

SITREP

EDITION 28 | AUGUST 2023



STARRS



They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

ISAIAH 40:31





Update from the President

By Dr. Ronald J. Scott, Jr., Colonel, USAF, Retired, USAFA '73
STARRS President and CEO

A lot has happened since our last SITREP published in April 2023. I'll cover some highlights in my update; more details will be presented in other parts of the SITREP.

As members of STARRS attempt to educate the public on the ideological radicalism that afflicts our institutions, especially our Department of Defense, we insist that there be a common understanding of the difference between a political philosophy and partisan politics (see our [press release](#)).

Here is the dilemma. STARRS has been accused of being political when members of the military are supposed to be apolitical.

For example, to call out the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) industry as an ideological threat to our Constitutional Republic is derided as political and should therefore be shamed. Yet, DEI in itself is political and has politi-

cized the military. By advocating for its removal, we are actually advocating to returning to an apolitical military.

This said, the Constitution we all swore to support and defend is a political document. It embraces a political philosophy known as classical liberalism with an emphasis on individual liberty.

The DEI effort is a political movement underwritten by a Marxist political philosophy, Critical Race Theory (CRT), which emphasizes collective freedom (within political identity groups). Neo-Marxism in the form of CRT advances class warfare between oppressors and the oppressed, as opposed to the classical bourgeois and proletariat classes.

In an effort to "educate" members of "the long blue line," Lt Gen Rod Bishop (USAF, Retired), STARRS Board Chairman, and I gave a [presentation to the](#)

[USAF Academy Association of Graduates \(AOG\) Board of Directors](#) on May 12, 2023.

Several recommendations were presented to promote a "professional dialogue" among graduates to ensure compliance with the AOG's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The board provided no response. The "institutional silence" speaks volumes.

STARRS held its first Town Hall meeting on June 15. It was well attended and a great opportunity to have a conversation with American patriots devoted to preserving our Constitutional Republic. Stay tuned for the next one in September.

At the STARRS annual board meeting on June 16, 2023, three more experts were added to the Board of Advisors: **Dr. Carol Greenwald, Dr. Gregory Salsbury, Chaplain (COL) Alexander F. C. Webster, USA (Ret.)**. We are blessed to have their support and leadership in carrying out the STARRS mission. For more on their background, visit our [BofA webpage](#).

Also, at the June 16, 2023, Board meeting, Chairman's Group retired USAF Col



E Pluribus Unum –
Unity is America's Strength

Wake Up, Stand Up, Speak Up and Never Give Up!

ABOUT US

STARRS (Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism in the Services) is a group of retired military members and patriots who educate our fellow Americans on the dangers of racist and radical Marxist DEI/CRT ideologies infiltrating our military in order to eliminate these divisive influences and maintain a unified and cohesive fighting force, one based on MERIT and ability, not appearances or labels.

HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION

With your help, we can drive radical politics out of the military and restore our citizen soldiers to their primary purpose: to defend our Constitution and protect the American people. Donate easily and securely online via our website, STARRS.US. We are a 501(c)3 organization.

STARRS.US

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Sign Up!

**Support the Mission
DONATE**



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Thank you!

Tracey Meck's position paper opposing the [DoD's policy on enabling abortion](#) implemented by President Biden was presented and approved. Since then the House has advanced an amendment overturning the policy in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act.

Facilitated by Board Chair Lt Gen Bishop, the *Washington Examiner* published numerous op-eds on Wokeness in the military, June 19-23. For more information and links see the "Our Educational Mission in Action" section.

On June 22, Arizona Women of Action hosted an event in Scottsdale, AZ where former Space Force **Lt Col Matt Lohmeier** and I shared the stage to [educate attendees on the CRT/DEI ideology](#). While the speakers and topic were

known in advance, many in attendance were learning about the "details" of CRT/DEI for the first time. A common question asked, "what can/should we do?" We emphasized the importance of not being silent—rather, to find a way to make our voices heard whether in newspaper op-eds, letters to the editor, letters to elected officials, attending school board hearings and so forth. We also cautioned that there is no need to be hateful or contemptuous when responding to hateful or contemptuous attacks. Facts matter.

In early July, Judicial Watch received another production of records stemming from their lawsuit on behalf of STARRS Freedom of Information Act requests (which had been stonewalled for

over two years)—see their [press release and embedded links to documents](#).

Finally, STARRS leaders sent an [open letter to Senator Jack Reed](#), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) supporting **Elaine Donnelly**, President of the Center for Military Readiness' letter regarding Gen Brown's nomination for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and issued a separate STARRS open letter to the SASC on Gen Brown's nomination.

We appreciate the support we receive from those who follow our efforts. Your donations have allowed us to expand our educational efforts and we are grateful for your generosity. ♦

