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3. Judge: Obama sex assault comments 'unlawful command influence'.
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5. VA should do a better job of informing return vets of property tax.
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7. VA hits backlog goal in 3 cities: Hint of a fix or mirage?
8. Tester introduces legislation to improve care for vets.
9. Researchers Find Biological Evidence of Gulf War Illness.
10. FDA, facing cybersecurity threats, tightens medical-device standards.
11. Patients Put at Risk By Computer Viruses.
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1. [As public concerns grow, Congress spooked over spying](#). The American people are growing increasingly concerned about reports of domestic spying. And Congress isn't sure how to respond.
2. [North Korea changes tack and tells US: Let's talk](#). North Korea's top governing body on Sunday proposed high-level nuclear and security talks with the United States in an appeal sent just days after calling off talks with rival South Korea.
3. [Judge: Obama sex assault comments 'unlawful command influence'](#). Two defendants in military sexual assault cases cannot be punitively discharged, if found guilty, because of "unlawful command influence" derived from comments made by President Barack Obama, a judge ruled in a Hawaii military court this week, setting the stage for defense attorneys to use the same arguments in sexual assault cases throughout the military.
4. [Fort Ord cemetery to get state funding but faces other challenges](#). [Monterey County Herald](#) The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs had given initial approval for the cemetery but in February balked at the \$26 million cost estimate, which included in-ground burials. The foundation says 5,600 burial and crypt sites will be needed for the first ...
5. [VA should do a better job of informing return vets of property tax](#). [Mid-Hudson News](#) US Senator Charles Schumer called on the Department of Veterans Affairs to better communicate with veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan by letting them know of a property tax benefit available to them. The senator came to ...
6. [New website launches for Minnesota veterans](#). [Alexandria Echo Press](#) The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the launch of their newly redesigned website at MinnesotaVeteran.org. Talk about it. The Minnesota Department ... In its continuing effort to be in the forefront of providing the best service ...

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7. [VA hits backlog goal in 3 cities: Hint of a fix or mirage?](#) [NBCNews.com \(blog\)](#) The U.S. Veterans Affairs department says it has hit a “tipping point,” cutting its monstrous backlog of disability claims by 74,000 since late April, yet agency critics contend that growing throngs of ex-troops waiting for injury compensation in ...

8. [Tester introduces legislation to improve care for vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Missoulian:** Sen. Jon Tester introduced legislation last week to improve the quality of care for veterans and to strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs’ mental health and telemedicine initiatives.

9. [Researchers Find Biological Evidence of Gulf War Illness.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The New York Times:** Recent research is bolstering the view that the symptoms, known collectively as gulf war illness, are fundamentally biological in nature. In the latest example, researchers at Georgetown University say they have found neurological damage in gulf war veterans reporting symptoms of the disease.

10. [FDA, facing cybersecurity threats, tightens medical-device standards.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post:** Computer viruses and other malware increasingly are infecting equipment such as hospital computers used to view X-rays and CT scans and devices in cardiac catheterization labs, agency officials said. The problems cause the equipment to slow down or shut off, complicating patient care.

11. [Patients Put at Risk By Computer Viruses.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Wall Street Journal:** The Food and Drug Administration is warning makers of heart monitors, mammogram machines and myriad other medical devices that their gear is at risk of being infected with computer viruses that can endanger patients. Previously unreleased Department of Veterans Affairs records show that since 2009, malware infected at least 327 devices at VA hospitals.

12. [Aurora’s new VA hospital has long, costly history.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Denver Post:** The regional VA hospital that will open in 2015 at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora came under fire in a recent Government Accountability Office report that found the project was almost \$500 million more expensive than originally projected.

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13. [Schumer fights for ways to inform veterans of benefits, services.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Poughkeepsie Journal:** [Senator Schumer] called on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to release [the names of discharged veterans] twice a year and include New York state's tax-exemption program application in military separation packages.

14. [Do more: Federal government not doing enough to help Guam's veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Guam Pacific Daily News:** Editorial argues that the U.S. government still doesn't provide adequate care and services for all of Guam's veterans, and that these gaps must be rectified.

