

June 18, 2013

1. VA says claims backlog continues to shrink.
2. Dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Learning to live again after war.
3. PTSD in the US military: Vet Center offers free counseling.
4. Obama's comments could have long-term effect on sex assault cases.
5. Military plans would put women in most combat jobs.
6. Nellis AFB commander worries base's muted noises are here to stay.
7. Living memorial outgrows space in somber reflection of the wars' toll.
8. When mom or dad deploys, someone Big is there to lean on.
9. The VA Backlog: Where Are We Now? Really?
10. Public Can Honor Veterans With Engraved Pavers At New State Veterans.
11. Veteran suicide: growing numbers, intensified outreach.
12. PTSD hits soldier's family hard on the Cape.
13. Providence Center opening residence for homeless veterans struggling with mental-health, addiction issues.
14. VA tackles problem of incomplete claims from local veterans.
15. Lawmakers request credit monitoring for veterans, dependents.
16. Ohio veterans running out of time for bonuses.
17. Bills, new agency to make life easier for Michigan's veterans.
18. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 18, 2013:
19. Today in History:

June 18, 2013

1. [VA says claims backlog continues to shrink.](#) [FierceHealthIT](#) The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has made "significant progress" in trying to work through its backlog of more than 800,000 disability claims, Nextgov reported last week. Since March, the VA has cut the total number of pending claims by roughly ...
2. [Dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Learning to live again after war.](#) [Sand Mountain Reporter](#) Though hundreds of thousands of Americans have sacrificed their lives in protecting the democratic freedoms of millions more, Licensed Certified Social Worker Pamela Prestridge at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic ...
3. [PTSD in the US military: Vet Center offers free counseling.](#) [Federal Way Mirror](#) Veterans account for 20 percent of the nearly 32,000 suicide deaths in the U.S. per year, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Sexual assault also triggers PTSD. The Department of Defense estimates that 26,000 sexual assaults occurred ...
4. [Obama's comments could have long-term effect on sex assault cases.](#) President Barack Obama's call last month for strict punishments for military sexual assault — and a military judge's ruling that those comments from the commander in chief crossed the line — will likely have immediate impacts on sexual assault prosecutions, military legal experts said.
5. [Military plans would put women in most combat jobs.](#) Women may be able to start training as Army Rangers by mid-2015 and as Navy SEALs a year later under plans set to be announced by the Pentagon that would slowly bring women into thousands of combat jobs, including those in elite special operations forces.
6. [Nellis AFB commander worries base's muted noises are here to stay.](#) Charles Moore Jr. is no stranger to the fears and anxieties of war, having flown more than 600 combat hours in fighter jets and now serving as a commander of a collection of squadrons responsible for more than 130 aircraft that comprise the Air Force's most diverse flying wing.

June 18, 2013

7. [Living memorial outgrows space in somber reflection of the wars' toll.](#)
Unlike memorials created after a conflict ends, providing only the chance to look back on history, this one is a living memorial, growing along with the death toll. It presents a visual record of the human cost of war as it's being paid — a powerful opportunity for reflection while the country can still change the path it has chosen.

8. [When mom or dad deploys, someone Big is there to lean on.](#) Big Brothers and Big Sisters are stepping in to take the pressure off of military families.

9. [The VA Backlog: Where Are We Now? Really?](#) [TIME](#) In recent months, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has come under sharp criticism for the mounting pile of backlogged and pending benefits claims for military veterans. The list of critics is long, and includes members of Congress from both ...

10. [Public Can Honor Veterans With Engraved Pavers At New State Veterans.](#) [Hartford Courant](#) Schwartz, Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, Major General Thaddeus J. Martin, Connecticut Adjutant General of Connecticut National Guard, other state and federal officials, and dozens of veterans from around the state.

11. [Veteran suicide: growing numbers, intensified outreach.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Daily Press:** But as more veterans pour into the system, the VA has pledged to expand the war on mental illness, adding staff and working harder to publicize its services, including a veterans crisis line that has seen a steady increase in calls since being establishment in 2009.

12. [PTSD hits soldier's family hard on the Cape.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Cape Cod Times:** Many veteran programs, including a peer intervention program Lambert helped start, Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment, are geared toward making sure people get the help they need instead of self-medicating with alcohol or drugs, he said.

June 18, 2013

13. [Providence Center opening residence for homeless veterans struggling with mental-health, addiction issues.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Providence Journal:** The Providence Center is opening up a three-family building that will give homeless veterans struggling with mental-health issues or substance-abuse problems a place to live and receive services to help them get on their feet again.

14. [VA tackles problem of incomplete claims from local veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Sun Sentinel:** Veterans advocates say local VA offices have been bogged down by a barrage of incomplete or meritless applications. The result is that thousands of claims are delayed, often for years, while frail veterans suffer from declining health and financial hardship... "Any veteran who files a Fully Developed Claim will receive expedited processing," said Bruce Clisby, a VA spokesman in St. Petersburg.

