

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 3 JUNE 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[Coast Guard welcomes new commandant, marking the first time a woman has led a U.S. armed service branch](#) [Caitlin Doornbos, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 June 2022]

President Joe Biden on Wednesday presided over the Coast Guard's change-of-command ceremony that officially made Adm. Linda Fagan the first female officer in charge of an U.S. armed service branch. "She will be the first woman to serve as commandant of the Coast Guard, the first woman [to lead] any branch to the United States armed forces, and it's about time," Biden said. It's not the first time that Fagan has been the first woman to break a barrier in the military. Last year, she became the first female four-star admiral in the Coast Guard when Biden appointed her as the service's vice commandant. Fagan is also the service's first-ever Gold Ancient Trident, which is the officer with the longest service record in the marine safety field, according to the Coast Guard.

[A Proclamation on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, And Intersex Pride Month, 2022](#)

[Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *White House Press Office*, 31 May 2022]

During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Pride Month, we reflect on the progress we have made as a Nation in the fight for justice, inclusion, and equality while reaffirming our commitment to do more to support LGBTQI+ rights at home and abroad. I often say that America can be defined by one word: possibilities. This month, we celebrate generations of LGBTQI+ people who have fought to make the possibilities of our Nation real for every American. This month, we honor the resilience of LGBTQI+ people, who are fighting to live authentically and freely. We reaffirm our belief that LGBTQI+ rights are human rights. And we recommit to delivering protections, safety, and equality to LGBTQI+ families so that everyone can realize the full promise of America.

[\[DOD MEMO\]](#)

[Sexual misconduct prevention in the Army is "disjointed" and "unclear," watchdog says](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 31 May 2022]

A sweeping new government [watchdog report](#) released last week says the Army needs to speed up progress on reforming its Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, more commonly known as SHARP. The Government Accountability Office report acknowledged that the service has been trying to implement policies to improve the SHARP program in the wake of a department-wide independent review of its prevention and response efforts. But GAO officials concluded that the Army's SHARP policy is "disjointed [and] unclear," which in turn leads to "confusion for commanders and SHARP personnel." The report also highlighted disparities between Army SHARP guidance and Defense Department policy. The guidance problems are compounded by systemic issues with staffing and program oversight, as well as an inability to measure the SHARP program's success through existing metrics, the report said.

CULTURE

[Army poll finds widespread unawareness among Gen Z about perks of military career](#) [John Vandiver, *Stars and Stripes*, 2 June 2022]

Young adult Americans think they know a lot about Army life, but a newly released cross-generational survey showing otherwise is giving the service impetus to fill in the knowledge gaps amid a recruitment crisis. The “Know Your Army” national consumer survey found that 73% of respondents ages 18 to 25 claimed familiarity with the Army, the highest level of any generation polled. But survey participants in that age group turned out to be largely unaware of what the Army can offer them. The survey was conducted by the Army in March across a sample of 3,000 U.S. adults between the ages of 18 and 76. No margin of error was listed. Top brass has previously sounded alarms over the service’s difficulty finding qualified recruits in that 18-25 age range.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Army’s reputation for sexual harassment and suicide is keeping Gen Z from joining up, Army secretary says](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 25 May 2022]

To recruit Generation Z, the Army has to clearly and publicly show the effort they’re making to address sexual harassment, assault, and suicide, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said. “I think we do need to do more to address their concerns,” Wormuth said of Gen Z in an interview with Task & Purpose on Monday. She recalled reading something that explained how the “mainstream media’s coverage of the Army” tends to focus on sexual assault and harassment, suicide, and safety violations. But there are “a lot of fantastic things that are happening in the Army that just don’t get covered,” she said. But she also acknowledged on Monday that there could be other factors that will impact how long someone decides to stay in the Army. Various state laws discriminating against LGBTQ people, as well as state laws banning abortion, are “potentially” an issue in regards to retaining soldiers, she said.

[“Devotion” trailer teases the story of a Medal of Honor recipient who tried to save his wingman in the Korean War](#) [Nicholas Slayton, *Task & Purpose*, 28 May 2022]

This year audiences will be able to go to the movies and see the story of a trailblazing, brave Navy aviator and his heroics in combat. It’s not Top Gun: Maverick, but a new movie about a real-life hero: Jesse L. Brown. Brown was the son of a sharecropper who overcame the obstacles of segregation to become the first African-American naval aviator. He died on Dec. 4, 1950, while his comrade and close friend Thomas Hudner tried to save him behind enemy lines. Brown and Hudner’s story is being told in the new movie Devotion and the first teaser trailer was just released ahead of Memorial Day. It’s a rare Hollywood look at the Korean War—the teaser [trailer](#) even calls it “America’s forgotten war.” The trailer doesn’t say much on the plot, but gives audiences a glimpse of Brown (Lovecraft Country’s Jonathan Majors) struggling to overcome racism in the military and his struggle to become a pilot.

