

From: [Wayne_Gatwood Jr](#)
To: [Wayne_Gatwood Jr](#)
Subject: Veterans News for Tuesday, September 4, 2012
Date: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 7:22:37 PM
Attachments: [Veterans Hiring Press Release-Fairfax Co.pdf](#)
[Fulton Co.GA SDVOSB Ordinance.pdf](#)

Happy Tuesday good people. Hope everyone had a safe and comfortable Labor Day weekend. Lots of News today since Kevin Secor, VA, VSO Liaison at VA did not rest during the long weekend and disseminated News for the days we were off! Thanks Kevin!

For Today: *"The entrepreneur always searches for change, responds to it, and exploits it as an opportunity". Peter Drucker*

Serving Those Who Have Served: A Symposium on Hiring Veterans. On October 5, 2012, from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm, the American Freedom Foundation will be hosting this event along with the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, at the Sheraton Premier at Tysons Corner. [Please visit this link for more information](#) AND also, please see attached Press Release. Any questions, please contact **Ted Hacker**, Co-founder, President & COO, American Freedom Foundation, Inc., American Freedom Festival <http://www.americanfreedomfoundation.org>
Thanks Ted!

Fulton County, Georgia SDVBE Ordinance. An Ordinance that establishes a requirement that 5% Veterans Preference Points go towards County Proposals. Thanks to Reggie Dunbar, III, Marine, and Member of Georgia Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise for playing a part in the establishment of this Ordinance and for getting a copy to us. Thanks Reggie!

Colleges Ramp Up Support of Student Veterans. <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/7962/colleges-ramp-up-support-of-student-veterans/>

Veterans Ink E-Newsletter - From Vets Inc, Worcester, MA. <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=ihj5p8dab&v=001A0f1CIZUIQ6F13GIPyG5Nii268C3-vTSHpjDyiKJaeNwtScyM90fuSHdqtp7PronLkQXm4aWSMqNtbwObXyArInjl1QxibuYQ9wa2Vxs9ZyhAZZJIsHWdQkLqyv8Roou2zMHWM0PBR3kKR0Au50dWqbZcSlqsTt41b6-8Zpc2bao1oql6yfeQ-jap3Ud>

Reserve Officers Association (ROA) SmartBrief for September 4, 2012: <http://www.smartbrief.com/servlet/wireless?issueid=B7465122-FA86-4DEA-99B1-B497CD0D0BE2&sid=22cbe9eb%2d3ef0%2d4eca%2d8105%2de9f466dc32d>

Prepared? It's about your Pills...and much more. <http://www.va.gov/health/NewsFeatures/20120903a.asp>

Veterans Go For Gold at the Paralympics. Disabled Veterans are among the athletes competing at the [Paralympics](#) in London. Army Vet Eric Hollen, pictured left, represented the U.S. in the target shooting competition.

VA Announces Contract For Montana Community-Based Outpatient Clinic. <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2379>

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

Best.....Wayne

VA Veterans News for Tuesday, September 4, 2012. Thanks to Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison

1. [A year after the explosion that blinded him, former Navy swimmer wins gold at Paralympics.](#)
2. [Budget cuts mean no live 'Taps' at N.Y. military funerals.](#)
3. [Quadruple amputee soldier fulfills promise: greets his combat unit.](#)
4. [Support group at Scott AFB helps military widows.](#)
5. [Spending on veterans goes up even as number of vets decrease.](#)
6. [VA Addresses Increase In Suicide Among Veterans.](#)
7. [Veterans Affairs Looking for a Few Good Native Men \(and Women\) for Mortgages.](#)
8. [Seeking Shelter, Finding Hope.](#)
9. [Colleges Asked To Cover Any VA Holdup On Payments.](#)
10. [For Disabled Veterans Awaiting Benefits Decisions, Location Matters.](#)
11. [VA: Retraining Slots Are Filling Up Quickly.](#)
12. [Valdosta Veteran Writes A Different Kind Of War Story.](#)
13. [Ex-Marine Battling Cancer Marries Sweetheart.](#)
14. [Veteran's Car Show Serves Veterans In More Ways Than One.](#)
15. [Wife Welcomes Home Air Force Veteran With Help Of A Hero's Welcome.](#)
16. [Purple Heart Urged For Veterans With PTSD.](#)
17. [Hire A Vet: It's Good Business, Not Politics Or Charity.](#)
18. [Heroic Airman Praised At Wake.](#)
19. [Korean Veterans Plan 2013 Bus Trip To D.C.](#)
20. [VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as September 4, 2012:](#)
21. [Today in History:](#)

1. [A year after the explosion that blinded him, former Navy swimmer wins gold at Paralympics.](#) A former captain of the U.S. Naval Academy's swim team, Bradley Snyder never imagined he would be competing in the Paralympic Games. Nevertheless, it marks his return to a sport that once helped define who he was, before bad luck changed everything.
2. [Budget cuts mean no live 'Taps' at N.Y. military funerals.](#) Because of budget cuts, New York State as of Oct. 1 will no longer hire musicians to play "Taps" on trumpets or bugles at the more than 300 military funerals per month staffed by the Military Forces Honor Guard.
3. [Quadruple amputee soldier fulfills promise: greets his combat unit.](#) Standing on his new prosthetic legs, wearing artificial arms and dressed in combat fatigues, Staff Sgt. Travis Mills showed up in the pre-dawn darkness to greet soldiers as they stepped off the plane in Fort Bragg, N.C. He was fulfilling a promise he had made to himself just weeks after an April explosion in Afghanistan left him a quadruple amputee.
4. [Support group at Scott AFB helps military widows.](#) Two Illinois widows found themselves struggling to navigate an often complex and confusing system of federal benefits while grieving the loss of their spouses.
5. [Spending on veterans goes up even as number of vets decrease.](#) [Dayton Daily News](#) Ohio had 867,240 veterans through last year, the sixth largest veterans' population in the nation while the VA pumped \$5.7 billion into the state's economy. The state ranks eighth in the nation for VA expenditures per veteran at \$6,610 last year ...
6. [VA Addresses Increase In Suicide Among Veterans.](#) [KPBS](#) The U.S. Department Of Veteran Affairs in San Diego reports that 126 local veterans attempted suicide so far this year; 22 succeeded. That number is significantly higher than at this time last year. The mental health department at the Veterans Affairs ...
7. [Veterans Affairs Looking for a Few Good Native Men \(and Women\) for Mortgages.](#) [Indian Country Today Media Network.com](#) A brain trust of tribal and federal government officials recently sat down in Albuquerque, New Mexico to ponder how to get more American Indian veterans into an underused Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) program designed specifically to provide ...
8. [Seeking Shelter, Finding Hope.](#) [Citrus County \(FL\) Chronicle](#) Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are increasingly among the callers seeking help from The Sanctuary Mission shelter in Homosassa. The men "are struggling with drug use and PTSD." The Chronicle explains the shelter's program and says that Sanctuary manager Brian O'Connell hopes to someday build a "40-bed facility," because "the need keeps increasing."
9. [Colleges Asked To Cover Any VA Holdup On Payments.](#) [McClatchy](#) "Ohio officials asked college and university presidents yesterday to keep their military-veteran students enrolled while the federal Department of Veterans Affairs resolves a possible delay with GI Bill benefit payments." Some records were lost in a transfer between VA offices "in Buffalo, N.Y., and St. Louis," but the VA said it had backup files and only an estimated 300 students in West Virginia and Ohio could be affected if their "GI Bill eligibility forms were received between July 24 and Aug. 9." McClatchy said Ohio schools reported higher numbers, including 250 at Ohio State and "the 'vast majority'" of Bowling Green State University's 284 student veterans. Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Jim Petro, and Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Thomas N. Moe asked schools to delay dropping affected students.

- 10. For Disabled Veterans Awaiting Benefits Decisions, Location Matters.** [Bakersfield Californian](#) Center for Investigative Reporting analysis of how "geographic inequity" plays a role in how fast the VA is able to issue decisions on disability claims. The report says, "Simply put: Veterans in sparsely populated states often encounter quick resolution of their compensation claims for problems ranging from back injuries to post-traumatic stress disorder while those in metropolitan areas languish." Veterans who come home to metro areas such as Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, or New York will have a longer wait than those in "Lincoln, Neb., and Fargo, N.D.," who "get their benefits faster." The report also says Northern California veterans who don't have disability decisions after year could get results in South Dakota "in less than half the time."
- 11. VA: Retraining Slots Are Filling Up Quickly.** [Montgomery County \(TX\) Courier](#) VA said it "expects to have every slot filled by Sept. 30" in the 2012 Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, but "an additional 54,000 openings will be available at the start of the new fiscal year Oct. 1. VRAP provides up to 12 months of full-time Montgomery GI Bill benefits at the active-duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month, for veterans to take vocational training classes." She notes some background on the program and also provides the requirements for interested veterans.
- 12. Valdosta Veteran Writes A Different Kind Of War Story.** [Valdosta \(GA\) Daily Times](#) Afghanistan veteran and author Jesse Holder, who wrote a "raucous, often irreverent" book called "Chutes, Beers & Bullets" about his two tours in Afghanistan with the 173rd Airborne Command. He also served in Iraq. The Daily Times says "Holder holds nothing back," including accounts of "drug use among soldiers, drinking, meeting women, partying in Europe" and "sordid stories about he and his fellow soldiers' misadventures." Holder is considering whether to return to school "and embark on a series of new adventures. As Holder puts it, 'I've been to three continents, in two wars, 19 countries, have one published book, six years in the military and I'm 25 years old.'"
- 13. Ex-Marine Battling Cancer Marries Sweetheart.** [Omaha World-Herald](#) Marine veteran Scott Brown and Evelyn Pano, both from Grand Island, Nebraska, were married Saturday in the chapel of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Omaha, "where he has spent days and nights fighting for his life." The nurses and other staff members on the center's seventh floor "have come to know and adore the couple over the past year-and-a-half, treating Brown first for cancer in a knee and now for cancer in his pelvis," and they organized and paid for the couple's wedding. VA Chaplain John Besancon presided, and the couple went on to a full reception and a honeymoon hotel room paid for by housekeeping workers James Hildreth II and Harvey Lott.
- 14. Veteran's Car Show Serves Veterans In More Ways Than One.** [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) The second car show sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 481 at the George Wahlen Veteran's Home. Organizers "had hoped for a bigger turnout" but expect "attendance will get bigger year after year." Arthur Keeley, a Korean War veteran, and other residents "look forward to activities held at the home because they can stroll out when they want and can spend as much time as they want looking at things – in this case, the vintage cars."
- 15. Wife Welcomes Home Air Force Veteran With Help Of A Hero's Welcome.** [Montgomery \(PA\) News](#) The surprise homecoming arranged by Heather Dunn for her husband, Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Dunn, after his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. She arranged "dozens of motorcyclists, firefighters and police" to welcome him. She worked through the group called A Hero's Welcome. Dunn is now stationed at Dover Air Force Base.
- 16. Purple Heart Urged For Veterans With PTSD.** [Stars And Stripes](#)
- 17. Hire A Vet: It's Good Business, Not Politics Or Charity.** [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#)
- 18. Heroic Airman Praised At Wake.** [New Hampshire Union Leader](#)
- 19. Korean Veterans Plan 2013 Bus Trip To D.C.** [Bristol \(CT\) Press](#)
- 20. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as September 4, 2012:**

