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1. [Ukraine crisis reminds US that Europe still matters](#). While headline claims of a Cold War resurgence are surely overstated, Russia's aggression in Ukraine reminds Pentagon policymakers that their plans to shift U.S. military focus away from Europe may have to be tweaked.
2. [President's delegation isn't going, but US Paralympic Games athletes are still in](#). The announcement that the U.S. presidential delegation will not attend the 2014 Sochi Paralympics later this week does not mean American athletes will not compete.
3. [Vietnam Experience Inspires Vet to Create Delivery Company](#). Fred Smith served two tours in Vietnam with the Marine Corps, earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star and two Purple Heart medals. During his wartime service, Smith said, he was impressed with the effectiveness of wartime logistics and Marine Corps leadership values. He thought he might be able to use some ...
4. [Obama sends \\$3.9 trillion budget to Congress](#). [Hyperlink to Article The Baltimore Sun \(Bloomberg News\)](#): President Obama sent Congress a \$3.9 trillion budget request with increased spending for employment, education and job-training programs to boost the economy, financed partly by trimming tax breaks for upper-income families and some businesses.
5. [Defense Budget Request Squares Priorities, Resources](#). The fiscal year 2015 defense budget request works to square priorities with resources, Defense Department officials said today while calling for a 1 percent pay raise for the military. President Barack Obama's defense topline request presented to Congress today is set at ...
6. [Budget day: Pay and benefits stall as readiness spending climbs](#). The Department of Defense released its short and long-term spending requests Tuesday, reaffirming that future defense budgets will prioritize technology and readiness over pay and benefits for servicemembers and their families.
7. [VA Budget Funds Ending Backlog, Homelessness](#). [Hyperlink to Article Military.com](#): The Department of Veterans Affairs on Tuesday released its proposed 2015 budget of \$164 billion, reflecting a 6.5 percent increase in spending over the current year.
8. [Veterans Affairs would get money to slash claims backlog](#). [Hyperlink to Article The Washington Post](#): The 2015 White House budget would provide \$65.3 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The enacted 2014 federal budget gave \$63.4 billion to the federal agency, which provides benefits to veterans and their families.

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9. [Veterans Groups Urge Congress to Strengthen VA Budget](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Herald**: Of great concern to the veterans groups is the serious underfunding of VA construction accounts. The President's budget for construction is approximately \$2.75 billion less than what the IB recommends.

10. [Congress lets down military members and vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **CNN.com**: Just how awful has Washington dysfunction become? America's military members and veterans -- once immune to political sniping -- are caught in the crossfire... Almost all Veterans Service Organizations strongly supported the Veterans Omnibus Bill, including Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans.

11. [Obama budget seeks new spending, new taxes to boost economy, tame debt](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Post (Wonkblog)**: President Obama unveiled an ambitious \$3.9 trillion budget blueprint Tuesday that seeks billions of dollars in fresh spending to boost economic growth but also pledges to tame the national debt by raising taxes on the wealthy, slashing payments to health providers and overhauling the nation's immigration laws.

12. [Almost 1 in 5 had mental illness before Army enlistment, study says](#). The findings, published online in JAMA Psychiatry, point to a weakness in the recruiting process, experts said. "The question becomes, 'How did these guys get in the Army?'" Harvard sociologist Ronald Kessler said.

13. [PTSD Before It Had a Name: Vietnam Vets Sue U.S. Military](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NBC News**: Five Vietnam veterans who claim they became afflicted with combat-related anxiety -- decades before PTSD became a common term -- assert in a new, class-action lawsuit that the Pentagon should upgrade the less-than-honorable discharges they and "tens of thousands" of other troops received during that era.

14. [Medal of honor recipient fights new battle](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KRIV-TV**: [SSG Ty Carter is] here to encourage vets to get help for PTSD, and to get mental health professionals and the public to take the "Disorder" out of posttraumatic stress disorder.

15. [Suicidal Tendencies Are Evident Before Deployment, Study Finds](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The New York Times**: Amid growing alarm at the rate of suicide among members of the military and confusion about possible causes, researchers reported on Monday that most of the Army's enlisted men and women with suicidal tendencies had them before they enlisted, and that those at highest risk of making an attempt often had a long history of impulsive anger.