[“Fire Island” star Bowen Yang on how LGBTQ spaces can be unwelcoming for queer Asians](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 2 June 2022]

The Asian American queer rom-com “Fire Island” spotlights the power of queer Asian friendship—particularly in spaces that aren’t always inclusive of LGBTQ people of color. Actors Bowen Yang and Margaret Cho, who star in “Fire Island,” said that the getaway in Long Island, New York, is meant to be an inviting hub of queer joy, but it’s been criticized for its increasingly exclusive wealthy and White patronage. It’s an undercurrent theme in the film, but they hope the rom-com, which premieres Friday

on Hulu, can show just how important their queer Asian friendships are in allowing them to feel a sense of liberation that the island doesn't always foster for all.

[Fort Bragg as Fort Liberty? Commission Announces Names to Erase Confederate Ties](#) [Jacqueline Feldscher, *Government Executive*, 25 May 2022]

The Army's Fort Bragg would become Fort Liberty under recommendations released Tuesday by a commission that studied whether military bases with Confederate ties should be renamed. The commission also suggests that eight other bases be renamed for military heroes. Of the nine bases expected to get new names, two are named for Black Americans. Asked why so many bases were renamed for White men, members of the commission said that they had to make difficult decisions because there are so many military heroes and a small number of bases. However, a source familiar with the commission's deliberations told Defense One that the suggested name for the North Carolina base, which is home to Army Special Operations Command, was driven by parochial posturing, not racism. Leaders of various Army units, including some in the special operations community, didn't want the base to be "named for anyone not from their tribe," and vetoed some of the candidates.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Lakota elders helped a White man preserve their language. Then he tried to sell it back to them.](#)

[Graham Lee Brewer, *NBC News*, 3 June 2022]

Ray Taken Alive had been fighting for this moment for two years: At his urging, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council was about to take the rare and severe step of banishing a nonprofit organization from the tribe's land. The Lakota Language Consortium had promised to preserve the tribe's native language and had spent years gathering recordings of elders, including Taken Alive's grandmother, to create a new, standardized Lakota dictionary and textbooks. But when Taken Alive, 35, asked for copies, he was shocked to learn that the consortium, run by a White man, had copyrighted the language materials, which were based on generations of Lakota tradition. The traditional knowledge gathered from the tribe was now being sold back to it in the form of textbooks.

[Monument honoring Black Civil War unit rededicated](#) [Philip Marcelo, *The Associated Press*, 1 June 2022]

A Boston memorial to a famed Civil War unit made up of Black soldiers was rededicated Wednesday after a three-year long restoration with a ceremony filled with song and somber reflection. The Robert Gould Shaw and the Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial—considered the nation's first honoring Black soldiers—underscores how ending slavery was not just about one man, but many, said Dr. Ibram X. Kendi in his remarks. The towering bronze relief by American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens captures the stirring call to arms answered by Black soldiers who served in the unit, which was popularized in the 1989 Oscar-winning movie "Glory." The unit's heroism during its failed assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina inspired tens of thousands of Black men and others to sign up for the Union Army, helping turn the tide of the war.

[Out of the shadows, an Airman's empowering journey to new life](#) [2nd Lt. Leyinzca Bihlajama, 72nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs, 1 June 2022]

Imagine feeling as though you've been portraying a fictional character your entire life. That is how Staff Sgt. Bryan Tisdale, the assistant noncommissioned officer in charge in the 72nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, and many other members of the transgender community, have felt. Prior to her self-

acceptance and coming out to her peers, Tisdale lived with the tribulation, constantly questioning Bryan's masculinity and behaviors. As Tisdale grew, she realized that her attraction to women went beyond admiration, she identified as a female and battled with self-acceptance. Growing up in a very traditional and conservative household, Tisdale says she's always felt forced to behave more masculine. With a strong desire to serve her country, Tisdale joined the Air Force in September 2007. During that time the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy was in place. In fear of hate and retribution, Tisdale continued to suppress her true identity.

