

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 7 APRIL 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

[OPM details how agencies can create a gender-inclusive workplace](#) [Drew Friedman, *Federal News Network*, 31 March 2023]

Agencies have new directions for managing their policies and practices around gender identity inclusion in the federal workplace. The Office of Personnel Management [updated its guidance](#) for agencies to build federal workplaces that better include and incorporate the Biden administration's diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility priorities. OPM's latest guidance on gender identity broadened its initial 2015 guidance, now including details for how agencies should manage workplace transition, confidentiality and privacy, dress and appearance standards, names and pronouns, facilities and legal name changes.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Threat from Extremist Groups Is Growing. Service Members and Vets Are Getting Sucked into the Violence.](#) [Travis Tritten, Drew F. Lawrence, Konstantin Toropin and Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 5 April 2023]

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This story is the second installment in a series on the rise of extremism and the role of troops and veterans. [Part 1](#) looked at how extremist groups are targeting and radicalizing those who have served their country in uniform.*

The U.S. intelligence community deemed racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism—with adherents such as White supremacists, Nazis and other racist groups—the “most lethal threat” to Americans in its [annual 2023 threat assessment](#) released in March. The groups “believe that recruiting military members will help them organize cells for attacks against minorities or institutions that oppose their ideology,” the intelligence report says. But the Pentagon and Congress remain divided over how seriously to take the threat, even as violent plots are foiled and agencies, watchdog organizations and advocates issue increasingly urgent warnings.

[USAFA to Double Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Staff After Rise in Incidents](#) [David Roza, *Air & Space Forces Magazine*, 31 March 2023]

Three weeks after a [new study](#) revealed rising reports of unwanted sexual contact at the military service academies, an Air Force official said the U.S. Air Force Academy is doubling its sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR) workforce from 12 to 24 employees. At the Air Force Academy, the DOD study found that 22.3 percent of women indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact in the 2021-2022 academic year, compared to 15.4 percent in 2018. Meanwhile, 4.3 percent of Air Force Academy men said they experienced unwanted sexual contact in the 2021-2022 academic year, compared to 1.8 percent in 2018.

[\[DOD NEWS RELEASE\]](#)

CULTURE

[Alaska Natives rescued Navy crew in 1955. Their medals have arrived](#) [Mark Thiessen, *The Associated Press*, 1 April 2023]

Bruce Boolowon, then a lean 20-year-old, and a group of friends were hunting for murre eggs in a walrus skin boat on a remote Alaska island in the Bering Strait when they saw a crippled airplane flying low. “Something was wrong,” Boolowon, now 87, recalled of that day in 1955. “They came in and one engine was smoking.” “And as the plane decelerated, the fireball didn’t. And it rolled forward. It burned everybody,” the navigator on the flight, David Assard, told the Anchorage Daily News in 2015. Several of the men had severe burns. When the armed Siberian Yupik Eskimo egg hunters showed up, the Navy men didn’t know if they were about to be captured or rescued. On Tuesday, the guardsmen were honored with Alaska Heroism Medals, giving the Alaska Native men the recognition that wasn’t available 67 years ago.

[\[DOD NEWS RELEASE\]](#)

[All female officials in women’s Final Four for 1st time ever](#) [Doug Feinberg, *The Associated Press*, 31 March 2023]

The NCAA has an entirely female crew working the national semifinals and championship game at the women’s Final Four this weekend. It’s the first time that’s ever happened, according to the organization. The NCAA is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX this year, which makes it fitting that there’s all-female crews.

[Asian actors take on Barbie and Ken roles in first look at “Barbie” movie](#) [Brahmjot Kaur, *NBC News*, 4 April 2023]

*Warner Bros. Pictures offered a first look at the star-studded cast of “Barbie,” including stars Simu Liu and Ritu Arya, in Greta Gerwig’s Barbie world—and fans are thrilled about the Asian representation. The photos and teaser trailer, which were released Tuesday, give a glimpse into an oversaturated and very pink Barbie Land, which features 11 different Barbies and five different Kens. “You don’t have to be blonde, White, or X, Y, Z in order to embody what it means to be a Barbie or a Ken,” Liu told *Vanity Fair* at the Unforgettable Gala last year.*

[Auschwitz Memorial calls WWE “shameless” for using its image in a match promo](#) [Emily Olson, *NPR*, 6 April 2023]

The wrestling entertainment giant WWE, known for its manufactured storylines, is facing real controversy after fans noticed it used an image of the Auschwitz concentration camp to promote a match on Saturday. The image appeared in a five-minute video introducing a WrestleMania 39 contest between stars Dominik and Rey Mysterio. The shot, which appeared in the pre-show ahead of the live broadcast, was used as b-roll accompanying Dominik’s comments about being a hardened criminal. The Auschwitz Memorial called the WWE “shameless” in a statement on Twitter.

