

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 28 APRIL 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS

[14 Airmen Become U.S. Citizens in New Basic Training Naturalization Process](#) [David Roza, *Air & Space Forces Magazine*, 26 April 2023]

*They came from four continents and 10 countries, but by the end of the day on April 26, 14 men and women had two things in common: they were all Airmen, and they were all U.S. citizens. The 14 individuals were the first to complete a new streamlined naturalization process which makes it easier for recruits to become citizens. The process is one of several efforts the Air Force is pursuing to help drive recruitment at a time where low unemployment and decreasing propensity to serve have most military services predicting a recruiting shortfall this year. The Air Force in particular anticipates it will come up 10 percent short on the Active Duty side, with a greater gap in the Guard and Reserve forces.*

[Army Not Tweaking Fitness Test After Uncertainty Over Gender Standards](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 26 April 2023]

*The Army is unlikely to change its new physical fitness test despite Congress recently passing a law pressing the service to establish gender-neutral standards, according to two sources with knowledge of the plans. The annual defense authorization bill passed in December directed the Army to set the same fitness standards for men and women by June. Last month, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth told lawmakers on Capitol Hill that the service had already established gender-neutral expectations for troops, but was vague about the specific standards to which she referred.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[First female U.S. Naval Academy superintendent nominated](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 21 April 2023]

*Secretary of the Navy Carlos del Toro and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday have nominated Rear Adm. Yvette Davids, the director of the Navy's Learning to Action Drive Team, to serve as the 64th superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. If the U.S. Senate confirms Davids, she will become the first woman to serve in that role. This isn't the first time Davids has made history. She was the first Hispanic American woman to lead a Navy warship when she became the commanding officer of the guided-missile frigate *Curts* in 2007.*

[Sexual assault in the military keeps rising while prosecutions fall](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 27 April 2023]

*Cases of reported sexual assault in the military keep rising, but you wouldn't think so if you look at how many suspected perpetrators actually end up being tried, much less punished for their alleged crimes. The services charged fewer suspected sexual assault perpetrators with crimes in 2022 than in the previous decade, according to data released Thursday in the Pentagon's congressionally mandated annual sexual assault report. While [reported sexual assaults have increased](#) over the past 10 years, and the percentage of substantiated reports has remained relatively stable, the number of cases prosecuted has been cut nearly in half.*

[\[LATEST DOD MEMO\]](#)

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## CULTURE

[Changing how U.S. forms ask about race and ethnicity is complicated. Here's why](#) [Hansi Lo Wang, NPR, 27 April 2023]

*The first changes in more than a quarter-century to how the U.S. government can ask about your race and ethnicity may be coming to census forms and federal surveys. And the Biden administration's revival of this long-awaited review of federal standards on racial and ethnic data has resurfaced a thorny conversation about how to categorize people's identities and the ever-shifting sociopolitical constructs that are race and ethnicity. While this policy discussion is largely under the radar, the stakes of it touch the lives of every person in the United States.*

[For Gullah Geechee chef Emily Meggett, cooking was about heart](#) [Anastasia Tsioulcas, NPR, 24 April 2023]

Note: Emily Meggett died Friday, Apr. 21, 2023 at age 90 after a brief illness. In tribute to her, we're again sharing our 2022 profile of this queen of Gullah Geechee cooking.

*Lots of home cooks would be excited to get a book deal. In the case of one home chef, she got that opportunity at the age of 89 years old. Emily Meggett is from the low country of South Carolina, and NPR traveled to her home on Edisto Island to appreciate some of her cooking. Ms. Emily is a member of the Gullah Geechee people. Her community can trace their ancestry to West and central Africans brought to these shores and enslaved. In insulated locations throughout the coastal areas of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, they managed to preserve much of their rich culture, language, and music.*

[Fort Lee, named for a Confederate general, will be renamed to honor Black Army pioneers](#) [Emma Sánchez, NBC News, 24 April 2023]