Service Academy Superintendents Testify to Congress

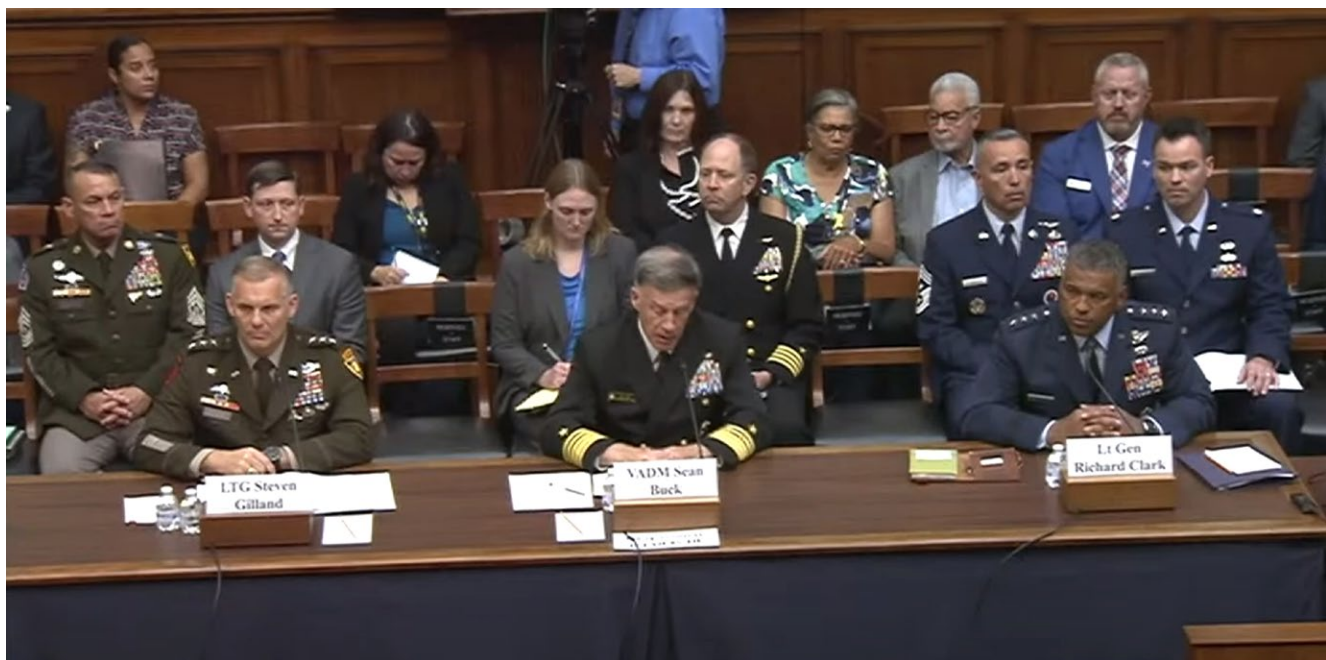
By Rod Bishop, USAF, Lt Gen (Ret), STARRS Chairman of the Board, USAFA '74

On 19 July, The Superintendents of the Army, Navy and Air Force Academies testified before the US House Armed Services Committee regarding academy admissions, curriculum, and diversity polls at the academies.

[During the two-hour hearing](#) a large number of the points that cadets, midshipmen and parents have expressed to STARRS (and which we passed on to members of the committee) made it into the script and questioning.

Although there are key points and evidence throughout the hearing, I suggest you at least take the time to watch the comments of Rep Cory Mills in a segment that runs from 2:06:30 to 2:08:10. ♦

Superintendents of West Point, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy testify on Capitol Hill. Click photo to go to watch the hearing.



Meritocracy Campaign Update

By Joe Arbuckle, MG, USA (Ret), STARRS Vice Chairman of the Board
and Scott McQuarrie, President, Veterans for Fairness and Merit, USMA '72



Our meritocracy campaign did not develop into a formal plan; rather, it evolved into a loosely held but effective series of coordinated, overlapping actions on many fronts.

The overall goal is to eliminate all aspects of CRT/DEI in the military, including funding for such current programs. This means placing language in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) prohibiting DEI and restoring DoD's merit-based leadership and management systems.

STARRS provided data and information that helped the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) develop an extremely good NDAA version which includes language to eliminate funding for Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) offices and personnel, and to require the military to use meritocracy-based systems. In addition, there is language to require the use of standardized testing scores in the service academy selection process, supporting meritocracy. After adopting some amendments it (HR 2670) narrowly passed on the House floor on 14 July.

The full Senate approved its version (S. 2226) on July 27. This version does not include the anti-DEI and pro-merit provisions that are in the House version.

No date has been set for convening a House - Senate conference committee

(if regular order will be followed, and it has not been followed in recent years in the case of the NDAA). A conference committee would try to reach a compromise bill that could pass both the House and Senate.

This year, the differences between the House and Senate versions are unusually pronounced. Significant compromises would be necessary in order to arrive at a bill that could pass both the Republican-controlled House and Democrat-controlled Senate. Also, the White House has said it will be unyielding on some provisions of the House bill (e.g., prohibitions on abortion funding, transgender health care, and DEI).

It is very unlikely that the current Senate would approve a bill that defunds or otherwise prohibits DEI in the military,

for example. The Senate (the majority of which unwaveringly supports DEI) might go along with a modest cap on DEI funding or positions, but the impact of any such provision would likely be minimal.

It would be more realistic to hope that a conference committee could agree upon measures that address such things as the service academies being required to continue using standardized test scores in admissions (currently in both HR 2670 and S. 2226, so likely to

survive in some form, but the current version needs strengthening); a modest "merit" proposal like that found in Sec 535(d) of S. 2226 (but which effectively only codifies an existing DoD Instruction that is routinely ignored by DoD, so needs strengthening); and perhaps some limitation on the consideration of race in service academy admissions (currently in H.R. 2670).

Some actions taken and/or supported by STARRS:

- [23 June open letter](#) addressed to Sen Reed, SASC chairman addressing DEI.

- Supported [Flag Officers For America \(FO4A\) letter](#) signed by 180 (five more signed since release) retired generals and admirals addressed to the House leadership requesting all aspects of DEI be removed from the military and the return of the military to a meritocracy-based system.

- STARRS leadership worked closely with **Elaine Donnelly**, President, Center for Military Readiness, to pool our efforts in urging congressional members to take action against DEI and for meritocracy in the NDAA.

- Coordinated with the LTC (ret) and former congressman **Allen West** in his role as executive director of the Committee to Support and Defend. Allen posted a companion letter to FO4A on his website and visited the Hill/SASC with his message against DEI and for meritocracy.



A STARRS supporter and key member of the meritocracy campaign, **Scott McQuarrie**, has been very effective in offering legal analysis of the various amendments in the NDAA regarding meritocracy and DEI.

Both the STARRS chairman and president have had numerous communications with congressional members and their staffs seeking support to return the military focus solely on readiness, remove DEI from the military, and fully implement meritocracy.

KEY POINT: It is important to **CONTACT CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS**, especially as the Senate is working to finalize its NDAA package, to show support for meritocracy and the removal of DEI in the NDAA language.