[Cree Actress Alyssa Wapanatâhk Brings Indigeneity to New Peter Pan Film](#) [Levi Rickert, *Native News Online*, 28 February 2023]

*Walt Disney Pictures on Tuesday released a [trailer](#) for its new film *Peter Pan & Wendy*, featuring Alyssa Wapanatâhk (Bigstone Cree Nation). In the new live-action update of the 1953 animated classic, Wapanatâhk plays Tiger Lily, a warrior princess of Neverland’s Indigenous tribe and the daughter of the tribe’s chief. The filmmakers said they went to great lengths to ensure the authenticity and properly*

appropriate how the Indigenous tribe was depicted in Peter Pan & Wendy. They consulted with Dawn Jackson (Saginaw Chippewa) and Dr. Kevin Lewis (Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation) during the film's development stage and continuing through principal photography and post-production.

[For nearly 50 years, only Black men caddied The Masters. One day, they all but vanished](#) [Jack Bantock, CNN, 5 April 2023]

History never forgets a champion. When you win one of sport's biggest titles, you become immortal. And yet for decades, two former champions with a combined nine wins lay buried in unmarked graves. Willie Peterson caddied Nicklaus' first five victories, while Nathaniel "Iron Man" Avery was on the bag for all four of Palmer's triumphs. They were just two of Augusta National's original caddie corps, all of them Black men who, from the inaugural edition of the tournament in 1934, guided golfers around the fabled course.

[Here Is the Army's New Counseling Form, Marking an Overhaul of How the Service Evaluates Soldiers](#) [Steve Beynon, Military.com, 31 March 2023]

The Army on Friday released an updated counseling form—effectively an employee evaluation—marking the first significant change in more than 40 years. The new DA Form 4856 could dramatically shift discussions around professional development and help leaders better track their formation's training. It replaces the old form used since the 1980s, which provided minimal guidance. The new DA 4856 loosely resembles the noncommissioned officer evaluation support form and even has a section that measures how well soldiers balance work and their personal life.

[How a hand gesture dominated a NCAA title game and revealed a double standard](#) [Rachel Treisman, NPR, 3 April 2023]

Louisiana State University beat the University of Iowa in the women's NCAA tournament final on Sunday in a matchup full of historic firsts and dramatic moments. One of the most-talked about moves happened late in the game and involved two star players, John Cena's wrestling catchphrase and a social media frenzy. The moment quickly went viral, with commentators and observers criticizing Reese for what they perceived as unsportsmanlike taunting of Clark. Reese is Black and Clark is White. "We've been conditioned into judging similar, if not the same, behavior by White athletes and Black athletes differently," ESPN panelist Kevin Blackstone told Morning Edition. "And this was another anecdote to go along with that qualitative evidence."

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Kehinde Wiley exhibit uses historic icons to expose systemic violence against Black people](#) [Jeffrey Brown, Anne Azzi Davenport and Lena I. Jackson, PBS News, 3 April 2023]

Kehinde Wiley is best known for his distinctive presidential portrait of Barack Obama. But Wiley has spent most of his career painting vibrant portrayals of everyday Black men and women. A new exhibition of his work focuses on grief and mourning and also asks whose lives have value.

[Native Graduates Have the Right to Wear Eagle Feathers, Tribal Regalia](#) [Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Native News Online, 2 April 2023] [OPINION]

Education has always been sacred to the Cherokee people. Every year American Indian high school students across Oklahoma, including many Cherokees, are gifted traditional regalia to be worn at graduation ceremonies. Tribal regalia, including items like eagle feathers, jewelry, beaded caps, stoles, moccasins or other symbols, are protected expressions of our cultural and religious beliefs. For

example, an eagle feather symbolizes trust, honor, strength, wisdom, power and freedom. These traditions are safeguarded under the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act. Most schools understand and respect the cultural and legal rights of Native students. Unfortunately, we still see incidents of schools in Oklahoma refusing to allow them.

[Publisher drops children’s illustrator for anti-trans notes](#) [Mark Thiessen and Becky Bohrer, *The Associated Press*, 5 April 2023]

A children’s book illustrator from Alaska known for drawing mother-baby animal pairs like sea otters and wolves was dropped by his publisher this week after authorities allege he posted transphobic notes threatening children. Mitchell Thomas Watley, 47, will have a preliminary hearing April 11 in Juneau on a single count of terroristic threatening for allegedly placing notes in businesses that included an assault rifle superimposed over the transgender flag. The text on the notes read: “Feeling Cute Might Shoot Some Children.”

