

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 10 FEBRUARY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

[Fusion Directorate received positively by Soldiers, response agencies during pilot](#) [Josephine Pride, U.S. Army News Service, 6 February 2023]

The [Fusion Directorate Pilot](#) established six active-duty locations in April 2022 and one virtual pilot from the reserves in July 2022. The pilot features coordination through a single directorate, intends to ease synchronizing efforts, increase accountability, transparency, and efficiency throughout the cycle of care for victims of both sexual harassment and sexual assault. The victim-centered model allows military and civilian leaders to streamline resources with other installation support providers and community organizations to improve support for victims and prevent harmful behaviors.

[Meet the Army's first full-time rappers](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Military Times*, 8 February 2023]

*Staff Sgts. Lamar Riddick and Nicholas Feemster were selected as the first two vocalists with the U.S. Army Field Band to serve as full-time rappers. The [pair debuted its lyrical prowess](#) for the service in August during the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo—an annual gathering of international military bands. The field band's communications director Rob Piper told *Military Times* in a statement that, "The Army is always looking for ways to better connect with and represent all Americans. Adding these talented artists, who can do so with passion and authenticity, is not only great talent management, but helps the Army better reflect society as a whole."*

[Online "Sextortion" Scams up eightfold, FTC Says](#) [Kirsten Errick, *NextGov*, 9 February 2023]

Approximately 70,000 people fell for romance scams costing \$1.3 billion in 2022, the [FTC warned on Thursday](#), with a marked increase in scammers using sexually explicit images to extort money from victims. The [data indicated](#) that consumers' median reported loss was \$4,400. According to the FTC, the data also demonstrates an eightfold growth in sextortion scams—"when a romance scammer convinces a consumer to share explicit photos and then threatens to share those photos with the consumer's social media contacts"—from 2019 to 2022. Moreover, individuals 18-29 are six times more likely than older consumers to report this type of romance scam. In 2022, about 58% of sextortion reports were contacted on social media, with most being messaged on Instagram or Snapchat.

[Veteran Who Started Neo-Nazi Group Arrested Again, This Time for Targeting a Power Station](#) [Drew F. Lawrence, *Military.com*, 6 February 2023]

A National Guard veteran and his girlfriend were arrested Friday for allegedly plotting to destroy an electrical substation in Maryland, according to federal prosecutors. Brandon Clint Russell, a former Guardsman and self-identified Nazi recently released from prison after a 2018 conviction for possessing explosives, and Sarah Clendaniel are accused of conspiring to carry out attacks to further "racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism," according to the complaint. This was not Russell's first run-in with the law related to his extremist views. In 2015, he announced the formation of the Atomwaffen Division, a notorious neo-Nazi group.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

CULTURE

[9 Black Veterans Who Blazed a Path in Hollywood](#) [James Barber, *Military.com*, 9 February 2023]

Hollywood doesn't have the best track record for recognizing the talents of people of color, and it lags far behind the progress that the U.S. military has made since President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which created the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services and integrated the services in 1948. These Black actors (see full article) all followed their military service with careers that have broken down barriers in Hollywood and created opportunities for the men and women who followed them into the arts.

[Bethany Hamilton says she'll boycott World Surf League events over transgender competitors](#)

[Samantha Kubota, *NBC News*, 9 February 2023]

Professional surfer Bethany Hamilton said she does not intend to participate in upcoming World Surf League events after the organization announced a change in policies that will allow transgender women to compete in women's events. Hamilton—who is well-known for her memoir “Soul Surfer” and losing her left arm in a 2003 shark attack only to return to the sport—concluded one of her Instagram videos with the suggestion that a separate division be created for trans women, “so that all can have a fair opportunity.”

[Can Latinx and Latino coexist? Some want to ban it, others are unbothered](#) [Edwin Flores, *NBC News*, 7 February 2023]

Debate over Latinx has intensified as its use has increased, with some saying the word has been imposed on Latinos. Polling by [Pew Research Center](#) in 2020 found that more than three-quarters of Hispanics and Latinos surveyed had never heard of the word. The word is intended to promote inclusivity and depart from the gender-specific words of Spanish, where those ending in “o” are male and those ending in “a” are female. In plural uses, the male version (Latinos) is used to refer to both genders.