15. [VA had Legionella bug 5 years before disclosure.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** Legionella bacteria flourished in the water lines in rooms housing the most vulnerable patients at the VA Pittsburgh hospital in Oakland at least five years before officials disclosed a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in November 2012, a Tribune-Review investigation has found.

16. [Aiming to help Chamorro veterans: Organization establishes chapter in San Diego.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Guam Pacific Daily News:** Chamorros in Washington, D.C., recently established a national organization to see that Chamorro veterans are getting their full rights and privileges under the law. The National Organization of Chamorro Veterans in America, or NOCVA, has now established a chapter in San Diego to expand this effort.

17. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 17, 2013:**
 - **June 18, 2013.** Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs will hold a hearing on the post-decision process for appealed Veterans. 2:30 P.M.; 334 Cannon
 - **June 19, 2013.** HVAC Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a legislative Hearing on H.R. 1490 'Veterans' Privacy Act;' H.R. 1792, 'Infectious Disease Reporting Act;' and H.R. 1804, 'Foreign Travel Accountability Act'. 1:30 P.M.; Cannon
 - **June 20, 2013.** HVAC Economic Opportunity Subcommittee will hold a hearing to discuss the value of education for Veterans at public, private, and for-profit colleges and universities. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon

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- **June 26, 2013.** HVAC Economic Opportunity Subcommittee will hold a legislative hearing on the following bills. Time: TBD

The tentative bill list is as follows:

- HR 331 – School Consortium Bill, to permit the centralized reporting of Veteran enrollment by certain groups, districts, and consortiums of educational institutions.
 - HR 1357 – VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, to improve the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program by providing assistance under such program for certain training programs that are considered less than fulltime.
 - HR 1796 –Troop Talent Act, ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and Veterans better assists members and Veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes.
 - HR 2210 – Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship Improvements Act of 2013, amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility of children of certain deceased Veterans to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - Education bill on ‘irrevocable decision’.
 - Draft “Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration Act of 2009,” this is a reprise of a Buyer Bill from 2009 that would split off from VBA a new “Economic Opportunity Administration.”
- **June 27, 2013.** HVAC will hold a hearing to discuss VA’s capital investment options to provide Veterans with care. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon
 - **July 10, 2013.** The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs will hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Armed Services entitled, “DOD and VA Collaboration to assist Service Members Returning to Civilian Life.” 10:00 A.M.; 2118 Rayburn

18. Today in History:

- [1775](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): Colonists inflict heavy casualties on British forces while losing the [Battle of Bunker Hill](#).
- [1789](#) – In [France](#), the [Third Estate](#) declares itself the [National Assembly](#).
- [1839](#) – In the [Kingdom of Hawaii](#), [Kamehameha III](#) issues the [edict of toleration](#) which gives [Roman Catholics](#) the freedom to worship in the [Hawaiian Islands](#). The [Hawaii Catholic Church](#) and the [Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace](#) are established as a result.