*Fort Lee in Virginia will be officially renamed Fort Gregg-Adams on Thursday after two Black officers who made significant contributions to the U.S. Army. The post is one of nine Army bases that will be renamed as part of the process of redesignating bases named after Confederate leaders, [according to an Army statement](#).*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Here's how the Corps will accommodate a Sikh recruit in boot camp](#) [Irene Loewenson, Marine Corps Times, 23 April 2023]

*A judge has laid out grooming accommodations that the Marine Corps must offer to a Sikh soon-to-be recruit, likely setting a precedent for how other future recruits of the Sikh faith may be accommodated in Marine boot camp. The preliminary injunction Tuesday by Judge Richard J. Leon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia comes amid a lawsuit filed in April 2022 by Jaskirat Singh, Milaap Singh Chahal and Aekash Singh. In December 2022, the plaintiffs scored a victory when three appellate judges granted a separate preliminary injunction that would allow them to enter boot camp with their articles of faith, including unshorn hair covered in a turban. The preliminary injunction Leon issued Tuesday lays out exactly what appearance standards a Sikh recruit must adhere to in boot camp.*

[An Indigenous woman from the Amazon wins Goldman Environment Prize](#) [Fabiano Maisonave, The Associated Press, 24 April 2023]

*When Alessandra Korap was born in the mid-1980s, her Indigenous village nestled in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil was a haven of seclusion. But as she grew up, the nearby city of Itaituba, with its bustling streets and commercial activity, crept closer and closer. Korap and other Munduruku women took up the responsibility of defending their people, overturning the traditionally all-male leadership. Organizing in their communities, they orchestrated demonstrations, presented compelling evidence of environmental crime to the Federal Attorney General and Federal Police, and vehemently opposed illicit agreements and incentives offered to the Munduruku by unscrupulous miners, loggers, corporations, and politicians seeking access to their land.*

[“L Word” TV show cast visit White House to mark Lesbian Visibility Week](#) [Andrea Shalal, *Reuters*, 25 April 2023]

*The cast of American TV show “The L Word: Generation Q” visited the White House Tuesday to mark Lesbian Visibility Week, touting the role the long-running show has played for gay women and girls across the country. Karin Jean-Pierre, the first openly gay White House press secretary, welcomed the cast, saying it was “incredibly important” for young people to see characters in books and on television whose life stories and identities inspire them “to reach their highest potential.”*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Mattel introduces first Barbie doll representing a person with Down syndrome](#) [Parija Kavilanz, *CNN*, 25 April 2023]

*Mattel on Tuesday introduced its first-ever version of the Barbie doll representing a person with Down syndrome. The new doll is part of [Mattel Barbie Fashionistas line](#), which aims to offer kids more diverse representations of beauty and fight the stigma around physical disabilities. Previous Barbie Fashionistas have included a doll with a prosthetic leg, one with hearing aids, another that comes with a wheelchair and a doll with the skin condition vitiligo, which causes patches of skin to lose their pigment.*

[The Once Unthinkable Revolution Coming to Figure Skating](#) [Talia Barrington, *Slate*, 19 April 2023]

*The International Skating Union, or ISU, expressly prohibits same-gender teams in competition. Pair skating and ice dance teams have both been defined as “one Woman and one Man” since the 1950s, and while athletes of the same gender can skate together in synchronized skating—which showcases teams of eight to 16—competitive rules for teams of two have remained strictly man and woman. In September 2022, in a unanimous ruling, Skate Canada, the country’s figure skating governing body, made history when it removed all gendered language from its competition rulebook, redefining teams as “Partner A and Partner B.” For the first time, same-gender teams and out nonbinary athletes using correct pronouns would be able to compete at Canada’s national events.*

[San Francisco to repeal boycott of anti-LGBTQ+ states](#) [The Associated Press, 27 April 2023]

