

From: [Wayne Galtwood Jr](#)
To: [Wayne Galtwood Jr](#)
Subject: Veterans News for Friday, March 14, 2014
Date: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:26:16 PM
Attachments: [VETERANS MIL FAMILY RESOURCE GUIDE FINAL 25-2014-tickets-10895963119](#)
[AUSN Legislative Watch for Mar 14, 2014.pdf](#)

Greetings good people. Hope you and yours are well. Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend. Let us always keep our Troops in our hearts and minds. Their service and sacrifice should never be taken for granted...

For Today: *Character is, in the long run, the decisive factor in the life of individuals and of nations alike.*
Theodore Roosevelt

DOD Contracts Awarded for Friday, March 14, 2014.
<http://www.defense.gov/contracts/contract.aspx?contractid=5241>

DOD Contracts Awarded for Thursday, March 13, 2014.
<http://www.defense.gov/contracts/contract.aspx?contractid=5241>

Virginia Veterans and Military Family Resource Guide. Please see the attached. Thanks to Retired U.S. Marine David Rababy for getting this to us.

From our great friend Jack Beecher, Vietnam Vet, and former Small Business Officer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Large Construction Contract – Sources Sought, to include SDVOSBs. Hope all is well with you my friend. Please help me get the word out on the attached Construction opportunity coming up in FY15. The work, some \$1 BILLION in FY15, is up your way in the DC/MD/VA AORs. We need our SDVOSB Community to respond.
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=937aa12f5f9a10de43a2b5c4a54&tab=core&_evjview=0

Objective Rally Point (ORP) March 25, 2014, Breakfast - Veterans Business Networking Event. Please come join us on March 25, 2014, at 0715, Army-Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. ORP is attended by many of our local Veteran Owned Small Businesses and provides a wonderful opportunity for sharing in camaraderie and business networking. Hope to see you there! Please see details and register at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/objective-rally-point-march-25-2014-tickets-10895963119>

Veterans In Business Conference - Two Weeks Away. March 27, 2014, The Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA. This is going to be a GREAT event! See you there.
http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?l=466xp8n6&v=001QKDMJG15V9hOCLK7Bc2WQJEGJCGWwH0NyNUEA0Ex_pWIRRoizW9nR2SINjn_ws_qRhtkexAuzX37w-VIT_VsRy_YsX219cC_gNtheJ2o3NGDAQpkOzauY6xWesI9hOjS8KtKd7b337whh5iG0wawROMesZjMfE8oTJsUCOzIES9nGmM2D

VETS 14 - Veteran Entrepreneur Training Symposium. June 16 - 19, 2014, Reno, NV.
http://www.veteranentrainingsymposium.com/2014-conference/registration.htm_source=Mentors-Who-Motivate-Veteran-Entrepreneurs&utm_campaign=Veteran-Entrepreneur-Training-Symposium&utm_medium=email
VETS is hosted by **The National Veterans Small Business Coalition (NVSBC)**, a non-profit trade association, that strives to transition Veterans into business owners servicing the Federal Government and ensure that Veteran businesses are given first consideration for Federal prime and subcontracting procurement opportunities.

Reserve Officers Association (ROA) SmartBrief for Friday, March 14, 2014.
<http://www2.smartbrief.com/servlet/encloseServlet?issuclid=9f331330-1A6B-47EE-B873-44696303F2AF&sid=22cbe9eb-3ef0-4eca-8105-e19f466dc37d>

Reserve Officers Association (ROA) SmartBrief for Thursday, March 13, 2014.
<http://www2.smartbrief.com/servlet/encloseServlet?issuclid=7811923D-9BEA-4A01-9733-FF9B7B71082E&sid=22cbe9eb-3ef0-4eca-8105-e19f466dc37d>

Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) Legislative Watch for March 14, 2014.
Please see attached pdf.

The VetBiz Portal: How Safe is Your Information? From the website of Attorney Sarah Schauerte. <http://legalempirical.com/2014/03/13/the-vetbiz-portal-how-safe-is-your-information/>

National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) Weekly News for March 14, 2014.
http://naus.informz.net/naus/archives/archive_3883654.html Please consider joining NAUS folks. It is a great organization that supports our Troops, our Vets, Military Retirees, Guard, Reserve, and other Uniformed Services. Join NAUS and make a positive difference to our community. Thank You!

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic kicks off March 30 in Snowmass, Colo! The five-day Clinic consists of downhill and cross-country skiing, adaptive-sports workshops and educational classes, plus sponsored and self-directed activities, all aimed at providing opportunities for disabled Veterans. VA is the world leader in providing adaptive-sports instruction to U.S. military Veterans. In fact, this year's Clinic comes on the heels of the Sochi Paralympic Games, where several Veterans who started at the Clinic competed on the world's largest stage. Learn about the Clinic and how you can get involved at www.wintersportsclinic.va.gov.

American Legion On-Line Update for Friday, March 14, 2014. <http://editor.legionemail.com/cv?FileID=a0ebbf6a-f0b3d-4aab-94aa-337b63d8abe9&m=660ba55a-761b-463f-8a2b-c1a65794d1dd&MailID=28188945&listid=84772>

Survey shows distrust of retirement reform in the ranks. Sent in by our fellow Veteran and Marine, David Rababy. <http://www.militarytimes.com/article/2014/03/13/SPECFIAL14/303130051/Survey-s>
Let me count the ways that my retirement benefits have diminished since the contract I signed in 1966, and from the time I retired in 1987. Won't be long before Military Commissaries are a part of the past except for those in overseas locations and such.....watch.

VetLikeMe Weekly News for March 14, 2014. Thanks to Hardy Stone, fellow Veteran and Founder/Editor of VetLike Me.
<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=c648aa063b9c33e587e494445&id=121c86182&e=481497425a>

VA's seal turns 25 tomorrow. President Ronald Reagan signed the Department of Veterans Affairs Act Oct. 25, 1988, to establish VA as an executive department. The legislation called for it to take effect March 15, 1989. With the elevation to cabinet level, a new seal was needed to replace the old Veterans Administration seal, and it needed to be done in only four months! VA employees nationwide were asked to exercise their creative skills to submit designs that best represented VA. In response, 187 entries were submitted. A 10-member panel reviewed them and selected a winner – David Gregory, a medical media production specialist at Indianapolis VA Medical Center. His design was sent to the Institute of Heraldry, the government's overseer of official seals, decorations, medals, and other items authorized for official display or wear by government personnel or agencies. The heraldry made just two changes. It added the five stars above the eagle and spelled out United States of America at the bottom of the seal, instead of USA. For his winning entry, Gregory, who died in 2004, received a cash award and a trip to Washington, D.C., where he was honored by Edward J. Derwinski, the first secretary of Veterans Affairs.