[The real history of tartan, from the Scottish Highlands to the streets of Tokyo](#) [Karen Gardiner, *National Geographic*, 29 March 2023]

For many people, a bright bolt of tartan epitomizes Scotland, conjuring misty, heather-filled glens and bagpipers in Highland dress. But for Scots, the colorful pattern adorning kilts and bonnets (a type of cap) has a checkered past. “We love it and we hate it in equal measure,” says Mhairi Maxwell, a curator at the V&A Dundee, the Scotland outpost of London’s Victoria & Albert Museum. Worn by royalty and ruffians alike, tartan has evoked both the traditional and the subversive throughout its history, at times affirming Scottish identity and ridiculing it. Now a [major art exhibition at the V&A Dundee](#), opening this April, will attempt to unravel the cloth’s history and contradictions through Chanel dresses, sculptural Donald Judd prints, and East African shuka textiles.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Rise of Gender-Neutral Names Isn’t What It Seems](#) [Sarah Zhang, *The Atlantic*, 21 March 2023]

*The rise of gender-neutral names has been particularly notable in the past few years, but the shift has been a long time coming, [according to Philip Cohen, a sociologist at the University of Maryland at College Park](#). In 2021, 6 percent of American babies were bestowed androgynous names, approximately five times the number in the 1880s. This is a small minority of babies born every year—obviously boy names such as Liam and obviously girl names such as Olivia [still top the charts](#)—but “anything that has changed by a factor of five in our culture is a big deal,” says Laura Wattenberg, the author of *The Baby Name Wizard*. The jump is big enough to make you wonder what’s going on: Could it be, as some headlines have proclaimed, that baby-name trends herald a postgender world?*

[Space Force unveils Guardian Spirit handbook](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, *Space Force News Service*, 5 April 2023]

The Space Force released the [Guardian Spirit handbook](#) that provides guidance to Guardians on how to live the four Guardian values—Character, Connection, Commitment, Courage - in daily life. This document operationalizes how Space Force members can espouse the service’s second line of effort, “Amplify the Guardian Spirit.” The Guardian Spirit is organized by four chapters dedicated to each of the core values and includes a description, definition, and context for each value. It also emphasizes the Guardian Commitment “I will” statements for Team Members and Leaders, which are personalized and action-oriented expressions of the Guardian values.

[Stacey Abrams is chosen as Howard University's first chair for race and Black politics](#) [Jonathan Franklin, NPR, 5 April 2023]

Stacey Abrams, the former two-time Georgia gubernatorial candidate, is joining the faculty at Howard University in Washington, D.C., the school announced Wednesday. Abrams, a former Democratic leader in the Georgia House, will serve as the inaugural Ronald W. Walters Endowed Chair for Race and Black Politics. In her new role, Abrams will lead research across the university on political issues impacting Black Americans in addition to working with other faculty members on these issues, the university said in a [news release](#). She will also lead the Ronald W. Walters Speakers Series—which will bring speakers to the historically Black college on a range of diverse topics.

[Stumbling upon Holocaust history](#) [Libby Weiler, Army News Service, 4 April 2023]

When was the last time you stumbled upon something ten centimeters (3.9 in) in diameter, connecting both the past and present together in the most ubiquitous of ways? German artist, Gunter Demnig, is doing just that by providing a glimpse into the past through the Stolpersteine project. “Stolpersteine” in German, translates to “stumbling stones” and is a global art project meant to make you stumble upon an individual’s last place of residency before they fell victim to the Nazi party’s extermination and persecution. Usually installed outside a home, they can also be found where victims spent much of their lives such as schools, universities, synagogues and places of work.

[Virginia siblings become first Black triplets to join the Navy](#) [Joanne Aran and Amanda Su, ABC News, 5 April 2023]

Being in the Navy is a family affair for the Sutton siblings, Ayrion, Andrea, and Adrion. The 20-year-olds from Virginia recently enlisted together, making history as the first Black triplets to do so, according to the Navy Recruitment Office. The siblings were inspired by their parents Andre Sutton and Tiffany Sutton, who met while serving on the USS Arctic in 1999. The triplets have in turn inspired their father, who recently reenlisted.

DISCRIMINATION

[The Biden administration moves to make broad, transgender sports bans illegal](#) [Sequoia Carrillo, NPR, 6 April 2023]

On Thursday, the U.S. Education Department announced a proposed change to Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in federally funded education programs. The proposal would make it illegal for schools to broadly ban transgender students from sports teams that align with their gender identity, rather than their assigned sex at birth. The department says the move comes after two years of outreach to stakeholders across the country, and the changes still give schools some flexibility to ban transgender athletes depending on age and sport.