September 14, 2012. HVAC, Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on the Patient-Centered Community Care (PCCC) and Non-VA Care Coordination (NVCC) programs.

September 20, 2012. HVAC, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing entitled, "Examining the Re-Design of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)."

October 4, 2012: House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will be holding a hearing on October 4, 2012 on; State Approving Agencies Roles and Reviewing the Challenges of PL 111-377 Section 203. Tentatively scheduled for 10:00am in Cannon 334.

21. Today in History:

- **1781** – [Los Angeles, California](#), is founded as [El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora La Reina de los Angeles de Porciúncula](#) (The Village of Our Lady, the Queen of the Angels of Porziuncola) by 44 Spanish settlers.
- **1812** – [War of 1812](#): The [Siege of Fort Harrison](#) begins when the fort is set on fire.
- **1862** – [Civil War Maryland Campaign](#): General [Robert E. Lee](#) takes the Army of Northern Virginia, and the war, into the North.
- **1884** – The United Kingdom ends its policy of [penal transportation](#) to New South Wales in Australia. ^{[[citation needed](#)]}
- **1886** – [American Indian Wars](#): after almost 30 years of fighting, [Apache](#) leader [Geronimo](#), with his remaining warriors, surrenders to General [Nelson Miles](#) in [Arizona](#).
- **1888** – [George Eastman](#) registers the trademark [Kodak](#) and receives a patent for his [camera](#) that uses roll film.
- **1912** – [Albanian](#) rebels succeed in [their revolt](#) when the Ottoman Empire agrees to fulfill their demands
- **1923** – Maiden flight of the first U.S. [airship](#), the [USS Shenandoah](#).
- **1939** – World War II: a [Bristol Blenheim](#) is the first British aircraft to cross the German coast following the declaration of war and German ships are bombed.
- **1941** – World War II: a German submarine makes the first attack against a United States ship, the [USS Greer](#).
- **1944** – World War II: the British [11th Armoured Division](#) liberates the Belgian city of [Antwerp](#).
- **1944** – World War II: [Finland](#) exits from the [war with Soviet Union](#).
- **1948** – [Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands](#) abdicates for health reasons.
- **1949** – The [Peekskill Riots](#) erupt after a [Paul Robeson](#) concert in [Peekskill, New York](#).
- **1950** – [Darlington Raceway](#) is the site of the inaugural [Southern 500](#), the first 500-mile [NASCAR](#) race.
- **1951** – The first live transcontinental [television](#) broadcast takes place in [San Francisco, California](#), from the [Japanese Peace Treaty Conference](#).
- **1956** – The [IBM RAMAC 305](#) is introduced, the first commercial computer to use [magnetic disk storage](#).
- **1957** – [American Civil Rights Movement](#): [Little Rock Crisis](#) – [Orval Faubus](#), [governor of Arkansas](#), calls out the [National Guard](#) to prevent African American students from enrolling in [Central High School](#).
- **1957** – The [Ford Motor Company](#) introduces the [Edsel](#).
- **1967** – [Vietnam War](#): [Operation Swift](#) begins: U.S. [Marines](#) engage the [North Vietnamese](#) in battle in the [Que Son Valley](#).
- **1972** – [Mark Spitz](#) becomes the first competitor to win seven medals at a single [Olympic Games](#).
- **1975** – The [Sinai Interim Agreement](#) relating to the [Arab-Israeli conflict](#) is signed.
- **1977** – The [Golden Dragon Massacre](#) took place in [San Francisco, California](#).
- **1996** – [War on Drugs](#): [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia](#) (FARC) attack a military base in [Guaviare](#), starting three weeks of [guerrilla warfare](#) in which at least 130 [Colombians](#) are killed.
- **1998** – [Google](#) is founded by [Larry Page](#) and [Sergey Brin](#), two students at [Stanford University](#).
- **2001** – [Tokyo DisneySea](#) opens to the public as part of the [Tokyo Disney Resort](#) in [Urayasu, Chiba, Japan](#).
- **2007** – Three terrorists suspected to be a part of [Al-Qaeda](#) are arrested in Germany after [allegedly planning attacks](#) on both the Frankfurt International airport and US military installations.

VA Veterans News for Monday, September 3, 2012.

1. [Veterans groups have trouble signing up younger members.](#)
2. [Laid-off sailors say job firm hired by Navy a waste of time, money.](#)
3. [Colleges asked to cover any VA holdup on payments.](#)
4. [Female pilots few, but proud.](#)
5. [US postpones training of Afghans after 'insider' attacks.](#)
6. [Do more: New programs great for veterans, but other improvements needed.](#)
7. [Measure boosts vets' services.](#)
8. [Veterans United Home Loans surpasses 1000 employees.](#)
9. [Shinseki Warns Costs Of Treating Veterans Will Rise "For A Decade Or More."](#)
10. [Order Reflects Some Steps VA Already Has Taken.](#)
11. [Downes: Veteran Affairs Problems "Serious," Must Be Fixed.](#)
12. [VA Working With Returning Vets To Prevent Suicides.](#)

13. Veterans Affairs, Dept. Of Defense To Expand Health Information Exchanges.
14. Veterans Have New Cancer Care Wing In West Haven.
15. VA Announces Annual Project Connect And VA Stand Down For Sept. 6.
16. Wounded Warriors Compete At Paralympics.
17. WWII Veteran, POW Visits Greencastle-Antrim High School.
18. Korean War Comrades Find Each Other At VA Hospital.
19. VA Hospital Organizes Wedding For Cancer Patient.
20. Great Falls Veteran Receives Recognition Half Century After WWII.
21. Togus Displays 1000th Eagle Cane For Veterans.
22. Northport Veterans Featured On "CBS Evening News".
23. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as September 3, 2012:
24. Today in History:

1. **Veterans groups have trouble signing up younger members.** With membership numbers inevitably dropping as the World War II cohort disappears – this generation of citizen-soldiers, in which everyone in their age group was called to serve – veterans organizations are finding limited success at attracting younger replacements.
2. **Laid-off sailors say job firm hired by Navy a waste of time, money.** When the Navy announced last year that it would eliminate the jobs of 3,000 enlisted sailors, it did something unprecedented - it turned to a private job placement firm to help them find jobs. It was a waste of money, say at least a half-dozen members of the service who worked with the firm - and a waste of their time.
3. **Colleges asked to cover any VA holdup on payments.** Ohio officials asked college and university presidents yesterday to keep their military-veteran students enrolled while the federal Department of Veterans Affairs resolves a possible delay with GI Bill benefit payments.
4. **Female pilots few, but proud.** On May 22, 1912, 1st Lt. Alfred Cunningham reported to Annapolis, Md., for duty, marking the birth of Marine Corps aviation. It was another 81 years, in 1993, before 2nd Lt. Sarah Deal was selected as the first female Marine to attend Naval aviation training.
5. **US postpones training of Afghans after 'insider' attacks.** American special operations forces have suspended the training of new recruits to an Afghan village militia until the entire 16,000-member force can be rescreened for possible links to the insurgency, U.S. officials said Sunday.
6. **Do more: New programs great for veterans, but other improvements needed.** [Pacific Daily News](#) The expedited change was made by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to give veterans who are getting an education under the GI Bill a housing allowance based of what the Department of Defense pays in housing allowance in the territories. Veterans ...
7. **Measure boosts vets' services.** [New Philadelphia Times Reporter](#) John Kasich recently signed into law House Bill 490, legislation that will improve the state's veteran services. The bill enables county veteran service officers to be certified and trained to immediately have access to discharge forms (DD-214s), which ...
8. **Veterans United Home Loans surpasses 1000 employees.** [Columbia Daily Tribune](#) It specializes in selling mortgages backed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, one of the many benefits available to veterans. The company's volume has soared since the real estate crash tightened credit and made subsidized loan programs such ...
9. **Shinseki Warns Costs Of Treating Veterans Will Rise "For A Decade Or More."** [Huffington Post](#) Obama is "responding to unprecedented waves of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans suffering from combat trauma," and although his Administration "has taken steps in the past to meet the rising demand for mental health and other veterans services, the experience of many veterans is that the hospitals and medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs are overwhelmed." Yet, "VA officials have insisted that they are meeting the challenge. Since 2009 the VA, under the direction of former Army Chief of Staff, Eric Shinseki - a Vietnam War amputee - has increased its mental health staff by 41 percent and boosted its spending on mental health services by 39 percent, to about \$6 billion a year." It also began using a 70 "mobile outreach vans" in hard-to-serve areas, while "with secure teleconferencing, expects this year to hold 200,000 mental health consultations." HuffPost notes Shinseki's comments Friday in his statement and says "he warned that the costs of taking care of veterans will continue to rise. 'for a decade or more after the wars have ended.'"
10. **Order Reflects Some Steps VA Already Has Taken.** [NBC News](#) Obama's order "reinforces some initiatives that VA has already undertaken." It also notes that Shinseki "praised the order in a statement released Friday morning, saying that the agency would work to implement its requirements immediately." NBC said CDC figures "show that about 18 veteran suicides occur daily."
11. **Downes: Veteran Affairs Problems "Serious," Must Be Fixed.** [New York Times](#) Columnist Lawrence Downes notes that yesterday, the President "signed an executive order to improve mental-health care for service members and veterans, who are killing themselves at alarming and baffling rates." Downes, who recounts the order's specifics, opines, "inadequacy of help for suffering troops and veterans is one of the few things that Democrats and Republicans seem to agree on." Though GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney "said nothing to or about the troops at the Republican Convention," Thursday night, Downes continues, Romney did condemn long waits veterans face for mental healthcare during a Wednesday speech. Downes concludes by saying the problems at the Department of Veteran Affairs are serious, and unless they are correct, another generation of veterans may lose faith in the VA system.
12. **VA Working With Returning Vets To Prevent Suicides.** [Poway \(CA\) Patch](#) "126 San Diego-area veterans attempted suicide and 22 of them succeeded in the fiscal year that ends next month," according to the Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System Suicide Prevention Program, which released the data "in advance of National Suicide Prevention Week." Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan "are showing up in suicide statistics at a greater degree than others, according to the VA," which "recently hired 32 clinicians in San Diego to provide faster service for mental health appointments" and "introduced web camera mental health teleconferencing for patients who cannot make in-person appointments."
13. **Veterans Affairs, Dept. Of Defense To Expand Health Information Exchanges.** [Becker's Hospital Review](#) "The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense are preparing to expand 16 pilot programs and offer veterans' health information exchanges nationwide, according to a Federal Times report," which says "the exchanges will build on the success of pilots in which health data was shared between VA and private facilities in Indianapolis, Richmond, Va., and San Diego." The report adds that "the expansion is one step toward fulfilling the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record initiative, which requires VA and DoD to provide service members and veterans with healthcare and online access to health and other personal data."
14. **Veterans Have New Cancer Care Wing In West Haven.** [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) The opening of the Comprehensive Cancer Center and Specialty Care wing of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, where patients can look forward to "a completely renovated fifth-floor space with big windows and a view of the city" instead of "continuing to receive cancer treatments in a basement area." Healthcare system director Janice Boss said, "This is a remarkably improved space for veterans that are our patients...to help them overcome and deal with their cancer." Some 550 new cases are treated at the center annually. US Sen. Richard Blumenthal said the center "will not only be state of the art, it will work miracles" and "provide hope to people who face an enemy more formidable than any they may have seen on the battlefield."
15. **VA Announces Annual Project Connect And VA Stand Down For Sept. 6.** [Asheville \(NC\) Mountain Xpress](#) Project Connect and VA Stand Down scheduled Sept. 6. Project Connect is "for anyone in the Asheville area who is experiencing a housing crisis." It offers "flu shots, basic medical care and mental health services, and eye exams" along with housing-related services. The VA Stand Down "is coordinated by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and supported by the VETS program at Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry for Veterans" and "is designed to eliminate obstacles Veterans face in overcoming homelessness." It seeks to provide services to veterans "who are missed by routine outreach methods."
16. **Wounded Warriors Compete At Paralympics.** [ABC News Radio](#) Inspiring wounded warriors such as Sgt. Rob Jones, a marine engineer who lost both his legs after an explosion in Afghanistan and decided quickly on doing "the one thing he had found most difficult before his injury. Rowing. He would become a competitive rower." And he did. ABC says the Paralympics in London "is filled with amazing stories of athletes who have overcome so much. And more than ever before, it's filled with the stories of veterans," who represent 1 in 10 athletes on the US team.
17. **WWII Veteran, POW Visits Greencastle-Antrim High School.** [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail](#) "Highly decorated World War II veteran and best-selling author Col. Glenn Frazier," who wrote "Hell's Guest," stopped at Greencastle-Antrim High School en route to Pennsylvania from Alabama talk with high school students about freedom. Frazier, who is working on his next book, says talking to students is his "first priority." The Herald-Mail says "Frazier shared his experiences of fighting a losing effort to save the Philippine island of Luzon from the Japanese to the infamous six-day Bataan Death March and three years of torture in Japanese prisoner of war camps."
18. **Korean War Comrades Find Each Other At VA Hospital.** [CBS Evening News](#) "John Angerame says when you love someone with advanced dementia like his father has, you can't help but wonder: Are they still in there ... Although his dad Augie can't communicate, by all indications he is aware beyond words."

... Augie Angerame served in the Korean War in an artillery unit. He was a combat medic, which may partly explain his recent behavior at the VA nursing home on Long Island, New York. A few months ago Augie started going into the room of this other veteran with dementia named Frank Dibella. Mary Rose Monroe is Frank's daughter." Mary Rose Monroe: "He'd rub his back and then walk away." John Angerame: "Just check on him like a medic would do as he made rounds walking around." Hartman: "The kids agreed, it seemed like Augie was trying to care for Frank. Like he was back in the war. What's even weirder, Frank didn't seem to mind. The staff eventually moved the two men into the same room - and that's when John started putting the pieces together. ... His dad talked about a Frank Dibella. He was the cook in his unit."

19. VA Hospital Organizes Wedding For Cancer Patient. [KETV-TV](#) The VA Hospital in Omaha organized a wedding scheduled Saturday in the hospital chapel for Marine veteran Scott Brown and Evelyn Pano. Brown proposed two years ago, just after he discovered he had cancer, and since then, "traveling from western Nebraska to Omaha for treatments, a wedding didn't seem feasible." KETV-TV added, however, that "Brown's family from the VA Hospital's Seven East decided to take care of it. 'One person knew someone who played music, one person had a wedding gown for them, one person's fiancé takes photos,' said nurse Gayle Reyes." The hospital also will pay for a hotel during the honeymoon, before Brown returns for "his next, more intense round of chemotherapy."

20. Great Falls Veteran Receives Recognition Half Century After WWII. [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) The delivery of World War II medals to Lewis W. Holzheimer, who received "the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and Presidential Unit Citation for his service in Europe in the months following D-Day." Holzheimer "worked as a lineman apprentice in Cascade County when Pearl Harbor was attacked. When he enlisted in the Army, he was assigned to Company G of the 60th regiment of the 9th Infantry Division" and "arrived in Normandy in early July 1944." He was wounded in the Battle of Hedgerows and the Battle of Hurtgen Forest and "still carries the shrapnel in his leg." US Sen. Jon Tester participated in the ceremony for Holzheimer on Friday.

21. Togus Displays 1000th Eagle Cane For Veterans. [WCSH-TV](#) Three Maine residents have completed the 1,000th hand-carved eagle head cane for veterans at the Togus VA Hospital, which has the cane on display. The group does accept donations for the canes, which includes the veteran's name and military branch. The report says "George Gunning, his wife Donna, and friend Burt Truman started making the canes as a simple way to thank veterans" four years ago.

22. Northport Veterans Featured On "CBS Evening News". [Newsday](#)

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24. Today in History:

- 1260 – The Mamluks defeat the Mongols at the [Battle of Ain Jalut](#) in [Palestine](#), marking their first decisive defeat and the point of maximum expansion of the [Mongol Empire](#).
- 1650 – [Third English Civil War](#): in the [Battle of Dunbar](#), English [Parliamentarian](#) forces led by [Oliver Cromwell](#) defeat an army loyal to King [Charles II of England](#) and led by [David Leslie, Lord Newark](#).
- 1651 – Third English Civil War: [Battle of Worcester](#) – [Charles II of England](#) is defeated in the last main battle of the war.
- 1658 – [Richard Cromwell](#) becomes [Lord Protector of England](#)
- 1666 – The [Royal Exchange](#) burns down in the [Great Fire of London](#)
- 1777 – [American Revolutionary War](#): during the [Battle of Cooch's Bridge](#), the [Flag of the United States](#) is flown in battle for the first time.
- 1783 – [American Revolutionary War](#): the war ends with the signing of the [Treaty of Paris](#) by the [United States](#) and the [Kingdom of Great Britain](#).
- 1798 – The week long battle of [St. George's Caye](#) begins between [Spain](#) and [Britain](#) off the coast of [Belize](#).
- 1812 – 24 settlers are killed in the [Pigeon Roost Massacre](#) in [Indiana](#).
- 1838 – Future [abolitionist Frederick Douglass](#) escapes from [slavery](#).
- 1855 – [American Indian Wars](#): in [Nebraska](#), 700 soldiers under [United States General William S. Harney](#) avenge the [Grattan Massacre](#) by attacking a [Sioux](#) village and killing 100 men, women and children.
- 1861 – [American Civil War](#): [Confederate General Leonidas Polk](#) invades neutral [Kentucky](#), prompting the state legislature to ask for [Union](#) assistance.
- 1870 – [Franco-Prussian War](#): the [Siege of Metz](#) begins, resulting in a decisive [Prussian](#) victory on October 23.
- 1874 – The congress of the [state of México](#) elevates [Naucalpan](#) to the category of [Villa](#), with the title of "Villa de Juárez".
- 1914 – [William, Prince of Albania](#) leaves the country after just six months due to opposition to his rule.
- 1925 – [USS Shenandoah \(ZR-1\)](#), the United States' first American-built rigid airship, was destroyed in a [squall line](#) over [Noble County, Ohio](#). Fourteen of her 42-man crew perished, including her commander, [Zachary Lansdowne](#).
- 1935 – Sir [Malcolm Campbell](#) reaches a speed of 304.331 miles per hour on the [Bonneville Salt Flats](#) in [Utah](#), becoming the first person to drive an [automobile](#) over 300 mph
- 1939 – [World War II](#): [France](#), the [United Kingdom](#), [New Zealand](#) and [Australia](#) declare war on [Germany](#) after the [invasion of Poland](#), forming the [Allies](#).
- 1939 – [World War II](#): The [United Kingdom](#) and [France](#) begin a [naval blockade of Germany](#) that lasts until the end of the war. This also marks the beginning of the [Battle of the Atlantic](#).
- 1941 – [The Holocaust](#): [Karl Fritzsche](#), deputy camp commandant of the [Auschwitz concentration camp](#), experiments with the use of [Zyklon B](#) in the gassing of [Soviet POWs](#).
- 1942 – [World War II](#): In response to news of its coming liquidation, [Dov Lopatyn](#) leads an uprising in the [Ghetto of Lakhva](#), in present-day [Belarus](#).
- 1943 – [World War II](#): The [Allied invasion of Italy](#) begins.
- 1944 – [Holocaust](#): diarist [Anne Frank](#) and her family are placed on the last transport train from the [Westerbork transit camp](#) to the [Auschwitz concentration camp](#), arriving three days later.
- 1945 – Three-day celebration was held in [China](#), following the [Victory over Japan Day](#) on September 2.
- 1950 – "Nino" [Farina](#) becomes the first [Formula One Drivers'](#) champion after winning the [1950 Italian Grand Prix](#).
- 1951 – The first long-running American television [soap opera](#), [Search for Tomorrow](#), airs its first episode on the [CBS](#) network.
- 1954 – The [People's Liberation Army](#) begins shelling the [Republic of China](#)-controlled islands of [Quemoy](#), starting the [First Taiwan Strait Crisis](#).
- 1954 – The [German U-Boat U-505](#) begins its move from a specially constructed dock to its final site at [Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry](#).
- 1967 – [Dagen H](#) in [Sweden](#): traffic changes from driving on the left to driving on the right overnight.
- 1971 – [Qatar](#) becomes an independent state
- 1976 – [Viking program](#): The American [Viking 2](#) spacecraft lands at [Utopia Planitia](#) on [Mars](#).
- 1994 – [Sino-Soviet Split](#): [Russia](#) and the [People's Republic of China](#) agree to de-target their [nuclear weapons](#) against each other.
- 1999 – An 87-automobile pile-up happens on [Highway 401 freeway](#) just East of [Windsor, Ontario, Canada](#) after an unusually thick fog from [Lake St. Clair](#).
- 2001 – In [Belfast](#), Protestant [loyalists](#) begin a [picket of Holy Cross](#), a Catholic [primary school](#) for girls. For the next 11 weeks, riot police escort the schoolchildren and their parents through hundreds of protesters, some of whom hurl missiles and abuse. The protest sparks fierce rioting and grabs world headlines.
- 2004 – [Beslan school hostage crisis](#) – day 3: the [Beslan hostage crisis](#) ends with the deaths of over 300 people, more than half of which are children.

Below Article sent in by [Ken Frantz, Col, USMC \(Ret\) and Executive Director, Marine Corps Combat Engineers Association – Thanks Ken!](#)

Lejeune Water Victim Speaks Out

Sep 03, 2012

The Daily News, Jacksonville, N.C. | by [Amanda Wilcox And Lindell Kay](#)

Spina bifida. Asperger's syndrome. Tourette's. Bipolar disorder. Organic brain dysfunction. These are just a few of the diseases William McMurray Jr. suffers from, ailments he says his doctors couldn't explain for the first 20 years of his life -- until they learned of water contamination aboard Camp Lejeune.

His is but one story in what many call the greatest case of contamination in U.S. history. A million Marines, sailors and their families drank, bathed, brushed their teeth, cooked, swam and washed their cars, clothes, dishes and pets in bad water at Lejeune for decades.

"I spent so long not knowing why I am the way I am," McMurray, 29, said in telephone interviews last week from his Tyler, Texas, home. "When they finally found the conditions and why I was like this I was so ticked."

The horrors of the contamination weren't understood immediately. One base housing resident reported the unexplainable death of his dog. Another said goldfish always ended up floating at the top of the aquarium. More than 1,000 babies were stillborn or died in infancy aboard the base from 1947 to 1987, according to an exhaustive survey of death certificates filed at the Onslow County Register of Deeds.

The Department of the Navy recommended 50 years ago the regulation of many of the worst chemicals that found their way into Lejeune's water supply, according to 1963's Manual of Naval Preventive Medicine, which was just recently made public.

But throughout the 1960s and 70s, military and civilian employees poured oil into storm drains, improperly disposed of car batteries and tossed out used tires and countless other items

around the base, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, which recorded an incident involving the burial of dog carcasses used in radiological testing.

By then, the wells that supplied the base's potable water swirled with more than 70 toxic chemicals including trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, benzene and vinyl chloride, according to EPA reports.

By 1980, military and civilian scientists were sounding alarms that Lejeune's water was poisonous, but wells were not closed for another four years and only after state officials became involved, according to transcripts of Congressional hearings on the matter.

McMurray was born at the Naval Hospital on Oct. 24, 1982. His father, a hospital corpsman and Vietnam veteran, had moved his family into base housing in the year prior. By the time McMurray was born, his mother had already had one miscarriage and months spent drinking and using the polluted water in their Tarawa Terrace home.

McMurray was born in a specialized laboratory because of his multiple dysfunctions and doctors didn't expect him to live long. Even if he did survive, they told his parents, he would never walk. McMurray proved them wrong, but not without consequence. As he grew his development stalled, and he was barely able to speak. It took years before he uttered his first words, and he spent most of his childhood in and out of hospitals undergoing tests for the myriad of conditions with which he has been diagnosed, he said.

Beginning in 1984, military officials began to point publicly to a small, off-base dry cleaner as the source of contamination without disclosing to environmental regulators that depot storage tanks at Hadnot Point aboard base had leaked around 1,500 gallons of fuel into the ground every month for years. When the contamination made headlines, the base's commanding general assured his Marines and their families that their water was safe when chemical levels were among the highest ever seen in a public water system, according to a series of investigative reports published by newspapers in Florida, which is home to more than 12,000 veterans affected by water contamination -- the most of any state except North Carolina.

Trichloroethylene was found at 1,400 parts per billion at Naval Hospital; 1,148 ppb at an elementary school; and 18,900 ppb in a water well -- up to 280 times higher than what the EPA considers safe today, according to a review of hundreds of previously safe-guarded military documents made public by the Senate in July.

Lejeune was declared a Superfund site in 1989, giving the EPA authority to clean it up. For the next two decades, veterans fought for answers and help from the government with thousands dying of cancer. Military officials made it difficult for anyone, even federally-funded researchers, to obtain any pertinent information or documentation on the contamination, according to court records and archived reports.

The federal government in 2005 cleared the Marine Corps of any criminal conduct in handling the contamination. An EPA investigator later testified before Congress that he wanted to charge several Lejeune officers with obstruction of justice but had been overruled by a Justice Department counterpart.

When McMurray finally came to terms with his conditions in 2010, he took his case to Veteran's Affairs, with whom he's been fighting ever since. By 2011, good news for veterans and dependents like McMurray began to trickle out as the EPA officially ruled Lejeune water contaminant TCE to be a human carcinogen. The issue reached its tipping point in 2012 when lawmakers from North Carolina and Florida crossed the aisle to push through bipartisan legislation. **The resulting Aug. 6 law requires Veteran's Affairs to provide medical treatment to military members and -- for the first time -- dependents who spent at least a month aboard Lejeune from 1957 to 1987.**

Total costs are estimated at \$3.9 billion over 10 years. **Civilian workers could be entitled to medical benefits under a different law, according to the U.S. Labor Department.**

McMurray said his Veteran's Affairs case is expected to reach full resolution within the next few weeks. Several lawsuits filed by other former Lejeune residents are still pending in federal court. A federal report on the number of diseases linked to the contamination is expected to be completed in 2014.

VA HQ Veterans News for Saturday, September 1, 2012.

1. [A hero is welcomed home to Cedar Falls, Iowa.](#)
2. [At Alabama conference, veterans get tools to succeed in business.](#)
3. [DOD threatens legal action against author of bin Laden raid book.](#)
4. [August was year's deadliest month for foreign troops in Afghanistan.](#)
5. [Sailor honors grandfather during Iwo Jima ceremony.](#)
6. [Obama ordering VA to add staff, see suicidal vets within 24 hours.](#)
7. [Obama expands health services for veterans.](#)
8. [Lost VA records will delay post-9/11 veterans from receiving college benefits.](#)
9. [Veterans Affairs, Dept. of Defense to Expand Health Information Exchanges.](#)
10. [VA Report on Female Veterans Reveals Special Needs.](#)
11. [VA Reports Tout Improvements In Care For Women Vets.](#)
12. [Watchdog: Agencies Resist Congress On Conference](#)
13. [Spending, An Effort Aims To Use Biomarkers To Pinpoint PTSD.](#)
14. [More Than 20 SD Vets Committed Suicide This Year.](#)
15. [Transition Program Aims To Reduce Veteran Unemployment.](#)
16. [No Single Winner In Does' EHR Rankings.](#)
17. [VA, DOD To Expand Health Information Exchanges.](#)
18. [Another Reason To Live In The Sticks.](#)
19. [VA To Direct More Money To Service-Disabled Vets.](#)
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28. [Medical Foster Homes To Open For Guam Vets.](#)
29. [Committee Forming To Improve GI Vets Cemetery.](#)
30. [Deadline Nears For Women Veterans Conference.](#)
31. [Air Force Bolsters Civilian Transition Program For Veterans.](#)
32. [VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as September 1, 2012:](#)
33. [Today in History:](#)