LA Times - Latest News - Denied a Medal of Honor, a worthy soldier finds out why decades later. <http://touch.latimes.com/#section/1780/article?ip=79614231> Sent in by fellow Veteran and Veteran Advocate Extraordinaire in Michigan, Ed Ronders. Thanks Ed

FBC - "U.S. Patent & Trademark Office LT. Security Day," April 3, 2014, Alexandria, VA.
http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?l=9c4c5rc7&v=001NhbOR3PR0KIdnIpxz4Z5mBos28TPuz4Y7ybc1coxX70HbvjcdZ3pR7b76ix0dL_SuIL_HYV5R2vg3Efp0W5Odlug8fmlBzJcCpVegW5uda1qC2nTpsA3sXEmXqLQOWR90J3TpBMfyvMEVuk63yHrTr3yjoZGdDskZwW1XamUy1Qw%3D%3D

Job Zone Job Fairs Update - Andrews, AFB, March 26, 2014, and Dahlgren, VA, March 27, 2014.
<http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=0990c11bb840cb617b5992e6&id=3c105d556b&e=4c98ba860d>

Prayers and blessings for you and your loved ones and for our dear Troops and their loved ones everywhere.

Best...Wayne

VA HQ Veterans News for Friday, March 14, 2014. From Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison.

1. **Man Arrested For Defrauding The United States Army Reserve.**
2. **Air Force nuke crew failings worse than reported.**
3. **Judge: Technicality prevents decorated soldier from receiving Medal of Honor.**
4. **Marine Corps to create experimental task force with 25 percent women.**
5. **US Army to proceed with planned exercise in Ukraine.**
6. **Pentagon officials: We need more base closures.**
7. **'Consolidated' TRICARE: Higher user fees, more freedom.**
8. **Navy still has tuition assistance money available.**
9. **VA: We budgeted before DOD; troop reductions not accounted for.**
10. **Shinskie: Advance Funding Won't Solve VA Problems.**
11. **VA: We budgeted before DOD; troop reductions not accounted for.**
12. **Doing the right thing for veterans**
13. **Veterans, sacrificial lambs**
14. **Norcross is suspect in four deaths at Minneapolis VA home.**
15. **Veterans Study: Prescribed Opioids Trigger Chronic Use.**
16. **PTSD cited as Iraq War vet seeks lesser sentence.**
17. **Florida VA: Collier, Lee have greatest need for new veterans nursing home.**
18. **Homeless vets unable to find help turn to self-medication and compound their problem**
19. **Ground broken for apartments serving disabled, homeless veterans**
20. **American Legion helps local veterans with disability claims**
21. **App Connects Military Families**
22. **One Dog's Powerful Healing Effects on Two Wounded Veterans**
23. **Former Veterans Affairs Psychiatrist Sentenced for Medicare Fraud**
24. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 14, 2014:**
25. **Today in History:**

1. **Man Arrested For Defrauding The United States Army Reserve.** Federal Grand Jury in Puerto Rico Returns 7-Count Indictment Against Man Who Received Veterans Benefits Using Assumed Identity.
2. **Air Force nuke crew failings worse than reported.** Failings exposed last spring at a U.S. nuclear missile base, reflecting what one officer called "rot" in the ranks, were worse than originally reported, according to Air Force documents obtained by The Associated Press.
3. **Judge: Technicality prevents decorated soldier from receiving Medal of Honor.** Lt. Garlin Murl Conner was the second-most decorated soldier during World War II, earning four Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars, seven Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Cross.
4. **Marine Corps to create experimental task force with 25 percent women.** The Marine Corps will open new combat jobs to women, allow women to volunteer for combat specialty training previously closed to them and create a co-ed experimental task force to evaluate how female Marines perform as part of a ground combat unit, Marine officials said.
5. **US Army to proceed with planned exercise in Ukraine.** The status of two annual U.S. Army Europe military exercises that were scheduled for July — one in Russia, one in western Ukraine — is being affected differently by the situation in Ukraine, which has been described as the worst crisis since the end of the Cold War.
6. **Pentagon officials: We need more base closures.** John Conger, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, said he knows the last round of BRAC, in 2005, left "a bad taste" in the mouths of many in Congress, but that this would be different.
7. **'Consolidated' TRICARE: Higher user fees, more freedom.** TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care option for 5.5 million beneficiaries who enroll for a modest fee to be guaranteed timely access to primary care, would cease to exist within a few years

under the "Consolidated TRICARE" plan proposed in the fiscal 2015 defense budget.

8. [Navy still has tuition assistance money available](#). While other services' tuition programs are turning troops away, the Navy has more tuition assistance cash than it can use, Navy officials said this month.
9. [VA: We budgeted before DOD: troop reductions not accounted for](#). Lawmakers fear that the Veterans Affairs department might not be asking for enough money to meet its needs, the National Journal reported Thursday.
10. [Shinseki: Advance Funding Won't Solve VA Problems](#). [Hyperlink to Article Military.com](#): Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki on Wednesday told a Senate panel that advance funding for all VA operations would not solve all the department problems in the event of another government shutdown.
11. [VA: We budgeted before DOD: troop reductions not accounted for](#). [Hyperlink to Article Stars and Stripes](#): Lawmakers fear that the Veterans Affairs department might not be asking for enough money to meet its needs, the National Journal reported Thursday.
12. [Doing the right thing for veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article Daily Hampshire Gazette](#): Last month, the leaders of more than 20 veterans' service organizations supported a bill by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders that would have resulted in the most comprehensive legislation for veterans in decades.
13. [Veterans: sacrificial lambs](#). [Hyperlink to Article NorthJersey.com](#): Where is the accountability when it comes to veterans benefits? It seems many of our legislators do not understand accountability. Must veterans continue to carry budget cuts on their backs?
14. [Norovirus is suspect in four deaths at Minneapolis VA home](#). [Hyperlink to Article Star Tribune](#): Four residents of the state veterans home in [Minneapolis](#) died over the weekend from a possible outbreak of a highly contagious foodborne illness that is particularly dangerous to the sick and elderly.
15. [Veterans Study: Prescribed Opioids Trigger Chronic Use](#). [Hyperlink to Article Epoch Times](#): A new study finds that of the nearly 1 million veterans who receive opioid medications, more than half continue to use the drugs chronically.
16. [PTSD cited as Iraq War vet seeks lesser sentence](#). [Hyperlink to Article The Blade](#): An Iraq War veteran convicted of shooting at Oregon police officers deserves "one fair shot" to have his sentence lessened because of his post-traumatic stress disorder, his attorney told the Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday.
17. [Florida VA: Collier, Lee have greatest need for new veterans nursing home](#). [Hyperlink to Article Naples Daily News](#): Collier and Lee counties could be in the running for a 120-bed skilled nursing home operated by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to serve aging veterans and create nearly 200 new jobs, according to state documents.
18. [Homeless vets unable to find help turn to self-medication and compound their problem](#). [Hyperlink to Article MLive.com](#): Nearly 140,000 veterans stayed in a shelter at some point in 2012, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
19. [Ground broken for apartments serving disabled, homeless veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article Mississippi Business Journal](#): Officials have broken ground on an apartment complex in Biloxi that will serve disabled, homeless veterans.
20. [American Legion helps local veterans with disability claims](#). [Hyperlink to Article The Augusta Chronicle](#): National and state teams from The American Legion were available to discuss veteran's benefits, community service opportunities and local posts they could join near their homes.
21. [App Connects Military Families](#). [Hyperlink to Audio NPR \(Audio\)](#): Military families face unique challenges in finding aid for veterans. Now there's an app to help. A member of the National Military Family Association tells us how.
22. [One Dog's Powerful Healing Effects on Two Wounded Veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article ABC News \(Video\)](#): Justin Lansford and his longtime girlfriend, Carol Balmes, love doting on their golden retriever, Gabe. But there is much more to this four-legged friend than meets the eye.
23. [Former Veterans Affairs Psychiatrist Sentenced for Medicare Fraud](#). [Hyperlink to Article eNews Park Forest](#): A licensed psychiatrist formerly employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was sentenced today to serve 18 months in prison for falsely claiming to provide at-home services to Medicare beneficiaries.
24. [VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 14, 2014](#):