[\[DOE FACT SHEET\]](#)

[High court: Trans girl can run girls track in West Virginia](#) [The Associated Press, 6 April 2023]

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed a 12-year-old transgender girl in West Virginia to continue competing on her middle school’s girls’ sports teams while a lawsuit over a state ban continues. The justices refused to disturb an appeals court order that made it possible for the girl, Becky Pepper-Jackson, to continue playing on her school’s track and cross-country teams, where she regularly finishes near the back of the pack.

[Indiana governor signs ban on gender-affirming health care](#) [Arleigh Rodgers, *The Associated Press*, 5 April 2023]

Indiana's governor signed a bill banning all gender-affirming care for minors Wednesday, joining at least 12 other states that have enacted laws restricting or banning such care. The law will go into effect July 1, and trans youth currently taking medication to transition would have until the end of the year to stop doing so. Opponents of the legislation said the types of care the bill would ban, such as hormone therapy and puberty blockers, are vital and often life-saving for transgender kids. Medical providers say most of the procedures banned in the bill are reversible and safe for minors.

[Transgender bathroom bill approved in Kansas; veto expected](#) [John Hanna, *The Associated Press*, 4 April 2023]

A Kansas bill that would bar transgender people from using public bathrooms or changing their name or gender on their driver's license cleared the GOP-controlled Legislature on Tuesday by margins suggesting backers could override Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly's expected veto. The measure deals with bathrooms, locker rooms and other facilities, and defines "sex" as "either male or female, at birth," a move LGBTQ+-rights advocates said would legally erase transgender people and deny recognition to non-binary, gender fluid and gender non-conforming people.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

DIVERSITY

[A 106-year-old from the Philippines is Vogue's oldest ever cover model](#) [Amy Woodyatt, *CNN*, 31 March 2023]

Vogue Philippines has revealed Apo Whang-Od as the [cover star](#) of its April issue, a move that makes the 106-year-old tattoo artist from the Philippines the oldest person ever to appear on the front of Vogue. Whang-Od—also known as Maria Oggay—has been perfecting the art of hand-tapping tattoos since she was a teen, learning under her father's instruction. Residing in the mountain village of Buscalan, about 15 hours north of Manila, in Kalinga province, she is considered the country's oldest mambabatok—or traditional Kalinga tattooist.

[Face of Defense: From Air to Space, Guardian Blazes a Path](#) [Airman 1st Class Ryan Quijas, *DOD News Service*, 31 March 2023]

Space Force Capt. Victoria Ponder is blazing that path and lighting it up for young women of color to pursue careers in air and space. During Black History Month, she shared highlights from her military journey and the impact her career has had on raising her two daughters. Growing up with a submariner father, Ponder was no stranger to military life. Early on, she had dreams of becoming an Air Force officer.

[His ingenuity has benefited amputees and a whole nation](#) [Hicks Wogan, *National Geographic*, 2 February 2023]

*Growing up in Sierra Leone during the country's civil war (1991-2002), David Moinina Sengeh often encountered civilians whose arms or legs had been severed by rebel fighters. Later, as a Ph.D. student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sengeh set out to understand why. The *National Geographic Explorer* learned that prosthetics often fit poorly, causing blisters, pressure sores, and pain. So he began working with U.S. military veterans, survivors of the Boston Marathon bombing, and other amputees to develop a system that uses 3D printing to make a prosthetic socket modeled from MRI scans*

and other data of a patient's residual limb. Today Sengeh serves as Sierra Leone's minister of basic and senior secondary education and its first chief innovation officer.

[Majority of anti-trans adults don't know any trans people, study finds](#) [Conor Clark, *Gay Times*, 31 March 2023]

Three quarters (74 per cent) of young adults who say they are not supportive of trans people don't actually know a trans person, according to [new research](#) by Just Like Us, the LGBTQ+ young people's charity. It was also found that those who knew someone trans were twice as likely to be allies of the community, with just 33 per cent of those who do not know a trans person describing themselves as "very supportive" of trans people. This was in stark contrast to 64 per cent of people who do know a trans person, whether they are close to them or not.

[NASA names first woman, first Black astronauts for Artemis II lunar flyby](#) [Steve Gorman, *Reuters*, 3 April 2023]

NASA on Monday named the first woman and the first African American ever assigned as astronauts to a lunar mission, introducing them as part of the four-member team chosen to fly on what would be the first crewed voyage around the moon in more than 50 years. Christina Koch, an engineer who already holds the record for the longest continuous spaceflight by a woman and was part of NASA's first three all-female spacewalks, was named as a mission specialist for the Artemis II lunar flyby expected as early as next year.