*San Francisco is repealing a ban on city-funded travel to 30 states that it says restrict abortion, voting and LGBTQ+ rights after determining the boycott is doing more harm than good. The Board of Supervisors voted 7-4 on Tuesday to repeal a section of the city’s administrative code that prohibits staff from visiting and city departments from contracting with companies headquartered in the states, which include Texas, Florida and Ohio. California, meanwhile, is considering the repeal of a similar law. The progressive city passed the boycott in 2016, after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.*

[Shakira to be named 2023 Woman of the Year at Billboard's first Latin Women in Music event](#) [Anna Kaplan, *NBC News*, 24 April 2023]

*Shakira will be honored with the 2023 Woman of the Year award at the first Latin Women in Music event next month, Billboard and Telemundo announced on Monday. The pop superstar from Colombia is receiving the honor for her contributions to the music industry, bringing recognition and opportunities for Latin women through her career and philanthropic efforts.*

[They're strangers with a painful shared bond: Robert E. Lee enslaved their ancestors](#) [Debbie Elliott, *NPR*, 24 April 2023]

*There was a one-of-a-kind reunion over the weekend at Arlington House, the national memorial to Robert E. Lee that sits atop a hill in Arlington National Cemetery. Descendants of the Confederate general gathered with the descendants of the people the Lee family once enslaved on the property in Virginia. Many of them are seeing one another in person for the first time after meeting virtually for the last two years in pursuit of racial understanding in what's known as the Family Circle. For decades, there was little public acknowledgment of the enslaved people who cared for Arlington House, but in the last few years the National Park Service has created a more inclusive experience, like restoring the cramped slave quarters where Selina and Thornton Gray lived with their eight children.*

[U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration hosting May "welcome home" event in DC](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 25 April 2023]

*The United States Vietnam War Commemoration is calling on all Vietnam War veterans and their families to head to the National Mall May 11-13 for a "welcome home" event featuring performances, speakers and a chance to connect with veterans service organizations. The event will be the organization's biggest yet, and a warm-up for the 50th anniversary, acting director Army Maj. Ed Chrystal told reporters Tuesday. Congress created the United States Vietnam War Commemoration back in 2008, with a mandate increase outreach and hold events to honor Vietnam veterans and their families through 2025, when the U.S. will mark 50 years since the end of the war.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[NAACP sues Mississippi over "separate and unequal policing"](#) [Emily Wagster Pettus, *The Associated Press*, 22 April 2023]

*The NAACP warns that "separate and unequal policing" will return to Mississippi's majority-Black capital under a state-run police department, and the civil rights organization is suing the governor and other officials over it. Republican Gov. Tate Reeves says violent crime in Jackson has made it necessary to expand where the Capitol Police can patrol and to authorize some appointed rather than elected judges. But the NAACP said in its lawsuit filed late Friday that these are serious violations of the principle of self-government because they take control of the police and some courts out of the hands of residents.*

[U.S. Equal Rights Amendment blocked again, a century after introduction](#) [Katharine Jackson, *Reuters*, 27 April 2023]

*The U.S. Senate on Thursday fell short of the votes needed to enshrine equal rights for women in the Constitution, a century after a guarantee of gender equality was proposed in Congress. With a 51-47 vote in favor, Senate Democrats and supporters were nine votes shy of the 60 needed for a resolution to clear the 100-member chamber's filibuster hurdle. The resolution would have removed a 1982 deadline*

for state ratification that prevented the Equal Rights Amendment from going into effect. Three states—Nevada, Illinois and Virginia—approved it after 1982.

## DIVERSITY

[Air Force Picks 1st Woman as Top Criminal Investigations Civilian. She Takes Over an Office Facing Questions.](#) [Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 24 April 2023]

*The Air Force has named the first woman to serve as the civilian leader of its criminal investigation agency in its 74-year history. Special Agent Pearl S. Mundt, who has spent 23 years with the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations, was named as its executive director April 24. She will serve as deputy to the OSI commander, Brig. Gen. Terry L. Bullard. Mundt's historic appointment to serve as OSI's top civilian leader comes amid a tumultuous time in the Air Force.*