➤ **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

➤ **March 25, 2014.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing on Veterans Affairs Bills.

- H.R. 2942 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- H.R. 3056 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of outreach and support services to veterans pursuing higher education under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- H.R. 3614 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve the recognition by states of skills learned in the military by a Veteran when issuing licenses and credentials.
- H.R. 4031 — Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.
- H.R. 4037 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to training and rehabilitation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 4038 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in the information technology of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to process claims more efficiently, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 4147 — Student Veterans IT Upgrade Act.
- H.R. 4150 — Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2014.
- H.R. 4151 — Veterans Education Survey Act of 2014.

➤ **March 25, 2014.** HVAC O&I will hold legislative hearing with issues related to construction, health, and other matters.

- *HR 3593* – Mandating arrangement with US Army Corps of Engineers for three major construction projects
- *Draft bill* – informed consent for psychotropic drugs
- *Draft bill* – oversight of contracts with service-disabled veteran owned small businesses
- *Draft bill* – Gulf War Illness
- *Draft bill* – Improve information security by implementing actions to improve transparency and governance
- *Draft bill* – Biological implant protocol and procurement

➤ **March 26, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.

➤ **March 26, 2014:** HVAC DAMA will hold a Legislative Hearing on bills related to NCA and VBA.

- HR 2018 – Honor Those Who Served Act
- HR 2088 – Centers for Excellence
- HR 2119 – Veterans Access to Speedy Review (Video Hearing)
- HR 2529 – Veterans Spouse Equal Treatment Act
- HR 3671 – NCA Medallion Bill
- HR 3876 – Burial with Dignity Act
- HR 4095 – Annual COLA
- HR 4102 – Require Payment for Accrued Benefits to Veterans Estate
- HR 4141 – Expand Enhanced Use Leases to Cemeteries
- HR 4191 – Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act (REVISED)

➤ **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

➤ **March 27, 2014.** HVAC Health intends to hold a Legislative Hearing on health related bills.

- H.R. 183 – The Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act
- H.R. 2527 – Veterans counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training
- H.R. 2661 – The Veterans Access to Timely Medical Appointments Act
- H.R. 2974 – To provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes
- H.R. 3387 – The Classified Veterans Access to Care Act
- H.R. 3508 – Qualifications of hearing aid specialists
- H.R. 3180 – To include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects (Kaptur)
- H.R. 3831 – The Veterans Dialysis Pilot Program Review Act of 2014 (Roe)
- H.R. 4198 – The Appropriate Care for Disabled Veterans Act
- DRAFT – To authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2014 and for other purposes. (VA FY14 Construction Package)

25. **Today in History:**

- 1590 – [Battle of Ivry](#): [Henry of Navarre](#) and the [Huguenots](#) defeat the forces of the [Catholic League](#) under the [Duc de Mayenne](#) during the [French Wars of Religion](#).
- 1647 – [Thirty Years' War](#): [Bavaria](#), [Cologne](#), France and Sweden sign the [Treaty of Ulm](#).
- 1757 – Admiral [Sir John Byng](#) is executed by [firing squad](#) aboard [HMS Monarch](#) for breach of the [Articles of War](#).
- 1780 – [American Revolutionary War](#): [Spanish](#) forces [capture Fort Charlotte](#) in [Mobile, Alabama](#), the last [British](#) frontier post capable of threatening [New Orleans](#) in [Spanish Louisiana](#).
- 1782 – [Battle of Wuchale](#): Emperor [Tekle Giyorgis](#) pacifies a group of [Oromo](#) near [Wuchale](#).
- 1794 – [Eli Whitney](#) is granted a [patent](#) for the [cotton gin](#).
- 1900 – The [Gold Standard Act](#) is ratified, placing [United States currency](#) on the [gold standard](#).
- 1903 – The [Hay-Herrán Treaty](#), granting the United States the right to build the [Panama Canal](#), is ratified by the [United States Senate](#). The [Colombian](#) Senate would later reject the treaty.
- 1903 – The [Belton Island National Wildlife Refuge](#) is established by US President [Theodore Roosevelt](#).
- 1910 – [Lakeview Gusher](#), the largest U.S. [oil well gusher](#) near [Bakersfield, California](#), vents to atmosphere.
- 1915 – [World War I](#): Cornered off the coast of [Chile](#) by the [Royal Navy](#) after fleeing the [Battle of the Falkland Islands](#), the German light cruiser [SMS Dresden](#) is abandoned and scuttled by her crew.
- 1939 – [Slovakia](#) declares independence under [German](#) pressure.
- 1942 – [Orvan Hess](#) and [John Bumstead](#) became the first in the United States successfully to treat a patient, [Anne Miller](#), using [penicillin](#).
- 1943 – [World War II](#): The [Kraków Ghetto](#) is "liquidated".

