Education and Housing Compensation, Disability Payments](#) [NBC News, 25 February 2023]

Black veterans of wars in the last century say they failed to receive benefits they were owed due to systemic racism, lack of outreach and other availability issues. Today 75 years after the U.S. military was desegregated, the country is grappling with how to right a wrong that lifted many more White veterans into the middle class while exacerbating the wealth gap with which Black Americans still struggle. One approach, the GI Bill Restoration Act, would award those lost benefits to the descendants of Black veterans. It was introduced in Congress in 2021 but with a price tag of \$70 billion as estimated by one of its sponsors, Democratic Rep. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts, it faltered.

[Black Vietnam vet to receive Medal of Honor after nearly 60-year wait](#) [Darlene Superville, *The Associated Press*, 3 March 2023]

Nearly 60 years after he was first recommended for the nation's highest award for bravery during the Vietnam War, retired Col. Paris Davis, one of the first Black officers to lead a Special Forces team in combat, will receive the prestigious Medal of Honor on Friday. The overdue recognition for the 83-year-old Virginia resident comes after his recommendation for the medal was lost, resubmitted—and then lost again. Some of Davis' supporters believe racism was to blame, but Davis doesn't dwell on it. He said he doesn't know why it has taken decades for his heroism to be recognized.

[Lawmakers renew push for veteran centers at colleges](#) [Svetlana Shkolnikova, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 February 2023]

A group of lawmakers are continuing a yearslong push to establish student veteran centers at universities and colleges, calling for more support for former service members adjusting to academic life. Student veterans face unique challenges in college, including struggles with service-related disabilities and feeling out of place after years away from school. Many of them are older than their student peers and have families to support, said Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev.

[VA to Look at Racial Disparities in Claims Decisions](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 2 March 2023]

The Department of Veterans Affairs has formed a leadership panel to understand why veterans who belong to racial minorities are granted disability benefits at lower rates than White veterans. VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Thursday that, although the department has several offices that

oversee diversity initiatives, such as an Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans and Center for Minority Veterans that provides support and services, the new Equity Team will specifically look at grant rate differences and establish policies to ensure that all veterans are treated fairly in the decision process.

[Veteran helps others through mental health advocacy, holistic wellness](#) [Dave Lubach, *Military Times*, 26 February 2023]

Navy SEALs are trained to be calm, cool and collected in any stressful scenario. But even the strongest and well-trained men of the military have their breaking points. For Nick Norris, that point occurred in 2013 after tragically losing his brother the previous year. That was on top of the friends he lost during tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as the father who passed away while he was deployed. Once he entered civilian life, Norris started looking into holistic wellness to help him with some of the struggles he was dealing with post-service. Two of the solutions he focused on—proper hydration and proper rest—led to his career and the founding of [Protekt](#) in 2019.