1. [A hero is welcomed home to Cedar Falls, Iowa.](#) Thousands gathered at the Waterloo Regional Airport and along a route through downtown Cedar Falls, past Cedar Falls High School and ending at Holmes Junior High School to welcome Taylor Morris home.
2. [At Alabama conference, veterans get tools to succeed in business.](#) Speakers from the banking industry, the insurance industry, city and state government, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and others shared tips on how to get resources and navigate through the system.
3. [DOD threatens legal action against author of bin Laden raid book.](#) The Defense Department believes a former Navy SEAL breached nondisclosure agreements by not submitting his firsthand account of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden to the Pentagon for pre-publication review and is considering legal action against him.
4. [August was year's deadliest month for foreign troops in Afghanistan.](#) Fifty-three Western troops had died in Afghanistan as of Aug. 31, according to the website [icasualties.org](#). Of those, 38 were Americans. U.S. troops make up about two-thirds of the NATO force.
5. [Sailor honors grandfather during Iwo Jima ceremony.](#) On Tuesday, Chief Petty Officer Andrew Thomasson took his turn struggling with the heavy surf of Iwo Jima that his grandfather had done so many decades ago. He carried an urn of ashes, and his mission wasn't to deliver Marines to the beach, but to lay his grandfather to rest amongst the swirling sand and water so that his soul might finally know peace.
6. [Obama ordering VA to add staff, see suicidal vets within 24 hours.](#) President Barack Obama signed an executive order Friday directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand mental health services and suicide prevention efforts.
7. [Obama expands health services for veterans.](#) [UPI.com](#) U.S. President Barack Obama Friday directed the Department of Veteran Affairs to expand its mental health services and

- suicide prevention efforts. Obama signed an executive order directing the department to work with the departments of ...
8. [Lost VA records will delay post-9/11 veterans from receiving college benefits.](#) [Dayton Daily News](#) ... New York, sent Ohio's public and private colleges scrambling on Friday to identify affected students receiving Post 9/11 G.I. Bill education benefits and offer them temporary aid while the the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs works to correct ...
 9. [Veterans Affairs, Dept. of Defense to Expand Health Information Exchanges.](#) [Becker's Hospital Review](#) The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense are preparing to expand 16 pilot programs and offer veterans' health information exchanges nationwide, according to a Federal Times report. The expansion is one step toward fulfilling ...
 10. [VA Report on Female Veterans Reveals Special Needs.](#) [U.S. Politics Today](#) A recent draft report from the Women Veterans Task Force (WVTF) of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) outlines the challenges of addressing disability among women veterans. The need to deal with ...
 11. [VA Reports Tout Improvements In Care For Women Vets.](#) [FederalDaily](#) "In what should be good news for the growing number of women joining the ranks of military veterans, two new reports from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicate a narrowing of the gender gap since 2008 in the quality of the care and services the department provides for women vets." FederalDaily adds, "The number of women veterans using Veterans Health Administration services nearly doubled from fiscal 2000 to fiscal 2009, rising from 159,630 to 292,921, according to the reports."
 12. [Watchdog: Agencies Resist Congress On Conference Spending.](#) [Washington Examiner](#) "Demands for a full accounting of federal conference costs are being rebuffed by agencies that can't or won't produce spending records sought by Congress." That is according to a spokesman for US Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK). The spokesman says that Coburn has only gotten about half of all Federal agencies to give him information about their conference costs, after the lawmaker made the request in April. The Examiner adds, "The VA is...among the departments that failed to comply with an April 10 demand from Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., chairman of the House oversight committee, according to an Aug. 13 letter from him" to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. But on Thursday, a VA spokeswoman said VA complied with the request last Friday.
 13. [An Effort Aims To Use Biomarkers To Pinpoint PTSD.](#) [New York Times](#) Dr. Roger Pitman, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, "and a team of researchers brought together by Draper Laboratory, based in Cambridge, Mass., are seeking federal financing to begin a major project to develop a more objective system for diagnosing" post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The "consortium's goal will be to identify as many biological 'markers' of the syndrome as possible, then use that data to create algorithms capable of pinpointing who has the disorder, and who does not." Dr. Len Polizzotto, vice president for new programs at Draper, "said the team was just beginning to apply for grants from federal agencies like the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Pentagon and the Department of Health and Human Services."
 14. [More Than 20 SD Vets Committed Suicide This Year.](#) [U-T San Diego](#) "More than 20 San Diego-area veterans have committed suicide this fiscal year, according to numbers released" by the US Veterans Affairs Department medical system in San Diego. The "facility released the data for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30 as part of an effort to highlight its suicide prevention program during National Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 9 to 15." U-T San Diego adds, "Nationally, that VA has increased its mental health spending 39 percent since 2009, officials said."
 15. [Transition Program Aims To Reduce Veteran Unemployment.](#) [North County \(CA\) Times](#) A "revamped Transition Assistance Program" is "designed to help troops prepare for life after the service. Marine Corps officials detailed the program in a briefing at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station on Thursday, saying it provides more personalized planning and helps troops better identify a post-military career or education path." The Times adds, "With the Marine Corps downsizing by 20,000 troops over the next four years and a still sluggish economy, the transition assistance is more important than ever..."said" Brig. Gen. Robert Hedelund, the "man charged with overseeing the retooling of the Marine Corps' Transition Assistance Program." [KNSD-TV San Diego](#) (8/30, 6:11 p.m. PT) aired a similar report.
 16. [No Single Winner In Docs' EHR Rankings.](#) [Modern Healthcare](#) "The labels 'cheap,' 'free' and 'government-sponsored,' respectively, could describe the three top-rated electronic health-record systems in a just-released online survey of more than 21,000 physicians by Medscape, a healthcare news and information portal owned by WebMD." Doctors surveyed "were asked to rank their systems on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) in 12 categories pertaining to issues such as ease of use, value and reliability. Topping the list were the relatively low-cost Amazing Charts at 4.22; the advertising-supported Practice Fusion at 4.04; and the Veterans Affairs Department's VistA computerized patient-record system, 3.89."
 17. [VA, DOD To Expand Health Information Exchanges.](#) [Washington Business Journal](#) "The Veterans Affairs and Defense departments are ready to expand 16 pilot programs and offer veterans' health information exchanges nationwide." The "move is a major step toward fulfilling an administration initiative called the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER), which requires VA and DOD to provide service members and veterans with seamless health care and online access to their health and other personal data throughout their lifetimes. Kaiser Permanente, MedVirginia and Inland Northwest Health Services are among the private-sector organizations participating in VLER."
 18. [Another Reason To Live In The Sticks.](#) [Time](#) "Aaron Glantz of the non-profit Center for Investigative Reporting spent four months sifting through" Veterans Affairs "data to create an interactive map that shows average wait times for veterans at the VA's 58 regional offices across the nation." What he found is that "vets who live in rural, sparsely-populated states tend to have their claims handled much more quickly than their urban comrades," some of whom are "facing interminable delays", says Glantz. Time adds, "VA Secretary Eric Shinseki told the American Legion convention in Indianapolis Tuesday that no one at the VA 'is standing at parade rest' when it comes to handling veterans' claims."
 19. [VA To Direct More Money To Service-Disabled Vets.](#) [Federal Computer Week](#) "Service-disabled veterans may have more money flowing their way in fiscal 2013. The Veterans Affairs Department's Technology Acquisition Center (TAC) will direct half of its total 2013 contract awards to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs)." TAC "spends a large portion of VA's \$2.5 billion in contracts."
 20. [VA Announces 2 Finalist Sites For New Veterans Cemetery.](#) [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) "The federal Department of Veterans Affairs has narrowed the choices for a new veterans cemetery in El Paso County to two locations, according to an announcement" made earlier this week. The Gazette adds, "The new cemetery will be built at Bradley Heights or Rolling Hills Ranch, and will ultimately contain 9,000 interment sites, including 4,000 gravesites." Both "of these finalists are much more accessible to Southern Colorado's veterans and their families than Fort Logan near Denver," Congressman Doug Lamborn, R-Colorado Springs, said in a statement." he added, "Veteran's advocates have worked with dogged determination for more than a decade to bring a cemetery to our part of the state, and it appears their work will soon bear fruit."
 21. [VA Paperwork Could Buckle N.C. Office Building.](#) [AP](#) "The Veterans Affairs Department is notorious for red tape, but the piles of paperwork at a facility in North Carolina have grown so high that their weight had bowed the floor, prompting worries the building might collapse. A recent report issued by the VA's Inspector General found the agency's regional office in Winston-Salem had huge numbers of folders containing veterans' benefits claims stacked on the floor and on top of filing cabinets." The AP adds, "According to the report, the VA has since begun moving the files to other sections of the building until a long-term solution is found." [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) VA's Inspector General released its report on August ninth, says it was "not immediately clear Thursday what" the Winston-Salem "office plans to do long-term with file storage. But paper files may be a thing of the past. The VA is working to have a paperless, digital disability claims system in place at all 56 VA offices by the end of 2013, the department said in a statement."
 22. [Tarantino Notes Issues That Are Key To IAVA.](#) [CNN Newsroom](#) Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of American (IAVA) Deputy Policy Director Tom Tarantino. His organization is attending this week's Republican National Convention and will attend next week's Democratic National Convention, to, as Tarantino put it, make sure that the "issues our members care about" are talked about by both presidential campaigns. Tarantino said those issues are "defending the GI Bill from fraud, waste, and abuse by for-profit schools, making sure veterans can come home and find jobs, stemming the tied of suicide that veterans are facing, building a 21st century VA, and improving care for women veterans."
 23. [Cheers & Jeers For Friday, Aug. 31.](#) [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) Fayetteville resident Joe Widere gives cheers "to the Veterans Affairs Audiology Clinic, especially Amanda and Dana, for their professionalism, attitude and caring."
 24. [Praises Local Hospitals.](#) [The Messenger](#)
 25. [DAV Mobile To Help Veterans.](#) [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#)
 26. [Veterans Get Tools To Succeed In Business.](#) [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#)
 27. [Band Of Musical Brothers.](#) The [Tuscaloosa \(AL\) News](#) (8/11, Cobb, 27K).
 28. [Medical Foster Homes To Open For Guam Vets.](#) [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#)
 29. [Committee Forming To Improve GI Vets Cemetery.](#) [Grand Island \(NE\) Independent](#)
 30. [Deadline Nears For Women Veterans Conference.](#) [Sedalia \(MO\) Democrat](#)

31. Air Force Bolsters Civilian Transition Program For Veterans. [Federal News Radio](#)

32. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as September 1, 2012:

September 14, 2012. HVAC, Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on the Patient-Centered Community Care (PCCC) and Non-VA Care Coordination (NVCC) programs.

