

March 20, 2014

1. **Biden signals plans for more US military drills in the Baltics.**
2. **DOD announces Army general officers' moves in Europe.**
3. **Pentagon withholds internal report about flawed \$2.7 billion intel program.**
4. **AFN and DODEA team up for TV broadcast to stop bullying.**
5. **Senators demand VA explain delayed burn pit registry.**
6. **Oklahoma closer to offering veterans free oxygen treatment for brain injuries, PTSD.**
7. **Women's History Month: Honoring Our Nation's Women Veterans.**
8. **PTSD expert to keynote Symposium on Veterans Health.**
9. **Some Vets With Brain Injury Can't Control Laughing or Tears.**
10. **Muscoy home for homeless vets celebrates construction completion.**
11. **The Price of Freedom: Helping Homeless Veterans.**
12. **VA responds to foreclosure on local veterans home.**
13. **Rural Kansas Veterans low on doctors.**
14. **Drugs, corruption go unpunished in Mississippi VA center.**
15. **Veteran friendly.**
16. **Letter: Vet laments inability to obtain VA ID card.**
17. **House advances bill overhauling Kansas veteran management.**
18. **DiNapoli: Veterans services are underutilized.**
19. **Audit: Veterans not informed on health-care options.**
20. **Need a lift? Syracuse veterans transport network adds Cayuga County van.**
21. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 20, 2014:**
22. **Today in History:**

March 20, 2014

1. [Biden signals plans for more US military drills in the Baltics.](#) The U.S. is crafting plans to deploy rotational ground troops and naval forces into the Baltics as part of an effort to bolster the capabilities of regional allies and reassure nations shaken by Russia's intervention in nearby Ukraine, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said
2. [DOD announces Army general officers' moves in Europe.](#) The Defense Department has tapped an 82nd Airborne Division deputy commander to head the Joint Multinational Training Command, which is headquartered in Grafenwöhr, Germany.
3. [Pentagon withholds internal report about flawed \\$2.7 billion intel program.](#) The Army has spent years defending a multibillion-dollar intelligence system that critics say costs too much and does too little. A new internal report has found that there's a simple, relatively inexpensive program that could handle many of the same jobs at a fraction of the cost. For the past eight months, though, the Pentagon has kept the report hidden away.
4. [AFN and DODEA team up for TV broadcast to stop bullying.](#) It may be "March Madness" time, but college basketball won't be the only thing dominating American Forces Network television airwaves this weekend.
5. [Senators demand VA explain delayed burn pit registry.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Hill:** Sens. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.) questioned the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) delay in creating the Open Air Burn Pit Registry.
6. [Oklahoma closer to offering veterans free oxygen treatment for brain injuries, PTSD.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KOKH-TV (Video):** Forty thousand veterans in the state with brain injuries could get help for free, if current legislation continues forward.
7. [Women's History Month: Honoring Our Nation's Women Veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post:** As we honor Women's History Month, I want to thank the women who have served in the military.
8. [PTSD expert to keynote Symposium on Veterans Health.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Bangor Daily News:** Blake's presentation "Wounded Warriors Resolving Battlefield Trauma at the End of Life" describes a powerful approach that helps veterans deal with unresolved combat trauma.

March 20, 2014

9. [Some Vets With Brain Injury Can't Control Laughing or Tears. Hyperlink to Article](#) **NBC News:** In a survey of more than 700 veterans who showed signs of traumatic brain injury, 60 percent said they struggle with a little-known, neurological condition that causes them to lapse into uncontrolled fits of laughter or crying, according to a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs survey released Wednesday.

10. [Muscoy home for homeless vets celebrates construction completion. Hyperlink to Article](#) **San Bernardino Sun:** A new living center for 21 homeless veterans here, on the cusp of opening, held its dedication ceremonies Wednesday.

11. [The Price of Freedom: Helping Homeless Veterans. Hyperlink to Article](#) **WTVC-TV (Video):** The Veterans Administration has a goal to end veteran homelessness by 2015. "Nationally it is a critical issue and I would dare to say that's why the Veterans Administration nationally has taken this on as one of their target programs," Director of Johnson Mental Health, Donna Maddox said.

12. [VA responds to foreclosure on local veterans home. Hyperlink to Article](#) **KTBC-TV (Video):** The Veterans Administration Wednesday responded to questions about why the federal agency was foreclosing on a local army veteran's home.