STARRS leadership has coordinated with unofficial service academy alumni groups from West Point, The Naval Academy, and VMI to pool our efforts regarding meritocracy, etc. ✦

ABILITY NOT APPEARANCE
UNITY NOT DIVISION
SERVICE NOT SELF



Law Activities of STARRS and STARRS Affiliated Attorneys

By Mike Rose, STARRS Executive Vice President, General Counsel, USAFA '69



Here is an update of legal actions in which STARRS and/or STARRS affiliated attorneys have participated recently:

1. **Students for Fair Admissions vs Harvard College.** The US Supreme Court struck down the race-based admissions practices of Harvard and University of North Carolina as violations of the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. STARRS signed and recruited signers for an amicus curiae brief which was filed with the US Supreme Court opposing affirmative action in the military. However, the applicability to service academies was not decided, but left for future litigation. This complex and far-reaching ruling will be discussed in this newsletter by West Point graduate attorney **Claude M. McQuarrie III**.

2. **Judicial Watch vs DoD**, US District Court, District of Columbia. Having filed a Freedom of Information Act

lawsuit on behalf of STARRS, Judicial Watch finally obtained 478 pages of records from the Air Force Academy, including instructions, materials, and emails regarding Critical Race Theory, "white privilege," and Black Lives Matter. For more information see the press release entitled "[Judicial Watch: Records Show Air Force Academy Instructional Materials Include Presentations on Critical Race Theory, White Privilege, and Black Lives Matter, and Attacks American 'Creation Myth' of the Declaration of Independence.](#)"

3. **Stirrup vs Biden**, US District Court, District of Columbia. STARRS General Counsel **Mike Rose** initiated and is an attorney of record for this lawsuit regarding DoD's suspension of the academies' Boards of Visitors (BOVs), dismissal of Trump appointed BOV members, and the "packing" of BOV

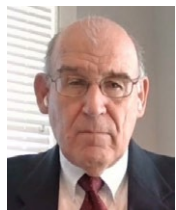
subcommittees with non-BOV members. The lawsuit contends that these actions dilute Congressional oversight as required by statute. For complicated reasons the case was dismissed on 21 March 2023. An appeal has been submitted to the United States Court of Appeals and is currently pending.

4. **Clements vs Austin**, US District Court, District of South Carolina. STARRS afflicted lawyers, working pro bono, challenged legality of the military COVID vaccine mandate. The lawsuit was dismissed because the claims and relief were rendered moot by the adoption of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which directed the Secretary of Defense to rescind the Vaccine Mandate Order."

As yet, no judge has ruled on the legality of the the vaccine mandate in the military. ✦

Supreme Court Decides SFFA v. Harvard/UNC

By Scott McQuarrie, President, Veterans for Fairness and Merit, USMA '72



The Supreme Court issued its landmark decision in *Students for Fair Admissions vs Harvard/UNC* on June 29. The Court effectively

ended the use of race-based preferences in college admissions. Chief Justice Roberts wrote the 6-3 majority opinion, joined by Justices Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Barrett. Justices Sotomayor, Kagan and Jackson dissented. Fair

The 40-page majority opinion ruled Harvard's and UNC's admissions programs violate the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause ("EPC"), (no State shall "deny to any person ... the equal protection of the laws").

The majority's ruling returns to the EPC's foundational principle of prohibiting distinctions of law based on race or color and reiterates that the "core purpose" of the EPC is to "do away with all governmentally-imposed discrimination based on race."

The Court found the schools' admissions programs lack sufficiently focused and measurable objectives warranting the use of race, unavoidably employ race in a negative manner, involve racial stereotyping, and lack meaningful end points, thus failing to satisfy precedential requirements.

The Chief Justice memorably wrote: *"Eliminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it."* He added that the EPC applies "without regard to any differences of race, of color, or of nationality," that it is "universal in application,"

and that it "cannot mean one thing when applied to one individual and something else when applied to a person of another color."

Footnote 4 of the majority opinion said:

"The United States as amicus curiae contends that race-based admissions programs further compelling interests at our Nation's military academies. No military academy is a party to these cases, however, and none of the courts below addressed the propriety of race-based admissions systems in that context. This opinion also does not address the issue, in light of the potentially distinct interests that military academies may present."

A dissenting opinion characterized this as a carveout of the military academies, which some commentators claimed meant that the academies are "exempt" from the ruling.

But as the footnote observed, the academies were not parties, so the lower courts had not adjudicated their claim of a "distinct," compelling interest. Thus, the Court did not decide whether the academies could prove an interest sufficient to justify suspending enforcement of constitutional equal protection.

DoD is evaluating how the principles stated in the opinion would apply if litigation were brought against the service academies and the facts of the academies' admissions programs' use of racial preferences (which are not well known) were aired and evaluated.

If Harvard/UNC principles were used, it should be difficult for the service academies' admissions practices to survive "strict scrutiny" and be found constitutional.

Among other things, DoD would have to persuade the court to rule, for the first time ever, that "racial balancing" (the core principle underlying DoD's admission practices) is a legitimate use of

"Eliminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it."

racial preferences and so necessary as to justify constitutional non-compliance, i.e., that achieving officer-enlisted (or

officer-population) racial balance serves a compelling government interest. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held (and did so in Harvard/UNC) that racial balancing is "patently unconstitutional" and cannot be salvaged by labelling it "diversity."

It is an immutable fact that our success as a nation requires our unity, from which comes our strength. We must be resourceful in finding ways to restore that sense of unity among us and resist tribalization.

What unites us first and foremost, without variation, is our common "rule-book"—our Constitution and respect for the Rule of Law, a concept the essential importance of which we must never forget. Polling shows the vast majority of Americans support the decision, which is reassuring. ♦

West Point Graduates Form The MacArthur Society

By John Hughes, MD, USMA 1996, President, MacArthur Society of West Point Graduates



On June 6th, 2023, the founding board members of the MacArthur Society of West Point Graduates voted to form as an organization and soon after approved bylaws to govern the organization. The society's mission is:

"To preserve, defend, and advocate for West Point's history, purpose, and principles of Duty, Honor, Country."

As an amateur military historian, the date was not lost on me. On that date in 1944, my grandfathers fought in General Dwight D. Eisenhower's invasion of France.