September 20, 2012. HVAC, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing entitled, "Examining the Re-Design of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)."

October 4, 2012: House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will be holding a hearing on October 4, 2012 on; State Approving Agencies Roles and Reviewing the Challenges of PL 111-377 Section 203. Tentatively scheduled for 10:00am in Cannon 334.

33. Today in History:

- 1715 – King [Louis XIV of France](#) dies after a reign of 72 years – the longest of any major [European monarch](#).
- 1772 – The [Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa](#) is founded in [San Luis Obispo, California](#).
- 1774 – [Massachusetts](#) colonists rise up in bloodless [Powder Alarm](#).
- 1836 – [Narcissa Whitman](#), one of the first English-speaking white women to settle west of the [Rocky Mountains](#), arrives at [Walla Walla, Washington](#).
- 1862 – [American Civil War: Battle of Chantilly](#) – [Confederate](#) forces attack retreating [Union](#) troops in [Chantilly, Virginia](#).
- 1864 – [American Civil War: Confederate General John Bell Hood](#) evacuates [Atlanta, Georgia](#) after a four-month siege by General [Sherman](#).
- 1870 – [Franco-Prussian War: the Battle of Sedan](#) is fought, resulting in a decisive [Prussian](#) victory.
- 1873 – [Cetshwayo](#) ascends to the throne as king of the [Zulu](#) nation following the death of his father [Mpande](#).
- 1878 – [Enma Nutt](#) becomes the world's first female telephone operator when she is recruited by [Alexander Graham Bell](#) to the Boston Telephone Dispatch Company.
- 1894 – More than 400 people die in the [Great Hinckley Fire](#), a [forest fire](#) in [Hinckley, Minnesota](#).
- 1897 – The [Boston subway](#) opens, becoming the first underground [rapid transit](#) system in [North America](#).
- 1902 – [A Trip to the Moon](#), considered one of the first [science fiction films](#), is released in [France](#).
- 1911 – The [armored cruiser Georgios Averof](#) is commissioned into the [Greek Navy](#). It now serves as a [museum ship](#).
- 1914 – [St. Petersburg, Russia](#), changes its name to [Petrograd](#).
- 1914 – The last [passenger pigeon](#), a female named [Martha](#), dies in captivity in the [Cincinnati Zoo](#).
- 1920 – The [Fountain of Time](#) opens as a tribute to the 100 years of peace between the United States and Great Britain following the [Treaty of Ghent](#).
- 1923 – The [Great Kantō earthquake](#) devastates [Tokyo](#) and [Yokohama](#), killing about 105,000 people.
- 1939 – [World War II: Nazi Germany](#) and [Slovakia](#) invade [Poland](#), beginning the European phase of World War II.
- 1939 – [George C. Marshall](#) becomes [Chief of Staff](#) of the [United States Army](#).
- 1939 – The [Wound Badge for Wehrmacht, SS, Kriegsmarine, and Luftwaffe](#) soldiers is instituted. The final version of the [Iron Cross](#) is also instituted on this date.
- 1939 – [Switzerland](#) mobilizes its forces and the [Swiss Parliament](#) elects [Henri Guisan](#) to head the [Swiss Army](#) (an event that can happen only during war or mobilization).
- 1939 – [Adolf Hitler](#) signs an order to begin the [systematic euthanasia of mentally ill and disabled people](#).
- 1951 – The [United States, Australia](#) and [New Zealand](#) sign a mutual defense pact, called the [ANZUS Treaty](#).
- 1958 – [Iceland](#) expands its fishing zone, putting it into conflict with the [United Kingdom](#), beginning the [Cod Wars](#).
- 1961 – The [Eritrean War of Independence](#) officially begins with the shooting of the [Ethiopian](#) police by [Hamid Idris Awate](#).
- 1969 – A [coup](#) in [Libya](#) brings [Muammar al-Gaddafi](#) to power.
- 1969 – [Tran Thien Khiem](#) became [Prime Minister](#) of [South Vietnam](#) under President [Nguyen Van Thieu](#).
- 1970 – Attempted assassination of [King Hussein of Jordan](#) by [Palestinian guerrillas](#), who attacked his motorcade.
- 1972 – In [Reykjavik, Iceland](#), [American Bobby Fischer](#) beats [Russian Boris Spassky](#) to become the [world chess champion](#).
- 1974 – The [SR-71 Blackbird](#) sets (and holds) the record for flying from [New York](#) to [London](#) in the time of 1 hour, 54 minutes and 56.4 seconds at a speed of 1,435,587 miles per hour (2,310,353 km/h).
- 1979 – The [American](#) space probe [Pioneer 11](#) becomes the first spacecraft to visit [Saturn](#) when it passes the [planet](#) at a distance of 21,000 kilometres (13,000 mi).
- 1980 – [Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope](#) ends near [Thunder Bay, Ontario](#).
- 1980 – Major General [Chun Doo-hwan](#) becomes [president of South Korea](#), following the resignation of [Choi Kyu-hah](#).
- 1982 – The [United States Air Force Space Command](#) is founded.
- 1983 – [Cold War: Korean Air Flight 007](#) is shot down by a [Soviet Union](#) jet fighter when the commercial aircraft enters [Soviet](#) airspace. All 269 on board die, including [Congressman Lawrence McDonald](#).
- 1985 – A joint [American-French](#) expedition locates the wreckage of the [RMS Titanic](#).
- 1991 – [Uzbekistan](#) declares independence from the [Soviet Union](#).
- 2004 – The [Beslan school hostage crisis](#) commences when armed terrorists take children and adults hostage in [Beslan](#) in [North Ossetia, Russia](#).

From: Mark Morris

Sent: Monday, September 03, 2012 4:25 PM

To: Wayne Gatewood, Jr

Subj: RE: Veterans News

Hi Wayne,

I hope you had a great Labor Day weekend. I was hoping to gather a few other things to share with you, but wanted to send you these resources that have been shared with me.

1. <http://rockinthepier.org/~Special> event in Baltimore with a portion of the proceeds going to Fisher House Program that supports military families.
2. <http://2012milsposcareersummit.eventbrite.com/>
3. 2012 Warrior-Family Symposium: 13 September 2012 <http://www.ndia.org/meetings/2120/Pages/default.aspx>

You might have already announced some or all of these, but just in case I wanted to pass the info along.

Best.....Mark

From: VetJobs Early Eagle [info@vetjobs.com]

Sent: Sunday, September 02, 2012 1:52 PM

To: Wayne Gatewood, Jr

Subject: VetJobs Early Eagle - September

VetJobsEarly Eagle

Issue 13:09, Saturday, September 1, 2012

www.vetjobs.com

VetJobs is an appropriate employment service delivery system for EEOC, VEVRAA/JVA and OFCCP compliance support! The VetJobs Early Eagle is for member employers, recruiters, friends and supporters of VetJobs. Feel free to forward this newsletter to friends and other employers.

This issue sponsored by [TECHEXPO Top Secret](#) and [CRI University](#)

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2. History of Labor Day
3. VA Increases Vets Retraining Assistance Program
4. Employees leaving for reasons other than money
5. 2,527 DHS Employees and Co-Conspirators Convicted of Crimes
6. Law alters availability of Reservists for emergencies

- 7. TSA now subject to USERRA
- 8. SEC Announces first whistle-blower payout
- 9. Unanimity on 2013 Salary Forecasts Holding Up
- 10. National Guard (in Federal Status) and Reserve Activated as of August 22, 2012
- 11. Significant Events this Month in Military History

Thank you for reading the VetJobs Early Eagle employer newsletter. If you like this newsletter and what VetJobs and the VFW do to assist veterans and their family member find employment, please go to <http://www.weddles.com/poll.htm> and vote VetJobs for the WEDDLE's User's Choice Award!

1. Message from the Top

Monday, September 3, is when the United States celebrates Labor Day in 2012! I give a brief discussion of the history of Labor Day in article #2 below. But when celebrating Labor Day this year, let us recognize not only the American labor movement and all it has brought about, but also those in the defense industry and the military who labor to protect our country. Many of our active duty, National Guard and Reserve brothers and sisters will not have the luxury of celebrating the holiday with their families. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to defend our country!

September has many military and religious related dates:

9/2 is V-J Day when Japan formally surrendered in 1945, effectively ending World War II.

9/3 is Labor Day

9/10 celebrates the incorporation of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. September is Sea Cadet Month.

9/11 is Patriot Day established to remember those who perished in the attack on the United States by radical Islamic terrorists.

9/14 celebrates the writing of the Star Spangled Banner in 1814.

9/17 celebrates the approval of the United States Constitution in 1787.

9/18 is the birthday of the United States Air Force. If you meet a member of the USAF, say Happy Birthday!

9/21 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. If you would like to order POW/MIA items, please visit <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=97>

9/26 is Yom Kippur

9/28 is Native American Day

9/29 is VFW Day when the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) was established. The VFW is the oldest continuous combat veteran service organization in the United States! The original purpose of the VFW was to assist returning veterans from the Spanish American War to receive healthcare and find jobs. The VFW is still fighting for veterans today! If you are eligible, please become a member by visiting www.vfw.org.