- [1945](#) – World War II: The [R.A.F.](#)'s first operational use of the [Grand Slam bomb](#), [Bielefeld, Germany](#).
- [1951](#) – [Korean War](#): For the second time, [United Nations](#) troops recapture [Seoul](#).
- [1964](#) – A jury in [Dallas](#) finds [Jack Ruby](#) guilty of killing [Lee Harvey Oswald](#), the assumed assassin of [John F. Kennedy](#).
- [1967](#) – The body of U.S. President [John F. Kennedy](#) is moved to a permanent burial place at [Arlington National Cemetery](#).
- [1972](#) – Italian publisher and former partisan [Giangiacomo Feltrinelli](#) is killed by an explosion near [Segrate](#).
- [1978](#) – The [Israeli Defense Force](#) invades and occupies southern [Lebanon](#), in [Operation Litani](#).
- [1979](#) – In China, a [Hawker Siddeley Trident](#) crashes into a factory near Beijing, killing at least 200.
- [1980](#) – In Poland, a [plane crashes](#) during [final approach](#) near [Warsaw](#), killing 87 people, including a 14-man American [boxing team](#).
- [1984](#) – [Gerry Adams](#), head of [Sinn Féin](#), is seriously wounded in an assassination attempt in central [Belfast](#).
- [1988](#) – [Johnson South Reef Skirmish](#): Chinese forces defeat Vietnamese forces in Johnson South Reef, disputed [Spratly Islands](#).
- [1994](#) – [Timeline of Linux development](#): [Linux kernel](#) version 1.0.0 is released.
- [1995](#) – [Space Exploration](#): Astronaut [Norman Thagard](#) becomes the first American [astronaut](#) to ride to space on board a Russian launch vehicle.
- [2006](#) – Members of the [Chadian](#) military fail in an attempted [coup d'état](#).
- [2007](#) – The [Left Front](#) government of [West Bengal](#) sends at least 3,000 police to [Nandigram](#) in an attempt to break [Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee](#) resistance there; the [resulting clash](#) leaves 14 dead.
- [2008](#) – A series of [riots, protests, and demonstrations](#) erupt in [Lhasa](#) and elsewhere in [Tibet](#).

VA HQ Veterans News for Thursday, March 13, 2014. From Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison.

1. [Dunford pushes for post-2014 US presence in Afghanistan](#).
2. [Navy, Marine Corps leaders detail risks of budget restraints](#).
3. [Navy revises counting rules to add to ship numbers](#).
4. [Senators: DOD ordered \\$754 million in unnecessary parts last year](#).
5. [Legislators call on DOD to fully accommodate Sikh troops](#).
6. [Tumult over military sexual assaults far from over](#).
7. [Do more for veterans than thank them for their service \(Your letters\)](#).
8. [Are Veterans Getting the Money They Deserve in Latest Budget?](#)
9. [VA: Funding decline for TBI care is good news](#).
10. [Hearings to focus on future Veterans Affairs budget](#).
11. [New bill to allow veterans free treatment for traumatic brain injury](#).
12. [Report: Gulf War symptoms too broad for one definition](#).
13. [Sen. Murray 'concerned' about possible cut to Walla Walla vets home grant](#).
14. [VA seeking to educate vets on unclaimed benefits](#).
15. [American heroes in waiting game for government benefits](#).
16. [Military women's extra trauma: combat stress and sexual assault](#).
17. [Suicide on the homefront in military families](#).
18. [Families of Legionnaires' victims outraged by report on VA outbreak](#).
19. [Boise VA living center quarantined due to suspected norovirus](#).
20. [VA Butler gets top rating in hospice care from vets' families](#).
21. [Fayetteville VA Medical Center receives grant to improve HIV care to homeless vets](#).
22. [Potential Springfield sites for VA clinic being discussed](#).
23. [Maine should preserve and expand its successful Veterans Court](#).
24. [Volunteers assist 114 with claims](#).
25. [City to honor women veterans with week of festivities](#).
26. [Stand-Down for homeless veterans to take place in April](#).
27. [Phoenix's Homeless Veteran Problem Not Solved, Local Homeless Advocates Say](#).
28. [VA official placed on leave after improper spending allegations](#).
29. [VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 13, 2014](#).
30. [Today in History](#):

