

# June 28, 2013

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2. **Legislation would fund research into effects of burn pits on troops.**
3. **Military honored at pro golf tourney founded by Tiger Woods.**
4. **Labor Department Awards \$29 Million in Grants to Help Veterans.**
5. **Visiting Boise, Veterans Affairs secretary promises changes.**
6. **VA Disability Claims Backlog Expected to Fall Below 800,000 On Wednesday.**
7. **Gulf War illness advocates skeptical of institute panel.**
8. **Veterans discuss PTSD signs.**
9. **Growing problem of suicide in military spotlights VA.**
10. **Ruling could mean benefits for thousands of troops.**
11. **The Value of Veterans' Service Back Home.**
12. **Finding shelter: Homeless veterans in Clark County aided by multiple programs.**
13. **A Cheater's Guide to Winning \$500 Million in Government Contracts.**
14. **VA 'stakeholders' invited to session on Legionnaires' disease prevention efforts.**
15. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 28, 2013:**
16. **Today in History:**

# June 28, 2013

1. [US looks to send training teams to Lebanon, Iraq.](#) Gen. Martin Dempsey said the assistance is aimed at improving the two nations' military capabilities and could include sending in U.S. training teams and accelerating foreign military sales of weapons and equipment to Iraq and Lebanon.
2. [Legislation would fund research into effects of burn pits on troops.](#) Uncertainty over unexplained medical symptoms could someday be erased if bipartisan legislation introduced in the House on Wednesday becomes law. It would fund research and treatment of veterans' illnesses believed to be caused by burn pits and other airborne toxic hazards.
3. [Military honored at pro golf tourney founded by Tiger Woods.](#) Members of the U.S. military were the special guests of honor Wednesday during opening ceremonies of the AT&T National Golf Tournament.
4. [Labor Department Awards \\$29 Million in Grants to Help Veterans.](#) More than 14,000 veterans across the nation will benefit from job training, job placement, housing help and other services, thanks to 121 grants totaling almost \$29 million announced today by officials of the Labor Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service. The grants were awarded through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, the only federal program that focuses exclusively
5. [Visiting Boise, Veterans Affairs secretary promises changes.](#) [Hyperlink to Story Idaho Statesman:](#) An electronic filing system that will eventually replace cumbersome paperwork has started to take a chunk out of the glut of pension and disability compensation claims, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki said Wednesday.
6. [VA Disability Claims Backlog Expected to Fall Below 800,000 On Wednesday.](#) [Hyperlink to Story NextGov:](#) The Veterans Affairs Department expected to cut its backlog of disability claims awaiting rating to below 800,000 on Wednesday, according to an internal email obtained by Nextgov.
7. [Gulf War illness advocates skeptical of institute panel.](#) [Hyperlink to Story USA Today:](#) Veterans advocates expect a showdown between Gulf War veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs Wednesday when veterans plan to declare they have "no confidence" in new research commissioned by the VA through the Institute of Medicine, advocates say.