[Same-Sex Marriage Support Inches Up to New High of 71%](#) [Justin McCarthy, Gallup, 1 June 2022] Seventy-one percent of Americans say they support legal same-sex marriage, which exceeds the previous high of 70% recorded in 2021 by one percentage point. These data are from Gallup's annual Values and Beliefs poll, conducted May 2-22. When Gallup first polled about same-sex marriage in 1996, barely a quarter of the public (27%) supported legalizing such unions. It would take another 15 years, until 2011, for support to reach the majority level. Then in 2015, just one month before the U.S. Supreme Court's Obergefell v. Hodges decision, public support for legalizing gay marriage cracked the 60% level, and last year it reached the 70% mark for the first time.

["Star Wars" supports "Obi-Wan Kenobi" star Moses Ingram amid racist hate from fans](#) [Stephen Iervolino, ABC News, 31 May 2022]

The official social media platforms for the "Star Wars" franchise posted a unified message of support for "Obi-Wan Kenobi" star Moses Ingram after she shared racist comments directed at her online. "There are more than 20 million sentient species in the Star Wars galaxy, don't choose to be a racist," the message, shared to Instagram on Tuesday, began. "We are proud to welcome Moses Ingram to the Star Wars family and excited for Reva's story to unfold. If anyone intends to make her feel in any way unwelcome, we have only one thing to say: we resist." Ingram's video begins with a collection of nasty comments she had received, including claims that she—or her character, it's unclear—was a "diversity hire" and that she "won't be loved or remembered for this acting role." The actress then addresses her followers directly, saying, "Long story short, there are hundreds of those. Hundreds." Aside from the hate, she said the messages of support "mean the world" to her because "there's nothing anybody can do about this" to make it stop.

[State Parks Are Trying to Attract More Diverse Visitors](#) [Marsha Mercer, Stateline Daily, 31 May 2022]

As Americans plan their summer vacations, states around the country are struggling with a persistent challenge: how to attract more Black residents and other visitors of color to their parks. The racial gap in park visitation is longstanding: Officials estimate that about 3 in 4 visitors to America's state and national parks are White, well above the population rate of 60%. The National Park Service in 2013 opened an Office of Relevancy, Diversity and Inclusion and has developed several African American history sites, including in 2017 the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in New York and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Maryland, where federal and state agencies operate a visitor center together. In addition to equity and social justice, public health is at stake. Studies suggest millions of Black and Hispanic Americans miss out on the health benefits of being in nature—stress reduction, weight control and physical exercise among them—because they lack access to parks. Those add up to larger health costs.

[Transformative year: Black coaches now lead 50 percent of NBA teams](#) [Tim Reynolds, *The Associated Press*, 3 June 2022]

It's an annual occurrence in the NBA. Teams change head coaches and the roster of candidates who should get those jobs starts getting bandied about, and especially in recent years those lists almost always included Black candidates. Case in point: Ime Udoka, who is of Nigerian descent. For five years, he was one of those can't-miss candidates but never got hired. That is, until the Boston Celtics gave him the opportunity. And all Udoka did in Year 1 was reach the NBA Finals. Udoka's hiring by the Eastern Conference champion Celtics, who open the NBA Finals on Thursday night against the Golden State Warriors, was part of a transformative year for the league when it comes to diversity within the coaching ranks. In the last 12 months, eight coaching jobs have been filled by Black candidates—and for the first time, half the league's franchises, 15 of the 30, have Black head coaches.

DISCRIMINATION

[Christian university proposes limiting expressions of gender and sexuality](#) [Tat Bellamy-Walker, *NBC News*, 24 May 2022]

A private Christian University in Tennessee has proposed restricting how students express their sexuality and gender on campus. Under the proposed policy at Lee University, students are not allowed to identify or dress as a gender that differs from their “biological sex,” or sex assigned at birth, which includes requesting new pronouns. Students are also banned from speaking out against the restrictions, according to a [leaked draft](#) obtained by WTVC-TV in Tennessee. The policies, which are scheduled to go into effect during the fall semester, also prohibit heterosexual sex outside of marriage and displays of affection in same-sex relationships.