[From Egypt to New Egypt, One Airman's Pursuit of Happiness and the American Dream](#) [Senior Airman Matt Porter, *DVIDS*, 21 April 2023]

*The United States was built on a foundation of worldwide immigration. From that foundation comes a rich history of people, of all backgrounds, who came together under the common values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. For Airman 1st Class Marian Tawfik, 305th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation specialist, coming to America was a dream fulfilled. The journey was, at times, a perilous one, but has formed an immense sense of gratitude towards the rights and privileges many take for granted.*

[How North Carolina students view the lawsuit threatening affirmative action](#) [Gabriella Borter, *Reuters*, 25 April 2023]

*In a bustling sunken courtyard at the center of the University of North Carolina's Chapel Hill campus, a group of students handed out slips of papers with a warning for their peers. "Is diversity at UNC important to you? It's under threat," the handouts read. The [message came ahead of U.S. Supreme Court rulings](#) in a pair of affirmative action cases this spring, which could drastically alter how race is considered in admissions at North Carolina's flagship university and other colleges.*

## EXTREMISM

[Florida bill would mean harsher penalties for hateful messaging](#) [Jeff Van Sant, *Spectrum Bay News 9 (Tampa, Fla.)*, 21 April 2023]

*The legislation would make defacing or damaging religious cemeteries, projecting images of hate against a religion on private property, or harassing someone for religious clothing a third-degree felony. The bill comes on the heels of an increase in antisemitic incidents across the nation. According to the Anti-Defamation League, Florida has the third highest number of incidents in the nation with 190 in 2021 alone. Officials say the Florida Holocaust Museum has been a target of hate several times, which included antisemitic messages spray-painted on the outside of the building.*

[Guardsmen in leak case wanted to kill a "ton of people": U.S.](#) [Alanna Durkin Richer, Eric Tucker and Tara Copp, *The Associated Press*, 27 April 2023]

*The Massachusetts Air National guardsman accused of leaking highly classified military documents kept an arsenal of guns and said on social media that he would like to kill a "ton of people," prosecutors said in arguing Thursday that 21-year-old Jack Teixeira should remain in jail for his trial. But the judge*

*at Teixeira's detention hearing put off an immediate decision whether he should be kept in custody until his trial or released to home confinement or under other conditions. The court filings raise new questions about why Teixeira had such a high security clearance and access to some of the nation's most classified secrets.*

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

[Soldier with White nationalist ties pleads guilty to gun charges](#) [Jon Simkins, *Military Times*, 27 April 2023]

*A Fort Bragg soldier who allegedly sought “to physically remove as many” racial minorities from eastern North Carolina “by whatever means need be” pleaded guilty Tuesday to illegal possession of an unregistered short barrel rifle, the [Justice Department announced](#) Wednesday. Noah Edwin Anthony, 23, was apprehended on March 3 after gate security personnel performing random vehicle inspections discovered a loaded 9mm “Glock Like” ghost gun—a weapon with no serial number—in the vehicle's center console. The discovery prompted a subsequent search of Anthony's barracks room, where authorities found a 3D-printed FGC-9 rifle without a serial number, magazines for various firearms, a lower receiver, a trove of White supremacist paraphernalia and electronics that contained evidence of Anthony's self-titled “operation” to target minorities.*

[Texas Man Indicted on Federal Charges for Alleged Death Threats to U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters](#) [U.S. Department of Justice Press Office, 21 April 2023]

*A federal grand jury today indicted a Houston man on federal charges for allegedly making a series of phone calls to the Hawthorne office of U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters and threatening her with violence and death. Brian Michael Gaherty, 60, was charged in the indictment with four counts of making threats in interstate communications and four counts of threatening a United States official. Gaherty was arrested in this case on April 13 after prosecutors filed a criminal complaint that outlined the series of threats to Rep. Waters and alleged Gaherty had threatened other elected officials and a news reporter in Houston. The indictment filed today alleges that Gaherty called the congresswoman's office four times last year—twice on August 8, 2022, once on November 8, 2022, and once on November 10, each of which contained a threat to Rep. Waters.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Austrians embroiled in row over Nazi roots of regional anthems](#) [Kate Connolly, *The Guardian*, 25 April 2023]