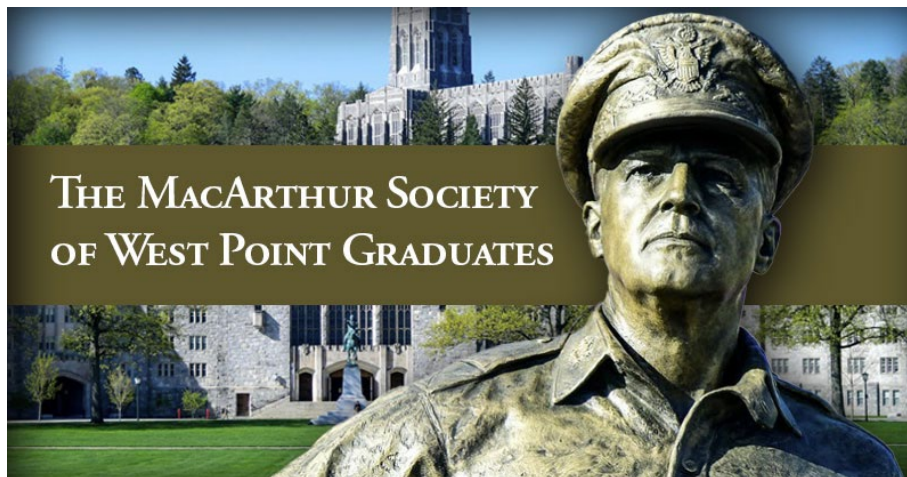
One, a Virginia Military Institute (VMI) Class of 1942 grad, parachuted into Normandy with the 82nd Airborne Division. The other, a United States Military Academy (USMA) Class of 1940 grad, flew B-24 bombers overhead to help isolate the beachhead from German reinforcements.

The collective efforts of the Greatest Generation carried the day and, within a year, victory was achieved in Europe.

Fast forward 79 years. The US military hasn't won a major war since 1945.

Less than two years has passed since the debacle in Afghanistan and the services are struggling to meet recruiting goals due to self-inflicted issues ranging from COVID mandates to Critical Race Theory, DEI and identity politics.

Sadly, USMA (and VMI) have suffered mightily as the 'downstream' effects of the Department of Defense's disastrous policies have plagued America's once



hallowed commissioning institutions.

It is true that senior leaders at West Point cannot completely disregard higher echelon mandates, no matter how ill-conceived they are. However, recent Superintendents have on their own accord steered West Point away from its foundational and honorable original mission resulting in the following disturbing trends:

- Honor scandals
- Drug rings
- Stonewalling of Freedom of Information Act Requests
- Elevation of football records above its *raison d'être* to commission the best officers
- Denial and simultaneous defense of Critical Race Theory indoctrination

And this is only the half of it...

The West Point Association of Graduates (AOG) was founded in 1869 to unite graduates from opposing sides of the Civil War. Later, it existed to serve graduates.

Intuitively, it should be trumpeting the values of Duty, Honor, Country that were carefully picked to guide

the academy and its Long Gray Line. Instead, it has become a vacuum to suck money out of graduates to fund sports teams and contribute to other projects at West Point. Graduates who voice concerns are discouraged from speaking out in its various forums,

and the AOG provides talking points to counter accusations of 'Wokeness' at West Point. Unless graduates have eight figures to donate, they are ignored by West Point and the AOG.

MacArthur Society founders have had enough of the AOG and of the current strategic direction West Point's leadership has chosen.

Like STARRS, our loyalty lies with the institution and its principles, not to any individuals. West Point graduates sharing similar concerns are invited to join us. Check out our website and sign up at:

<https://westpointmacarthur.wixsite.com/macarthur-society>

Together, we "choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong." We owe nothing less to current cadets, the Long Gray Line, and our country. ★



Marxism (or Neo-Marxism) in America

By Dr. Ronald J. Scott, Jr., Colonel, USAF, Retired, USAFA '73, STARRS President and CEO



On January 10, 1963, Representative A.S. Herlong, Jr. (D-FL) entered into *The Congressional Record*, "[Communist Current Goals](#)" [in America]. These 45 goals were derived by Cleon Skousen and published in his book, *The Naked Communist*, in 1958.

Skousen had a Ph.D. in political science and served with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for 16 years—long enough to grasp the extent of Communist infiltration in America.

How many goals have been achieved? An [article by PJ Media](#) suggests about a third have been achieved and several others are well on their way.

Some goals have greater impact in fundamentally transforming America's governing system. Communist Goal number 15: "Capture one or both of the political parties in America," appears to be happening in plain sight as recently as the 2018 midterm elections.

The head of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), John Bachtell "spiked the football" in taking credit for generating the millions of votes needed to advance Democrat candidates. He described the CPUSA 50/3000 model in a [Nov 2018 CPUSA article](#).

STARRS leaders passed our concerns to Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee in a [June 2023 open letter](#). There has been no response.

Not surprising, Skousen's superior, Director J. Edgar Hoover, published his own book on the subject, *Masters of Deceit*, in 1958. Perhaps the most important thing about this book is less about

Communist goals, but more so about the motivation (social justice) and seductiveness (doing something good for others) of the recruiting. For example, most—fellow travelers and sympathizers (dupes/useful idiots)—have no idea they are doing the bidding of Communist organizers.

Sadly, too many Americans have been seduced into doing Marxist organizer actions, such as on behalf of BLM (founded by Marxists Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi) and ANTIFA riots in the summer of 2020.

Speaking of being duped, [The Federalist reports](#) that BLM seduced the corporate community to donate \$83 billion to their cause—as much as the US has sent to Ukraine in its defense against Russia.

More recently, Mikki Willis, a former fellow traveler (and enthusiastic champion for a presidential campaign) started asking questions about political ideology—that is, his candidate's proclaimed democratic socialism. The answers converted him away from a Marxist ideology disguised as "democratic socialism."

The answers were so disturbing that Willis put together a documentary to educate fellow Americans: "[The Great Awakening: A Documentary Experience About the State and Fate of America](#)."

For those who have followed the STARRS mission, the documentary provides solid evidence to support concerns about the ideological threat to America's Constitutional Republic. Education is a good thing. It is an antidote to dangerous ideology. ✨



INCLUDE:

Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers' associations.

Infiltrate the press. Get control of editorial writing, policymaking positions.

Gain control of key positions in radio, TV, and motion pictures.

Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and TV.

Infiltrate the churches and replace revealed religion with "social" religion.