## June 28, 2013

8. [Veterans discuss PTSD signs. Hyperlink to Story](#) **The News Leader:** Ben Shaw had blown all his money on toys and alcohol. He was living on his parents' couch at 28 years old...Once a highly esteemed Marine, he came back from the Iraq War in 2007 after being overseas for four years.
9. [Growing problem of suicide in military spotlights VA. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times (AP):** Five years ago, Joe Miller, then an Army Ranger captain with three Iraq tours under his belt, sat inside his home near Fort Bragg holding a cocked Beretta 40mm and prepared to kill himself.
10. [Ruling could mean benefits for thousands of troops. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Politico:** The Pentagon will move quickly to provide full benefits to same-sex military spouses in the wake of the Supreme Court's rejection of the Defense of Marriage Act, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Wednesday.
11. [The Value of Veterans' Service Back Home. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Time - Battleland:** Joe Klein's cover story, How Service Can Save Us in last week's Time, identifies several critical issues that must be further explored and better understood if we are to more successfully engage and support the men, women, and families who serve our country.
12. [Finding shelter: Homeless veterans in Clark County aided by multiple programs. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Las Vegas Review-Journal:** Lawrence Forbes couldn't have been happier when he got the keys to his furnished studio apartment near Nellis Air Force Base.
13. [A Cheater's Guide to Winning \\$500 Million in Government Contracts. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Bloomberg Businessweek:** Yesterday a Congressional committee published a 157-page report alleging a government contractor used questionable behavior to win federal contracts that could be worth more than \$500 million. The worst part: While the contractor's methods smell bad, some of his actions appear to be in line with the letter of the law.
14. [VA 'stakeholders' invited to session on Legionnaires' disease prevention efforts. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** Pittsburgh VA officials have asked congressional aides and veterans groups to an invitation-only "open house" event next week to show what's being done to prevent patients from contracting potentially deadly Legionnaires' disease.

# June 28, 2013

## 15. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 28, 2013:

- **June 28, 2013.** The House Veteran Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs will conduct a hearing on the following bills:

- H.R. 1288
- H.R. 1494
- H.R. 1623
- H.R. 1809
- H.R. 2086
- H.R. 2138
- H.R. 2189
- H.R. 2341
- H.R. 2382
- H.R. 2423

10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon

- **July 9, 2013.** The House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Health intends to hold a legislative hearing on health related bills. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon

### Tentative Bill List:

- Draft Bill XXX-- "Veterans Choice-Long Term Care" Certified Adult Foster Home (Miller(FL)
- H.R. 1612-- To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey a parcel of land in Tuskegee, Alabama, to Tuskegee University, and for other purposes (Rogers (AL)
- H.R. 2065-- Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act (McKinley (WV)
- H.R. 1143-- Tinnitus Research and Treatment Act of 2013 (Michaud (ME)
- H.R. 1702-- Veterans Transportation Service Act (Barber (AZ)

- **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

## 16. Today in History:

- [1709](#) – [Peter the Great](#) defeats [Charles XII of Sweden](#) at the [Battle of Poltava](#).
- [1745](#) – [War of the Austrian Succession](#): A [New England](#) colonial army captures [Louisbourg](#), [New France](#), after a [forty-seven-day siege](#) ([New Style](#)).

