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2. Former NATO commander warns of wider war in Middle East.
3. Iraq War veterans upset by al-Qaida gains.
4. Army art treasures sit unseen as museum fundraising drags on.
5. AF nuclear unit 'brokenhearted' over recent scandals, commander says.
6. Army restates anti-drug recruiting standards to Colo. group.
7. Is Vietnam fighting to keep democracy offline?
8. Russians study Islamic video threatening Olympics.
9. Hard decisions await new House Defense Appropriations chair.
10. Air Force criminal cases in limbo following civilian judge's appointment.
11. PTSD is now a 'cultural phenomena' in U.S., authors say.
12. No end in sight for Marines' Wounded Warrior Regiment as war winds down.
13. Veterans' groups press Congress to undo cuts to benefits.
14. Veterans Journal: Iraq, Afghanistan veterans group criticizes cuts to military retiree benefits.
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1. [Two Marine Corps special operators receive Navy Cross posthumously.](#) Capt. Matthew Manoukian and Staff Sgt. Sky Mote were assigned to the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion in support of Operating Enduring Freedom when they came under hostile fire from an Afghan police officer inside their tactical operations center in Helmand province, Afghanistan.
2. [Former NATO commander warns of wider war in Middle East.](#) NATO's former top military commander has warned that the widening sectarian conflict in Syria and Iraq could engulf a broader region in the Middle East, just as the religious wars in Europe did in the 16th and 17th centuries.
3. [Iraq War veterans upset by al-Qaida gains.](#) Recent al-Qaida rebel gains in Iraq's Anbar province have left many American vets wondering whether the long U.S. military engagement in Iraq, in which 4,489 Americans died between March 2003 and December 2011, was worth it.
4. [Army art treasures sit unseen as museum fundraising drags on.](#) Much of the U.S. Army's vast collection of artwork, including classics worth tens of millions of dollars, is sitting at Fort Belvoir as the fundraising effort for the future National Museum of the United States Army continues.
5. [AF nuclear unit 'brokenhearted' over recent scandals, commander says.](#) "They are brokenhearted, like I am, that this happened, that we — I think — let the American public down, and so we're trying to bolster each other up," Col. Robert W. Stanley II said.
6. [Army restates anti-drug recruiting standards to Colo. group.](#) In more than two weeks of legal recreational marijuana in Colorado, Army recruiters aren't reporting an influx of stoned recruits. And the Army's top recruiter in Colorado Springs made a point of saying on Friday that experimental pot use, while illegal under federal laws, doesn't permanently prevent military service.
7. [Is Vietnam fighting to keep democracy offline?](#) Activists and analysts strongly suspect Hanoi is involved in online attacks that block, hack and spy on Vietnamese activists around the world to hamper the country's pro-democracy movement.

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8. [Russians study Islamic video threatening Olympics](#). Russia's counter-terrorism agency says it's studying a video posted by an Islamic militant group that asserted responsibility for suicide bombings that killed 34 people last month and is threatening to strike the Winter Olympics in Sochi.
9. [Hard decisions await new House Defense Appropriations chair](#). The man at the center of the new defense spending bill never intended to be there. But the death of an iconic congressman left open a coveted spot in the Capitol Hill hierarchy.
10. [Air Force criminal cases in limbo following civilian judge's appointment](#). The questionable appointment of a civilian judge to a struggling military appeals court has already cast into doubt dozens of Air Force criminal cases. Now, it's embarrassed the government attorneys who are trying to defend the appointment.
11. [PTSD is now a 'cultural phenomena' in U.S., authors say](#). A newly released book written by two Colorado professors argues that more U.S. combat veterans are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in the U.S. than anywhere else because the condition has become a "cultural phenomena."
12. [No end in sight for Marines' Wounded Warrior Regiment as war winds down](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military Times**: On the heels of news that the Army plans to restructure its own wounded warrior program, closing five of its 29 Warrior Transition Units, officials with the Wounded Warrior Regiment said the Marine Corps intends to support its current structure indefinitely.
13. [Veterans' groups press Congress to undo cuts to benefits](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Times**: Lawmakers say they have plenty of time to repeal a cut to military retiree pay that takes effect in 2015, but veterans' groups are warning Congress it must get it done soon before members get distracted by their own re-election campaigns later this year.
14. [Veterans Journal: Iraq, Afghanistan veterans group criticizes cuts to military retiree benefits](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Providence Journal**: The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) said last week in a news release that Congress broke its promise to veterans with its recent critical cuts to military retirees' benefits.