Discredit the American Constitution by calling it inadequate, old-fashioned, out of step with modern needs, a hindrance to cooperation between nations on a worldwide basis.

Discredit the American Founding Fathers. Present them as selfish aristocrats who had no concern for the "common man."

Belittle all forms of American culture and discourage the teaching of American history.

Support any socialist movement to give centralized control over any part of the culture—education, social agencies, welfare programs, mental health clinics, etc.

Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity and easy divorce.

Emphasize the need to raise children away from the negative influence of parents.

Create the impression that violence and insurrection are legitimate aspects of the American tradition; that students and special-interest groups should rise up and use united force to solve economic, political or social problems.

Infiltrate and gain control of big business.

The USAA's Embrace of Wokeness is a Betrayal of its Military Members

By Dr Scott Sturman, MD, STARRS Board of Advisors, USAFA '72



Since 1922, the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) has provided banking and insurance products and services exclusively to members of America's military, its veterans, and their families. The company serves 13 million clients and ranks No. 96 on the Fortune 500 list.

However, since Wayne Peacock became USAA's president and CEO in 2020 — the first non-veteran to serve in this role — the company has embraced corporate activism to the detriment of its standards and the well-being of its members.

The company's overt and unapologetic support of DEI is at odds with traditional military values such as patriotism, elite character, merit, service, and unity.

By embracing neo-Marxist ideology, USAA is risking losing the brand value established over generations and is betraying the deeply held values of all who risked everything to protect the US and world from the tyranny of Marxism and communism; the very group of people they have built their company to serve. [Read the rest of Scott's full Washington Examiner article.](#)

Related information: Since the writing of Scott's article, STARRS has come across information regarding the impact of the new CEO's policies (*San Antonio Express News* and *KSAT* articles).

For the first time in a hundred years, USAA reported a net loss for 2022; to the tune of \$1.3 billion! Additionally, its net worth declined dramatically from \$40.1 billion in 2021 to \$27.4 billion in 2022. USAA blames many factors impacting the general national financial health.

Is that the whole story, or has the new CEO's changes in priorities had an impact?

For example, Scott reported in the WE article that in 2020 USAA announced a three-year \$50M commitment to advance racial equality in low-income military areas and communities of color across the country.

The San Antonio Report added additional reasons for concern about USAA's priorities and business practices in a May 4, 2023 article. They reported that in recent

years investment returns declined by 44 percent; insurance premiums were raised; and USAA was fined \$140M for willful violations of the Bank Security Act, \$85M for unsound banking practices (2020), and \$15.5M due to neglecting stop-payment requests and reopening accounts without customer consent and other claims (2019 - pre-Peacock).

In recognition of his "accomplishments," CEO Peacock's annual compensation rose from \$1.9M in 2021 to \$4.8M in 2022, a 252 percent increase. ★



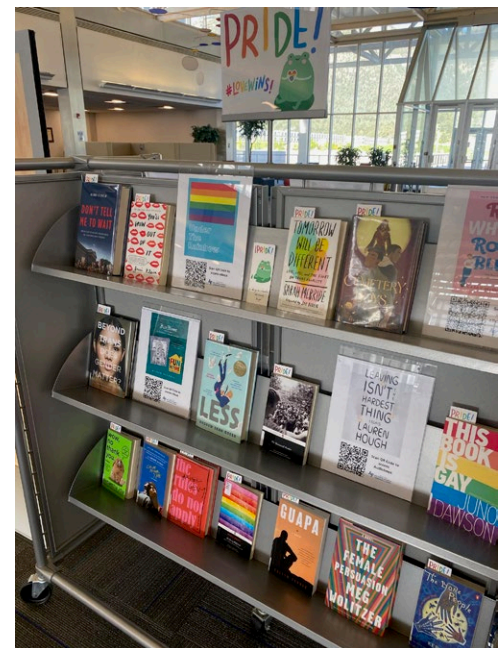
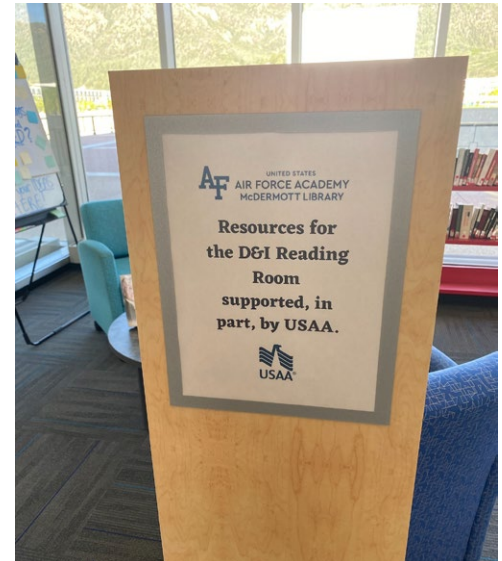
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

USAA is committed to fostering and preserving a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. The collective sum of individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, backgrounds, unique capabilities and skills represent a significant part of our culture, reputation and ability to accomplish our mission. At USAA, we embrace diversity and work to foster a culture of inclusion and belonging where all employees have the opportunity to reach their full potential. DEI is a strategic imperative and woven into our core values and The USAA Standard to promote conditions for success and to encourage diverse perspectives, innovation and bold ideas.

At USAA, we create an inclusive culture when we respect the talents and abilities of others. We do not discriminate based on legally protected characteristics such as race, sex, gender identity/sexuality, age, religion, national origin, disability or veteran status. Our employees are empowered to leverage their unique abilities and talents and recognized as valuable members of the teams that they serve in.

We reinforce our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by:

- Ensuring our employment practices are fair and ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to obtain or advance their careers based on merit.
- Treating everyone we work with at USAA, our members and our community at large with the utmost respect and dignity.
- Ensuring that our workplace is collaborative and that we encourage diversity of thoughts, ideas and perspectives, as well as healthy challenges.
- Maintaining the principles of equal employment opportunities and adherence to the laws relating to non-discrimination and fair employment practices.
- Employing enterprise-wide proactive programs, initiatives and strategies that assist in attracting, developing and retaining all talent that reflects our membership and communities, enabling us to better serve their financial needs.