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16. [Vets' Brain Damage From Blasts Not Always Apparent: Study.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **U.S. News & World Report:** Even if they have no symptoms, military veterans exposed to blasts from bombs, grenades and other devices may still have brain damage, a new study finds.
17. [Military affairs beat: Mpls. VA cuts down on opioids for pain.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Star Tribune:** An initiative begun at the Minneapolis VA hospital has greatly reduced the use of opioids among veterans in its care, improving the chances for a better quality of life for veterans suffering from chronic pain.
18. [Trib Talk: The importance of sweat lodges to veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Salt Lake Tribune (Video):** Last month, there was a dispute about how frequently the traditional American Indian ceremonies would be allowed at the facility and who would lead them after a sweat lodge leader abruptly left his VA post.
19. [IG: Managers let VA employee get away with cheating agency.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military Times:** Poor management oversight allowed a Veterans Affairs Department employee to skip work, use government computers for sex chats and bilk the agency out of nearly \$31,000, according to a new inspector general report.
20. [House GOP leaders want probe of Veterans Affairs' purging of medical test orders.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Examiner:** Two key House members have called for an investigation into reports published by the Washington Examiner that the Department of Veterans Affairs purged thousands of medical appointments to hide backlogs of tests and consultations dating back 10 years.
21. [VA reform: It's vets versus bureaucrats.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Hill:** What's even more troubling is that this shabby performance is par for the course at the nation's second largest federal department. Poor service to veterans, which has led to massive backlogs for benefits and medical appointments and a rash of preventable deaths, has become VA's calling card.
22. [Follow-Up: Communication breakdown on VA parking.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Austin American-Statesman:** While mixed messages can be somewhat common within massive bureaucracies, especially on an issue as esoteric and confusing as handicapped parking, it's unusual to find a government agency giving such diametrically opposed messages.

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23. [State and Federal VA to host supermarket of veterans benefits.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WSFA-TV:** The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs and the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center will be hosting a Supermarket of Veterans Benefits.
24. [Homeless veterans not forsaken.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Journal:** The Department of Veterans Affairs under the leadership of VA Secretary, Eric K. Shinseki, retired general, is committed to ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015... Project H3 Vets originating in Phoenix, Ariz., is a partnership between government, business and nonprofits. It is a new model program that houses homeless veterans first and takes care of their emotional and physical problems afterward.
25. [Veterans Coming Together.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Bridge:** Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) wants all current and future students to know the Veterans Affairs office can help any student veteran or dependent transition into college. The office located in the University Success center room 121K is coordinated by Mr. Eric Aguilar.
26. [Women Veterans Summit and Expo set for April 17 in Raleigh.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Fayetteville Observer:** The N.C. Division of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plan to hold a Women Veterans Summit and Expo in Raleigh on April 17.
27. [S.F. court for veterans helps with postwar adjustment.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **San Francisco Chronicle:** The court works the same way as the Community Justice Center except it focuses on veterans, particularly those who've served in Iraq and Afghanistan. It takes place on Wednesdays in the same Polk Street courtroom as the Community Justice Center with the same judge, but it has extra social services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
28. [Help for veterans offered Saturday in Ferndale.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Tribune (The Bellingham Herald):** Veterans wanting help with learning about benefits they are eligible for, signing up for Veterans Administration health care or getting copies of their military discharge papers can attend a free event Saturday, March 8.
29. [New \\$14.7M Huntsville VA outpatient clinic will soon begin rising near Clearview Cancer Institute.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **AL.com:** A \$14.7 million U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient medical clinic will soon begin rising about a mile west of downtown Huntsville.

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30. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 5, 2014:

- **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.
- **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 12, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 13, 2014.** HVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
- **March 25, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **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.