*Austria is in the thick of a debate about the origins of the “homeland” anthems that celebrate its federal states after the Nazi allegiances of their composers were brought to light by a group of prominent authors. The authors are calling on regional politicians to rewrite some of the anthems and to acknowledge the melodies' Nazi-era roots. According to the group, the anthems of four out of the countries' nine Länder, or states, are tainted. It has written to the leaders of Upper Austria, Carinthia, Lower Austria and Salzburg, urging them to take action.*

[British aristocrats ask King Charles to join a slavery reparations movement](#) [Lisa Weiner, *NPR*, 26 April 2023]

*When Laura Trevelyan, a longtime anchor and correspondent with the BBC, began reckoning with her own family history, she was shocked. “It seems pretty extraordinary that my ancestors enslaved Africans on the Caribbean island of Grenada,” she says. She adds that even after slavery was abolished by the*

*British parliament, none of the families of the enslaved received reparations—including the families of more than a thousand Africans who were enslaved by her ancestors across six plantations on Grenada. To try to make amends, Trevelyan has founded a new reparations effort. She co-founded a group called Heirs of Slavery, which encourages wealthy British families who profited from past enslavement to make formal apologies and seek reparative justice in the former Caribbean colonies.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[German spy agency ranks youth group of far-right AfD “extremist”](#) [Andreas Rinke and Sarah Marsh, *Reuters*, 26 April 2023]

*Germany’s domestic spy agency on Wednesday classified the youth organisation of far-right party the Alternative for Germany (AfD) as an extremist entity that threatens democracy, as authorities seek to combat a widespread rise in extremism. The classification of the Young Alternatives comes after Germany late last year said it had foiled an attempt by another far-right group to launch a violent overthrow of the state to install as national leader a prince who had sought backing from Russia.*

[Portugal should apologise, confront past role in slavery, says president](#) [Catarina Demyon, *Reuters*, 25 April 2023]

*Portugal’s President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said on Tuesday his country should apologise and take responsibility for its role in the transatlantic slave trade, the first time a leader of the southern European nation has suggested such a national apology. From the 15th to the 19th century, 6 million Africans were kidnapped and forcibly transported across the Atlantic by Portuguese vessels and sold into slavery, primarily to Brazil.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Harry Belafonte, singer, actor and activist, has died at age 96](#) [Elizabeth Blair, *NPR*, 25 April 2023]

*Singer, actor and human rights activist Harry Belafonte died Tuesday at age 96 of congestive heart failure. He broke racial barriers and balanced his activism with his artistry in ways that made people around the world listen. Belafonte, who was an EGOT holder for his Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony awards, died at his home in New York, his publicist announced.*

[National Library Week to Include “Right to Read Day”](#) [Andrew Albanese, *Publisher’s Weekly*, 20 April 2023]

*The American Library Association this week announced a “national day of action” in defense of libraries and the freedom to read, designating April 24, the Monday of this year’s National Library Week, as Right to Read Day. “ALA calls on readers everywhere to show our commitment to the First Amendment by doing something concrete to preserve it,” ALA president Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada, said in a release. “The fight against censorship is too big for one person or library or organization to take on alone. And we don’t have to. That’s why ALA created Unite Against Book Bans: to be a collective voice in defending the right to read.” April 24 will also mark the first anniversary of the ALA-organized Unite Against Book Bans coalition, ALA’s public-facing advocacy initiative to empower readers to fight against censorship.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Nazi camp guard Josef Schütz dies at 102](#) [Sarah Fowler, *BBC News*, 26 April 2023]