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- [1843](#) – The [Wairau Affray](#), the first serious clash of arms between [Māori](#) and British settlers in the [New Zealand Wars](#), takes place.
- [1861](#) – [Battle of Vienna, Virginia](#) in the [American Civil War](#).
- [1863](#) – [Battle of Aldie](#) in the [Gettysburg Campaign](#) of the American Civil War.
- [1876](#) – [American Indian Wars: Battle of the Rosebud](#) – 1,500 [Sioux](#) and [Cheyenne](#) led by [Crazy Horse](#) beat back [General George Crook's](#) forces at Rosebud Creek in [Montana Territory](#).
- [1877](#) – American Indian Wars: [Battle of White Bird Canyon](#) – the [Nez Perce](#) defeat the [U.S. Cavalry](#) at White Bird Canyon in the [Idaho Territory](#).
- [1885](#) – The [Statue of Liberty](#) arrives in [New York Harbor](#).
- [1898](#) – The [United States Navy Hospital Corps](#) is established.
- [1900](#) – [Boxer Rebellion: Allied Western and Japanese](#) forces [capture](#) the [Taku Forts](#) in [Tianjin](#), China.
- [1901](#) – The [College Board](#) introduces its first standardized test, the forerunner to the [SAT](#).
- [1910](#) – [Aurel Vlaicu](#) pilots an [A. Vlaicu nr. 1](#) on its first flight.
- [1930](#) – [U.S. President Herbert Hoover](#) signs the [Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act](#) into law.
- [1932](#) – [Bonus Army](#): around a thousand [World War I](#) veterans amass at the [United States Capitol](#) as the [U.S. Senate](#) considers a bill that would give them certain benefits.
- [1933](#) – [Union Station Massacre](#): in [Kansas City, Missouri](#), four [FBI](#) agents and captured fugitive [Frank Nash](#) are gunned down by gangsters attempting to free Nash.
- [1939](#) – Last public guillotining in France: [Eugen Weidmann](#), a convicted murderer, is guillotined in [Versailles](#) outside the Saint-Pierre prison
- [1940](#) – [World War II](#): sinking of the [RMS Lancastria](#) by the [Luftwaffe](#) near [Saint-Nazaire](#), France.
- 1940 – World War II: the [British Army's 11th Hussars](#) assault and take [Fort Capuzzo](#) in [Libya](#), [Africa](#) from [Italian](#) forces.
- 1940 – The three [Baltic states](#) of [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#) and [Lithuania](#) fall under the [occupation](#) of the [Soviet Union](#).
- [1944](#) – [Iceland](#) declares [independence](#) from [Denmark](#) and becomes a [republic](#).
- [1948](#) – A [Douglas DC-6](#) carrying [United Airlines Flight 624](#) crashes near [Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania](#), killing all 43 people on board.
- [1953](#) – [East Germany Workers Uprising](#): in [East Germany](#), the Soviet Union orders a division of troops into [East Berlin](#) to quell a [rebellion](#).
- [1958](#) – The [Ironworkers Memorial Second Narrows Crossing](#), in the process of being built to connect [Vancouver](#) and [North Vancouver \(Canada\)](#), collapses into the [Burrard Inlet](#) killing many of the ironworkers and injuring others.
- 1958 – The [wooden roller coaster](#) at [Playland](#), which is in the [Pacific National Exhibition](#), Vancouver, [British Columbia](#), [Canada](#) opens. It is still open today.
- [1960](#) – The [Nez Perce](#) tribe is awarded \$4 million for 7 million acres (28,000 km²) of land undervalued at 4 cents/acre in the 1863 treaty.
- [1963](#) – The [United States Supreme Court](#) rules 8 to 1 in [Abington School District v. Schempp](#) against requiring the reciting of [Bible](#) verses and the [Lord's Prayer](#) in [public schools](#).

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- 1963 – A day after [South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem](#) announced the [Joint Communiqué](#) to end the [Buddhist crisis](#), a riot involving around 2,000 people breaks out. One person is killed.
- 1967 – The [People's Republic of China](#) announces a successful test of its first [thermonuclear weapon](#).
- 1971 – President [Richard Nixon](#) declares the U.S. [War on Drugs](#).
- 1972 – [Watergate scandal](#): five [White House](#) operatives are arrested for burgling the offices of the [Democratic National Committee](#), in an attempt by some members of the [Republican party](#) to illegally [wiretap](#) the opposition.
- 1987 – With the death of the last individual of the species, the [Dusky Seaside Sparrow](#) becomes extinct.
- 1991 – [Apartheid](#): the [South African Parliament](#) repeals the [Population Registration Act](#) which required racial classification of all [South Africans](#) at birth.
- 1992 – A "joint understanding" agreement on arms reduction is signed by U.S. President [George Bush](#) and [Russian President Boris Yeltsin](#) (this would be later codified in [START II](#)).
- 1994 – Following a televised low-speed highway chase, [O.J. Simpson](#) is arrested for the [murders](#) of his wife, [Nicole Brown Simpson](#), and her friend [Ronald Goldman](#).