[Guard Wing Supports Film Production of First Black Naval Aviator, MOH Recipient from Korean War](#)

[Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Hughes, *U.S. Army News Service*, 6 February 2023]

“Devotion” details the heroic efforts of Navy Capt. Thomas Hudner Jr., who purposely crash-landed his own aircraft in an attempt to rescue downed fellow naval aviator Ensign Jesse Brown during the Korean War. Tragically, Brown—the first African American to complete Navy flight training—did not survive. Hudner's bravery earned him the U.S. military's highest award for valor—the Medal of Honor—for the attempt. The Georgia Air National Guard's 165th Airlift Wing, which supported the production of the movie from March 12-15 and March 27-29, 2021, helped turn this story into cinematic magic.

[Jackie Robinson Ballpark honors the game-changing player's life and legacy](#) [Spectrum News, 1

February 2023]

Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play in Major League Baseball when he started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947. Making history, Robinson broke the MLB “color line,” pointing to the end of racial segregation in professional baseball. On Wednesday, the Jackie Robinson Ballpark is home to the Class A Daytona Tortugas, an affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. On site, baseball fans will find a Jackie Robinson statue, historical markers, and a museum celebrating Robinson's achievements.

[MLB The Show video game will include storylines on legendary Negro Leagues players](#) [Pete Grathoff, *The Kansas City Star* (Kansas City, Mo.), 7 February 2023]

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is one of the best places to visit in Kansas City, because there is much to learn about the men and women who were part of that piece of U.S. history. A new generation of fans will see those stars in a new way. The video game, MLB The Show 23, announced it will feature eight of the greatest Negro League players in a new game mode called “Storylines.”

[Native Americans renew protests of Kansas City Chiefs mascot](#) [Terry Tang, *The Associated Press*, 9 February 2023]

Native American protesters were calling for the Chiefs to drop their name, logo and their trademark “war chant” where fans make a chopping-hand gesture mimicking the Native American tomahawk. They even hired a plane to fly around the area. Before game day, there were two online petitions and billboards of protest erected in Kansas City. Now as the Chiefs return to Super Bowl Sunday for the first time in two years in Arizona, protesters will be there again.

[No matter who wins, the first Super Bowl with 2 Black quarterbacks will make history](#) [Becky Sullivan, *NPR*, 8 February 2023]

A couple Sundays ago, Doug Williams was watching football. He wasn’t rooting for any of the teams, exactly, in the NFL’s two conference championship games, the winners of which would advance to the Super Bowl. The emotion he felt was decades in the making—35 long years since Williams became the first Black quarterback to start in, and win, a Super Bowl when he was under center for the Washington football team in their 1988 championship run. In the decades since then, Black quarterbacks have come to be a common sight in NFL games, thriving in a position once reserved exclusively for White men.

[Queen of salsa Celia Cruz will be the first Afro Latina to appear on a U.S. quarter](#) [Pablo Valdivia, *NPR*, 7 February 2023]

Celia Cruz was used to making history. The late Cuban American icon recorded over 80 albums, earned 23 gold records, won five Grammy Awards, and received the president’s National Medal of Arts. And now, the U.S. Mint is honoring Cruz with a quarter of her own, making her the first Afro Latina to appear on the coin. She is one of five honorees who are a part of the American Women Quarters Program for 2024. The program, which began in 2022 and runs until 2025, celebrates the accomplishments and contributions of American women.

DISCRIMINATION

[Family sues fraternity for \\$28M over pledge’s hazing death](#) [*The Associated Press*, 7 February 2023]

*The family of a Virginia Commonwealth University fraternity pledge who died from alcohol poisoning in a 2021 hazing is suing the fraternity for \$28 million. A police investigation found that Adam Oakes, a 19-year-old who had received a bid to the Delta Chi fraternity, was told to drink a large bottle of whiskey in February 2021. The office of the chief medical examiner ruled Oakes’ death was caused by alcohol poisoning. Courtney White, Oakes’ cousin, filed a wrongful death suit naming Delta Chi Fraternity Inc., Delta Chi Educational Foundation and the VCU chapter of Delta Chi on Monday, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* [reported](#).*

[Gov. Tim Walz makes Juneteenth a holiday; bans hair discrimination](#) [*The Associated Press*, 3 February 2023]

The Democratic governor made Minnesota the 26th state to recognize June 19th as a holiday. It's the date in 1865 viewed as the final abolition of slavery in the U.S. even though it came two years after President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. It became a federal holiday in 2021, and many local governments and companies already observe it. Walz also held a ceremonial signing Friday of a bill known as the CROWN Act, which he formally signed Wednesday. It stands for "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair," and explicitly prohibits racial discrimination based on natural hair texture and hairstyles such as braids, locs, and twists.