[Women now dominate the book business. Why there and not other creative industries?](#) [Greg Rosalsky, *NPR*, 4 April 2023]

Once upon a time, women authored less than 10 percent of the new books published in the U.S. each year. They now publish more than 50 percent of them. Not only that, the average female author sells more books than the average male author. In all this, the book market is an outlier when compared to many other creative realms, which continue to be overwhelmingly dominated by men. These findings and others come from a [new study](#) by Joel Waldfogel, an economist at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. Waldfogel crunches the numbers on the book market's female revolution.

EXTREMISM

[DOJ arrests "White Lives Matter" member accused of attempting to burn down church](#) [Alexander Mallin, *ABC News*, 31 March 2023]

The Justice Department on Friday [announced](#) the arrest of an Ohio man who allegedly sought to burn down a local church planning to host two drag show events this weekend. Prosecutors have charged 20-year-old Aimenn Penny with one count of malicious use of explosive materials and one count of possessing a destructive device. They allege that on March 25 Penny used Molotov cocktails to attack the Community Church of Chesterland in Chesterland, Ohio, in an effort to burn the church to the ground. The Justice Department on Friday announced the arrest of an Ohio man who allegedly sought to burn down a local church planning to host two drag show events this weekend.

[Navy sailor charged in Capitol riot was stationed on aircraft carrier](#) [Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 3 April 2023]

The FBI arrested David Elizalde on Sunday in Arlington, Virginia, on misdemeanor charges, including disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, according to a court filing. Elizalde told the FBI that he was stationed on the USS Harry S. Truman when he drove alone from Norfolk, Virginia, to Washington, D.C., to attend the “Stop the Steal” rally on Jan. 6, 2021. Elizalde, an aviation structural mechanic, was an active-duty sailor on the day of the Capitol riot, according to a Navy Office of Information spokesperson.

[Texas shooting victims reach \\$144.5M settlement with DOJ](#) [Julia Shapero, *The Hill*, 5 April 2023]

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has reached a tentative \$144.5 million settlement agreement with the victims of a 2017 shooting at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, the department [announced](#) on Wednesday. A former member of the U.S. Air Force, Devin Kelley, opened fire at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs during its Sunday services on Nov. 5, 2017, killing 26 people and injuring 22 more. U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez found the government 60 percent responsible for the attack, after the Air Force failed to report Kelley’s criminal history to the FBI.

[U.S. Citizen Gets 20 Years for Joining Islamic State Group](#) [*The Associated Press*, 2 April 2023]

Emraan Ali, 55, a U.S. citizen born in Trinidad and Tobago, was sentenced Tuesday in Miami federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in November to conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. According to court records, Ali moved his family from Trinidad and Tobago to Brazil, and then to Turkey and eventually Syria in March 2015. He falsely told his children that they were going on vacation but actually intended to join IS, prosecutors said. After arriving in Syria, IS registered Ali and his family, and Ali underwent IS religious and military training with other English speakers, officials said.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Five countries that are safer for women](#) [Lindsey Galloway, *BBC Travel*, 3 April 2023]

Research by Norwegian Cruise Line has found that one in three travellers prefers to travel solo, and older women in particular are driving the trend. While everywhere in the world should be safe for women to travel, the reality is that women still face discrimination and safety concerns in every part of the world. That said, many countries have put a concerted effort into both improving safety for women and measuring attitudes that female residents have towards safety in their country. To find the places making the most progress when it comes to safety and equality for women travelling, we consulted [Georgetown University’s Women’s Peace And Security Index \(WPS\)](#), the [World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap report](#) and the [Institute for Economics and Peace Global Peace Index \(PGP\)](#).

INTERNATIONAL

[Analysis: HSBC, Goldman gender pay gaps widen in UK as finance makes slow progress](#) [Iain Withers, *Reuters*, 4 April 2023]

HSBC, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Standard Chartered reported a widening in the gap between what they paid women and men in 2022, according to data reviewed by Reuters. The data also showed that, at the banks which detailed their pay gaps by ethnicity, the gap was widest between Black staff and their White colleagues. The numbers show how far financial institutions have to go to close pay differentials, despite a global push by national authorities and investors to tackle inequities. Businesses

with more than 250 employees in Britain must disclose the difference between the pay and bonuses of male and female staff. Several major finance companies also voluntarily reported ethnicity pay data for the period.

[French feminist politician under fire for Playboy front cover](#) [Reuters, 3 April 2023]

French junior social affairs minister Marlene Schiappa is facing criticism from her own party for posing in a white dress for the cover of Playboy, with French media reporting Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne called Schiappa to express her displeasure. The Playboy cover will be accompanied by a 12-page interview in which Schiappa, who brought in legislation outlawing catcalling and street harassment, talks about women's and LGBT rights.