[A Florida class president couldn't discuss being gay in high school graduation speech—so he talked about his curly hair](#) [David Williams, *CNN*, 25 May 2022]

The class president at a Florida high school says he wasn't allowed to share his experience as a gay student in his graduation speech or how the state's so-called “Don't Say Gay” law will affect students like him, so he talked about something else that makes him a little different from his classmates—his curly hair. Zander Moricz, 18, has been active in social justice causes as a student at Pine View School in Osprey, Florida, and led a student walkout in March to protest the controversial measure that bans certain teachings about sexual orientation and gender identity in schools and goes into effect in July. He's also one of the plaintiffs in a [lawsuit](#) challenging the law. Moricz came out during his freshman year and was the first openly-gay class president at the school, so he felt a responsibility to address the controversy.

[The Justice Department Is Ramping Up Its Anti-Hate Crime Efforts](#) [Courtney Bubl , *Government Executive*, 23 May 2022]

The Justice Department [announced](#) a slew of actions on Friday in commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act—which included the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act—that came in response to the rise of violence and hate crimes targeted at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during the pandemic. Referencing the mass shooting in Buffalo, New York on May 14, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta said on Friday, “as we mourn with the families of the horrific attacks of hate this past week, all of us here today—DOJ, Additionally, the Justice Department, along with HHS, [issued new guidance](#) that seeks to increase awareness of hate crimes during the pandemic as

well as released \$10 million in grant solicitations for new programs to address hate crimes and incidents. This builds on efforts Justice has taken over the past year such as launching the National Anti-Hate Crimes Campaign led by the FBI; assigning at least one assistant U.S. Attorney to be a civil rights coordinator in every U.S. Attorneys' Office; and "vigorously investigating and prosecuting hate crimes," said a press release from the department.

[Utah families sue over transgender sports ban](#) [Natalie Prieb, *The Hill*, 3 June 2022]

Two Utah families this week filed a lawsuit against the state over a law that prohibits transgender girls from participating in school sports that correspond with their gender identity. The lawsuit, which was filed in the Third Judicial District Court for Salt Lake County, was filed on behalf of a 16-year-old who wants to play on her school's girls' volleyball team and 13-year-old who wants to play on her school's girls' swim team, respectively. The families of the girls say that the state law "stigmatizes and discriminates" against the girls, "denies them equal opportunities" and "subjects them to serious adverse effects on their physical and mental health." The lawsuit requests that the court deem the law unconstitutional and block it from going into effect.

DIVERSITY

[Energy Issues \\$40 Million to Provide STEM Training for Historically Underrepresented Groups](#) [Frank Konkel, *NextGov*, 25 May 2022]

The Energy Department Wednesday announced \$40 million in funding toward research opportunities to historically underrepresented groups in science, technology, education and math, or STEM, fields. The funding will be used by historically Black colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions and other select institutions in an effort to "diversify American leadership in the physical and climate sciences" through a variety of internships, training programs and mentorship opportunities, according to the Energy Department. "Leveraging the full potential of American expertise to tackle our biggest challenges will require a diverse, equitable, and broad research community that includes the brilliant voices and minds of historically unrepresented groups," Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said in a statement. "This investment will provide hands-on experience to our nation's future scientists to unlock the climate solutions that hold the key to a safer and cleaner future for all Americans."

[Is the Security Clearance Process Keeping Diverse Candidates from Fed Jobs?](#) [Lindy Kyzer, *Government Executive*, 31 May 2022]

There are many paths to a national security career but virtually all of them entail the need to fill out some form of 100-plus page questionnaire for national security positions. And while the process is meant to be applied universally (with the same adjudicative guidelines around eligibility to access classified information), as anyone who has applied with multiple agencies knows, there are very human, and very distinct elements to obtaining a security clearance and making the cut as a national security worker. A [2020 GAO report](#) on diversity within the intelligence community noted racial and ethnic minorities comprise about 37% of both the federal and civilian workforces, they only amount to about 26% of the intelligence community workforce. Today's diversity and data push comes on the heels of a [2021 RAND report](#) on the potential for racial bias in the security clearance process. It highlighted the disconnect between current EEOC regulations and the security clearance process, which requires individuals to reveal information well outside of the scope of what would generally be asked in a standard interview.

