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4. Vets' transition conference on tap at George W. Bush Institute.
5. House subcommittee to meet in Camarillo.
6. VA Needs to Embrace Tech-Savvy, Mobile Veterans.
7. Do video cameras violate patient privacy?
8. VA medical bus debuts in Bluefield.
9. Group hammers VA for veterans' deaths.
10. Red Tape Frustrates Sick Vets.
11. Deficiencies Found In OR At West Haven VA Hospital.
12. House bill could give more veterans state benefits.
13. VA terminates contract with ex-Merced County employee.
14. New Allegan County veterans court helps offenders break from crime.
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1. [At Camp Leatherneck, Amos says Marines have transformed Helmand.](#) Marines have changed Helmand province dramatically and should be proud of the work they have done here, Commandant Gen. James Amos said Tuesday in a town hall meeting here.
2. [Pentagon gets new media chief.](#) Brent Colburn, who served as the national communications director for President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign, has been appointed assistant to the secretary of defense for Public Affairs, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren announced Tuesday.
3. [Report: US seeks Taliban prisoner swap to free POW Bowe Bergdahl.](#) Five members of the Afghan Taliban held at Guantanamo Bay for years would be exchanged for the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured in Afghanistan in 2009, sources tell The Washington Post.
4. [Vets' transition conference on tap at George W. Bush Institute.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military Times:** Former President George W. Bush will host a veterans' summit in Texas on Wednesday focused on ways to provide assistance to separating service members and their families.
5. [House subcommittee to meet in Camarillo.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Ventura County Star:** A House of Representatives subcommittee will meet Thursday at CSU Channel Islands for a hearing on mental health care for veterans... A health subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will examine the use of community programs including religious and nonprofit organizations to resolve access issues for veterans who need care.
6. [VA Needs to Embrace Tech-Savvy, Mobile Veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NextGov:** The Veterans Affairs Department "must embrace and fully support changing mobile lifestyles" to serve tech savvy veterans between now and 2020, the department said in a high-level draft strategic plan released Feb. 15.
7. [Do video cameras violate patient privacy?](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **FierceHealthcare:** Video cameras in hospitals can monitor at-risk patients and ensure doctors take proper safety and sanitary measures--but their use may compromise patient privacy, according to a New York Times opinion piece.

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8. [VA medical bus debuts in Bluefield](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WOAY-TV**: Senators Joe Manchin and Jay Rockefeller, along with Congressman Nick Rahall (all D-W.Va.), today thanked the Beckley Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which officially announced that Mercer County's new mobile health clinic that began serving patients today. The mobile outpatient clinic will help the growing number of veterans in the area access needed primary medical services.
9. [Group hammers VA for veterans' deaths](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military Times**: The conservative advocacy group Concerned Veterans for America unveiled a new online campaign Tuesday that bluntly states: "American veterans are dying, it's the VA's fault."
10. [Red Tape Frustrates Sick Vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WUSF-TV**: Frustration over lost documents and denied claims continues for Floridians who blame cancers and other disease on contaminated water at the U.S. Marine base at Camp Lejeune, N.C. decades ago.
11. [Deficiencies Found In OR At West Haven VA Hospital](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Hartford Courant**: A federal inspection of the VA Hospital in West Haven found poor cleaning procedures and inadequate safeguards in the operating room for handling infectious patients.
12. [House bill could give more veterans state benefits](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Norman Transcript**: There is a House bill that could give Oklahoma state benefits to many more veterans in the state... The bill is being introduced by Sen. Frank Simpson that would give peace-time veterans access to the seven long-term care centers that are operated by the state Veterans Affairs Department. Currently, only those veterans who served during a certain war-time periods are eligible.
13. [VA terminates contract with ex-Merced County employee](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Sacramento Bee**: The Department of Veterans Affairs has terminated its contract with Anthony J. Thompson, a Merced County ex-employee who was arrested last week on suspicion of sexual bribery.
14. [New Allegan County veterans court helps offenders break from crime](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Holland Sentinel**: The Allegan court, which also serves Van Buren County, is one of fewer than a dozen veterans courts in the state and more than 250 nationwide. The court promotes sobriety and recovery while working with the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, state Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs and volunteers.

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15. [New Program Takes Big Step In The Fight Against Veteran Homelessness](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post:** A new residential treatment facility aimed at preventing homelessness among veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan opened in San Diego on Monday.
16. [Annual count shows rise in Fort Collins homelessness](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Fort Collins Coloradoan:** A recent count showed Fort Collins' homeless population has grown to nearly 300 individuals, up nearly 50 from last year's survey.
17. [VA's streamline refinance comes to the rescue](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **MyNorthwest.com:** It turns out Howard's spouse, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, had passed away three years ago after a valiant battle with breast cancer. Her death was "not service connected." ...We told Howard that because his wife's VA entitlement was used for the original loan, he would qualify for a rate/ term reduction on the loan under the streamline refinance program guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
18. [Will America forget its veterans?](#) [Hyperlink to Above Article](#) **Christian Science Monitor:** My biggest fear is that the American people will forget us – their veterans. I worry that as the visible reminders of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan fade from popular consciousness, so will the attention paid to troops, military families, and veterans.
19. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 19, 2014:**
 - **February 20, 2014.** HVAC Health will be holding a field hearing in Camarillo, California.
 - **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
 - **February 26, 2014.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Health will conduct an oversight hearing entitled, "VA Accountability: Assessing Actions Taken in Response to Subcommittee Oversight."
 - **February 27, 2014.** Hearing of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HVAC EO) entitled, "VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program: Further Performance and Workload Management Improvements Needed."
 - **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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- **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: BVA, JWV, MOPH, AMVETS, TREA, MOAA, VVA, NGUAS and NASDVA.
- **March 12, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations: PVA, IAVA, GSW, WWP, FRA, AFSA, NCAO, AXPOW.
- **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
- **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.
- **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