9/30 is Gold Star Mother's Day

On September 11 we commemorate those who died from the attack on America by radical Islamic terrorists. The day will be marked throughout the United States and abroad with services of remembrance. Please observe a solemn moment of silence on the morning on September 11 as we remember not only the terror, but also the heroism of those who stood in harm's way.

Since that fateful day in 2001, there have been many radical Islamic terrorist attacks against democracies worldwide. In many of the debates about the conflicts that are winding down in Afghanistan and Iraq, I notice that people forget to remember that it was the United States that was attacked on September 11. Unfortunately, we have too many apologists in our midst who seem to think America is the problem in the world. Such is not the case. The United States did not initiate attacks on Islam or other Islamic countries. Never forget that the world is involved in a prolonged conflict with a non-state, radical religious ideology that wants to eliminate the nation state as we know it, all other religions and the freedoms that have come to identify the democracies of the world and our free market economies.

I maintain that we cannot negotiate with the radical Islamic terrorists since their sole goal is our elimination and the restoration of the Caliphate. Conflict theory teaches you cannot negotiate with an entity whose sole purpose is your elimination. The radical Islamists care not for who they kill in order to reach their goal of expanding their interpretation of Islam. As a result, this conflict will be with us for a long, long time.

The understanding of the above facts has many ramifications for the type of military the United States needs to maintain, as other conventional threats and historical enemies of America are re-emerging, especially Russia and China who are actively re-arming. The Chinese are building three aircraft carriers which have only one purpose. The United States and other democracies did not start the conflict with radical Islam, but we will not back away from it! Let us pray that our leaders have the will to sustain this fight to the finish and commit whatever resources are necessary to win.

Scams targeting military are still on the rise. I received the following scam email addressed to my personal email address:

I had a trip to Spain yesterday, and am facing some problems here, needing help. Please let me know if you can help me. I only need \$300. Contact me at

In another case, I heard from a relative who said a "veteran" was going through their town asking for money to buy a train or bus ticket back to Michigan where they had a job waiting for them. This is a classic scam. The mark buys the scammer a ticket. The scammer then takes the ticket to the train or bus station and turns it in for money.

When you get someone approaching you for assistance or money who claims to be a veteran, refer them to the local veteran's office, a veteran service organization like the VFW or American Legion or local department of labor office. Most of the time if you fork out money it is a scam!

On the economic front, things are not getting any better. There are a lot of conflicting currents in the economy right now. According to the Wall Street Journal, the U.S. economy posted its third consecutive month of weak job growth. Reports from the Department of Labor provided the clearest evidence yet that job growth has slowed sharply from earlier this year. Last quarter was the weakest quarter of job growth since the labor market began its anemic recovery in 2010.

What is holding companies back from hiring? It is pervasive uncertainty! That is what dozens of CEOs and chief financial officers of U.S. companies said during the past month when speaking to stock market analysts on conference calls. They talked about the uncertainty surrounding the upcoming election, concern about the year-end "fiscal cliff," looming tax increases, Obamacare, spending cuts and fears about a European debt crisis that may eventually engulf the global economy.

Companies that do report pockets of improvement, such as AT&T recently did within its strategic services business, quickly pour water on any flicker of optimism. Businesses seem "hesitant about the elections, about tax law changes, about the federal deficit," John Stephens, AT&T's CFO, told analysts. He said "we are seeing a lot of no decisions."

On August 25 the Associated Press reported that the recent pay report illustrates the job market's weakness. For people who managed to find new jobs after being laid off, most had to settle for less pay. Of course, this type of activity is common during all recessions. According to the Department of Labor only 56% of American laid off from January 2009 through December 2011 had found jobs. More than half of them took jobs with lower pay. One-third took pay cuts of 20% or more. The figures would be even lower if people could find only part-time jobs were included in the total.

Americans are feeling worse about the economy than they have in a long time. According to the Conference Board, despite improving job markets in some sectors of the U.S. and a slightly improving housing market, consumer confidence fell to the lowest level it has been since November 2011. According to Mark Vitner, a Wells Fargo Securities senior economist,

"Consumers are less optimistic about the future."

I find it ironic that in the midst of the huge unemployment facing over 20 million in the United States, there are massive shortages of qualified candidates! The August 30 USA Today Money section had a headline: "Mechanic supply running on E". Auto dealers and repair shops are desperately looking to recruit the repair technicians of tomorrow and are paying strong wages. There is a huge shortage as a generation who grew up playing Xbox games instead of rebuilding carburetors does not seem to have the fascination with auto repair as earlier generations. The result is a shortage of not only auto mechanics, but also repair technicians, electronic technicians, welders, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and other trades crafts in many areas of the country.

In talking with human resource people in the utilities industry I hear that as much as 35% of the current employee base is going to retire in the next three years and there are not enough qualified people for replacements! That is why utilities are now targeting veterans as their skill sets are a natural fit.

I recently heard that only a few percent of high schools still had shop classes. Valerie Strauss wrote an excellent article for the Washington Post describing the impact of high schools dropping shop classes (<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/answer-sheet/guest-bloggers/bring-back-shop-class.html>). I see the impact she describes daily as I hear from companies who complain they cannot find qualified plumbers, welders, etc.

Our economy will not get turned around until there are more fiscally responsible policies from Washington and the educational problems created over the last 20 years by the federal Department of Education with political correctness, excessive regulation and No Child Left Behind are fixed. Remember all this when you go to vote.

Here is a summary of what is happening:

On the positive side

-Sales of new single-family homes rose 3.6% in July from June to an annualized rate of 372,000 units. Analysts were expecting an annualized rate of 365,000 units.

-The Markit Flash U.S. Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index rose to 51.9 in August from 51.4 in July, the first monthly increase in five months. Readings over 50 point to expansion while readings below 50 indicate contraction.

-Orders for long-lasting U.S. goods rose 4.2% in July from June, blowing past estimates of a 2.4% increase. Excluding the transportation segment, orders were down 0.4%, missing estimates of a 0.5% gain.

-The S&P/Case-Shiller composite index of 20 metropolitan areas shows home prices rose 2.3% in June from May on a non-seasonally adjusted basis, a bigger gain than the 1.6% expected. Prices were up 0.5% from the same period a year earlier in the first increase since September 2010.

-A second reading on U.S. gross domestic product showed the economy expanded at an annualized rate of 1.7% in the second quarter, in line with economists' estimates and faster than an initial estimate of 1.5%.

-Economic activity expanded gradually across the Federal Reserve's 12 districts in July and early August, the central bank said in its anecdotal Beige Book report. The labor market held steady or showed only slight signs of improvement in most districts. Meanwhile, the housing sector, retail spending and credit conditions broadly improved.

-BLS reports July jobless rates down over the year in 305 of 372 metro areas; payroll jobs up in 276

-Personal spending rose 0.4% in July from June, as expected, to the highest level since February. Personal income rose 0.3%, also as expected

On the negative side

-In July, 44 states reported over-the-month unemployment rate increases, 2 states and the District of Columbia had decreases, and 4 states had no change. Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 31 states and the district and decreased in 19 states.

-Sales of existing homes rose 2.3% in July from June to an annualized rate of 4.47 million units, coming up short of the 4.52 million rate expected, according to the National Association of Realtors.

-The U.S. government will run a budget deficit of \$1.1 trillion in fiscal 2012, or 7.3% of gross domestic product, the Congressional Budget Office estimated in a new report. The new deficit estimate is slightly lower than the agency's March estimate of \$1.2 trillion. The nonpartisan CBO predicts that the U.S. economy will grow at a 2.1% clip in 2012, but fall by 0.5% between the fourth quarter of 2012 and the fourth quarter of 2013 if scheduled tax increases and spending cuts take effect in January. Under that "fiscal cliff," the U.S. would experience a recession, with U.S. unemployment jumping to about 9% in the second half of 2013 from its current 8.3%, CBO said. Previously, the CBO said growth would be 0.5% in 2013 under the fiscal cliff.

-Members of the Federal Reserve's policy-setting committee pared back their expectations for short-term U.S. economic growth as a result of tepid consumer spending and employment growth. The FOMC warned that a potential intensification of the European debt crisis and the looming fiscal cliff also present 'significant downside risks' to the outlook. As such, the FOMC considered new policy options, including a large-scale asset purchase program and the extension of the Fed's low-rate pledge to jump-start the economy.

-New claims for unemployment benefits rose for two weeks in a row last week to 372,000 from an upwardly revised 368,000 the week prior. Claims were expected to fall to 365,000 from an initially reported 366,000

-The Conference Board's index of consumer confidence fell to 60.6 in August from a downwardly revised 65.4 in July. The reading came in below expectations of 66.

-New claims for unemployment benefits remained at 374,000 last week from the week prior. Claims were expected to fall to 370,000 from an initially reported 372,000

The bottom line is the United States is stuck in a quagmire. Sooner or later, political decision makers will realize that the United States has moved away from what made America great – Capitalism and a Free Market – to a system that has excessive government regulation and been proven not to work in Europe. Let's hope they wake up soon!

Finally, I commented in our July Veteran Employment and Situation Report that went out on August 6 on a USA Today article that quoted General Odierno, Chief Staff Officer of the Army, as saying the National Guard and Reserve will be going to seven weeks of training each year. As it turns out, USA Today had it all wrong.

After a lot of confusion created by the USA Today article, the Army Times reports that after 11 years of war and as the U.S. draws down in Afghanistan, soldiers in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve will largely see a return to the peacetime schedule of drilling one weekend a month and two weeks a year. However, in an effort to maintain the components readiness and combat edge, some soldiers can expect additional training days as they get closer to the fifth year of the Army Force Generation model.

The Guard and Reserve are on a five-year rotational ARFORGEN model, which progressively resets and trains units for possible deployment. Units spend a year in reset and three years in training. During the fifth year, they are available for mobilization and deployment if needed. As units move through the training years, they can expect more training days - typically up to two or three weeks more than the standard 39 days of training Guard and Reserve soldiers do each year.