[U.S., Jordanian female aviators partner in excellence](#) [Capt. Monique Roux, *Ninth Air Force Public Affairs*, 1 June 2022]

The U.S. and Royal Jordanian Air Forces are partnering to celebrate women in aviation. This partnership, launched in September 2021 between the U.S. Air Force and RJAF, focuses on empowering women in aviation as a way to cultivate and strengthen relationships. For the RJAF, these are the first women aviators who are growing into their roles as leaders. “This program is a fantastic opportunity to highlight the U.S. and RJAF commitment to supporting female aviators,” said Lt. Col. Jennifer Pruitt, 26th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron commander and HC-130J Combat King II pilot. “The RJAF women are trailblazers, and they are paving the way for future female aviators. It was an honor to meet them.” Inspiring and empowering women in aviation is a shared goal for the U.S. and Jordanian Air Forces and this program offers unique opportunities to encourage excellence in their female aviators.

EXTREMISM

[Buffalo supermarket gunman indicted on terror, hate charge](#) [Carolyn Thompson, *The Associated Press*, 1 June 2022]

The White 18-year-old man accused of fatally shooting 10 Black people at a Buffalo supermarket was charged Wednesday by a grand jury with domestic terrorism motivated by hate and 10 counts of first-degree murder. The 25-count indictment also contains charges of murder and attempted murder as a hate crime and weapons possession. Gendron had previously been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting, which also injured three people. He has pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors told a judge May 20 the grand jury had voted to indict Gendron but did not disclose charges, saying proceedings were ongoing. The domestic terrorism charge accuses Gendron of killing “because of the perceived race and/or color” of his victims.

[Former U.S. Army reservist found guilty in Jan. 6 riot](#) [*The Associated Press*, 27 May 2022]

A former U.S. Army reservist described by prosecutors as a Nazi sympathizer was convicted Friday of storming the U.S. Capitol to obstruct Congress from certifying President Joe Biden’s 2020 electoral victory. [Timothy] Hale-Cussanelli took the stand in his defense and claimed he didn’t know that Congress met at the Capitol building. Hale-Cusanelli’s trial was the fifth before a jury and the seventh overall for a Capitol riot case. The first four juries unanimously convicted the riot defendants of all charges. Prosecutors said Hale-Cusanelli openly espoused White supremacist and antisemitic ideology and wore an Adolf Hitler-style mustache to work. Hale-Cusanelli had a “secret” security clearance for his job as a security contractor at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Colts Neck, New Jersey.

INTERNATIONAL

[The indigenous Australians few know](#) [Sarah Reid, *BBC News*, 1 June 2022]

Torres Strait Islander people have a rich cultural identity unique to that of Aboriginal Australians, yet few travelers will have heard of them. Known as “Waiben” to the Kaurareg people of the Inner (or Southern) Islands—which is one of five island clusters represented by the five-pointed star of the Torres Strait Islander flag—TI is the most accessible place to experience Torres Strait Islander culture in its birthplace. Of Melanesian descent, Torres Strait Islander people have a long history of trading with the people of Papua New Guinea and the Aboriginal communities of Cape York. But they have cultural and

linguistic traditions of their own, which vary between each island group and the 18 indigenous communities within them.

[Pride month: Kuwait criticises U.S. embassy over pro-LGBT tweets](#) [Leo Sands, BBC News, 2 June 2022]

Kuwait has summoned a top U.S. diplomat in protest over tweets from the American embassy supporting LGBT rights, its foreign ministry says. U.S. officials there had posted a rainbow flag and message of solidarity from President Joe Biden for Pride month. But Kuwait officials criticised the embassy for “supporting homosexuality” and demanded it didn’t happen again. According to its statement, the Foreign Ministry ordered the embassy to respect Kuwaiti laws and “not to publish such tweets”. Rights for LGBT people are severely restricted in Kuwait and it is illegal there for men to be gay. Rights for LGBT people are extremely limited in socially conservative Kuwait—one of 69 countries in the world where being gay is criminalised.

[Sex crime allegations in Canadian military should be investigated externally, report says](#) [Ismail Shakil, Reuters, 30 May 2022]

Allegations of sex crimes in the Canadian military should be investigated externally by civilian authorities and the armed forces should establish clear targets for the promotion of women, a former supreme court justice said in a report released Monday. Former justice Louise Arbour, who was tasked last year with leading a probe into military harassment and sexual misconduct claims in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), laid out 48 recommendations aimed at changing the culture inside the military. Another scathing report released last month by a four-member advisory panel found the leaders of Canada’s military had failed to address systemic racism and discrimination over the past two decades and that had harmed national security.