[Montana bill would let students misgender classmates](#) [Amy Beth Hanson, *The Associated Press*, 9 February 2023]

Montana schools would not be able to punish students who purposely misgender or deadname their transgender peers under a Republican-backed legislative proposal that opponents argue will increase bullying of children who are already struggling for acceptance. The proposal, co-sponsored by more than two dozen GOP lawmakers, would declare that it's not discrimination to use a transgender classmate's legal name or refer to them by their birth gender. Schools would be prevented from adopting policies to punish students who do so.

[State Dept. agrees to pay \\$37M to settle disability discrimination lawsuit](#) [Jory Heckman, *Federal News Network*, 3 February 2023]

The State Department, settling a lawsuit spanning nearly two decades, is easing some restrictions that plaintiffs say unfairly denied Foreign Service jobs to individuals with disabilities. The [department announced in January](#) it reached a settlement in a class-action lawsuit filed more than 16 years ago, which challenged the standard of medical clearance for prospective diplomats to join the Foreign Service. The lawsuit was led by Doering Meyer, a Foreign Service officer with multiple sclerosis who was initially denied a job in the Foreign Service before obtaining a waiver in 2008.

DIVERSITY

[Chicago native makes history, becomes highest-ranking person of color in Illinois National Guard](#) [Evelyn Holmes, *ABC News* 7, 4 February 2023]

It was history in the making as Rodney Boyd became a major general Saturday, making him the highest ranking officer of color in the nearly 300-year history of the Illinois National Guard. "I hope to inspire others that look like me to go out and just do those hard things, but do it with passion," Major General Boyd said. "General Boyd is not here because of the color of his skin, he's here because of his drive. He's here because of abilities as a leader," said Major General Richard Neely, an adjunct general for the State of Illinois.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Connecticut's first LGBTQ-centered school to open later this year](#) [Matt Laviertes, *NBC News*, 4 February 2023]

In September, Patricia Nicolari plans to open a private school in Connecticut that's designed to be an oasis for LGBTQ students. PROUD Academy, which stands for Proudly Respecting Our Unique Differences Academy, will prioritize what Nicolari saw lacking in the U.S. education system: a safe, affirming and bully-free academic environment for LGBTQ students. [Research](#) has long shown that LGBTQ youths suffer from disproportionate rates of bullying and mental health issues.

[First Black female deep-sea diver reflects on her career](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Army Times*, 9 February 2023]

Retired Army Master Sgt. Andrea Motley Crabtree is not afraid to jump over hurdles, or rather, dive head-first into them. The former soldier was the Army's first female deep-sea diver and the first Black female deep-sea diver in service. Crabtree spoke in January at a Martin Luther King Jr. event at Fort Lee, Virginia, recalling just how difficult it was for her to earn the Army diver badge, [according to a recent service release](#).

[Illinois Guard Diversity Leader Fosters Inclusive Culture](#) [Sgt. Trenton Fouche, *Illinois National Guard Public Affairs*, 2 February 2023]

Fort Jackson in South Carolina was a long way from the south side of Chicago where Army Capt. Anthony McClain grew up. The intensity of basic combat training and drill sergeants yelling in his face didn't prepare him to interact with another Soldier one afternoon in the barracks. McClain's bunkmate, a White Soldier from a small town in West Virginia, asked McClain if he could touch his skin. The Soldier had never seen a Black person in real life. The two trainees became good friends, but the experience expanded McClain's cultural awareness and understanding of diversity. Twenty-seven years later, McClain serves as the Illinois National Guard director of diversity and inclusion.

[Legacy of Navy's first Black deep sea diver is lesson in determination: "It is not a sin to get knocked down"](#) [Caitlyn Burchett, *The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, Va.)*, 7 February 2023]

"In the words of my father, it is not a sin to get knocked down. It is a sin to stay down," said Phillip Brashear, son of the late Master Chief Carl Brashear, the Navy's first Black deep sea diver. Phillip Brashear detailed his father's unyielding determination with the crew of the USS Iwo Jima on Tuesday at Redeemer Church in Chesapeake in honor of Black History Month. Five obstacles, Brashear said, were stacked against his father—racism, poverty, illiteracy, disability and later in life, alcoholism. "But this story is not just meant for Black History Month. This story is universal for 12 months of the year. ... This is about taking things you could complain about and make the best of it," Brashear said to the packed room.