STARRS Takes a Stand Against DoD Funding to Enable Non-Covered Medical Procedures

By Tracey Meck, Colonel, USAF (Ret), STARRS Chairman's Group, USAFA '87



Earlier this year the Department of Defense authorized the services to use taxpayer provided funds (travel costs, lodging, per diem)

and non-chargeable administrative time off for service members to travel out of the local area to receive non-covered abortions and/or Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) procedures, or to accompany a dependent seeking such procedures. The DoD justified this



action by claiming the Supreme Court's decision to return abortion law to the states has significant readiness, recruiting and re-

tention implications.

Based on 10 U.S.C. 1093(a)'s prohibition of the use of DoD funding for abortions in most cases and the intense national controversy about the morality of abortion, STARRS opposes this new policy. Although not directly going

toward the procedures, the funding authorization enables and encourages the procedures and therefore directly supports them. Additionally, travel, lodging and per diem funding and non-chargeable leave are not authorized for any other medical procedure not covered by military healthcare.

STARRS supports the work of the House of Representatives' efforts to outlaw the use of DoD funds in this way. To read the full details about STARRS's position on this matter, please [read our position paper](#). ★



STARRS New Mission Statement

STARRS is a group of retired military members and patriots dedicated to ensure the greatest fighting force on the globe remains the U.S. military. STARRS mission is to help educate our fellow Americans regarding the criticality of having a military that focuses solely on the essential readiness needed to fight and win our Nation's wars. Winning requires a military which provides equal opportunity and a meritocracy leadership system which rewards high standards, ethical character, teamwork, and selfless service to our Nation. This mission accomplishment requires the elimination of DEI from the DoD by informing people about all ideologies, policies, agendas, and organizations that threaten a meritocracy based military.

THE WOKE ACADEMIES

Boots on the Ground Perspectives (comments submitted to STARRS by cadets and service members):

1. “I see so many bright young cadets here who know what is going on is wrong, but at the same time are too scared to speak up. The fear we feel, not being able to address our concerns, only makes the lack of courage issue worse. However, I have a lot of hope that cadets will start to speak up. Perhaps they just needed a catalyst or some leadership to speak up first, but already I see a shift in cadet’s attitude, one that is more determined on stopping the push of leftist ideologies. Thank you for all your hard work and all that STARRS does for us cadets. I hope with everything going on that more people will begin to have the courage to step up and take a stand before the culture and climate of our military (and our nation for that matter) become any more divided.”

2. “USAFA has been operating a “Pride Month” book collection in the library, right at the front for when all visitors and cadets walk in. It features a couple dozen books covering various LGBT propaganda. Quite frankly, I wasn’t as upset about the content of this collection as I was about where it was placed. USAFA prides itself as being a leadership laboratory, but the leadership book collection was moved to the back of the main floor to make room for the Pride Month collection.”

3. “I want to serve a nation worthy of defending and I want to be on the right side of history. If we go the way of Woke there is nothing worth defending. It’s a backwards world view making us in the wrong in my view.



4. After talking to his son, a USAFA cadet parent told STARRS, our “conversation yesterday demonstrated his frustration with what is going on at USAFA...He feels that overall morale is bad and that cadets that share his views of wanting to serve our great nation are especially discouraged by what’s going on. I have to admit that he has a true “warrior” mentality and might be a little over the top in his judgment of his classmates who cry or cower when confronted by diversity! He wants them to man up and act like leaders, but feels the Academy is pampering them and that that is not what he expected when he signed up to defend our nation.”

5. Just finishing the Doolie (fourth class cadet/freshman) year, a cadet expressed several concerns:

- Disappointed with the emphasis on DEI

- Shocked that Doolies could opt out of training sessions if they were too stressful
- Frustrated that cadets could opt out of the 10 meter board jump and still graduate if afraid of heights
- Appalled at the situation one cadet was put in. He had a medical condition that put him on bed rest for months, and was eventually pushed back a semester. While on bed rest and unable to go to Mitch’s to eat, he lost LOTS of weight because his squadron mates, supervisors and even his roommate did not consistently bring him food. They just didn’t seem to care.
- Appalled that today’s cadets are focused on self, not the team. “There is no “I” in team” has no meaning for them
- As the child of a retired service member, “This is not the environment and mentality I expected to find at a military academy” ♦

■ BOOK REVIEW

Defending the Constitution Behind Enemy Lines

Commander Robert A. Green Jr's Courageous Book Exposes the Department of Defense's Treachery During the COVID Crisis



By John Hughes, MD, President of the MacArthur Society of West Point Graduates, USMA '96, Veteran of Haiti/Iraq/Afghanistan

In the Spring of 1918, the first cases of influenza appeared at a remote military training camp in the US. By the end of World War I in November, almost 45,000 US soldiers had died from the flu. German General Ludendorf commented on October 17, 1918 that American forces "had not been up to its previous level...the Americans are suffering severely from Influenza."

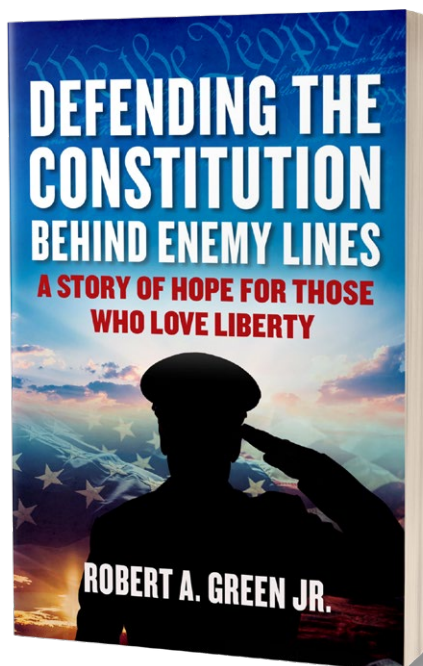
All of this occurred in a mere eight months and the fate of the free world hung in the balance in the Great War. The Spanish Flu was indeed a 'pandemic' and necessitated special measures for military victory.

Fast forward to 2020-2023. After three years, a total of 96 military service members died from COVID-19.

