

# June 22, 2013

1. Navy to cut 745 civilian positions from bases in coming months.
2. Bill would upgrade records of those discharged under DADT.
3. Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning sworn in.
4. Big Improvements in VA Self-service for Disability Claims Processing.
5. VA looks to tighten sleep apnea rating schedule.
6. Few South Dakota claims slowed by VA backlog.
7. Miller: Veterans claims backlog needs Obama's direct attention.
8. VA clears 97 percent of claims two years and older.
9. Southeast veterans center gets a new paint job.
10. A Call to Arms: Helping Female Veterans Find Jobs.
11. VA creating A-Team to tackle complex projects.
12. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 22, 2013:
13. Today in History:

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1. [\*\*Navy to cut 745 civilian positions from bases in coming months.\*\*](#) The Navy will cut hundreds of civilian positions from its bases worldwide in coming months to save money in the face of continuing budget cuts, the service has announced.
2. [\*\*Bill would upgrade records of those discharged under DADT.\*\*](#) A bill circulating in the House would upgrade the service records of gay, lesbian and bisexual troops who were discharged due to sexual orientation and eventually open the door to veterans' benefits.
3. [\*\*Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning sworn in.\*\*](#) Eric Fanning, currently serving as undersecretary of the Air Force, is expected to assume the post of acting secretary of the U.S. Air Force on Friday, June 21, 2013.
4. [\*\*Big Improvements in VA Self-service for Disability Claims Processing.\*\*](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Huffington Post:** Well, you can use something like TurboTax to do your own taxes. You get the right records, and use their software to submit an entire package...Sometimes a CPA has to get involved, and they can use their own expert software to get the job done.
5. [\*\*VA looks to tighten sleep apnea rating schedule.\*\*](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Stars and Stripes:** The Department of Veterans Affairs is studying changes to disability ratings for obstructive sleep apnea, particularly the 50-percent rating being awarded when VA physicians prescribe use of a CPAP, or continuous positive airway pressure machine, for sleep-deprived veterans.
6. [\*\*Few South Dakota claims slowed by VA backlog.\*\*](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Argus Leader:** The VA pays disability benefits to veterans who are injured or become ill as a result of their active service. For years, veterans have complained that it takes too long for their claims to be resolved. In late March, more than 633,000 claims, or about 70 percent, were pending longer than 125 days.
7. [\*\*Miller: Veterans claims backlog needs Obama's direct attention.\*\*](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** The Veterans Affairs Department is unlikely to meet its goal of eliminating its claims backlog without the direct involvement of President Obama, a key Republican lawmaker said.

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8. [VA clears 97 percent of claims two years and older.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** More than 65,000 veterans' disability compensation claims have been eliminated during a two-month push to process the oldest claims first, Veterans Affairs Department officials announced Thursday.
  
9. [Southeast veterans center gets a new paint job.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post:** After 15 years in the Army, two degrees and more than a decade working at the same company, Peggy Lyons suddenly found herself jobless — and then homeless.
  
10. [A Call to Arms: Helping Female Veterans Find Jobs.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Huffington Post:** Did you know that there are now more than 20 million military veterans living in the United States? When you imagine their faces, you probably picture two distinct groups: the now-aging men who served in WWII, Vietnam and other conflicts, and the fresh-faced young people returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
  
11. [VA creating A-Team to tackle complex projects.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Federal News Radio:** The Veterans Affairs Department is borrowing a Defense Department concept and creating a cadre of program and project-management experts.
  
12. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 22, 2013:**
  - **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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- 1944 – [U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) signs into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the [G.I. Bill](#).
- [1945](#) – The [Battle of Okinawa](#) comes to an end.
- [1954](#) – In [Christchurch \(New Zealand\)](#) [Pauline Parker](#) and [Juliet Hulme](#) murder Pauline's mother because they think she is in the way of their close friendship (movie [Heavenly Creatures](#) by [Peter Jackson](#) in 1994). See [Parker–Hulme murder case](#).
- [1957](#) – The Soviet Union launches an [R-12 missile](#) for the first time (in the [Kapustin Yar](#)).
- [1969](#) – The [Cuyahoga River](#) catches fire, triggering a crack-down on pollution in the river.
- [1984](#) – [Virgin Atlantic Airways](#) launches with its first flight from [London Heathrow Airport](#).
- [1990](#) – [Checkpoint Charlie](#) is dismantled in [Berlin](#).
- [2002](#) – An earthquake measuring 6.5 [M<sub>w</sub>](#) [strikes](#) a region of northwestern [Iran](#) killing at least 261 people and injuring 1,300 others and eventually causing widespread public anger due to the slow official response.
- [2007](#) – An [F5](#) tornado [strikes Elie, Manitoba](#) in [Canada](#); part of the town is destroyed, but there are no fatalities or injuries.
- [2009](#) – [Washington Metro train collision](#): Two [Metro](#) trains collide in [Washington, D.C.](#), USA, killing nine and injuring over 80.
- 2009 – [Eastman Kodak Company](#) announces that it will discontinue sales of the [Kodachrome](#) Color Film, concluding its 74-year run as a photography icon.
- [2012](#) – [Paraguayan](#) President [Fernando Lugo](#) is [removed from office](#) by [impeachment](#) and succeeded by [Federico Franco](#).
- 2012 – A [Turkish Air Force McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II](#) fighter plane is [shot down](#) by the [Syrian Armed Forces](#), killing both of the plane's pilots and worsening already-strained relations between Turkey and Syria.