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1. [Poll: Even in GOP, little appetite for military involvement in Ukraine](#). The rallying cry at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference here last week was that President Obama had failed to show strength on foreign policy, but a new CNN poll found that even among Republicans, few support U.S. military involvement — or even military assistance — in the Ukraine crisis.
2. [At Crimea base, Ukraine troops who fought in Iraq now face Russian 'brothers'](#). "I tell you the truth, I would have been less surprised to find men from the moon surrounding our base," the Ukrainian officer said. "Right now, the Russians are our captors. But I cannot get my mind around the idea that they are the enemy. The Russians have always been my brothers."
3. [Judge rules Army command interfered in Sinclair sex assault case](#). A military judge ruled Monday that the U.S. Army improperly interfered with a decision to reject an offer by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair to plead guilty to lesser charges in his sexual assault case.
4. [Suicide awareness hike a personal journey for Army reservist, mother](#). Come Saturday, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Ilene Henderson and her mother, Inge, plan to embark on a 2,180-mile hike of the Appalachian Trail to raise awareness of the rising suicide rate among veterans and to undergo some emotional rehabilitation.
5. [Immigration change gives legal status to undocumented relatives of US military](#). [Hyperlink to Article FOXNews.com](#): Immigration reform may be stalled in Congress, but a new Obama administration policy is extending legal status and military benefits to thousands of illegal immigrants who are the spouses, parents and children of American military members.
6. [VA budget tackles two major goals](#). [Hyperlink to Article The News-Star](#): The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has proposed \$68.4 billion in discretionary spending, largely for health care, with goals to eliminate years of medical claims backlog and a focus on reducing homelessness among veterans.
7. [Secretary Shinseki and the VA are doing the best they can](#). [Hyperlink to Article The Daily Caller](#): For clarification, the recent op-ed by Derrick Storms entitled "How veterans can fight back against VA abuse," does not accurately portray the position of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, nor does Mr. Storms speak for the organization or its members.

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8. [Bill would speed progress on claims backlog.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military Times:** Their bill, the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act, would provide better customer service for veterans with pending claims, offer more money to veterans who file “fully developed” claims and mandate stricter oversight of claims officials.

9. [Veterans explain frustrations with VA delays to American Legion panel.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Augusta Chronicle:** More than 50 veteran patients joined Kelly at the meeting to relay issues about care to the American Legion’s System Worth Saving Task Force, a decade-old group that chose Augusta this year as one of 15 VA systems it plans to assess for improvements.

10. [Veterans Blast VA Medical Center, American Legion Takes Note.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WJBF-TV (Video):** The Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center is under the microscope again for review of how it cares for patients. This time, national members of the American Legion’s System Worth Saving (SWS) met at the Jack Fortune VFW Post 205 on Highland Ave. in Augusta to hear from veterans about their VA Medical Center issues.

11. [Veterans Help Each Other In Sacramento State College Course.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KOVR-TV:** A professor at Sacramento State started the class for students who served our country... There are a few classes at other colleges for just veterans, but this class appears to be a first, where veterans end up mentoring other veterans.

12. [Veterans make up growing share of federal workforce so why is their morale faltering?](#) [Hyperlink to Above Article](#) **WFED-AM (Federal News Radio):** In 2012, nearly 29 percent of new hires were veterans — by the government's count, the highest percentage of new veteran hires in some 20 years. That equated to more than 56,000 veterans joining the ranks of the civil service that year... But even as the federal government has found success onboarding veteran employees, new questions have been raised about the workplace environments veterans are encountering.

13. [Fighting for space on a new front.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Californian:** With few employment prospects, Wiltshire turned to the GI Bill to keep himself afloat financially — the legislation covers educational costs and a living stipend. His initial motivation was primarily economic, and his attitude was decidedly ho-hum.

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14. [Welcome efforts to connect veterans to jobs.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Tribune:** Tens of thousands of veterans will be hunting for jobs and support services, and the new Lakewood nonprofit [Rally Point 6] is uniquely poised to help them. With close ties to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the organization founded by retired Army helicopter pilot Anne Sprute has a mission: Don't leave anyone behind. Do what it takes to help each veteran succeed in the post-military world.