[Rep. Ro Khanna will be the first Indian American to chair the Congressional India Caucus](#) [Sakshi Venkatraman, *NBC News*, 6 February 2023]

Rep. Ro Khanna will be the next chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, he told NBC News in an exclusive interview last week. Khanna, a Democrat who has been representing California's 17th Congressional District since 2017, is the first Indian American to helm the bipartisan caucus.

[Sisters on Deployment](#) [Seaman Nicholas Avis, *U.S. Navy News Service*, 10 February 2023]

On Nov. 13, 1942, during the Battle of Guadalcanal, the light cruiser USS Juneau (CL-52) was struck by a Japanese torpedo causing the ship to sink. Among the Sailors that lost their lives that day were the five Sullivan brothers. Since then, siblings are rarely assigned to the same ship, but Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Ariana Aguirre and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 2nd Class Angelica Aguirre experienced that rare opportunity. Both, from Phoenix, never imagined being stationed on the same base, let alone at same command. Angelica was already assigned to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) for a year and a half before Ariana discovered she would be too.

EXTREMISM

[El Paso massacre suspect expected to plead guilty to federal hate crimes](#) [Brad Brooks, *Reuters*, 8 February 2023]

A Texas man accused of targeting Latinos during a 2019 massacre that left 23 people dead at an El Paso Walmart store is expected to plead guilty on Wednesday to federal hate crimes. Federal prosecutors say Crusius drove 11 hours to El Paso, on the U.S. border with Mexico, from his home in a suburb near Dallas, on Aug. 3, 2019, and fired at shoppers with an AK-47 rifle inside the Walmart store. He surrendered to officers who confronted him outside. A racist manifesto that prosecutors say was posted online by Crusius on 8chan, a now-defunct message board often used by extremists, said the Walmart attack was “a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas.”

[Man who carried a Confederate flag in the Capitol on Jan. 6 is sentenced to 3 years](#) [Daniel Barnes, *NBC News*, 9 February 2023]

A Delaware man who carried a Confederate flag through the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot was sentenced to three years in prison on Thursday. Kevin Seefried, 53, was convicted on five charges stemming from his participation in the riot, including obstruction of an official proceeding—the joint session of Congress that was working to certify the Electoral College vote that day. The government had sought a 70-month sentence for Seefried, while his lawyers asked for one year in prison.

[Marine veteran gets 5 years for assaulting police at Capitol riot](#) [Irene Loewenson, *Marine Corps Times*, 5 February 2023]

A Marine veteran is being sent to prison for more than five years for spraying a chemical irritant at police outside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Daniel Ray Caldwell, 51, of The Colony, Texas, was sentenced Wednesday to 68 months in prison, according to a Thursday news release from the District of Columbia’s U.S. Attorney’s Office. Caldwell pleaded guilty in September 2022 to assaulting law enforcement officers with a dangerous weapon.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Here’s why you should make a habit of having more fun](#) [April Fulton, *NPR*, 4 February 2023]

When was the last time you flew too high on a swing and lost your stomach, or busted out laughing so hard that you started crying? If it’s been awhile since you’ve had this kind of fun, you’re not alone. A lot of us are still recovering from antisocial habits formed in the pandemic. And these days, events outside of our control are taking a serious toll on our health. Last fall, 76% of adults [surveyed by the American Psychological Association](#) said stress from politics, race relations, violence and inflation has affected their health. They report experiencing headaches, fatigue, depression, nervousness and exhaustion.

[The stigma of the stay-at-home-dad](#) [Amanda Ruggeri, *BBC News*, 9 February 2023]

“I’m a stay-at-home dad,” says the Ohio, U.S.-based 52-year-old, who worked in branding and product development for 30 years before he began staying home with his children in 2020. “But I don’t think I would ever tell anybody that, or introduce myself that way,” he adds. Stay-at-home dads like Steven Lange are becoming more common. In the U.S., for example, the [number nearly doubled from 1989 to 2012](#). But they’re still relatively unusual. Of U.S. families with opposite-sex, married parents, [5.6% have working mothers and non-working fathers](#), compared to the 28.6% with working fathers and non-working mothers.

INTERNATIONAL

[This fan has shaped anti-discrimination policy in Australian cricket after alleging racial abuse at a match](#)

[George Ramsay, CNN, 9 February 2023]

Two years after alleging he was racially abused at a cricket match, an Indian fan has had a hand in shaping how the sport tackles discrimination in Australia. Krishna Kumar was attending the third day of the 2021 test match between Australia and India at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) when he heard chants of “curry munchers” aimed at Indian players and fans. He returned to the SCG on the fifth day of the test, when, he says, he was racially profiled by security staff. According to Kumar, that included being told to “go back to where you came from” by a member of staff who was examining the anti-racism banners he had hoped to take into the ground.