[Italy's crackdown on same-sex parenting leaves children bemused](#) [Alvise Armellini and Francesca Piscioneri, Reuters, 6 April 2023]

Right-wing Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni came to power six months ago vowing to combat what she calls the "LGBT lobby". In recent weeks authorities made it harder for same-sex couples to be legal parents and lawmakers proposed an anti-surrogacy law widely seen as targeting gay couples. In January, the government issued orders that municipalities stop the registration of most children with same-sex parents, complicating access to schooling and medical services. The matter came to light when the centre-left mayor of Milan publicised it last month. The measure means that in most cases only the biological parent of children raised by gay or lesbian couples can have parenting rights, leaving the other partner with no legal role.

[Nazi monument at Swiss cemetery sparks controversy](#) [BBC News, 2 April 2023]

For decades the huge monolithic block of granite in the middle of the cemetery in the Swiss town of Chur was ignored by passers-by; no one seemed to know quite what it was. But the 13-tonne (13,000kg) stone monument that dwarfs the nearby gravestones is now causing controversy—and embarrassment. Research by a local journalist has revealed links to Nazi Germany, and to neutral Switzerland's own awkward relations with its World War Two neighbours.

[Swim England updates transgender policy with "open" category](#) [Reuters, 3 April 2023]

Swim England announced an updated transgender and non-binary policy on Monday with a "female" category restricted to athletes with a declared birth sex of female and a new "open" category for everyone else. The national governing body for swimming in England said the policy, which comes into effect in September, would apply to its swimming, artistic swimming, diving and water polo competitions. The "open" category will be for those with a birth sex of male, trans or non-binary competitors.

[Taliban prohibit Afghan women from working for the United Nations in the country, UN says](#) [Jared Gans, The Hill, 5 April 2023]

The Taliban are banning Afghan women from working for the United Nations in the country, the latest curtailment of women's rights since the group took over Afghanistan in 2021. Stéphane Dujarric, a spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, said in a [statement](#) on Wednesday that Guterres "strongly condemns" the Taliban's decision, which violates "inalienable fundamental human rights" and Afghanistan's obligations under international law.

MISCELLANEOUS

[“Black is Beautiful” photographer Kwame Brathwaite has died at 85](#) [Elizabeth Blair, *NPR*, 4 April 2023]

Photographer Kwame Brathwaite, who helped popularize the “Black is Beautiful” movement of the 1960s, has died. From Nelson Mandela to Muhammad Ali and the so-called Grandassa Models, Brathwaite’s work embraced Black power and beauty. He chronicled events such as The Motown Revue at the Apollo in 1963, The Jackson 5’s first trip to Africa in 1974, and the legendary Foreman-Ali fight, The Rumble in the Jungle. Inspired by Jamaican-born activist Marcus Garvey, Brathwaite was deeply involved in Black culture and activism beginning in the 1950s—he and his brother Elombe Brath helped organize concerts at clubs in the Bronx and Harlem. Kwame photographed them.

[It’s time for the military to rethink entrance examinations](#) [Stew Latwin, *Military Times*, 5 April 2023] [OPINION]

Since 1968, the military has used the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or ASVAB, to assess all incoming recruits. This single test predicts academic skills and determines what military occupational specialty, or MOS, the recruit is qualified to perform in their service. However, these evaluations are subject to bias, such a race or income inequality, and don’t accurately measure a recruit’s aptitude to perform a job. In short, they focus on mathematical and verbal skills that aren’t indicative of actual intelligence or the ability to learn.

[Month of the Military Child 2023—Taking Care of Our Military Children](#) [DOD News Service, 3 April 2023]

The Defense Department is observing April as Month of the Military Child and will highlight programs, resources and services available to support the overall well-being of military children, youth and teens. “Taking Care of Our Military Children” is the theme of this year’s Month of the Military Child campaign, an opportunity to focus on the lives of military children, youth and teens. Military families move every two to three years on average, and military children change schools an average of six to nine times from the start of kindergarten to their high school graduation. This year an estimated 30 percent of military service members will move to a new installation.

[On anniversary of MLK’s death, his words are “more relevant” than ever, his son says](#) [Erik Ortiz, *NBC News*, 4 April 2023]

In “times of challenge,” Martin Luther King Jr. didn’t back down, his family says. It’s a lesson that still resonates as they remember the slain civil rights leader’s legacy Saturday in a video message. King, who was assassinated 52 years ago while standing on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel, was an outspoken opponent of poverty, racism and militarism, and believed that fighting against those “evils” would provide a “beloved community” for all.

[A Proclamation on National Former Prisoner Of War Recognition Day, 2023](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 7 April 2023]

On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we honor the more than half a million service members who sacrificed their freedom as prisoners of war in order to defend freedom for their fellow Americans. This year, we mark the 50th anniversary of Operation Homecoming, the repatriation of nearly 600 Americans held captive during the Vietnam War, as well as the 70th anniversary of Operations Big Switch and Little Switch, which brought home more than 3,700 American prisoners of

the Korean War. These heroes—and other prisoners of war from every conflict throughout our history—stand among the bravest of our Nation, serving honorably under intolerable circumstances.