13. [Rural Kansas Veterans low on doctors. Hyperlink to Article](#) **KSNW-TV (Video):** It can be difficult to get enough doctors into rural Kansas towns, but in Liberal the VA hospital is struggling to get local vets just one.

14. [Drugs, corruption go unpunished in Mississippi VA center. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Caller:** According to the report, there were "numerous issues regarding patient safety, provision of services, and certification of medical providers."

15. [Veteran friendly. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Sarasota Herald-Tribune:** Florida wants to be known as the friendliest state for military veterans. It moved a step closer to that goal this month when the Legislature approved a bill that will cut college costs for veterans.

March 20, 2014

16. [Letter: Vet laments inability to obtain VA ID card.](#) [Hyperlink to Article Florida Today](#): The VA says it will issue that card only to those who are eligible for VA medical benefits, so I was not allowed the store discount, as the VA will not issue me that card or any other proof of service.
17. [House advances bill overhauling Kansas veteran management.](#) [Hyperlink to Article The Topeka Capital-Journal](#): The House took steps to approve a bill Wednesday placing duties of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs under control of the governor following a state audit identifying potential fraud, weak financial oversight and confusion about management responsibilities.
18. [DiNapoli: Veterans services are underutilized.](#) [Hyperlink to Article Times Union](#): Comptroller Tom DiNapoli has found that lots of veterans in New York State rely on Medicaid for health care services rather than the federal Veterans Affairs organizations.
19. [Audit: Veterans not informed on health-care options.](#) [Hyperlink to Article Star-Gazette](#): Veterans in New York seeking health insurance have been wrongly placed in the state's Medicaid program in many cases rather than federal programs, an audit Wednesday said.
20. [Need a lift? Syracuse veterans transport network adds Cayuga County van.](#) [Hyperlink to Article Auburn Citizen](#): For local veterans seeking medical attention or who receive long term health care in Cayuga County, a transportation service will soon be available to drive them to and from appointments.
21. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 20, 2014:**
 - **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.

March 20, 2014

- 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 25, 2014.** HVAC O&I will hold legislative hearing with issues related to construction, health, and other matters.
- *HR 3593* – Mandating arrangement with US Army Corps of Engineers for three major construction projects
 - *Draft bill* – informed consent for psychotropic drugs
 - *Draft bill* – oversight of contracts with service-disabled veteran owned small businesses
 - *Draft bill* –Gulf War Illness
 - *Draft bill* –Improve information security by implementing actions to improve transparency and governance
 - *Draft bill* –Biological implant protocol and procurement
- **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 26, 2014:** HVAC DAMA will hold a Legislative Hearing on bills related to NCA and VBA.
- HR 2018 – Honor Those Who Served Act
 - HR 2088 – Centers for Excellence
 - HR 2119 – Veterans Access to Speedy Review (Video Hearing)
 - HR 2529 – Veterans Spouse Equal Treatment Act
 - HR 3671 – NCA Medallion Bill
 - HR 3876 – Burial with Dignity Act
 - HR 4095 – Annual COLA
 - HR 4102 – Require Payment for Accrued Benefits to Veterans Estate
 - HR 4141 – Expand Enhanced Use Leases to Cemeteries
 - HR 4191 – Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act (REVISED)

March 20, 2014

- **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
- **March 27, 2014.** HVAC Health intends to hold a Legislative Hearing on health related bills.
 - H.R. 183 – The Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act
 - H.R. 2527 – Veterans counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training
 - H.R. 2661 – The Veterans Access to Timely Medical Appointments Act
 - H.R. 2974 – To provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes
 - H.R. 3387 – The Classified Veterans Access to Care Act
 - H.R. 3508 – Qualifications of hearing aid specialists
 - H.R. 3180 – To include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects (Kaptur)
 - H.R. 3831 – The Veterans Dialysis Pilot Program Review Act of 2014 (Roe)
 - H.R. 4198 – The Appropriate Care for Disabled Veterans Act
 - DRAFT – To authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2014 and for other purposes. (VA FY14 Construction Package)