MISCELLANEOUS

[The Free Black Minuteman Recognized for Gallantry at the Battle of Bunker Hill](#)

[Blake Stilwell, Military.com, 10 February 2023]

Salem Poor was born into slavery in Andover, Massachusetts Bay Colony, around 1747. He would earn enough money to purchase his freedom at age 22, paying £27 for himself, the U.S. equivalent of more than \$7,600 in 2023. In 1775, Poor was among the first Massachusetts men to join a militia as a “Minuteman,” able to respond to British aggression at a moment’s notice. During the 1775-76 Siege of Boston, American patriots were trying to keep the British Army bottled up in the city and impede its resupply by sea. On the third assault, the colonials were finally overwhelmed. British Lt. Col. James Abercrombie, leading British grenadiers, climbed atop the fortification and shouted, “Surrender, you rebels!” Abercrombie fell a second later, shot and mortally wounded by a musket round. The shot came from the weapon of Salem Poor, a free Black man.

[New England’s role in Frederick Douglass’ first steps to freedom](#)

[Pamela Watts and Alison Thoet, PBS News, 7 February 2023] [AUDIO WITH TRANSCRIPT]

When Frederick Douglass escaped slavery he was aided by friends in the daring and dangerous getaway. He went from being on the run to becoming one of the most influential Americans of the 19th century. Pamela Watts of Rhode Island PBS Weekly has Douglass’ story as he took his first steps to freedom.

[W.E.B. Du Bois, Black History Month and the importance of African American studies](#)

[Chad Williams, The Conversation, 7 February 2023] [COMMENTARY]

As one of the founders of the NAACP in 1909 and the editor of its powerful magazine The Crisis, Du Bois is considered by historians and intellectuals from many academic disciplines as America’s preeminent thinker on race. His thoughts and opinions still carry weight throughout the world. Du Bois’ words in that 1951 article are especially prescient today, offering a reminder about the importance of Black History Month and what is at stake in current conversations about African American studies.

[White House Looks to Shore up Public Trust in Government Websites](#)

[Chris Riotta, NextGov, 9 February 2023]

A White House memorandum issued Wednesday instructs federal agencies to use government domain names for official communications and to make domain names “memorable” for everyday users. The

new [memo](#) is designed to bring agencies in compliance with the DOTGOV act, which passed as part of the fiscal year 2021 appropriations package.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Will more minority veterans receive the Medal of Honor?](#) [Rachael Riley, *Military Times*, 6 February 2023]

For some minority veterans, it's taken acts of Congress to get recognized. According to the Congressional Medal Society, of the 3,515 recipients, 93 are Black; 59 are Hispanic or Latino; 35 are Asian or Pacific Islander; 33 are Native American; and 18 are Jewish. In August 2021, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin issued a directive for the secretaries of the military departments to review cross medals awarded to Black and Native American veterans to determine if the veterans' actions "warrant the award of the Medal of Honor." The reviews are due August 2026.

RACISM

[Black students are less likely to attain college degrees because of discrimination and external responsibilities, study finds](#) [Jalen Brown, *CNN*, 9 February 2023]

Black college students have lower six-year completion rates for any type of degree or certificate program than any other racial or ethnic group because of racial discrimination, the high cost of higher education and a multitude of external responsibilities, according to a [new Lumina Foundation-Gallup 2023 State of Higher Education study](#). The study, released on Thursday, found that Black students in less racially diverse programs are more likely to feel discriminated against, physically and psychologically unsafe, and disrespected, leading them to abandon their higher education goals.

[Boston appoints members to its new Reparations Task Force](#) [Uwa Ede-Osifo, *NBC News*, 9 February 2023]

The city of Boston announced Wednesday the appointment of 10 members to its newly formed Reparations Task Force. The announcement follows a formal apology, issued in June 2022, for Boston's role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and a unanimous City Council decision to create a commission to work on reparations recommendations. A [2015 study](#) found that the median net worth of Black households in Boston was \$8, in comparison to nearly \$250,000 for White households, owing to discriminatory city policies and practices that erected barriers to wealth-building opportunities such as homeownership for non-White communities.