[Stopping problems before they start: DOD aims for more proactive mental health care](#) [Alexandra Lohr, *Federal News Network*, 31 March 2023]

With a push from the Defense Department to expand mental health services, including suicide and sexual assault prevention, the Navy recently released its mental health playbook. The initiative is among several from the services aimed at proactively treating mental health issues and removing the stigma involved with seeking care. The Navy wants the manual to not only help prevent mental health problems, but create an environment more welcoming to discussion of those problems. The playbook supports a DOD effort to put prevention at the forefront of mental health issues, particularly as it relates to suicides. It offers specific resources on where to go and who to talk to about mental health, and offers leaders ways to look for signs of a problem.

RACISM

[The Lasting Impact Of Police Brutality On Black Families](#) [NPR, 5 April 2023] [AUDIO]

Black Americans are killed by police at more than twice the rate of White Americans. And there's a growing number of Black families who have to live with the pain of losing a loved one at the hands of police. NPR's Juana Summers speaks with two women who have been living that reality for years.

[Man sentenced to 22 years in prison for assaulting and killing Asian man in hate crime in New York](#) [Mallika Kallingal and Laura Ly, *CNN*, 31 March 2023]

A man who brutally assaulted an Asian man in New York who later died was sentenced to 22 years in prison on Friday. Jarrod Powell, 51, had pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter as a hate crime in connection with the man's death, according to the Manhattan District Attorney's office. It was part of a plea deal in the racially motivated assault of 61-year-old Yao Pan Ma that resulted in his death. "Mr. Ma's death was the result of a despicable racially motivated attack," Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a statement. In April 2021, Yao Pan Ma was collecting cans on an East Harlem corner when he was approached from behind, struck in the back and, after he fell to the ground, kicked in the head multiple times, police said at the time.

[Racial slur, swastika painted across airman's home at Minot Air Force Base](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 6 April 2023]

Graffiti that included a swastika, profanity, gang references and a racial slur was spray painted across the Minot Air Force Base home of an airman and his family last weekend and security forces are still searching for culprits, according to officials at the North Dakota base. The incident happened early Saturday morning at the on-base duplex where Airman 1st Class Justin Rutledge and his wife MacKenzy have lived for more than a year.

RELIGION

[Jewish soldiers held a makeshift Seder in the middle of the Civil War](#) [Gillian Brockell, *The Washington Post*, 5 April 2023]

For Private Joseph A. Joel and his brethren, the parallels must have been obvious. Here they were, soldiers in an unfamiliar land with enemies all around, fighting in part to free enslaved people, when

they stopped to observe a religious holiday dedicated to remembering their enslaved ancestors and their own escape to freedom. Joel was one of about 20 Jewish Union soldiers in the 23rd Ohio Infantry to celebrate a makeshift Passover Seder near what is now Fayetteville, W.Va., on April 3, 1862. More than 160 years later, the approximate site of their celebration has been located and a sign unveiled to honor it, with the support of the nonprofit Civil War Trails and local stakeholders.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Oklahoma eyes first U.S. religious charter school after Supreme Court rulings](#) [John Kruzel, Reuters, 6 April 2023]

An Oklahoma school board is set to consider next week whether to approve the first taxpayer-funded religious charter school in the United States in a move that follows recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings expanding religious rights. Supporters and critics of the proposed St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School have said the board's vote scheduled for next Tuesday could trigger a significant legal fight over the separation of church and state. Any future court battle over St. Isidore could test the scope of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment "establishment clause," which restricts government officials from endorsing any particular religion, or promoting religion over nonreligion.

[USMC Professional Development Training Course](#) [Lance Cpl. Thomas Sheng, Marine Corps News Service, 28 March 2023]

U.S. Navy chaplains, along with Navy and Marine religious program specialists stationed throughout Japan attended the FY23 Professional Development Training Course at Camp Shields on March 14. "Around 80 to 90 percent of the time, Marines are going to RP's and chaplains for issues of depression, crisis, financial issues, hopelessness, parenting issues, and loneliness," said Rear Adm. Carey Cash, Chaplain of the Marine Corps. "Depending on the needs of Marines, an RP can determine what is the best possible solution, whether it's referring them to the chaplain, engaging the chain of command, or calling for assistance outside of the military."