# June 28, 2013

- [1776](#) – The [Battle of Sullivan's Island](#) ends with the first decisive American victory in the [American Revolutionary War](#) leading to the commemoration of [Carolina Day](#).
- 1776 – [Thomas Hickey](#), [Continental Army](#) private and bodyguard to General [George Washington](#), is hanged for [mutiny](#) and [sedition](#).
- [1778](#) – The [American Continentals](#) engage the British in the [Battle of Monmouth Courthouse](#) resulting in standstill and British withdrawal under cover of darkness.
- [1807](#) – Second [British invasion of the Río de la Plata](#); [John Whitelock](#) lands at [Ensenada](#) on an attempt to recapture [Buenos Aires](#) and is defeated by the locals.
- [1865](#) – The [Army of the Potomac](#) is disbanded.
- [1880](#) – The Australian [bushranger Ned Kelly](#) is captured at [Glenrowan](#).
- [1881](#) – Secret treaty between [Austria](#) and [Serbia](#).
- [1894](#) – [Labor Day](#) becomes an official US holiday.
- [1902](#) – The [U.S. Congress](#) passes the [Spooner Act](#), authorizing President [Theodore Roosevelt](#) to acquire rights from Colombia for the [Panama Canal](#).
- [1904](#) – The [SS Norge](#) runs aground and sinks
- [1914](#) – [Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria](#) and his wife are [assassinated](#) in Sarajevo by [Gavrilo Princip](#), the [casus belli](#) of [World War I](#).
- [1919](#) – The [Treaty of Versailles](#) is signed in Paris, bringing fighting to an end in between Germany and the [Allies of World War I](#).
- [1921](#) – Serbian King [Alexander I](#) proclaimed the new constitution of the [Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes](#), known thereafter as the [Vidovdan Constitution](#).
- [1922](#) – The [Irish Civil War](#) begins with the shelling of the [Four Courts](#) in [Dublin](#) by [Free State](#) forces.
- [1936](#) – The Japanese puppet state of [Mengjiang](#) is formed in northern China.
- [1940](#) – [Romania](#) cedes [Bessarabia](#) (current-day [Moldova](#)) to the [Soviet Union](#).
- [1942](#) – [Nazi Germany](#) started its strategic summer offensive against the [Soviet Union](#), codenamed [Case Blue](#)
- 1948 – Boxer [Dick Turpin](#) beats Vince Hawkins at [Villa Park](#) in [Birmingham](#) to become the first black British boxing champion in the modern era.
- [1950](#) – [Korean War](#): [Seoul](#) is captured by [North Korean](#) troops.
- 1950 – Korean War: Suspected communist sympathizers, argued to be between 100,000 and 1,200,000 are executed in the [Bodo League massacre](#).
- 1950 – Korean War: Packed with its own refugees fleeing Seoul and leaving their 5th Division stranded, [South Korean forces](#) blow up the [Hangang Bridge](#) to in attempt to slow [North Korea's](#) offensive.
- 1950 – Korean War: [North Korean Army](#) conducted [Seoul National University Hospital Massacre](#).
- [1956](#) – in [Poznań](#), workers from [HCP factory](#) went to the streets, sparking one of the [first major protests against communist government](#) both in Poland and Europe.
- [1964](#) – [Malcolm X](#) forms the [Organization of Afro-American Unity](#).
- [1967](#) – [Israel](#) annexes East [Jerusalem](#).
- [1969](#) – [Stonewall Riots](#) begin in New York City marking the start of the [Gay Rights Movement](#).
- [1973](#) – Elections are held for the [Northern Ireland Assembly](#), which will lead to power-sharing between [unionists](#) and [nationalists](#) in [Northern Ireland](#) for the first time.

# June 28, 2013

- [1976](#) – The [Angolan](#) court sentenced US and UK [mercenaries](#) to [death sentences](#) and [prison](#) terms in the [Luanda Trial](#).
- [1978](#) – The [United States Supreme Court](#), in [Regents of the University of California v. Bakke](#) bars quota systems in college admissions.
- [1981](#) – A powerful [bomb explodes](#) in [Tehran](#), killing 73 officials of [Islamic Republic Party](#).
- [1983](#) – Partial collapse of Connecticut's busy [I-95 Mianus River Bridge](#), killing three.
- [1987](#) – For the first time in military history, a civilian population was targeted for [chemical attack](#) when Iraqi warplanes bombed the Iranian town of [Sardasht](#).
- [1989](#) – On the 600th anniversary of the [Battle of Kosovo](#), [Slobodan Milošević](#) delivers the [Gazimestan speech](#) at the site of the historic battle.
- [1994](#) – Members of the [Aum Shinrikyo](#) cult [release sarin gas](#) in [Matsumoto, Japan](#); 7 persons are killed, 660 injured.
- [1997](#) – [Holyfield–Tyson II](#) – [Mike Tyson](#) is disqualified in the 3rd round for biting a piece off [Evander Holyfield](#)'s ear.
- [2001](#) – [Slobodan Milošević](#) deported to [ICTY](#) to stand trial.
- [2004](#) – Sovereign power is handed to the [interim government](#) of [Iraq](#) by the [Coalition Provisional Authority](#), ending the [U.S.](#)-led rule of that nation.
- [2009](#) – [Honduran](#) president [Manuel Zelaya](#) is [ousted](#) by a local military coup following a failed request to hold [a referendum](#) to rewrite the [Honduran Constitution](#). This was the start of the [2009 Honduran political crisis](#).