[Ukraine’s “unicorn” LGBTQ soldiers head for war](#) [Horaci Garcia, Reuters, 31 May 2022]

As volunteer fighters Oleksandr Zhuhan and Antonina Romanova pack for a return to active duty, they contemplate the unicorn insignia that gives their uniform a rare distinction—a symbol of their status as an LGBTQ couple who are Ukrainian soldiers. Members of Ukraine’s LGBTQ community who sign up for the war have taken to sewing the image of the mythical beast into their standard-issue epaulettes just below the national flag. The practice harks back to the 2014 conflict when Russia invaded then annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine, “when lots of people said there are no gay people in the army,” actor, director and drama teacher Zhuhan told Reuters as he and Romanova dressed in their apartment for their second three-month combat rotation. “So they (the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community) chose the unicorn because it is like a fantastic ‘non-existent’ creature.”

MISCELLANEOUS

[Austin Says DOD Must Increase Efforts to Destigmatize Mental Health Care](#) [C. Todd Lopez, DOD News, 29 May 2022]

Both the White House and the Defense Department, said Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, have made taking care of military families a priority. Included in that “sacred obligation,” he said, is an increased commitment to providing support to families who have lost a service member and destigmatizing mental health care. Austin spoke May 28 during the National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp’s banquet in Arlington, Virginia. The 28th annual event was sponsored by the

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. The secretary explained some of the challenges faced by military families and their loved ones who serve—all challenges DOD can help with; one challenge involves mental health care.

RACISM

[California details racist past in slave reparations report](#) [Janie Har, *The Associated Press*, 1 June 2022]
The slavery reparations movement hit a watershed moment Wednesday with the release of an exhaustive report detailing California’s role in perpetuating discrimination against African Americans, a major step toward educating the public and setting the stage for an official government apology and case for financial restitution. The [500-page document](#) lays out the harms suffered by descendants of enslaved people long after slavery was abolished in the 19th century, through discriminatory laws and actions in all facets of life, from housing and education to employment and the legal system. “Four hundred years of discrimination has resulted in an enormous and persistent wealth gap between Black and White Americans,” according to the interim report of the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

[Only 3% of reported attacks on Asian Americans led to hate crime convictions, new report says](#) [Tat Bellamy-Walker, *NBC News*, 3 June 2022]
Only 3 percent of anti-Asian attacks in New York City resulted in a hate crime conviction, according to a report released this week by the Asian American Bar Association of New York. The [report](#), “Endless Tide: The continuing struggle to overcome anti-Asian hate in New York,” shows that only seven out of 233 anti-Asian attacks reported last year led to a guilty plea to a hate crime. The report also found that Asian American women were victims in more than half of the attacks, which most commonly included assault, and affected individuals between the ages of 20 and 49. In light of the findings, the association is calling for officials to improve the collection of public hate crime data, remove barriers to reporting hate incidents, education, bail reform, develop anti-bias programming and make changes to hate crime legislation.

SEXISM

[Pay for female CEOs rose 26% in 2021, but ranks remain small](#) [Mae Anderson, *The Associated Press*, 26 May 2022]
*Pay packages for the women who run S&P 500 companies jumped in 2021 as the economy recovered and stock prices and profits soared. Median pay for the women occupying the corner office rose to nearly \$16 million, according to the annual survey done by Equilar for *The Associated Press*. Still, experts say there’s much more to be done to improve gender diversity in the corporate ranks and close the pay gap between men and women. Jane Stevenson, vice chair, Board & CEO Services at organizational consulting firm Korn Ferry said while it is good that women CEOs’ pay rose, there is still a lot to be done. “I think the danger is to look at those cases of CEOs making more their peers and see a message about the pay gap being closed—it’s not,” she said.*

[Pay Transparency Laws Raise Women’s Salaries \(And Slightly Lower Men’s\)](#) [Elaine S. Povich, *Stateline Daily*, 26 May 2022]

The bestselling 2016 book “Hidden Figures,” later adapted into a popular film, told the story of Black female mathematicians who played an essential role in the U.S. space program in the 1950s and 1960s, but who faced racial discrimination and were paid less than their male counterparts. The gender pay gap existed before the era portrayed in the book and film, and it persists today, though it has narrowed in recent years. In 2019, the national median salary for women working full time was \$43,394, compared with \$53,544 for men, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey. Studies show that salary transparency—coupled with laws prohibiting companies from asking an applicant about their current or previous pay—can narrow the gender pay gap. But research also shows that salary transparency tends to lower men’s salaries even as it raises those of women—and might lower salaries overall.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Marine vet pleads guilty to cyberstalking, “sextortion” while on active duty](#) [Todd South, *Military Times*, 1 June 2022]

A 25-year-old Marine veteran pleaded guilty Friday to charges he cyberstalked multiple women over at least three years in a “sextortion” campaign while on active duty. Johao Miguel Chavarri faces up to five years in prison on each of the three counts of cyberstalking and is scheduled for sentencing on Sept. 15 in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Chavarri, who had used the alias ‘Michael Frito,’ had “stalked, harassed and threatened women,” Marine Corps Times had reported in February, mostly from his hometown of Torrance, California, while serving, according to court documents.