1. [Dunford pushes for post-2014 US presence in Afghanistan](#). A full withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan this year could precipitate an Iraq-style security breakdown, allowing al-Qaida to regroup there and again threaten the United States, the top U.S. general in Afghanistan told Senators on Wednesday.
2. [Navy, Marine Corps leaders detail risks of budget restraints](#). Navy and Marine Corps leaders warned lawmakers about the consequences of further defense cuts Wednesday, as the Navy struggles to return to a 300-ship fleet.
3. [Navy revises counting rules to add to ship numbers](#). With a few strokes on a keyboard, the Navy's top brass avoids shrinking its 280-ship fleet next year by simply reclassifying a couple of hospital ships and its small patrol craft deployed overseas.
4. [Senators: DOD ordered \\$754 million in unnecessary parts last year](#). The Senate wants answers from Pentagon officials on why the Defense Department spent more than \$754 million last fiscal year on parts it didn't need.
5. [Legislators call on DOD to fully accommodate Sikh troops](#). A group of legislators is asking the Pentagon for a policy change to ensure Sikh troops are never forced to violate their religion by shaving their beards, cutting their hair or getting rid of their turbans.
6. [Tumult over military sexual assaults far from over](#). The tumult over how to stop sexual assaults in the U.S. military is a long way from over as Congress grapples to find legislative solutions and new details emerge about a high-profile case involving an Army general and a female captain under his command.
7. [Do more for veterans than thank them for their service \(Your letters\)](#). [Hyperlink to Article Post-Standard](#): We, the people of a thankful nation, are going to urge our Congress to increase Veterans Administration funding to give you the care you deserve, treat your PTSD, find you a job and help you to readjust to and enjoy civilian life.
8. [Are Veterans Getting the Money They Deserve in Latest Budget?](#) [Hyperlink to Article National Journal](#): Although budget requests are routinely dismissed as pie-in-the-sky wish lists doomed to be slashed, lawmakers fear that the Veterans Affairs Department actually might not be asking for enough money to meet its needs.
9. [VA: Funding decline for TBI care is good news](#). [Hyperlink to Article Army Times](#): Funding for traumatic brain injury care would drop under the White House's proposed fiscal 2015 budget, but Veterans Affairs Department officials say that's actually good news.
10. [Hearings to focus on future Veterans Affairs budget](#). [Hyperlink to Article The Washington Post](#): The House and Senate veterans' affairs committees are scheduled to hold a hearing this week to discuss funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and various issues facing the organization.
11. [New bill to allow veterans free treatment for traumatic brain injury](#). [Hyperlink to Article KFOR-TV](#): A bill allowing Oklahoma veterans to be provided with free hyperbaric oxygen treatment for traumatic brain injury has been approved by the state Senate.
12. [Report: Gulf War symptoms too broad for one definition](#). [Hyperlink to Article USA Today](#): Gulf War veterans have such a wide array of symptoms and exposures that researchers and clinicians should not apply one definition to everyone, and should instead "select one based on their needs," according to a report from the Institute of Medicine released Wednesday.
13. [Sen. Murray 'concerned' about possible cut to Walla Walla vets home grant](#). [Hyperlink to Above Article The News Tribune](#): Federal money for a Walla Walla veterans home remains uncertain even after U.S. Sen. Patty Murray raised her concerns at a budget hearing Wednesday in Washington, D.C.
14. [VA seeking to educate vets on unclaimed benefits](#). [Hyperlink to Article KTAR-AM \(Audio\)](#): Calling all veterans in need of health care, education assistance, even home loans. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs said you could be eligible for more benefits than you think.
15. [American heroes in waiting game for government benefits](#). [Hyperlink to Article Fox News Channel's Fox and Friends](#): In this 3:50 video Peter Gaytan, Executive Director of The American Legion, discusses the Backlog and the Legion's efforts to urge VA to reduce it.
16. [Military women's extra trauma: combat stress and sexual assault](#). [Hyperlink to Article MinnPost.com](#): Although both men and women are subjected to MST, the Veteran's Health Administration found that 1 in 5 female veterans experienced MST as compared to 1 in 100 male veterans.
17. [Suicide on the homefront in military families](#). [Hyperlink to Article CNN \(Video\)](#): When I married a soldier in June 2001, I knew my life was going to change. I moved from Berkeley, California, to Fort Sill, Oklahoma -- talk about a culture shock. But I was in love, and enthusiastically dove head first into a military life I knew nothing about.
18. [Families of Legionnaires' victims outraged by report on VA outbreak](#). [Hyperlink to Article Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#): Families of the men who died after contracting Legionnaires' disease at the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System believe that two internal reviews that the VA knew early on what caused the outbreak of the disease in 2011 and 2012 prove that the agency was more concerned with a "cover-up" of what happened than letting them know what led to their loved ones' death.
19. [Boise VA living center quarantined due to suspected norovirus](#). [Hyperlink to Article KTVB-TV](#): The Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Boise says a long term care facility has been quarantined after several cases of gastroenteritis.
20. [VA Butler gets top rating in hospice care from vets' families](#). [Hyperlink to Article Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#): VA Butler Healthcare ranks first in a recent national survey of end-of-life care administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
21. [Fayetteville VA Medical Center receives grant to improve HIV care to homeless vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article Fayetteville Observer](#): With the help of a federal grant, the Fayetteville VA Medical Center aims to improve HIV care to homeless veterans.
22. [Potential Springfield sites for VA clinic being discussed](#). [Hyperlink to Article Springfield News-Leader](#): Veterans' Affairs officials have been narrowing down possible locations for a new outpatient clinic in Springfield.
23. [Maine should preserve and expand its successful Veterans Court](#). [Hyperlink to Article Kennebec Journal](#): Maine lawmakers have several opportunities this year to stand up for veterans. One bill that I've introduced addresses the question: What happens when a veteran comes back from service struggling with post-traumatic stress and commits a serious crime?
24. [Volunteers assist 114 with claims](#). [Hyperlink to Article The Norman Transcript](#): One hundred and fourteen veterans and surviving spouses were assisted with their VA claims and questions Thursday. Of that number, eight received VA ratings of 100 percent for their service-connected disabilities.
25. [City to honor women veterans with week of festivities](#). [Hyperlink to Article WAWS/WTEV-TV](#): The mayor, along with the Northeast Florida Women Veterans Association, proclaimed next week as Women Veterans Recognition Week.
26. [Stand-Down for homeless veterans to take place in April](#). [Hyperlink to Article Clarion-Ledger](#): Mississippi's first Homeless Veterans Stand-Down will take place April 4 in Mound Bayou on April 4.

[Phoenix's Homeless Veteran Problem Not Solved, Local Homeless Advocates Say](#). [Hyperlink to Article Phoenix New Times](#): Despite the headlines, not everyone believes Phoenix has housed every homeless veteran in the city.

27.

[28.VA official placed on leave after improper spending allegations](#) [Hyperlinc to Article](#) **The Tennessean:** A U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs official who worked in Nashville has been placed on administrative leave pending a probe of allegations he ran up thousands of dollars in inappropriate expenses on a government [credit card](#).

29.VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 13, 2014:

➤ **March 13, 2014.** HVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."

➤ **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

➤ **March 25, 2014.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing on Veterans Affairs Bills.

- H.R. 2942 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- H.R. 3056 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of outreach and support services to veterans pursuing higher education under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- H.R. 3614 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve the recognition by states of skills learned in the military by a Veteran when issuing licenses and credentials.
- H.R. 4031 — Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.
- H.R. 4037 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to training and rehabilitation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 4038 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in the information technology of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to process claims more efficiently, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 4147 — Student Veterans IT Upgrade Act.
- H.R. 4150 — Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2014.
- H.R. 4151 — Veterans Education Survey Act of 2014.

➤ **March 25, 2014.** HVAC O&I will hold legislative hearing with issues related to construction, health, and other matters.

- *HR 3593* – Mandating arrangement with US Army Corps of Engineers for three major construction projects
- *Draft bill* – informed consent for psychotropic drugs
- *Draft bill* – oversight of contracts with service-disabled veteran owned small businesses
- *Draft bill* – Gulf War Illness
- *Draft bill* – Improve information security by implementing actions to improve transparency and governance
- *Draft bill* – Biological implant protocol and procurement

➤ **March 26, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.

➤ **March 26, 2014:** HVAC DAMA will hold a Legislative Hearing on bills related to NCA and VBA.

- HR 2018 – Honor Those Who Served Act
- HR 2088 – Centers for Excellence
- HR 2119 – Veterans Access to Speedy Review (Video Hearing)
- HR 2529 – Veterans Spouse Equal Treatment Act
- HR 3671 – NCA Medallion Bill
- HR 3876 – Burial with Dignity Act
- HR 4095 – Annual COLA
- HR 4102 – Require Payment for Accrued Benefits to Veterans Estate
- HR 4141 – Expand Enhanced Use Leases to Cemeteries
- HR 4191 – Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act (REVISED)

➤ **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

➤ **March 27, 2014.** HVAC Health intends to hold a Legislative Hearing on health related bills.