In 2020 there was no desperate imperative to send four million soldiers and Marines to Europe to save democracy from the Germans. In fact, the only war, in Afghanistan, had petered out and ended disastrously in August 2021, one year before President Biden declared the 'pandemic' over.

For some segments of the populations, it may have been a 'pandemic,' but for the military members, it was decidedly not. The word 'crisis' is more precise and descriptive.

US Navy Commander Robert A. Green, Jr. published his book *Defending the Constitution Behind Enemy Lines* in July 2023. He courageously spotlighted the shameful, unpatriotic, and unnec-



essary actions of Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and the other US military leaders. He tells the story that US admirals and generals don't want told. For this, Green is nothing less than heroic:

"The Constitution is where an officer must place their primary obligation. This is done intentionally to ensure that if an officer's duty to follow an order ever conflicts with their obligation to the Constitution and the laws established by it, the Constitution and the law must take priority every time."

Green takes readers on a detailed deep dive into the legal questions behind the COVID-19 'vaccine' and the orders issued by DoD to force its members to take it. He begins with a discussion

into the foundation of America and the creation of the US Constitution. This deliberate prose sheds light on the reason the Constitution was written the way it was in order to protect Americans from tyranny.

Then, he explains in detail the legal actions that evolved over the past few decades that culminated in the denial of personal and religious freedoms from 2020-2022:

"We are still reeling from the various overreactions to the COVID-19 pandemic committed by governments, global leaders, and corporations. Many of these overreactions were exacerbated by media entities, presumably in search of higher ratings. Some of these governments, organizations, and entities seemed legitimate in their search for solutions; others apparently schemed to take advantage of the fear they stoked in the population."

Continued on next page



Book author Commander Robert Green

Conscious that the COVID-19 'vaccine' was to be developed and fielded before the safety profile was known, Green began to research the 'vaccine' and its legality. He also took a keen interest in actions the DoD would take.

In his brutally honest analysis, he is critical of both political parties, demonstrating that his literary action was not partisan—it was pro-Constitution.

When Pfizer received licensing for its Comirnaty vaccine in 2021,

DoD was ready with orders for service members to receive the vaccine....or face consequences.

A pious man, Green objected to the vaccine on religious grounds as well and soon networked with other DoD service members who refused to be vaccinated.

It is at this point that Green's book is invaluable. With a highly secretive military culture controlled through censorship and intimidation, very few

Americans were aware of the goings-on within the DoD as commanders pressured subordinates to get the vaccine.

Humiliation, punishment, and outright disrespect were tools wielded mercilessly by military leaders. Remember, 96 service members out of 1.1 million

died, all *before* the vaccine mandate compliance date.

Green relates how past loyalty, service, and even combat sacrifice was inconsequential. Commanders demanded complete obedience

to submit to the vaccination. In one egregious case, he describes the self-destruction of a highly decorated combat veteran Navy SEAL:

"Leadership even removed the unvaccinated SEALs' badge access to their own building. They had to wait outside for building access. If permitted to enter their own building, these warriors, who had already sacrificed so much for their country, would have to endure the in-

sult of being escorted like an untrusted foreign visitor. For nearly a year, Daniel endured this treatment, ever unsuccessful in leaving the military as he desired. Then, on September 17, 2022, Daniel was found dead by apparent suicide."

Facing legal challenges of his own, Green networked and organized defenses. Miraculously, Green was able to resist the vaccine and still remain on active duty.

While the COVID 'pandemic' has ended, the troubling military regime that concocted and brutally enforced the contentious mandate is still in power.

Ended only by a Congressional budget order, the mandate was never rationally and publicly debated by DoD leaders. Vicious and unconstitutional actions like it will undoubtedly be ordered in the future.

Green's book is a must read to understand the mandate's true evil and the disastrous effects it had on military service members' freedom and national security.

Retired Navy Captain Brent Ramsey also [wrote a review on Green's book that can be found on the STARRS website](#) ★

"While the COVID 'pandemic' has ended, the troubling military regime that concocted and brutally enforced the contentious mandate is still in power."

In case you missed it on the website:



Army · Coast Guard · DOD · Vax

Using vaccines as a political weapon, U.S. military leaders have wrecked the force's combat readiness and morale

Under pressure from Republicans in Congress, the Defense Department announced at the start of this year that...

"The hypocrisy of those leading the military and the continued discrimination against those with deeply held religious beliefs is that people who want to serve their country are being railroaded out of the services."

—Senior Counsel Steve Crampton
Thomas More Society

■ BOOK REVIEW

When Race Trumps Merit: *How the Pursuit of Equity Sacrifices Excellence, Destroys Beauty, and Threatens Lives*

By Sam Thiessen, Colonel, USA (Ret), STARRS VP for Education, USMA '73



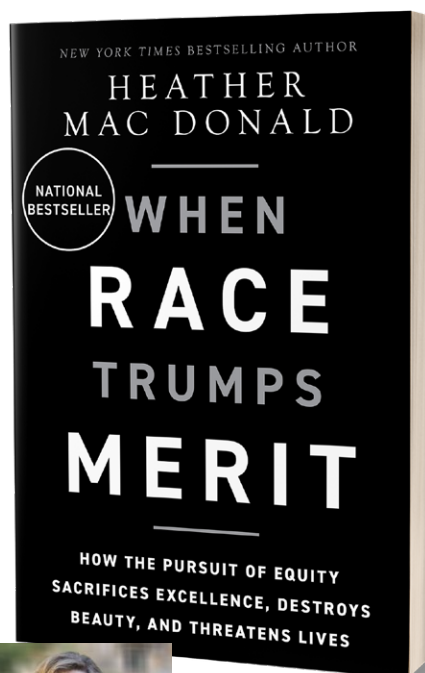
Heather Mac Donald has written several significant books, including *The Diversity Delusion* and the *New York Times* bestseller *The War on Cops*.

Her recently published book, *When Race Trumps Merit: How the Pursuit of Equity Sacrifices Excellence, Destroys Beauty, and Threatens Lives* might be her most important book yet.

Exhaustively researched, hundreds of references are cited to support the author's positions, making them difficult if not impossible to challenge. Ms. Mac Donald's primary thesis is that "disparate impact", a long-ago discredited legal theory, is the foundation for the current social and political movement that strives for equity (equal outcomes) in all social, political, and economic outcomes.