[Videos depicting racist stereotypes prompt demands for Colorado councilman to resign](#) [Deon J. Hampton, *NBC News*, 9 February 2023]

A White city councilman is rebuffing calls to resign for using racial and religious stereotypes to portray Muslim, Latino, Black and Asian people on videos intended to promote his sports bar. Steve Sundberg posted the videos to the Facebook page of Legends of Aurora Sports Grill in 2020, but they only caught the attention of leaders and advocacy groups in December. "He feels like he's above reproach," said Aurora City Councilman Juan Marciano, who is Latino and thinks Sundberg should resign. "I grew up with people like this, they think that racism is humor. When people show you who they are, believe them."

RELIGION

[Church of England explores gender neutral God](#) [Muvija M, Reuters, 8 February 2023]

The Church of England will look into the use of gender-neutral terms to refer to God in prayers, but the centuries-old institution said on Wednesday there were no plans to abolish current services. The issue reflects growing global awareness about the assumed usage of pronouns causing offence or upset to those who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. “Christians have recognised since ancient times that God is neither male nor female,” a spokesperson for the Church said. “Yet the variety of ways of addressing and describing God found in scripture has not always been reflected in our worship.”

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Navy captain accused of putting erotic images of woman on phony social media pages](#) [Stars and Stripes, 7 February 2023]

A San Diego-based Navy officer with more than 30 years’ service is charged with stalking a woman online by setting up fake social media accounts under her name and posting sexually explicit photos and video to one of them. Capt. Theodore Essensfeld, 51, was arraigned Monday in federal court on a charge of cyberstalking, according to a statement issued the same day by the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California. “The indictment alleges a disturbing campaign of betrayed trust, harassment and intimidation,” U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman said in the statement.

SUICIDE

[A Navy Command Tries Radical Transparency to Help Prevent the Next Suicide](#) [Konstantin Toropin, Military.com, 8 February 2023]

At Naval Station Mayport, Florida, a commander didn’t want his unit—a regional maintenance center very similar to the one in Norfolk, Virginia, that recently experienced a string of suicides—to become the next headline. What resulted was a proactive forum built on transparency that reportedly got rave reviews from sailors and may have sparked a trend at the small base.

[“When They Came Home They Were on Their Own”—National Guard Grapples With Suicide Rate](#) [Lara Salahi, The War Horse, 2 February 2023]

Editor’s Note: This is the first story in a multipart series.

The mission started out rough for the 182nd’s four companies, which were spread out across Afghanistan. Some soldiers saw combat from the moment they arrived in country. One platoon spent its first day in theater helping with the aftermath of a battle that left dozens wounded and dead. The guardsmen faced all of the issues of active-duty service members returning from deployment, but their squad leaders didn’t see them at each morning formation. Their platoon sergeants couldn’t recommend military services specific to each individual because they couldn’t determine the needs. And their brothers-in-arms weren’t there daily to put things in perspective.

VETERANS

[Atlanta veteran receives medal as one of nation’s first Black Marines](#) [Nancy Clanton, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 9 February 2023]

The Montford Point Marines were the first Black men to enlist after President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1941 executive order banned the exclusion of African Americans from military service. One of those

Marines was Atlanta resident Sgt. Lee Raymond Shelton. On Wednesday evening, Shelton finally received recognition for his part in helping to desegregate the armed forces. In November 2011, then-President Barack Obama signed a law awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Lauderhill man, 101 honored for his service as one of the first Black Marines](#) [Spencer Norris, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.), 6 February 2023]

Cpl. George Johnson, one of the first Black Marines, drew applause from the crowd Monday as the 101-year-old was honored for receiving the nation's highest civilian award. Johnson, of Lauderhill, served as a military policeman during the World War II era, and was briefly deployed in the Pacific during the conflict's immediate aftermath. He is one of the Montford Point Marines, the first Black members of the Corps. On Monday, he was recognized as a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal at a gathering at the Fort Lauderdale African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, where he drew cheers from about 200 attendees.

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

[Registration for Veterans Wheelchair Games opens Feb. 1](#) [VA News Service, 1 February 2023]

VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America will host the 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Portland, July 4-9, 2023. Eligible Veterans interested in competing may [submit applications](#) from Feb. 1 until April 2. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is a sports and rehabilitation program for military Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations or other neurological conditions.

[White House Initiative Leaves Deported Veterans in Limbo](#) [Kristian Hernández, *The Center for Public Integrity*, 3 February 2023]

Hundreds, if not thousands, of foreign-born U.S. military veterans convicted of crimes have been deported. Despite President Joe Biden's promise to bring them back, only about 50 veterans, including Marcelino Ramos, have returned under a [2021 executive order](#). The order created the Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative, which aims to consolidate all federal resources available to support noncitizen veterans, active service members and their families.

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