- H.R. 183 – The Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act
- H.R. 2527 – Veterans counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training
- H.R. 2661 – The Veterans Access to Timely Medical Appointments Act
- H.R. 2974 – To provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes
- H.R. 3387 – The Classified Veterans Access to Care Act
- H.R. 3508 – Qualifications of hearing aid specialists
- H.R. 3180 – To include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects (Kaptur)
- H.R. 3831 – The Veterans Dialysis Pilot Program Review Act of 2014 (Roe)
- H.R. 4198 – The Appropriate Care for Disabled Veterans Act
- DRAFT – To authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2014 and for other purposes. (VA FY14 Construction Package)

30.Today in History:

- [1591 – Battle of Tondibi:](#) In [Mali, Moroccan](#) forces of the [Saadi Dynasty](#) led by Judar Pasha defeat the [Songhai Empire](#), despite being outnumbered by at least five to one.
- [1639 – Harvard College](#) is named for clergyman [John Harvard](#).
- [1697 – Nojpetén](#), capital of the [Itza Maya](#) kingdom, fell to Spanish [conquistadors](#), the final step in the [Spanish conquest of Guatemala](#).
- [1809 – Gustav IV Adolf of Sweden](#) is deposed in a [coup d'état](#).
- [1862 – American Civil War:](#) The [U.S. federal government](#) forbids all [Union](#) army officers to return fugitive slaves, thus effectively annulling the [Fugitive Slave Act of 1850](#) and setting the stage for the [Emancipation Proclamation](#).
- [1865 – American Civil War:](#) The [Confederate States of America](#) agree to the use of [African American](#) troops.
- [1881 – Alexander II of Russia](#) is killed near his palace when a bomb is thrown at him. (Gregorian date: it was March 1 in the [Julian calendar](#) then in use in [Russia](#).)
- [1884 – The Siege of Khartoum](#), [Sudan](#) begins, ending on January 26, 1885.
- [1897 – San Diego State University](#) is founded.
- [1900 – Second Boer War:](#) British forces occupy [Bloemfontein](#), [Orange Free State](#).
- [1920 – The Kapp Putsch](#) briefly ousts the [Weimar Republic](#) government from [Berlin](#).
- [1921 – Mongolia](#) is proclaimed an independent monarchy, ruled by Russian military officer [Roman von Ungern-Sternberg](#) as a dictator.
- [1933 – Great Depression:](#) Banks in the U.S. begin to re-open after [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) mandates a "bank holiday".
- [1938 – World News Roundup](#) is broadcast for the first time on [CBS Radio](#) in the United States.
- [1940 – The Russo-Finnish Winter War](#) ends.
- [1943 – The Holocaust:](#) German forces liquidate the [Jewish ghetto in Kraków](#).
- [1954 – Battle of Điện Biên Phủ:](#) [Viet Minh](#) forces attack the [French](#).
- [1957 – Cuban](#) student revolutionaries storm the [presidential palace in Havana](#) in a failed attempt on the life of [President Fulgencio Batista](#).
- [1962 – Lyman Lemnitzer](#), chairman of the [Joint Chiefs of Staff](#), delivers a proposal, called [Operation Northwoods](#), regarding performing [terrorist attacks](#) upon [Guantanamo Bay Naval Base](#), to [Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara](#). The proposal is scrapped and President [John F. Kennedy](#) removes Lemnitzer from his position.
- [1963 – Police in Phoenix, Arizona](#) arrest [Ernesto Miranda](#) and charge him with kidnap and rape. His conviction is ultimately set aside by the [United States Supreme Court](#) in [Miranda v. Arizona](#)
- [1964 – American Kitty Genovese](#) is murdered, reportedly in view of neighbors who did nothing to help her, prompting research into the [bystander effect](#).
- [1969 – Apollo program:](#) [Apollo 9](#) returns safely to [Earth](#) after testing the [Lunar Module](#).
- [1979 – The New Jewel Movement](#), headed by [Maurice Bishop](#), ousts [Prime Minister Eric Gairy](#) in a nearly bloodless [coup d'état](#) in [Grenada](#).
- [1988 – The Seikan Tunnel](#), the longest undersea tunnel in the world, opens between [Aomori](#) and [Hakodate, Japan](#).
- [1991 – The United States Department of Justice](#) announces that [Exxon](#) has agreed to pay \$1 billion for the clean-up of the [Exxon Valdez oil spill](#) in [Alaska](#).
- [1992 – An earthquake](#) registering 6.8 on the [Richter scale](#) kills over 500 in [Erzincan](#), eastern [Turkey](#).
- [1996 – Dunblane massacre:](#) in [Dunblane, Scotland](#), 16 Primary School children and one teacher are shot dead by a [spree killer, Thomas Watt Hamilton](#) who then committed suicide.
- [1997 – India's Missionaries of Charity](#) chooses [Sister Nirmala](#) to succeed [Mother Teresa](#) as its leader.
- [1997 – The Phoenix lights](#) are seen over [Phoenix, Arizona](#) by hundreds of people, and by millions on [television](#).
- [2003 – Human evolution:](#) The journal [Nature](#) reports that 350,000-year-old footprints of an upright-walking [human](#) have been found in [Italy](#).
- [2008 – Gold prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange](#) hit \$1,000 per ounce for the first time.
- [2013 – Pope Francis](#) is elected in the [papal conclave](#) to succeed [Pope Benedict XVI](#).

From: Curt Cashour, House Committee on Veterans Affairs
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:48 AM

Subj: VA Rewards Employee Who Stole \$31K, Sexted on Govt. Computers With Paid Time Off

SEXTING AND TRAVELING IN LUXURY AT VA? GO ON PAID LEAVE

By Bob Brewin

Nextgov

<http://www.nextgov.com/defense/whats-brewin/2014/03/sexting-and-traveling-luxury-va-go-paid-leave/80443/>

An unidentified Veterans Affairs Department ratings service representative in Nashville, Tenn., who downloaded software onto his agency laptop to sext friends and misused \$31,000 in travel funds was placed on paid administrative leave this week.

The VA inspector general last week released a report that detailed the employee's travel and sexting adventures, with recommendations that top VA management "determine the appropriate administrative action, if any" to take against the employee.

The Nashville ratings representative managed to win the backing of supervisors for a job at the Washington-based VA Center for Innovation and between May 2011 and February 2013 traveled "at his own discretion" to Washington 34 times and took one trip each to Newark,

N.J., and Tampa, Fla., at a total cost to taxpayers of \$109,200, the IG reported.

Questionable travel expenses for this employee included "multiple valet hotel parking charges between October 2012 and January 2013, although [he] did not rent a car during these trips," and business class train travel, the IG said.

In September 2011, the Nashville employee changed his departure from Reagan National to Dulles International Airport at an additional cost of \$383 because "he wanted to attend a horse show near Dulles," the IG said.

After all this, VA decided to take some action this Tuesday – if you consider sidelining a GS-13 with pay action.

"VA takes any allegation regarding misuse of departmental resources very seriously, and the department appreciates the Office of Inspector General's independent review," the agency said in a statement.

