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- 1. [Shinseki's critics will eat their words.](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/305707-shinsekis-critics-will-eat-their-words)** <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/305707-shinsekis-critics-will-eat-their-words> There is nearly universal agreement that too many American veterans are made to languish unnecessarily under the current Department of Veterans Affairs claims backlog. For many months, often years, our servicemen and women patiently wait to receive their hard-earned benefits, held up by a notoriously burdensome and antiquated government bureaucracy, which has only worsened as more than 2.5 million troops return from overseas service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some critics have even called for the resignation of ...
- 2. [Shinseki's style: Determined, quiet.](#)** Barack Obama's first 100 days included three bold mandates for Eric Shinseki: end the benefits backlog, end veterans homelessness, and enable seamless sharing of medical records between the defense and veterans affairs departments. Today, 1,600 days into Obama's presidency, none of those promises has been fulfilled.
- 3. [Supporters, critics open fire on women in combat.](#)** The Pentagon's announcement Tuesday that the service branches and U.S. Special Operations command are moving ahead with plans to put women into combat positions sparked a range of reactions from supporters and opponents.
- 4. [What is the civilian-veteran divide to you? Readers respond.](#)** What does America need to know about its veterans? What's the biggest divide between those who have served and those who haven't? We asked readers to weigh in on those questions, and here's how you responded.
- 5. [Google workshop helps veterans connect to civilian jobs.](#)** What are some of the most important things for military veterans to keep in mind when they're looking for a job in the civilian world?
- 6. [Should state help feds clear backlog of veterans' claims?](#)** [Sacramento Bee](#) In the budget it sent to the governor, the Legislature inserted \$3 million to create three "strike teams" of a dozen workers each who would go to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offices in Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego. They all have backlogs ...

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7. [Cutler man sentenced for stealing disability benefits.](#) [WGME](#) Court records show Ramsdell stole U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits by making fraudulent claims. He also said he was unemployed and incapable of working. But, during that time, Ramsdell had been working for a wreath manufacturer. He was ...

8. [Shinseki's style: Determined, quiet.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Stars and Stripes:** In January, in an attempt to highlight the department's efforts to end veterans homelessness, Veterans Affairs officials planned a media blitz centered on Secretary Eric Shinseki's participation in the annual street count.

9. [VA installs automated claims system in all 56 regional offices.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Washington Business Journal:** All 56 regional offices of the Veterans Affairs Department now have the paperless Veterans Benefits Management System, according to Nextgov.

10. [Panel passes 10-point plan on vet claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** A 10-point plan to improve veterans claims processing was approved Tuesday by a Senate subcommittee... "The claims backlog has grown to crisis proportions, and I am committed to working with the VA to eliminate the backlog, sooner rather than later," said Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee responsible for funding veterans' programs.

11. [Why Hundreds Of Thousands Of Vets Are Waiting For Their Disability Claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **WUNC-FM:** Hundreds of thousands of veterans have been waiting months - sometimes years - for their disability claims to be processed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Recently, piled up claims threatened to buckle the floor at the Winston-Salem office.

12. [Veterans Affairs' next wrinkle: backlog of appeals.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Las Vegas Review-Journal:** While the Department of Veterans Affairs scrambles to reduce a staggering backlog of disability claims, another problem has come into view: a backlog of appeals.

13. [Veterans Affairs Fails to Curb Suicide Epidemic.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **National Center for Policy Analysis:** Since the 1990s, veterans, policymakers and health care professionals have expressed concern over veterans' untreated mental health challenges and high suicide rates.

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14. [Emory-VA Medical Center team up on nurse education](#). [Hyperlink to Story Atlanta Business Chronicle](#): Emory University is teaming up with the Atlanta VA Medical Center (VAMC) to train nurses for the specialized field of veteran health care.

15. [Meeting our veteran's needs](#). [Hyperlink to Story Rapid City Journal](#): The mission of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is to serve the more than 75,000 veterans residing in South Dakota in all matters pertaining to veterans benefits.

16. [Sharing WWII lessons in 140 characters \(or less\)](#). For years, Hal Miller wouldn't talk about landing on Utah Beach and the subsequent D-Day invasion. How, with his twin by his side in Normandy on June 6, 1944, he witnessed history. But now — thanks to the social networking platform Twitter — his story is being shared to remind younger generations of the sacrifices and horrors of World War II.

17. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 20, 2013:**
 - **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.

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- 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:

- [1756](#) – A [British garrison](#) is imprisoned in the [Black Hole of Calcutta](#).
- [1782](#) – The [U.S. Congress](#) adopts the [Great Seal of the United States](#).
- [1787](#) – [Oliver Ellsworth](#) moves at the [Federal Convention](#) to call the government the [United States](#).
- [1819](#) – The U.S. [vessel SS Savannah](#) arrives at [Liverpool](#), England, [United Kingdom](#). She is the first steam-propelled vessel to cross the [Atlantic](#), although most of the journey is made under sail.
- [1837](#) – [Queen Victoria](#) succeeds to the [British](#) throne.
- [1840](#) – [Samuel Morse](#) receives the patent for the [telegraph](#).
- [1862](#) – [Barbu Catargiu](#), the [Prime Minister of Romania](#), is assassinated.
- [1863](#) – [American Civil War: West Virginia](#) is admitted as the 35th [U.S. state](#).
- [1877](#) – [Alexander Graham Bell](#) installs the world's first commercial [telephone](#) service in [Hamilton, Ontario, Canada](#).
- [1893](#) – [Lizzie Borden](#) is acquitted of the murders of her father and stepmother.
- [1900](#) – [Boxer Rebellion](#): The [Imperial Chinese Army](#) begins a [55-day siege](#) of the [Legation Quarter](#) in [Beijing, China](#).
- [1940](#) – World War II: Italy begins an [unsuccessful invasion](#) of France.
- [1942](#) – [The Holocaust](#): [Kazimierz Piechowski](#) and three others, dressed as members of the [SS-Totenkopfverbände](#), steal an SS staff car and escape from the [Auschwitz concentration camp](#).
- [1943](#) – The [Detroit Race Riot](#) breaks out and continues for three more days.
- [1944](#) – [World War II](#): The [Battle of the Philippine Sea](#) concludes with a decisive [U.S. naval](#) victory. The lopsided naval air battle is also known as the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot".
- [1944](#) – [Continuation war](#): the [Soviet Union](#) demands an unconditional surrender from [Finland](#) during the beginning of partially successful [Vyborg–Petrozavodsk Offensive](#). The Finnish government refuses.

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- [1945](#) – The [United States Secretary of State](#) approves the transfer of [Wernher von Braun](#) and his team of Nazi rocket scientists to America.
- [1948](#) – [Toast of the Town](#), later [The Ed Sullivan Show](#), makes its television debut.
- [1959](#) – [A rare June hurricane](#) strikes Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence killing 35.
- [1960](#) – The [Mali Federation](#) gains independence from France (it later splits into [Mali](#) and [Senegal](#)).
- [1963](#) – The so-called "[red telephone](#)" is established between the Soviet Union and the United States following the [Cuban Missile Crisis](#).
- [1972](#) – [Watergate scandal](#): An 18½-minute gap appears in the [tape recording](#) of the conversations between U.S. President [Richard Nixon](#) and his advisers regarding the recent arrests of his operatives while [breaking into](#) the [Watergate complex](#).
- [1973](#) – [Ezeiza massacre](#) in [Buenos Aires, Argentina](#). [Snipers](#) fire upon left-wing [Peronists](#). At least 13 are killed and more than 300 are injured.
- [1979](#) – ABC News correspondent [Bill Stewart](#) is shot dead by a [Nicaraguan](#) soldier under the regime of [Anastasio Somoza Debayle](#). The murder is caught on tape and sparks an international outcry against the regime.
- [1982](#) – The Argentine base ([Corbeta Uruguay](#)) on [Southern Thule](#) surrenders to Royal Marine commandos in the final action of the [Falklands War](#).
- [1991](#) – The German [Bundestag](#) votes to move the [capital](#) from [Bonn](#) back to [Berlin](#).
- [2009](#) – During the [Iranian election protests](#), the [death of Neda Agha-Soltan](#) is captured on video and spreads [virally](#) on the Internet, making it "probably the most widely witnessed death in human history".