20. Today in History:

- [1649](#) – The [Second Battle of Guararapes](#) takes place, effectively ending [Dutch](#) colonization efforts in [Brazil](#).
- [1674](#) – [England](#) and the [Netherlands](#) sign the [Treaty of Westminster](#), ending the [Third Anglo-Dutch War](#). A provision of the agreement transfers the Dutch colony of [New Amsterdam](#) to England, and it is renamed [New York](#).
- [1807](#) – Former [Vice President of the United States](#) [Aaron Burr](#) is arrested for treason in [Wakefield, Alabama](#) and confined to [Fort Stoddert](#).
- [1819](#) – [British explorer](#) [William Smith](#) discovers the [South Shetland Islands](#), and claims them in the name of [King George III](#).
- [1846](#) – In [Austin, Texas](#) the newly formed Texas state government is officially installed. The [Republic of Texas](#) government officially transfers power to the [State of Texas](#) government following the [annexation](#) of Texas by the [United States](#).
- [1847](#) – The first group of rescuers reaches the [Donner Party](#).
- [1859](#) – [Daniel E. Sickles](#), a New York Congressman, is acquitted of murder on grounds of temporary insanity. This is the first time this defense is successfully used in the [United States](#).
- [1861](#) – [Serfdom](#) is [abolished](#) in [Russia](#).
- [1876](#) – Founding of the National [Amateur Press Association](#) (NAPA) in [Philadelphia](#).
- [1878](#) – [Thomas Edison](#) patents the [phonograph](#).
- [1884](#) – More than [sixty tornadoes](#) strike the [Southern United States](#), one of the largest [tornado](#) outbreaks in U.S. history.
- [1915](#) – [World War I](#): The [first naval attack](#) on the [Dardanelles](#) begins when a strong Anglo-French task force bombards Ottoman artillery along the coast of [Gallipoli](#).
- [1937](#) – [Yekatit 12](#): During a public ceremony at the Viceregal Palace (the former Imperial residence) in [Addis Ababa](#), [Ethiopia](#), two [Ethiopian](#) nationalists of [Eritrean](#) origin attempt to kill viceroy [Rodolfo Graziani](#) with a number of grenades.

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- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): nearly 250 [Japanese](#) warplanes [attack](#) the northern Australian city of [Darwin](#) killing 243 people.
- 1942 – World War II: [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) signs the [executive order 9066](#), allowing the [United States military](#) to relocate [Japanese-Americans](#) to [internment camps](#).
- [1943](#) – World War II: [Battle of the Kasserine Pass](#) in [Tunisia](#) begins.
- [1945](#) – World War II: [Battle of Iwo Jima](#) – about 30,000 [United States Marines](#) land on the island of [Iwo Jima](#).
- [1948](#) – The [Conference of Youth and Students of Southeast Asia Fighting for Freedom and Independence](#) convenes in [Calcutta](#).
- [1953](#) – [Censorship](#): [Georgia](#) approves the first [literature](#) censorship board in the [United States](#).
- [1959](#) – The [United Kingdom](#) grants [Cyprus independence](#), which is then formally proclaimed on August 16, 1960.
- [1960](#) – [China](#) successfully launches the [T-7](#), its first [sounding rocket](#).
- [1963](#) – The publication of [Betty Friedan's](#) [The Feminine Mystique](#) reawakens the [Feminist Movement](#) in the United States as women's organizations and [consciousness raising](#) groups spread.
- [1972](#) – The [Asama-Sansō hostage standoff](#) begins in [Japan](#).
- [1976](#) – [Executive Order 9066](#), which led to the relocation of Japanese Americans to internment camps, is rescinded by President [Gerald R. Ford's](#) Proclamation 4417
- [1978](#) – [Egyptian forces raid Larnaca International Airport](#) in an attempt to intervene in a hijacking, without authorization from the [Republic of Cyprus](#) authorities. The [Cypriot National Guard](#) and Police forces kill 15 Egyptian commandos and destroy the Egyptian [C-130](#) transport plane in open combat.
- [1985](#) – [William J. Schroeder](#) becomes the first recipient of an [artificial heart](#) to leave [hospital](#).
- [1986](#) – [Akkaraipattu massacre](#): the [Sri Lankan Army](#) massacres 80 [Tamil](#) farm workers the eastern province of [Sri Lanka](#).
- [2001](#) – The [Oklahoma City bombing](#) museum is dedicated at the [Oklahoma City National Memorial](#).
- [2002](#) – [NASA's Mars Odyssey space probe](#) begins to map the surface of [Mars](#) using its thermal emission imaging system.
- [2011](#) – The debut exhibition of the [Belitung shipwreck](#), containing the largest collection of [Tang Dynasty](#) artefacts found in one location, begins in [Singapore](#).