*The oldest person to be convicted over crimes committed during the Holocaust has died at the age of 102. Josef Schütz was found guilty last June of assisting in the murder of thousands of prisoners at Sachsenhausen near Berlin between 1942 and 1945. He was given a five-year prison sentence but remained free while he awaited the outcome of an appeal to the Federal Court of Justice. Schütz had always denied being an SS guard at the Nazi concentration camp. He was found guilty of aiding and abetting the murders of 3,518 people. He was also complicit in the shooting of Soviet prisoners of war and the murder of others with Zyklon B gas.*

[USERRA and Federal Employees](#) [Ross Gianfortune and Adam Butler, *Government Executive*, 25 April 2023] [PODCAST]

*Passed in 1994, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act is a law that, among other things, protects service members by allowing them to regain their civilian jobs following a period of uniformed service. MSPB recently refined federal employees' rights under USERRA. Allen Shoikhetbrod is an employment attorney and the Managing Partner of Tully Rinckey PLLC's Albany office. He joined the podcast to talk about the Uniformed Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and the new protections therein.*

[White woman whose claim caused Emmett Till murder has died](#) [Emily Wagster Pettus, *The Associated Press*, 27 April 2023]

*The White woman who accused Black teenager Emmett Till of whistling at and accosting her—which caused his 1955 lynching in Mississippi and galvanized a generation of activists to rise up in the Civil Rights Movement—has died at 88. Carolyn Bryant Donham died in hospice care Tuesday night in Westlake, Louisiana, according to a death report filed Thursday in the Calcasieu Parish Coroner's Office. Her death marks the last chance for anyone to be held accountable for a kidnapping and brutal murder that shocked the world.*

## **MISCONDUCT**

[Here's How the Hatch Act Applies, With Biden Running for President Again](#) [Courtney Bublé, *Government Executive*, 27 April 2023]

*Now that President Biden is running for reelection, the agency that oversees civil service law released updated guidance on how federal employees can avoid violating the Hatch Act. The act limits the political activity—meaning activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, partisan political group or candidate for partisan political office—of civilian federal employees while on duty or in a federal building. “This prohibition is broad and encompasses more than displays or communications (including in-person and via email or social media) that expressly advocate for or against President Biden's reelection,” the [Office of Special Counsel said in an advisory opinion released](#) on Wednesday.*

## **RACISM**

[An Indiana woman is charged with a federal hate crime in alleged anti-Asian bus attack](#) [Juliana Kim, *NPR*, 22 April 2023]

*Billie R. Davis, 56, who is accused of stabbing a young passenger on a public bus in Bloomington, Ind., because she assumed the 18-year-old Indiana University student was “Chinese,” has been charged with a federal hate crime. [According to the Justice Department](#) and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the*



*Southern District of Indiana Davis, 56, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Evansville, Ind., on Thursday. She also faces local charges of attempted murder, aggravated battery and battery with a deadly weapon.*

[Two at Fort Hood suspected of racist graffiti, starting barracks fire](#) [Jon Simkins and Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Army Times*, 25 April 2023]

*The Army's Criminal Investigation Division identified two individuals suspected of spray painting racial slurs and genitalia on barracks walls before intentionally igniting a fire in a barracks laundry room, Army officials confirmed. The suspects' motivation behind defiling the barracks has not yet been reported, but the incident does draw a striking resemblance to a string of other recent episodes of bigotry and vandalism, including one such incident earlier this month at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota.*

## **SEXISM**

[Masculinity doesn't have to be restrictive. Here's how to redefine it for yourself](#) [Frank Festa, *NPR*, 25 April 2023]

*Let's do a little experiment: Close your eyes and think of the manliest guy you can. Chances are he's physically strong, successful at nearly everything he does, laughs in the face of fear and danger, and doesn't succumb to his emotions. These traits can all be found inside the "man box," a concept popularized by educator and activist Paul Kivel and the [Oakland Men's Project in the 1980s](#)—and explored in a [2017 study](#) of young men's perceptions of masculinity in the U.S., U.K. and Mexico. The "man box" refers to the strict expectations boys learn they must adopt in their behavior, aspirations and perspective to be considered a "real man."*