Organized around its sub-title, the book addresses how disparate impact is negatively affecting the sciences, the arts, and law enforcement. Example after example is cited of how merit, as measured by objective standards, has been discarded and replaced by equity. Her examples show that equity is achieved throughout society by ensuring the percentages of individuals who are members of racial, ethnic, and gender groups in schools and career fields reflect identically those groups' proportional share in the general population, regardless of merit.

The many examples cited support Mac Donald's contention that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies that are justified by disparate impact are



not just destroying traditional American culture, but also result in the loss of life.

This is happening not only because of the emasculation of police forces across the country, but also from the lowering or elimination of standards in medicine, transportation and the military, among others.

An example that is used to show how DEI has corrupted the fields of science and medicine cites the case of professor emeritus Stanley Goldfarb who questioned the results of a study that offered only external explanations such as assessment bias, poor learning environment, or structural inequities for the disparity in clinic performance of blacks and Hispanics as compared to the performance of whites and Asians

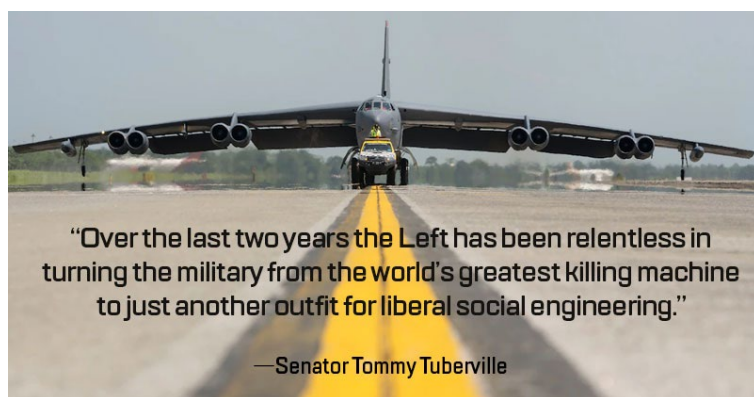
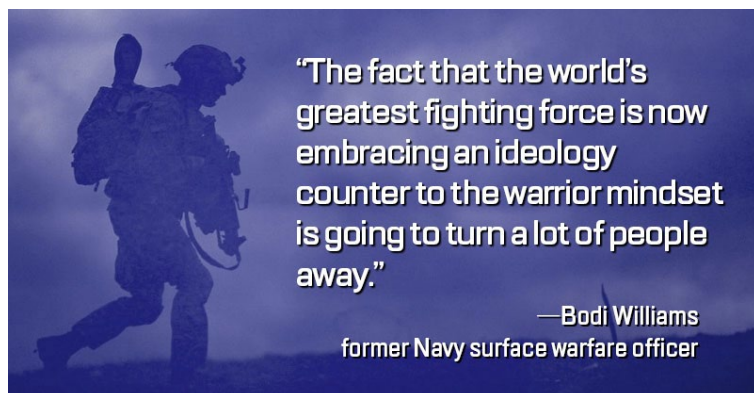
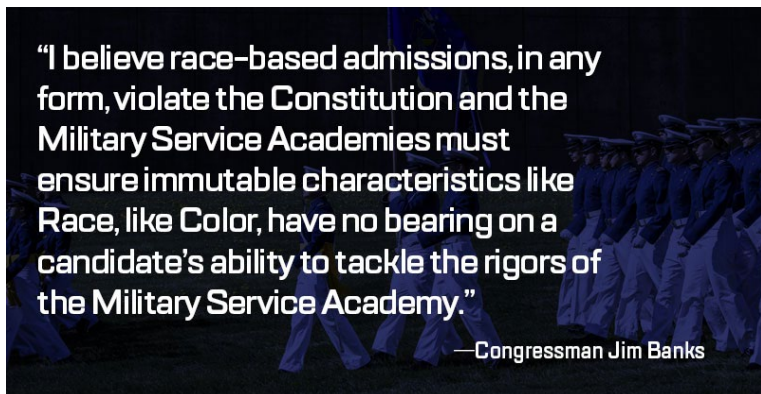
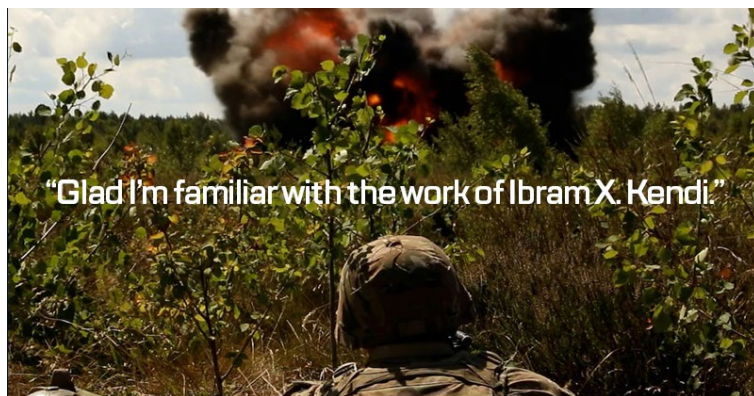
in medical school. Broaching a question that must never be considered, let alone voiced in the Woke universe, Goldfarb asked publicly, "Could it be that [minority students] were just less good at being residents?" He was swiftly accused by the chairman of the school's department of medicine of making "racist statements".

Whether or not one agrees with Goldfarb's comment, it is a legitimate question and one deserving a considered response other than an accusation of racism. The response by the department chairman to Goldfarb's statement could easily be considered "racist" itself, and with greater justification given its knee-jerk nature.

The author spends a good deal of time discussing the effects of disparate impact on culture and the arts. The real-life examples presented create powerful images of societal decay in music, dance and the visual arts. They are sobering reminders of how Western Civilization is being dismantled in front of our eyes.

Mac Donald leaves the more immediate and poignant examples for last when she addresses how equity culture is destroying law and order, and how this, if unchecked, will eventually lead to total anarchy and the collapse of Western Civilization.

Her concluding chapter equates saving meritocracy with saving civilization. By the time the reader gets to this point in the book, it has become very difficult to disagree with the author's conclusion. ✦



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