"VA has reviewed the OIG's report, and is in the process of determining the appropriate actions to take with respect to its recommendations," VA said. "The employee who is alleged to have misused government resources and engaged in other misconduct has been placed on administrative leave as of March 11, pending the determination of appropriate action to be taken in this matter."

From: FRA NewsBytes
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 11:03 AM

Subject: FRA NewsBytes March 14, 2014

FRA National President Testifies on Capitol Hill

FRA National President (NP) Virgil Courneya testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees this week, asking Congress to work to reduce the large backlog of disability claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), expand presumption for Blue Water Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange herbicide while serving off the cost of Vietnam, and authorize two-year funding for the full VA budget to avoid the agency having to stop providing benefits and adjudicating disability claims during a government shutdown.

NP Courneya thanked Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vt.), Chairman of the Senate Committee, and Rep. Jeff Miller (Fla.), Chairman of the House Committee, for their efforts to repeal the one-percent cost-of-living-adjustment for military retirees, including their sponsorship of legislation S. 1982 and H.R. 3789, respectively. Sen. Sanders' legislation also contained numerous FRA-supported provisions improving veteran's benefits. NP Courneya cited other issues addressed in the Association's full statement, including full concurrent receipt for all disabled military retirees, expanded suicide prevention programs, veteran's status for Reserve Component with 20 or more years of service, and reform of the Uniform Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA). Members can read FRA's written testimony at http://www.fra.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=2011_Legislative_Agenda&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=4986.

In addition members of the FRA Legislative Team meet with Personnel Subcommittee staff from the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, staff from the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee and staff from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission over the past two weeks. These off-the-record meeting allow FRA staff to provide the Association's legislative agenda to key staff members on Capitol Hill.

Senate Approves Sexual Assault Legislation

The Senate this week passed (97-0) the "Victims Protection Act" (S. 1917), sponsored by Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.), that reforms how the military handles sexual assault cases. Before the bill was approved, there was vigorous and extensive debate between two of the Senate's female legislators (Senators Kristin Gillibrand from New York and the bill's sponsor Claire McCaskill). The bill would prohibit military commanders from overturning jury convictions on sexual assault; the statute of limitations for military rapes would be eliminated; and victims would receive their own independent counsel in sex crime cases. The bill would also require civilian review if a commanding officer decides not to prosecute a sexual assault case. The bill now goes to the House for further consideration, and members can use the FRA Action Center at <http://action.fra.org/action-center/>.

DoD-VA Seamless Transition Update

The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) mandates that DoD and VA must have seamless electronic health care data by Oct. 1, 2016. This provision was in response to the VA DoD shelving plans to jointly develop an integrated Electronic Health Record (EHR) system due to cost and schedule challenges. Instead, the two agencies decided to pursue separate efforts to modernize or replace their existing systems. However, according to a new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report (GAO-14-302) the VA and DOD "have not substantiated their claims that the current approach will be less expensive and more timely than the single-system approach." The GAO report also notes that neither department has provided a joint strategic plan that explains lines of responsibility, time schedule, how to eliminate management barriers, and how much the project will cost. FRA has long supported efforts to ensure adequate funding for DoD and VA health care resource sharing in delivering seamless, cost effective, quality services to personnel wounded in combat and other veterans and their families.

Last Chance to Participate in FRA's Benefit Survey

As part of its mission to bring the enlisted voice to Capitol Hill, FRA is conducting an online survey to determine which military and veterans' benefits are most important to active duty and Reserve personnel, retirees, veterans and their families. The brief survey, available at www.fra.org/survey, asks current and former members of the uniformed services and their spouses to rate a variety of benefits and quality-of-life programs associated with their service to our nation.

"As Congress explores ways to cut federal spending, many hard-earned benefits are in the budgetary crosshairs," explains Tom Snee, FRA's national executive director. "FRA is asking all current and former military personnel and their spouses to share their opinions about the programs they value most. Survey responses and comments from participants provide important reference information when we testify before Congress or meet one-on-one with lawmakers and their staffs."

FRA shares the survey results with elected officials on Capitol Hill and leaders within the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs—ensuring these key decision-makers understand the military perspective.

Please go to www.fra.org/survey to let us know what is most important to you! The survey will be closed next week, so Shipmates are urged to participate in survey before it is too late.

From: JS Pentagon OCJCS Mailbox Warrior and Family Support

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 5:40 PM

Subject: Warrior & Family Support News: Friday, 14 March 2014

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

LINK OF THE WEEK: [Warrior Care Blog - DoD Office of Warrior Care Policy](#)

WELLNESS

[SOF Wounded Warriors train at MacDill](#)

The Northwest Florida Daily News

TAMPA (USASOC News Service) - The U.S. Special Operations Command's Care Coalition hosted 54 wounded, ill, and injured Special Operations Forces service members on MacDill AFB through the **Wounded Warrior** Athletic Reconditioning Program...

[The Uncounted](#)

CNN

The dozens of **military family** members I interviewed over the past year – many of whom have attempted suicide, contemplated it or had loved ones who killed themselves – said the cumulative trauma of 12 years of war has left them wrung out and desperate...

[Self-medicating homeless vets not seeking help they need](#)

Bridge Michigan

"There are all these men out there and they don't know we are there to help," said Joyce Hopp, **homeless veteran** outreach specialist for Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids, a nonprofit that offers job training and support services for people...

[More horses to help Dallas-area military veterans heal](#)

Dallas Morning News

"That social element is very key to our program," said Susannah Denney, the nonprofit's **veterans** coordinator. That's because **veterans** often feel isolated or struggle to **reintegrate** into civilian life. "**Veterans** have all the leadership skills and all...

[Nurses' Training To Focus On Health Care For Veterans](#)

Daily News Times

"Currently, our health care workforce is not adequately prepared to help **veterans** adapt to their **reintegration** and the unique challenges they face, both physically and emotionally," it states. Nationally, nursing schools are participating in an effort...

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

[Inmates Part of New Legion Post](#)

Military.com

In addition to fundraising **projects** and community service, he also hopes to be able to teach young offenders about leadership and "give them a sense of well-being." Williams said he ... "No matter where they're at, they're still **soldiers**," he said ...

[Veteran's birthday idea turns into \\$150000 gift to comrades](#)

Chicago Daily Herald

Kostecki said the proceeds from Schumann's party will not only help with ongoing operations but will allow the shelter to launch a new affordable **housing** project for female **veterans**. "We couldn't be more delighted at the outcome," she said, adding that ...