[What is Passover? Why is it celebrated? What you need to know about the Jewish holiday](#) [Marina Pitofsky, USA TODAY, 5 April 2023]

Display the seder plate and hide the afikomen—Passover begins this week. Passover, or Pesach, is a major Jewish holiday during the month of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, usually falling in March or April. The holiday is observed with seders among families, friends and communities, as well as other sacred traditions. Passover "is one of the most widely celebrated of Jewish holidays," Aaron Kaufman, executive director of Penn State Hillel, explained to USA TODAY. "It commemorates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt as told in the Bible." But what is Passover? Should you wish a Jewish friend or coworker a happy Passover? Here's what you need to know.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SEXISM

[Don't just accommodate women in the military. Integrate!](#) [Sam Sliney, Military Times, 7 April 2023]
[\[OPINION\]](#)

2023. A year of celebrations for service women. 75 years since the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was enacted. 50 years since the Navy allowed women to fly Navy aircraft. Ten years since all military jobs were opened to women. Yet women still face a far different reality when serving than men. The Department of Defense has not achieved true integration but has merely accommodated service

women's existence in its ranks.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Why are our military academies still producing sex offenders?](#) [Rachel E. VanLandingham and Don Christensen, *Military Times*, 4 April 2023] [COMMENTARY]

Why are our most elite military academies—West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force Academy—still commissioning sex offenders as officers in our armed services? The Department of Defense's newest report revealed a steep increase in sex offenses at these institutions, without a corresponding increase in prosecutions. From that, we infer that graduates who have committed such offenses end up being commissioned, which is a green light to continue such behavior for the rest of their careers.

SUICIDE

[9th Navy sailor assigned to coastal Virginia dies by suicide in little over a year](#) [Ellen Mitchell, *The Hill*, 31 March 2023]

A Navy sailor assigned to a submarine in Newport News, Va., died by suicide earlier this week, the ninth such death in the service in a little over a year, according to the region's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Electronics Technician Navigation 3rd Class Devon Faehnrich, assigned to the USS Montana, was found Monday on the pier next to the submarine at Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of the Huntington Ingalls Industries, and later pronounced dead at a nearby hospital. Faehnrich's death is the latest in a series of suicides among sailors in maintenance or assigned to shore duty in the Navy, with many assigned to stay on ships going through repairs.

[A New Air Force-Wide Study Is Analyzing Suicides to Improve Prevention Efforts](#) [David Roza, *Air & Space Magazine Forces*, 4 April 2023]

The Air Force expects the final report of a sweeping, first-of-its-kind suicide analysis board in the next few months, as the department looks to refine its prevention and response efforts. The Department of the Air Force partnered with suicide researchers at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences to complete the study, pulling information from personnel records, investigation reports, medical records, and Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DODSER) and compiling over 1,000 data points for each person who died by suicide. The final report is due this spring, Lt. Gen. Caroline Miller, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel, and services, wrote in a [statement](#) delivered to the House Armed Services Committee at a personnel posture hearing March 29.

[Suicide surges among soldiers not inherently tied to wars, study finds](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Army Times*, 4 April 2023]

*Suicide rates among active duty soldiers do not appear to be significantly impacted during times of war, a recent study found. Despite an uptick in suicides amid the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, historically times of combat are not solely accountable for surges in self-harm among troops, [according to the study](#) slated for the May issue of *Psychiatry Research*. In a review of data between 1900 and 2020, researchers analyzed historical trends of suicide rates between active duty soldiers and civilians, aiming to paint a more contextualized picture of how combat trauma affects both populations.*

VETERANS

[Fixing Veterans' Preference Can Fix Federal Hiring](#) [Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune, *Government Executive*, 4 April 2023] [PODCAST]

Nearly anyone who has dealt with it agrees that the federal hiring process is broken. Years of court fights, legislative fixes and special interests have produced a hiring system that frustrates hiring managers and applicants alike. There may be ways, however, to modernize the hiring process. Angela Bailey and Jeffrey Neal are both former Chief Human Capital Officers for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as current fellows of the National Academy of Public Administration. They joined the podcast to discuss veterans' preference, hiring and how the two things can intersect to further workforce modernization.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Veteran shares his journey to healing with new novel, "Suicide in Slow Motion"](#) [Jessica Manfre, *We Are The Mighty*, 31 March 2023]

Coast Guard veteran Reagan Pettigrew may have penned a fiction novel about loss and the weight of suicide ideations but it's his own journey the character embarks on, page after page. And he's just getting started. He spent two years traveling the world after his enlistment was up. After returning to California, he enrolled in college with the intent of becoming an author and writing a book. "[Suicide in Slow Motion](#)" took six years to write. It was important to Pettigrew that he create something that really connected with readers. But the process of writing wasn't easy or enjoyable. The book brings readers through a journey of discovery, battling PTSD and a deep look inside self-destruction. Chapter after chapter it begs the question so many veterans ask when they hang up the uniform; what now?