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15. [New 'COLA fix' creates have, have-not retiree protection. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Tribune:** Congress has rushed to protect the medically retired and survivor benefit recipients from the cap on annual cost-of-living adjustments it approved only a few weeks ago for all "working age" military retirees.
16. [VFW Voice Concern with Propose Change. Hyperlink to Article](#) **FNC (Video):** This 3:21 minute video features an interview with Ryan Gallucci of Veterans of Foreign Wars, who criticizes the VA proposal to penalize Veterans who choose to file disability claims without using the online process.
17. [American Legion hosting Ga. town halls on VA care. Hyperlink to Article](#) **San Francisco Chronicle (AP):** The American Legion is hosting two town hall meetings on Veterans Administration health care in Georgia this month.
18. [New law aims to cut backlog of claims filed by veterans. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Vallejo Times-Herald:** A new law aimed at ending the backlog of claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs will soon become law, according to an announcement from the office of Rep Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena.
19. [Vets could fall victim to education stalemate. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Tribune:** A fight between Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature over higher education is setting up what could be a stalemate between the two houses, pitting the needs of veterans against those of immigrant students.
20. [Veterans' website privacy breach under investigation. Hyperlink to Article](#) **WEAR-TV (Video):** A breach that may have exposed the private information of thousands of veterans is under investigation. E-Benefits, the VA and the Defense Department's benefits website, is back online now. It was shut down for about four days after dozens of veterans logged on and said they were able to see other veterans' private information.
21. [New state council will coordinate services for veterans. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Stars and Stripes:** As more and more Idaho veterans retire or demobilize from active duty, a new state council is hoping to improve the coordination of services they'll need when they return home.

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22. [While conditions improve, hold VA accountable.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Augusta Chronicle: WHILE THE VA STAFF assured us that the hospital's backlog had been resolved and that proper equipment had been acquired to address the consultation delays, it is absolutely imperative that all steps continue to be taken to ensure that the delays and negligence that occurred are prevented from happening again.

23. [VA responding to web site privacy breach.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WLS-TV:** The Department of Veterans Affairs is responding Saturday night to a story that was first reported about a privacy breach on the VA's e-benefits website by the I-Team at ABC7's sister station WTVD in Raleigh, North Carolina.

24. [Shortage of psychiatrists, funding issues create crisis in mental health care.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **St. Louis Post-Dispatch:** The mental health care system is strained by the number of people who need help and a shortage of psychiatrists to meet those needs. The situation has reached a crisis point, experts say, pointing to some alarming figures...

25. [Court seeks volunteers to mentor fellow veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
The Journal Times: The Veterans Treatment Court of the 2nd Judicial District is looking for volunteers to become veteran mentors.

26. [Volunteers pack backpacks for homeless veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)- **Lexington Herald-Leader:** This is the third year Brown has helped organize a drive to load backpacks with necessities for homeless veterans as part of the Day of Service celebration on the weekend of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. And it was the first year she had partnered with the Hope Center, which will distribute the backpacks through its Veterans' programs.

27. [Veterans' homelessness is decreasing: Your Say.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
USA Today: One homeless veteran is one too many. That's why this administration set the ambitious goal to end veterans' homelessness in 2015. A recent USA TODAY article stated, "Up to 48,000 Afghan, Iraq vets homeless." This misleading headline suggests that veterans' homelessness is increasing (News, Friday).

28. [Salvation Army looking to south side for veterans shelter.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Press:** After close to three months of fruitless efforts to find a suitable building in Hampton, the Salvation Army is now primarily looking in South Hampton Roads for a new site for its Transitional Housing Program.

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29. [\\$3 Million Funding Available for Transportation of Veterans in Highly ...](#) Targeted News Service (subscription) - 19 -- The **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs'** Chief Business Office has announced that it expects to award a maximum of 40 discretionary grants for ...

30. [Former Marine seeking markers for veterans' graves at Calvary Cemetery.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Lincoln Journal Star:** William Basso's] son-in-law, Richard Zierke, wants to ensure other veterans' graves at the Catholic cemetery also are clearly marked with their service record and is asking Lancaster County officials for \$18,000 to buy nearly 600 brass markers that would indicate their status as veterans... The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides the medallions at no cost to families of veterans who died since Nov. 1, 1990.

31. [Veterans deported for crimes banished for life.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KENS-TV (Video):** About 35,000 non-citizens are in the U.S. military, but some of those who served proudly have been deported to Mexico and other countries because they broke the law... Veterans can return to U.S. soil in a coffin. Those who are honorably discharged are entitled to a military burial in the United States.

32. [PTSD Service Animal Ad Will Make You Laugh, Cry, And Hug Your Dog A Little Closer.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post (Video):** Though research on how service animals help veterans deal with PTSD is still in its early stages, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledges the presence of a trusted dog has numerous emotional benefits and helps reduce stress... WATCH the touching guide dog commercial, above.

33. [Cheers & Jeers for Monday.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Fayetteville Observer:** Cheers to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center Emergency Department. The doctors, nurses and staff are not only very professional, friendly and caring, they get you in and out in a timely manner. I won't be back for a dog bite, but in sickness, I'm glad I have a great place to go.