[A Nashville senior was banned from prom for a suit, so a local business stepped in](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, *NPR*, 25 April 2023]

*B. Hayes, an 18-year-old student at Nashville Christian School, was banned from going to their prom because they wore a suit and not a dress. In a photo posted on Instagram over the weekend, Hayes stood outside of the facility holding a sign that read, "they wouldn't let me in because I'm in a suit." Hayes wrote in the caption, "i should not have to conform to femininity to attend my senior prom. i will not compromise who i am to fit in a box. who are you to tell us what it means to be a woman?" Nashville Christian School told *NPR* in a statement that it "has established dress requirements for daily school attendance and at our special events. All students and families are aware of and sign an agreement to these guidelines when they enroll."*

[Texas agriculture department's new dress code is based on "biological gender"](#) [Jonathan Franklin, *NPR*, 25 April 2023]

*The Texas Department of Agriculture is ordering its employees to [comply with a new dress code](#), mandating they abide by it in a "manner consistent with their biological gender." An ACLU attorney says it violates federal law that bans employment discrimination based on one's sexual orientation or gender identity. In a copy of the April 13 memo first obtained by [The Texas Observer](#), the new dress code—handed down by Sid Miller, the state's agriculture commissioner—is required by all employees as a part of a "dress code and grooming policy." Employees are expected to comply with this dress code in a manner consistent with their biological gender," the new policy said.*

## SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[CIA in Congress' crosshairs over alleged mishandling of sex assault cases](#) [Daniel Lippman, *Politico*, 21 April 2023]

*The House intelligence committee is investigating whether the Central Intelligence Agency is mishandling how it responds to sexual assault and harassment in its workforce, according to four people familiar with the matter. At least three female CIA employees have approached the committee since January to tell them that the agency is discouraging women from making sexual misconduct complaints, according to one of the people, attorney Kevin Carroll, who represents the first employee who talked to the committee. He also said the CIA is making it difficult for alleged victims to speak to law enforcement.*

[Ex-Fort Hood brigade commander faces trial for abusive sexual contact](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld and Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 27 April 2023]

*An Army colonel fired last year from his brigade command post will now face a court-martial for alleged sexual abuse, officials from 1st Cavalry Division confirmed to Army Times. Col. Jon Meredith is charged with two counts of abusive sexual contact and two counts of conduct unbecoming of an officer for his alleged actions, Lt. Col. Jennifer Bocanegra, a spokesperson for the division, told Army Times. A court-martial of a colonel is relatively rare, according to an Army Times review of publicly-available trial results. Eight have faced trial since 2014, and one is scheduled for a domestic violence court-martial in September.*

[Female Commander Investigated over Alleged Sexual Assaults of Male Subordinates, Pattern of Harassment](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 25 April 2023]

*A top officer in the Army's 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade has been investigated following allegations of multiple sexual assaults and a pattern of sexual harassment, according to two sources with knowledge of the investigation. It is unclear whether the investigation is ongoing, but it comes while another is underway into allegations of toxic leadership by the brigade's commander. Col. Meghann Sullivan, commander of the 5th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 5th SFAB, faces allegations of assaulting at least two subordinate men and harassing several others, with some of those incidents allegedly tied to alcohol abuse, according to one of the two sources.*

[A letter to the NCOs who saved my life](#) [Sgt. C., *Army Times*, 26 April 2023] [COMMENTARY]

*Six months before the "Me Too" movement, I was nineteen and serving on my first overseas deployment. I was so proud to be working in the hospital, doing my job, learning, and growing. On St. Patrick's Day, my life was forever changed. At my place of work, a patient sexually assaulted me. When it happened, I froze. He was an officer, and I was just a junior enlisted soldier. As is common with perpetrators of sexual violence, there was also trickery and deception involved that had me questioning what just happened. Still, I reported the assault immediately to a supervisor, who then sternly told the patient "not to touch the medics." I pushed it out of my mind and went back to work. But afterwards, I skipped chow and went back to the barracks, just feeling really horrible and "off."*