[Report alleges Southern Baptist Convention systemically silenced abuse victims](#) [Alexandra Hart, *Texas Standard Public Radio*, 24 May 2022]

*Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention’s executive committee were meeting Tuesday to discuss the findings of a [400-page report](#) from an independent investigation into allegations that the Convention routinely silenced survivors of alleged sexual abuse within congregations. The report covers 20 years of sexual abuse allegations against the church and how the church handled—or mishandled—abuse claims: suppressing reports, resisting reforms and, in many cases, the report says, belittling victims and their families. Church members demanded a third-party investigation after an explosive 2019 report by the *Houston Chronicle* and the *San Antonio Express-News* revealed nearly 400 members of the denomination in leadership positions, from youth pastors to ministers, had pleaded guilty or been convicted of sex crimes against more than 700 people since 1998.*

SUICIDE

[Army locked public report after story on overdue suicide regulation](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 27 May 2022]

*The Army blocked public access to a report on the status of forthcoming publications after *Army Times* referenced the report in an April 1 story on how the service has failed to publish a long-awaited regulation that will coordinate its suicide prevention programs. The service initially announced it would create a dedicated suicide prevention regulation in 2020. In September 2021, the Army said it would publish that fall. Then, in November 2021, the Army said it would come “in the first quarter of 2022.” But less than a week after the April 1 story, the Army moved the publication status report to a website*

that requires users to sign in with their Army-issued Common Access Cards in order to access the document. Although the Army said that having the status report publicly available is “not appropriate,” it had been publicly available since at least July 17, 2016, when the Wayback Machine first archived it from the Army Publications Directorate website.

[VA launches \\$20M challenge to help reduce veteran suicides](#) [Sara Samora, *Stars and Stripes*, 25 May 2022]

Officials for the Department of Veteran Affairs on Wednesday announced a \$20 million challenge that invites the public to find ways to reduce the veteran suicide rate. The challenge, dubbed [Mission Daybreak](#), calls on eligible participants to develop innovated methods to help prevent suicides that meet the various needs of veterans. They will receive funding and resources that include data, research, mentorship, educational webinars and partnership opportunities. Officials said the agency is looking to attract expertise from private, nonprofit, and government collaborators in 10 focus areas, such as creating improved access to and effectiveness of the Veterans Crisis Line, preventing firearm suicides and improving lethal means safety, and reducing barriers to seek help.

VETERANS

[More than 100 women veterans from Florida take part in all-female Honor Flight](#) [Sara Samora, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 June 2022]

It took almost three years to make happen, but 109 women veterans from Florida were finally able to visit the nation’s capital and see memorials that honor those who served. “I think they’ve been overlooked for a long time, and we found on past Honor Flights, we’ve had very, very few females apply,” said Liza Diana Walters, Honor Flight Villages’ flight director. “We take at the most, a couple per flight, so I hope that this will raise awareness for the female vets and encourage them to come on Honor Flights.” The Honor Flight network is an organization that flies veterans to visit memorials in Washington, D.C., free of charge. For Honor Flight Villages in Florida, it was the first time the organization flew an all-female Honor Flight.

[“They certainly will not be forgotten”: Man makes it his mission to interview World War II veterans and share their stories](#) [CBS News, 30 May 2022]

In high school, Rishi Sharma made it his mission to meet as many World War II combat veterans as possible. He told CBS News’ Steve Hartman he would take his bike to local seniors’ houses daily. “I ditched so many days of high school to go do an interview,” he recalled. When he started to drive, he expanded his travels to cover more of Southern California. Sharma said he does it because time is short. America is losing more than 200 World War II vets every day. “It’s amazing how much history and knowledge is encased in each one of these individuals and how much is lost when one of them dies without sharing their story,” said Sharma. He doesn’t come from a military family. His parents emigrated from India. He explained why he cares so much about the Greatest Generation, as they are called.