15. [Long Beach vocational assistance program helps veterans with spinal injuries find jobs.](#) [Hyperlink to Above Article](#) **Press-Telegram:** Counselors are assigned to veterans hospitals that are equipped to treat people living with the kinds of serious injuries that would require a person to use a wheelchair or a walker, either of which Metal needs to use, depending on how far he has to move in a given situation.

16. [3 ways to manage patient pain.](#) FierceHealthcare ... approach developed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to treat ... decrease reliance on pain medications, according to Pain Medicine News.

17. [After a conviction, help for incarcerated veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Baltimore Sun:** Haskell is a clinical social worker in Baltimore with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has piloted a program in Maryland that allows the agency to identify more veterans in prison. That program — which matches VA records with prison records, enabling the VA to locate twice as many former service members — is now expanding nationwide.

18. [Veteran group's donation prompts free Tri-Rail rides, new legislation.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Sun Sentinel:** The goal was to make life a little easier for disabled veterans in Deerfield Beach... But money raised by the city's chapter of the Disabled American Veterans to subsidize Tri-Rail trips to VA hospitals has instead had a much wider reach.

19. [This week: Vet Center Visit.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Asbury Park Press:** The Vet Center, an arm of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, will offer mobile counseling services in southern Ocean County later this month.

20. [Veteran, active-duty counseling center coming to Prattville.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Montgomery Advertiser:** The Birmingham Veterans Center is coming to Prattville to service active-duty military members and their families in counseling, March 28... According to the Department of Veterans Affairs eligibility requirements have expanded to include more than just Veterans.

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21. [Hockey player Josh Sweeney among U.S. veterans in Sochi.](#)
[Hyperlink to Article USA Today:](#) The U.S. Paralympic team has no shortage of compelling stories, especially with slightly more than 20% of the 80-person roster comprised of military members... As with many veterans in the Sochi Games, Lujan first got his start to adaptive winter sports at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, sponsored by the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs.

22. [William 'Wild Bill' Guarnere dies; was member of WWII 'Band of Brothers'.](#) "Wild Bill" Guarnere, earning his nickname as a fearless combat soldier against the Germans, was a member of the legendary "Band of Brothers" — Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division — celebrated in books and an HBO miniseries in 2001.

23. [Veteran recalls reaching targets first in nose turret of B-24 over Japan.](#) As the "lead" crew member, Paul E. Allan realized there was a good chance the enemy, if coming head-on, would most likely take aim at him first.

24. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 11, 2014:**
 - **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, NCOA, 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.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing on Veterans Affairs Bills.
 - H.R. 2942 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - H.R. 3056 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of outreach and support services to veterans pursuing higher education under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - H.R. 3614 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve the recognition by states of skills learned in the military by a Veteran when issuing licenses and credentials.
 - H.R. 4031 — Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.

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- H.R. 4037 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to training and rehabilitation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities, and for other purposes.
 - H.R. 4038 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in the information technology of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to process claims more efficiently, and for other purposes.
 - H.R. 4147 — Student Veterans IT Upgrade Act.
 - H.R. 4150 — Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2014.
 - H.R. 4151 — Veterans Education Survey Act of 2014.
- **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.
- **March 27, 2014.** HVAC Health intends to hold a Legislative Hearing on health related bills.

25. Today in History:

- [1784](#) – The signing of the [Treaty of Mangalore](#) brings the [Second Anglo-Mysore War](#) to an end.
- [1811](#) – During [André Masséna's](#) retreat from the [Lines of Torres Vedras](#), a division led by [French Marshal Michel Ney fights off](#) a combined Anglo-Portuguese force to give Masséna time to escape.
- [1824](#) – The [United States Department of War](#) creates the [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#).
- [1845](#) – [The Flagstaff War](#): Unhappy with translational differences regarding the [Treaty of Waitangi](#), chiefs [Hone Heke](#), [Kawiti](#) and [Māori](#) tribe members chop down the British flagpole for a fourth time and drive settlers out of [Kororareka, New Zealand](#).
- [1861](#) – [American Civil War](#): The [Constitution of the Confederate States of America](#) is adopted.
- [1872](#) – Construction of the [Seven Sisters](#) Colliery, [South Wales](#), begins; located on one of the richest coal sources in Britain.
- [1879](#) – [Shō Tai](#) formally abdicated his position of King of Ryūkyū, under orders from [Tokyo](#), ending the [Ryukyu Kingdom](#)
- [1888](#) – The [Great Blizzard of 1888](#) begins along the eastern seaboard of the United States, shutting down commerce and killing more than 400.
- [1916](#) – [USS Nevada \(BB-36\)](#) is commissioned. The first US Navy "[super-dreadnought](#)".
- [1917](#) – [World War I](#): [Baghdad falls](#) to [Anglo-Indian](#) forces commanded by [General Stanley Maude](#).
- [1918](#) – The first case of [Spanish flu](#) occurs, the start of a devastating worldwide pandemic.