34. [Veterans' entries sought for creative arts festival.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Chillicothe Gazette:** Veterans who want to show off their artistic side can do so by submitting entries for a local festival at the Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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35. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as January 21, 2014:

- **January 28, 2014.** House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a hearing entitled "What can the Federal Government Learn from the Private Sector's Successful Approach to Hiring Veterans?"
- **February 5, 2014.** HVAC-DAMA will hold a hearing entitled, "Beyond Transformation: Reviewing Current Status and Secondary Effects of VBA Technology."
- **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
- **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Sanders, I-Vt.) will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- **March 6, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations.
- **March 26, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.

36. Today in History:

- [1789](#) – The first American novel, [The Power of Sympathy or the Triumph of Nature Founded in Truth](#), is printed in [Boston, Massachusetts](#).
- [1793](#) – After being found guilty of treason by the [French Convention](#), [Louis XVI of France](#) is executed by [guillotine](#).
- [1861](#) – [American Civil War](#): [Jefferson Davis](#) resigns from the [United States Senate](#).
- [1864](#) – The [Tauranga Campaign](#) begins during the [Maori Wars](#).
- [1899](#) – [Opel](#) manufactures its first automobile.
- [1908](#) – [New York City](#) passes the [Sullivan Ordinance](#), making it illegal for women to smoke in public, only to have the measure vetoed by the mayor.
- [1911](#) – The first [Monte Carlo Rally](#) takes place.
- [1915](#) – [Kiwaniis International](#) is founded in [Detroit, Michigan](#).
- [1919](#) – Meeting of the First [Dáil Éireann](#) in the [Mansion House Dublin](#). [Sinn Féin](#) adopts [Ireland's](#) first constitution. The first engagement of [Irish War of Independence](#), Sologhead Beg, [County Tipperary](#).
- [1925](#) – [Albania](#) declares itself a republic.
- [1931](#) – Sir [Isaac Isaacs](#) is sworn in as the first [Australian](#)-born [Governor-General of Australia](#).
- [1941](#) – Sparked by the murder of a German officer in [Bucharest, Romania](#), the day before, members of the [Iron Guard](#) engaged in a [rebellion and pogrom](#) killing 125 Jews.

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- [1948](#) – The [Flag of Quebec](#) is adopted and flown for the first time over the [National Assembly of Quebec](#). The day is marked annually as Quebec [Flag Day](#).
- [1950](#) – American lawyer and government official [Alger Hiss](#) is convicted of [perjury](#).
- [1954](#) – The first [nuclear-powered submarine](#), the [USS Nautilus](#), is [launched](#) in [Groton, Connecticut](#) by [Mamie Eisenhower](#), the [First Lady of the United States](#).
- [1958](#) – The last [Fokker C.X](#) in military service, the [Finnish Air Force](#) FK-111 target tower, crashes, killing the pilot and winch-operator.
- [1960](#) – [Little Joe 1B](#), a [Mercury](#) spacecraft, lifts off from [Wallops Island, Virginia](#) with [Miss Sam](#), a female [rhesus monkey](#) on board.
- [1961](#) – 435 workers are buried alive when a mine in [Coalbrook, Free State](#) collapses.
- [1968](#) – [Vietnam War: Battle of Khe Sanh](#) – One of the most publicized and controversial battles of the war begins.
- 1968 – A [B-52](#) bomber [crashes](#) near [Thule Air Base](#), contaminating the area after its nuclear payload ruptures. One of the four bombs remains unaccounted for after the cleanup operation is complete.
- [1971](#) – The current [Emley Moor transmitting station](#), the tallest free-standing structure in the [United Kingdom](#), begins transmitting [UHF](#) broadcasts.
- [1976](#) – Commercial service of [Concorde](#) begins with the [London-Bahrain and Paris-Rio](#) routes.
- [1977](#) – [President of the United States Jimmy Carter](#) pardons nearly all [American Vietnam War](#) draft evaders, some of whom had emigrated to [Canada](#).
- [1981](#) – Production of the iconic [DeLorean DMC-12](#) sports car begins in [Dunmurry, Northern Ireland](#).
- [1999](#) – [War on Drugs](#): In one of the largest drug busts in American history, the [United States Coast Guard](#) intercepts a ship with over 4,300 kilograms (9,500 lb) of [cocaine](#) on board.
- [2000](#) – [Ecuador](#): After the Ecuadorian Congress is seized by indigenous organizations, Col. [Lucio Gutierrez](#), Carlos Solorzano and Antonio Vargas depose President [Jamil Mahuad](#). Gutierrez is later replaced by Gen. Carlos Mendoza, who resigns and allows Vice-President [Gustavo Noboa](#) to succeed Mahuad.
- [2003](#) – A 7.6 magnitude [earthquake](#) strikes the Mexican state of [Colima](#), killing 29 and leaving approximately 10,000 people homeless.
- [2004](#) – [NASA's MER-A](#) (the Mars Rover *Spirit*) ceases communication with mission control. The problem lies in the management of its [flash memory](#) and is fixed remotely from Earth on February 6.
- [2005](#) – In [Belmopan, Belize](#), the [unrest over the government's new taxes](#) erupts into [riots](#).