15. [Lawmakers request credit monitoring for veterans, dependents.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The News Tribune (AP):** A bipartisan group of lawmakers asked the Veterans Affairs Department on Friday to offer credit monitoring to veterans and dependents whose personal information, including birth dates and Social Security numbers, might have been disclosed when its computer systems were hacked.

16. [Ohio veterans running out of time for bonuses.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **San Francisco Chronicle (AP):** Time is running out for eligible military veterans to claim Ohio bonuses of up to \$1,500, and officials are worried that thousands of veterans may miss out by not applying... Ohio voters in 2009 approved a \$200 million bond issue to fund bonuses for veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq war eras, and the Persian Gulf-era application deadline is Dec. 31.

17. [Bills, new agency to make life easier for Michigan's veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Detroit Free Press:** Nearly 20 bills giving veterans perks and breaks have been introduced this year, and \$1.5 million has been added to the 2013-14 budget to better connect veterans to jobs once they leave military service. In addition, Gov. Rick Snyder created the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, funded with \$4 million from the state and expected to grow from 12 to 40 employees by the end of the summer.

June 18, 2013

18. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 18, 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
- **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

June 18, 2013

- **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

19. Today in History:

- [1757](#) – [Battle of Kolin](#) between [Prussian](#) forces under [Frederick the Great](#) and an [Austrian](#) army under the command of Field Marshal [Count Leopold Joseph von Daun](#) in the [Seven Years' War](#).
- [1767](#) – [Samuel Wallis](#), an [English](#) sea captain, sights [Tahiti](#) and is considered the first [European](#) to reach the island.
- [1778](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): [British](#) troops abandon [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#).
- [1799](#) – [Action of 18 June 1799](#): a frigate squadron under Rear-admiral [Perrée](#) is captured by the British fleet under [Lord Keith](#)
- [1812](#) – [War of 1812](#): The [U.S. Congress](#) declares war on the [United Kingdom](#).
- [1815](#) – [Napoleonic Wars](#): The [Battle of Waterloo](#) results in the defeat of [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) by the [Duke of Wellington](#) and [Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher](#) forcing him to abdicate the throne of [France](#) for the second and last time.
- [1830](#) – French invasion of [Algeria](#).
- [1873](#) – [Susan B. Anthony](#) is fined \$100 for attempting to vote in the [1872 presidential election](#).
- [1887](#) – The [Reinsurance Treaty](#) between [Germany](#) and [Russia](#) is signed.
- [1900](#) – [Empress Dowager Longyu](#) of [China](#) orders all foreigners killed, including foreign [diplomats](#) and their families.
- [1908](#) – [Japanese immigration to Brazil](#) begins when 781 people arrive in [Santos](#) aboard the ship Kasato-Maru.
- [1923](#) – [Checker Taxi](#) puts its first [taxi](#) on the streets.
- [1928](#) – [Aviator Amelia Earhart](#) becomes the first woman to fly in an [aircraft](#) across the [Atlantic Ocean](#) (she is a [passenger](#); [Wilmer Stultz](#) is the [pilot](#) and Lou Gordon the [mechanic](#)).
- [1940](#) – "[Finest Hour](#)" [speech](#) by [Winston Churchill](#).
- [1945](#) – [William Joyce \(Lord Haw-Haw\)](#) is charged with [treason](#) for his pro-German propaganda broadcasting during [World War II](#).
- [1953](#) – The [Egyptian Revolution of 1952](#) ends with the overthrow of the [Muhammad Ali Dynasty](#) and the declaration of the [Republic of Egypt](#).
- [1965](#) – [Vietnam War](#): The [United States](#) uses [B-52](#) bombers to attack [National Liberation Front guerrilla](#) fighters in [South Vietnam](#).
- [1979](#) – [SALT II](#) is signed by the United States and the [Soviet Union](#).
- [1981](#) – The [Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk](#), the first operational aircraft initially designed around [stealth technology](#), makes its first flight.
- [1983](#) – [Space Shuttle program](#): [STS-7](#), [Astronaut Sally Ride](#) becomes the first American woman in space.
- [1983](#) – [Mona Mahmudnizhad](#) together with nine other [Bahá'í](#) women, is sentenced to death and hanged in [Shiraz, Iran](#) because of her Bahá'í Faith.
- [1994](#) – [The Troubles](#): the [Ulster Volunteer Force \(UVF\)](#) [open fire inside a pub](#) in [Loughinisland, Northern Ireland](#), United Kingdom, killing six civilians and wounding five.

June 18, 2013

- [1996](#) – [Ted Kaczynski](#), suspected of being the [Unabomber](#), is indicted on ten criminal counts.
- [2007](#) – The [Charleston Sofa Super Store fire](#) happened in [Charleston, South Carolina](#) killing nine [firefighters](#).
- [2009](#) – The [Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter](#) (LRO), a NASA robotic spacecraft is launched.
- [2012](#) – [Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud](#) is appointed [Crown Prince](#) of [Saudi Arabia](#).