31. Today in History:

- [1766](#) – [Antonio de Ulloa](#), the first [Spanish](#) governor of [Louisiana](#), arrives in [New Orleans](#).
- [1770](#) – [Boston Massacre](#): Five [Americans](#), including [Crispus Attucks](#), and a boy, are killed by [British](#) troops in an event that would contribute to the outbreak of the [American Revolutionary War](#) (also known as the American War of Independence) five years later. At a subsequent trial the soldiers are defended by future U.S. president [John Adams](#).
- [1811](#) – [Peninsular War](#): A French force under the command of [Marshal Victor](#) is routed while trying to prevent an Anglo-Spanish-Portuguese army from lifting the [Siege of Cádiz](#) in the [Battle of Barrosa](#).
- [1824](#) – [First Anglo-Burmese War](#): The [British](#) officially declare war on [Burma](#).
- [1836](#) – [Samuel Colt](#) patents the first production-model [revolver](#), the .34-caliber.
- [1860](#) – [Parma](#), [Tuscany](#), [Modena](#) and [Romagna](#) vote in [referendums](#) to join the [Kingdom of Sardinia](#).

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- [1872](#) – [George Westinghouse](#) patents the [air brake](#).
- [1906](#) – [Moro Rebellion](#): [United States Army](#) troops bring overwhelming force against the native [Moros](#) in the [First Battle of Bud Dajo](#), leaving only six survivors.
- [1912](#) – [Italian](#) forces are the first to use [airships](#) for military purposes, employing them for [reconnaissance](#) behind [Turkish](#) lines.
- [1931](#) – The British [Viceroy](#) of [India](#), [Governor-General Edward Frederick Lindley Wood](#) and [Mohandas Gandhi](#) (Mahatma Gandhi) [sign an agreement](#) envisaging the release of political prisoners and allowing salt to be freely used by the poorest members of the population.
- [1933](#) – [Great Depression](#): President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) declares a "[bank holiday](#)", closing all U.S. banks and freezing all financial transactions.
- [1933](#) – [Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party](#) receives 43.9% at the [Reichstag elections](#). This later allows the Nazis to pass the [Enabling Act](#) and establish a dictatorship.
- [1940](#) – Members of [Soviet politburo](#), including [general secretary Joseph Stalin](#), sign an order for the execution of 25,700 [Polish intelligentsia](#), including 14,700 Polish [POWs](#), known also as the [Katyn massacre](#).
- [1943](#) – First flight of [Gloster Meteor](#) jet aircraft in the United Kingdom.
- [1944](#) – [World War II](#): The [Red Army](#) begins the [Uman–Botoșani Offensive](#) in the western [Ukrainian SSR](#).
- [1946](#) – [Winston Churchill](#) coins the phrase "[Iron Curtain](#)" in his speech at [Westminster College, Missouri](#).
- [1946](#) – [Hungarian Communists](#) and [Social Democrats](#) co-found the [Left Bloc](#).
- [1960](#) – [Cuban](#) photographer [Alberto Korda](#) takes his [iconic photograph](#) of [Marxist](#) revolutionary [Ernesto "Che" Guevara](#).
- [1965](#) – [March Intifada](#): A [Leftist](#) uprising erupts in [Bahrain](#) against British colonial presence.
- [1966](#) – [BOAC Flight 911](#) crashes on [Mount Fuji, Japan](#), killing 124.
- [1970](#) – The [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) goes into effect after ratification by 43 nations.
- [1974](#) – [Yom Kippur War](#): [Israeli](#) forces withdraw from the west bank of the [Suez Canal](#).
- [1978](#) – The [Landsat 3](#) is launched from [Vandenberg Air Force Base](#) in [California](#).
- [1979](#) – Soviet probes [Venera 11](#), [Venera 12](#) and the American solar satellite [Helios II](#) all are hit by "[off the scale](#)" [gamma rays](#) leading to the discovery of [soft gamma repeaters](#).
- [1979](#) – America's [Voyager 1](#) spacecraft has its closest approach to [Jupiter](#), 172,000 miles.
- [1981](#) – The [ZX81](#), a pioneering [British home computer](#), is launched by [Sinclair Research](#) and would go on to sell over 1.5 million units around the world.
- [1982](#) – Soviet probe [Venera 14](#) landed on [Venus](#).
- [1984](#) – 6,000 miners in the [United Kingdom](#) begin their [strike](#) at [Cortonwood Colliery](#).
- [1988](#) – The [Constitution](#) of [Turks and Caicos Islands](#) is restored and revised.
- [2003](#) – In [Haifa](#), 17 Israeli civilians are killed by a [Hamas](#) suicide bomb in the [Haifa bus 37 massacre](#).