22. Today in History:

- [1616](#) – [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) is freed from the [Tower of London](#) after 13 years of imprisonment.
- [1760](#) – The "[Great Fire](#)" of [Boston, Massachusetts](#), destroys 349 buildings.
- [1815](#) – After escaping from [Elba](#), [Napoleon](#) enters [Paris](#) with a regular army of 140,000 and a volunteer force of around 200,000, beginning his "[Hundred Days](#)" rule.
- [1848](#) – [Revolutions of 1848 in the German states](#): [King Ludwig I of Bavaria](#) abdicates.
- [1852](#) – [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#)'s [Uncle Tom's Cabin](#) is published.
- [1854](#) – The [Republican Party of the United States](#) is organized in [Ripon, Wisconsin](#).
- [1861](#) – An [earthquake](#) completely destroys [Mendoza, Argentina](#).
- [1913](#) – [Sung Chiao-jen](#), a founder of the [Chinese Nationalist Party](#), is wounded in an assassination attempt and dies 2 days later.
- [1916](#) – [Albert Einstein](#) publishes his [general theory of relativity](#).
- [1922](#) – The [USS Langley \(CV-1\)](#) is commissioned as the first [United States Navy aircraft carrier](#).
- [1923](#) – The [Arts Club of Chicago](#) hosts the opening of [Pablo Picasso](#)'s first United States showing, entitled *Original Drawings by Pablo Picasso*, becoming an early proponent of [modern art](#) in the United States.

March 20, 2014

- [1933](#) – [Giuseppe Zangara](#) is [executed](#) in [Florida's electric chair](#) for fatally shooting [Anton Cermak](#) in an assassination attempt against [President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt](#).
- [1933](#) – [Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler](#) ordered the creation of [Dachau Concentration Camp](#) as [Chief of Police](#) of [Munich](#) and appointed [Theodor Eicke](#) as the camp commandant.
- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): [General Douglas MacArthur](#), at [Terowie, South Australia](#), makes his famous speech regarding the [fall of the Philippines](#), in which he says: "I came out of [Bataan](#) and I shall return".
- [1951](#) – [Fujiyoshida](#), a [city](#) located in [Yamanashi Prefecture](#), Japan, in the center of the Japanese main island of [Honshū](#) is founded.
- [1952](#) – The [United States Senate](#) ratifies a [peace treaty](#) with Japan.
- [1956](#) – [Tunisia](#) gains independence from [France](#).
- [1972](#) – [The Troubles](#): A [Provisional IRA](#) car bomb kills seven and injures 148 in [Belfast, Northern Ireland](#). It was the first of many car bomb attacks by the group.
- [1974](#) – Ian Ball attempts, but fails, to kidnap [Her Royal Highness Princess Anne](#) and her husband [Captain Mark Phillips](#) in [The Mall](#), outside [Buckingham Palace, London](#).
- [1985](#) – [Libby Riddles](#) becomes the first woman to win the 1,135-mile [Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race](#).
- [1985](#) – Canadian [paraplegic](#) athlete and [humanitarian Rick Hansen](#) begins his [circumnavigation](#) of the globe in a wheelchair in the name of [spinal cord](#) injury medical research.
- [1987](#) – The [Food and Drug Administration](#) approves the anti-[AIDS](#) drug, [AZT](#).
- [1988](#) – [Eritrean War of Independence](#): Having defeated the Nadew Command, the [Eritrean People's Liberation Front](#) enters the town of [Afabet](#), victoriously concluding the [Battle of Afabet](#).
- [1990](#) – [Ferdinand Marcos's](#) widow, [Imelda Marcos](#), goes on trial for [bribery](#), [embezzlement](#), and [racketeering](#).
- [1993](#) – [The Troubles](#): A Provisional IRA bomb [kills two children](#) in [Warrington](#), England. It leads to mass protests in both Britain and Ireland.
- [1995](#) – A [sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway](#) kills 13 and wounds 1,300 persons.
- [2000](#) – [Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin](#), a former [Black Panther](#) once known as [H. Rap Brown](#), is captured after murdering [Georgia](#) sheriff's deputy Ricky Kinchen and critically wounding Deputy Aldranon English.
- [2003](#) – [2003 invasion of Iraq](#): In the early hours of the morning, the [United States](#) and three other countries (the UK, Australia and Poland) begin military operations in [Iraq](#).
- [2006](#) – Over 150 [Chadian soldiers](#) are killed in eastern [Chad](#) by members of the rebel [UFDC](#). The rebel movement sought to overthrow [Chadian president Idriss Deby](#).