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- [1927](#) – In [New York City](#), [Samuel Roxy Rothafel](#) opens the [Roxy Theatre](#).
- [1931](#) – [Ready for Labor and Defense of the USSR](#), abbreviated as [GTO](#), is introduced in the [Soviet Union](#).
- [1941](#) – [World War II](#): [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) signs the [Lend-Lease](#) Act into law, allowing American-built war supplies to be shipped to the [Allies](#) on loan.
- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): [General Douglas MacArthur](#) leaves [Corregidor](#).
- [1945](#) – [World War II](#): The [Imperial Japanese Navy](#) attempts a large-scale [kamikaze](#) attack on the [U.S. Pacific Fleet](#) anchored at [Ulithi](#) atoll in [Operation Tan No. 2](#).
- [1945](#) – [World War II](#): The [Empire of Vietnam](#), a short-lived [puppet state](#), is established with [Bảo Đại](#) as its ruler.
- [1946](#) – [Rudolf Höss](#), the first commandant of [Auschwitz concentration camp](#), is captured by British troops.
- [1977](#) – The [1977 Hanafi Muslim Siege](#): more than 130 hostages held in [Washington, D.C.](#), by [Hanafi](#) Muslims are set free after ambassadors from three [Islamic](#) nations join negotiations.
- [1978](#) – [Coastal Road massacre](#): At least 37 are killed and more than 70 are wounded when [Al Fatah](#) hijack an [Israeli](#) bus, prompting Israel's [Operation Litani](#).
- [1983](#) – [Pakistan successfully conducts](#) a [cold test](#) of a [nuclear weapon](#).
- [1990](#) – [Lithuania declares itself independent](#) from the Soviet Union.
- [1990](#) – [Patricio Aylwin](#) is sworn in as the first democratically elected [President of Chile](#) since 1970.
- [1993](#) – [Janet Reno](#) is confirmed by the [United States Senate](#) and sworn in the next day, becoming the first female [Attorney General of the United States](#).
- [1999](#) – [Infosys](#) becomes the first [Indian](#) company listed on the [NASDAQ](#) stock exchange.
- [2004](#) – [Madrid train bombings](#): Simultaneous explosions on rush hour trains in [Madrid, Spain](#), kill 191 people.
- [2006](#) – [Michelle Bachelet](#) is inaugurated as first female president of Chile.
- [2007](#) – [Georgia](#) claims [Russian](#) helicopters [attacked](#) the [Kodori Valley](#) in [Abkhazia](#), an accusation that Russia categorically denies later.
- [2009](#) – [Winnenden school shooting](#): 16 are killed and 11 are injured before recent-graduate Tim Kretschmer shoots and kills himself, leading to tightened weapons restrictions in [Germany](#).
- [2010](#) – Economist and businessman [Sebastián Piñera](#) is sworn in as [President of Chile](#), while [three earthquakes](#), the strongest measuring magnitude 6.9 and all centered next to [Pichilemu](#), capital of [Cardenal Caro Province](#), hit central Chile during the ceremony.
- [2011](#) – An [earthquake](#) measuring 9.0 in magnitude strikes 130 km (81 mi) east of [Sendai](#), Japan, triggering a [tsunami](#) killing thousands of people. This event also triggered the [second largest nuclear accident](#) in history, and one of only two events to be classified as a Level 7 on the [International Nuclear Event Scale](#).
- [2012](#) – A US soldier [kills 16 civilians](#) in the [Panjwayi District](#) of [Afghanistan](#) near [Kandahar](#).