[Service, Sacrifice, Success.](#)

Huffington Post

After a year of research, the WBDC discovered that there was only one **program** in the United States (**Veteran** Women Igniting the Spirit of **Entrepreneurship** (V-WISE)) that provided women **veterans** with the tools they need to become successful **entrepreneurs** ...

EMPLOYMENT

[Merced job fair attracts veterans, others looking for employment](#)

Sacramento Bee

"I want one solid federal **job**." His time in the **military** could give him a leg up, because federal **jobs** tend to give preference to veterans. Romero served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Meeting employers face ...

[How to Get an Online Job](#)

Military.com

Even though MOAA's Military Spouse Employment Report indicates that telecommuting was the benefit spouses wanted most from their employers, those jobs are a little trickier to find. As a Marine Corps Reserve wife, Laura has had to face a life more ...

[VETtransfer gets international attention for helping vet-led startups](#)

Wishbusiness.com

The two teach **entrepreneurship** at UW-Milwaukee and manage VETtransfer as well as other small business accelerators, or training **programs**, for startups. VETtransfer helps military **veterans** get their businesses off the ground. Meier proclaims it's unique ...

EDUCATION

[USC announces summer scholarship for military children during DC swing](#)

USC News

... the Provost's Pre-College Summer Scholarship for **Military** High Schools in conjunction with the 2014 USC in D.C. event, where Nikias and Provost Elizabeth Garrett joined USC faculty, staff and trustees to share USC's leadership role in research ...

[Norwalk Community College's Extra Services for Veterans](#)

Patch.com

State Senators Bob Duff (D-Norwalk) and Carlo Leone (D-Stamford) paid a visit to the campus of Norwalk **Community College** (NC) on Wednesday, a day when the college was celebrating a new partnership with the U.S. Department of **Veterans Affairs** (VA).

[Collision Repair Education Foundation and 3M Offer Scholarships to Veterans](#)

BodyShop Business

Through the Collision Repair **Education** Foundation and the 3M Hire Our Heroes program, 3M is funding special scholarship opportunities for **veterans** who want to attend an **educational** program to jump start their career in collision repair. The scholarship ...

Best regards,

Randall E. "Smitty" Smith, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Director, Warrior & Family Support
Office of the Chairman

Mobile Solicitations - Information Submitted by a great Vets Advocate, Jack Beecher, Vietnam Vet and Former Small Business Officer with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Wayne, check out these set asides my friend. Two of them are SDVSB. Please help me get the word out and if any SDVSBs that you know may need bonding help have them contact me.
jbeecher@jackbeecherllc.com

Solicitations 0029 and 0031 are SDVOSB set asides. 0030 is small business.

Z--The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District is planning to advertise an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) for Healthcare Facility Repair/Construction projects.
Solicitation Number: W91278-14-R-0030
Agency: Department of the Army
Office: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Location: USACE District, Mobile
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=207009367319d467c78c7aa348&tab=core&_cview=0

Z--The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District is planning to advertise an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) for Healthcare Facility Repair/Construction projects.
Solicitation Number: W91278-14-R-0029
Agency: Department of the Army
Office: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Location: USACE District, Mobile
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=c5f3ea084959b00927f44ec30eb26d&tab=core&_cview=0

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Solicitation Number: W91278-14-R-0031
Agency: Department of the Army
Office: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Location: USACE District, Mobile
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=81883de4db3312bbb4c7454d52c4970&tab=core&_cview=0

From: Teresa Morris [tmorris@vfw.org]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 5:00 PM

Subj: VFW Washington Weekly, March 14, 2014

1.House/Senate Discuss VA 2015 Budget: This week, the House and Senate VA Committees held hearings on VA's proposed FY 2015 budget. During the Senate hearing, Secretary Shinseki testified that the budget VA asked for was what they felt was needed, but acknowledged that the request was put together before DOD announced its plan to reduce troop size. With the possibility of a sizable increase in returning veterans enrolling in VA, Senate committee members commented that an increase may be needed. Other items discussed included implementation of VBMS and the disability claims backlog goal, access to mental health care providers, long term care programs and major construction funding. The VFW provided written testimony regarding the woefully underfunded construction programs as a part of the Independent Budget. For complete hearing information, to include the recorded webcasts from both hearings -- visit the committee websites.

For the House VA Committee website, click here: <http://veterans.house.gov/>
To check out the Senate VA Committee website, click here: <http://www.veterans.senate.gov/>

For more about the Independent Budget and our funding recommendations for VA, click here:
<http://www.independentbudget.org/>

2. MST Bill Clears Senate: On Monday, the Senate passed (97-0) legislation to expand protections for victims of sexual assault in the military. S. 1917, the Victims Protection Act of 2014 would eliminate the "good soldier" defense and expand the role of special counsels for victims of sexual assault and rape by providing advice on the advantages of prosecution by court-martial or in civilian court. In cases of dual jurisdiction, the victim gets a say between having the case heard by a civilian or military court. It would also extend protections to students in service academies, and require that in every decision regarding promotions in the military that a commander's record on the handling of sexual-assault cases would be taken into account.

3. Military Family Survey Ends this Weekend: With announced Pentagon recommendations to change military pay and allowances, retirement, healthcare programs and commissaries, it is now more important than ever for active-duty, Guard, Reserve and veteran families to complete the Blue Star Families' 2014 Military Family Lifestyle Survey, which ends this weekend. More than 1,200 VFW and family members already have. The survey is available online at <http://tiny.cc/2014VFW>. The data collected provides real-time feedback from military families on issues ranging from operations tempo to pay and benefits, stress, caregiving and employment.

4. Two MIA Soldiers Identified: The Defense POW/MIA Office recently announced the identification of remains belonging to two soldiers who had been unaccounted-for since the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Identified are:

* Army Pfc. Donald C. Durfee, 19, of Painesville, Ohio. In November 1950, Durfee was assigned to Company M, 31st Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, when his unit was attacked and forced into a fighting withdrawal south of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was reported killed-in-action on Dec. 2, 1950.

* Army Staff Sgt. Lawrence Woods, 39, of Clarksville, Tenn., will be buried as part of a group on March 21 at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony honoring the servicemen who were lost in an aircraft crash on Oct. 24, 1964. Woods and seven other servicemen were aboard a C-123 Provider aircraft that was shot down after resupplying the U.S. Special Forces camp at Bu Prang, Vietnam. Seven remains were recovered, but they could not locate Woods.
Read more about their individual stories at http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/news/news_releases/.

Godspeed all... Wayne

Wayne M. Gatewood, Jr., USMC (Ret)
Founder/President/CEO
Quality Support, Inc., Established 1989
A VA CVE-Verified SDVOSB
8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 220
Landover, MD 20785
301-459-3777 EXT 101 - Fax 301-459-6961
www.qualitysupport.com

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their Nation." - George Washington