[Sexual assault is a huge threat to women in U.S. military. We have a duty to do better.](#) [Benjamin R. Bryce, *USA TODAY*, 27 April 2023] [OPINION]

*In March, the [Department of Defense released survey results](#) showing that 21.4% of female students and 4.4% of male students at West Point, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy said they had been*

*the victims of unwanted sexual contact in the past school year. Asked whether they trust the military system to protect their privacy and treat them with “dignity and respect” after reporting sexual assault or harassment, only 59% of women and 76% of male students expressed confidence in the system. Sadly, as a result of sexual violence in the armed forces, the American public is acutely aware that the military might not be a safe place for women.*

[A woman said she was raped while serving in the National Guard. She died soon after.](#) [Mark Robinson, USA TODAY, 22 April 2023]

*Under the direction of its leader Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, the Nevada National Guard launched a zero-tolerance campaign in January 2021 to address sexual assault. It encouraged soldiers to report rape no matter how much time had passed and vowed to support them. That same month, Sgt. First Class Allison Bailey reported being raped twice the previous May and June by a fellow Guardsman of lower rank. After siding with her alleged attacker, the Nevada National Guard used what happened between them as the no. 1 charge in a 22-item misconduct investigation: “Sex with a subordinate.”*

## **SUICIDE**

[Hopelessness about the future is a key reason some Black young adults consider suicide, new study finds](#) [Janelle R. Goodwill, *The Conversation*, 20 April 2023]

*Black young adults consider suicide. That is one of the [key findings from a new study](#) I published in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. Hopelessness proved to be the most common reason that Black men considered suicide, and it was one of the most common reasons Black women consider suicide. The Black young adult women in this study were more likely to seriously think about suicide because they could not live up to the expectations of other people and because they felt lonely and sad.*

## **VETERANS**

[Buzz Aldrin to be promoted to Air Force brigadier general](#) [Richard Tribou, *Orlando Sentinel* (Orlando, Fla.), 21 April 2023]

*The second man on the moon is getting a promotion. Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Buzz Aldrin, who joined Neil Armstrong as the first two men to step foot on the lunar surface during 1969's Apollo 11 mission, will receive an honorary appointment to brigadier general during a ceremony on May 5 at Los Angeles Air Force Base, according to a press release from the U.S. Space Force's Space Systems Command.*

[Free Uber, Lyft Rides for Vets Program Will End in May. The VA Is Pleading with Congress to Extend It.](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 25 April 2023]

*The VA began offering rideshare benefits to homeless veterans in August 2021 following passage of the fiscal 2020 Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D., Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act, which temporarily authorized the program. Under the legislation, homeless veterans could contact the VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans to access resources, including rides from services like Uber and Lyft. The VA also provided the benefit to other veterans who did not otherwise qualify for free transportation under other VA programs. But the rideshare benefit was tied to the declaration of the public health emergency for COVID-19, which will sunset on May 11.*

[Medal of Honor Recipients Remains ID'd 73 Years After Korea](#) [Colleen Long, *The Associated Press*, 26 April 2023]

*The remains of a U.S. Army corporal killed during the Korean War and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor have been identified 73 years after he was declared missing, President Joe Biden said Wednesday during a welcome ceremony at the White House for South Korea's president. Luther H. Story of Buena Vista, Georgia, was last seen on Sept. 1, 1950 - wounded and fighting off North Korean attacks so his fellow soldiers could get to safety. U.S. officials said that Story "fearlessly stood in the middle of the road, throwing grenades" into a truck as his squad escaped.*

[The Veterans Crisis Line is fielding a record number of cries for help, VA stats show](#) [Melissa Chan, *NBC News*, 22 April 2023]

*The Veterans Crisis Line is fielding a record number of cries for help, the Department of Veterans Affairs said, amid increased mental health concerns for post-9/11 veterans and service members. The suicide hotline received more than 88,000 calls, texts and chats in March—the highest amount of monthly contacts it has ever had, according to new federal data obtained by NBC News.*