"The vast majority of the Army National Guard will go back to one weekend a month and two weeks of annual training, as well as schools and other professional military education [that] soldiers do throughout their careers," Lt. Gen. William Ingram, director of the Army National Guard, said August 4 during an interview on C-SPAN. However, "selected units" will participate in extra training to prepare for missions such as theater security cooperation and other duties that will come up after the drawdown of troops in Afghanistan, Ingram said.

As always, if there is anything we at VetJobs can do for you, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Best regards,

Ted Daywalt, President

/---September Early Eagle sponsor is TECHEXPO Top Secret---\

TECHEXPO Top Secret's next job fairs are:

9/13, TECHEXPO Job Fair, Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd, McLean, VA, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, For more information go to www.techexpoUSA.com, Security Clearance Required

9/20, TECHEXPO Job Fair, BWI Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, for details visit www.techexpoUSA.com, security clearance required

TECHEXPO Top Secret job fairs bring you face to face with security-cleared professionals. For 2011 event schedule, contact Nancy Mathew 212-655-4505 x225 or NMathew@TechExpoUSA.com. <http://www.TechExpoUSA.com>

\-----Please visit your Early Eagle sponsor TECHEXPO Top Secret -----/

2. History of Labor Day. As the Industrial Revolution took hold of the United States, the average American in the late 1800s worked 12-hour days, seven days a week in order to make a basic living. Children were also working, as they provided cheap labor to employers and laws against child labor were not strongly enforced. With the long hours and terrible working conditions, American unions became more prominent and voiced their demands for a better way of life. On Tuesday September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers marched from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first-ever Labor Day parade. Participants took an unpaid day-off to honor the workers of America as well as vocalize issues they had with employers. As years passed, more states began to hold these parades, but Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later.

/---September Early Eagle sponsor is CRI University---\

CRI University provides informative and dynamic one-hour webinars and recorded educational sessions on important HR topics that impact every employer who employs fifteen or more people. CRI University topics are offered both live and as recorded sessions for registrants who choose to view the materials and listen to the recording at their leisure. These webinars and educational sessions are as important to CEOs, COOs, and CFOs as they are for HR personnel due to the myriad of changes in employment laws, regulations, discrimination findings and court case findings in 2009 and thus far in 2011.

September webinars are:

EEOC and OFCCP Compliance
Thursday, September 13, 2012, 11:00 AM Central Time

Recruiting Smarter
Thursday, September 13, 2012, 10:00 AM Central Time

Developing a Sales Winner
Monday, September 10, 2012, 11:00 AM Central Time
Monday, September 24, 2012, 11:00 AM Central Time

Each webinar is \$65 and the website to register for a webinar is www.criuniversity.com

Please visit your Early Eagle sponsor CRI University at www.criuniversity.com -----/

3. VA Increases Vets Retraining Assistance Program. This week, VA announced they have filled 36,000 of the 45,000 job training openings available under the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) passed as a part of the VOW to Heroes Act. An additional 55,000 openings will be available October 1, 2012. VRAP provides up to \$1,473 a month in GI Bill benefits for those taking full-time courses to learn the skills necessary to land a job. The VFW was instrumental in getting the provision passed as a part of the comprehensive jobs bill and encourages veterans eligible to apply online. Click here for more information: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW/>

4. Employees leaving for reasons other than money. Jodi Ordioni writing for ERE reports that 88% the percent of employees, out of 19,000 surveys and exit interviews, who leave an organization for reasons other than money. In that same survey, 89% of employers said they believed that employees left only because of money! (The Saratoga Institute) What this means for you: Don't think you can't compete just because you can't offer top dollar. Generations X and Y consider many other factors, including culture, perks, flexibility, and corporate responsibility. If offering average pay and benefits is scaring you from reaching out to prospects, rest assured that your organization probably has one or more other strengths that will impress prospective employees.

5. 2,527 DHS Employees and Co-Conspirators Convicted of Crimes. A federal auditor has reported that 2,527 employees of the DHS or conspirators working with these employees have been convicted of corruption or other felonies since 2004. He reported this to the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee. He is presently dealing with over 1,500 open cases. Here are the figures by agency: FEMA, 1,644; Customs/Border, 358; Immigration/Customs, 166; TSA, 133. The others are classified as "other." Convictions have increased since 2004. They peaked in 2007 then fell. They are now rising. The Inspector General's office has 219 employees. The DHS has 225,000 employees. The auditor says that his office is overwhelmed. The number of criminal allegations is growing. <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/federal-auditor-2527-dhs-employees-and-co-conspirators-convicted-crimes>

6. Law alters availability of Reservists for emergencies. The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act gives state governors expanded ability to call up reservists in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. The goal is to have troops on site within three days of any emergency situation where their expertise is needed. "What the National Defense Authorization Act has done is set up a mechanism where you can now call these folks up for domestic disasters in an orderly fashion," retired Col. John Conway said.

7. TSA now subject to USERRA. President Barack Obama signed H.R. 3670 into law August 16, 2012 (Public Law No. 112-171), amending the Aviation and Transportation Security Act to make the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA) apply to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). When the TSA was created by the Aviation and Transportation Security Act on November 19, 2001, it was given an exemption from USERRA, which guarantees that employees in the public and private sector who are called to active military duty can keep their jobs when they return home. Congress had allowed transportation security officers (TSOs) to be included in a select category of federal employees considered vital to national security, and therefore exempt from USERRA.

Congressman and veteran Tim Walz (D-MN) and the sponsor of H.R. 3670, said on August 3, 2012, that recently at least two TSOs tried and failed to appeal TSA actions under USERRA. "Both the Office of Special Counsel and Merit Systems Protection Board ruled TSOs were barred from USERRA coverage under the Aviation and Transportation Security Act," he stated.

"Since the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) learned of the loophole exempting TSA from complying with service members' employment rights, our advocates have worked diligently to fix it, ensuring members of the Guard and Reserve employed by the agency would now be protected under the law," said VFW Executive Director Bob Wallace on Aug. 3. "We applaud Sen. Joe Lieberman, Congressman Tim Walz and the more than 60 bipartisan co-sponsors in both the House and Senate for standing up for the rights of our citizen-soldiers."

TSA currently has more than 50,000 employees, and veterans make up more than 23% of its workforce, according to Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS).

8. SEC Announces first whistle-blower payout. SHRM reports the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced on August 21, 2012, its first payout from a reward program for whistle-blowers. Authorized by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, the program has been criticized for not requiring whistle-blowers to first use a company's internal compliance program.

9. Unanimity on 2013 Salary Forecasts Holding Up. SHRM reports U.S. salary budget forecasts for 2013 are continuing to be rolled out by pay consultants/researchers and, while there are some differences around the margins, the consensus remains steady for an average budget increase of 3%.

10. National Guard (in Federal Status) and Reserve Activated as of August 22, 2012. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 46,096; Navy Reserve, 4,253; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 8,965; Marine Corps Reserve, 3,249; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 850. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 63,413, including both units and individual augmentees. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel who are currently activated may be found online at <http://www.defense.gov/news/d20120821ngr.pdf>

11. Significant Events this Month in Military History

1780 - Benedict Arnold gives the British the plans to West Point (Revolutionary War)

1783 - The Peace Treaty of Versailles was signed between the USA, Britain, France, and Spain, ending the American Revolution.

1787 - United States Constitution Approved

1814 - US Naval Captain Oliver Hazard Perry defeated a British flotilla in the Battle of Lake Erie (War of 1812).

1814 - During a British naval attack on the City of Baltimore, Francis Scott Key composed a poem entitled "The Star Spangled Banner."

1847 - American forces captured Mexico City, effectively ending the Mexican War.

1862 – Battle of Chantilly – Confederate forces attack retreating Union troops in Chantilly, VA (Civil War).
1863 – Battle of Chickamauga begins (Civil War)
1864 – Confederate troops abandoned Atlanta in the face of continuing attacks by federals under General W.S. Sherman (Civil War).
1899 – Founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
1908 – LT Thomas E. Selfridge was killed at Ft. Myer, VA, in a plane flown by Orville Wright. Selfridge was the first man to die in an airplane accident.
1939 – German troops invaded Poland, beginning World War II.
1939 – Britain and France declared war on Germany (World War II).
1941 – British Naval forces sank the German battleship Bismarck off the French coast (World War II).
1942 - Japanese float plane drops an incendiary bomb in Oregon (World War II)
1943 – The allied invasion of Italy began (World War II).
1945 – V-J Day, Japan signed formal surrender (World War II).
1947 – US Air Force established.
1951 – The United States, Australia and New Zealand sign a mutual defense pact, called the ANZUS Treaty.
1951 – Battle of Heart Break Ridge began (Korean War).
1954 – USS Nautilus, first atomic submarine is commissioned in US Navy
1962 – United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps Incorporated
1965 - 1st Calvary Division arrives in Vietnam
1967 – Siege of Con Thien Began (Vietnam War).
1969 – President Richard Nixon ordered resumption of heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets (Vietnam War).
1982 – The United States Air Force Space Command is founded.
1983 – Korean Air Flight 007 is shot down by a Soviet Union jet fighter when the commercial aircraft enters Soviet airspace. All 269 on board are killed, including United States Congressman Lawrence McDonald (Cold War).

1994 – Operation Uphold Democracy began (Haiti).

VetJobs is exclusively sponsored and partially owned by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (www.vfw.org) and endorsed by the Vietnam Veterans of America (www.vva.org), the Association of the US Navy (www.ausn.org), the Veterans of Modern Warfare (www.vmwusa.org), Student Veterans of America (www.studentveterans.org), Military Order of the Purple Heart (www.purpleheart.org), Hope4Heroes (www.hope4heroes.org), United States Army Warrant Officers Association (www.usawoa.org), The Retired Enlisted Association (www.trea.org) and the National Guard Association of the United States (www.ngaus.org)

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News from Al Bunting, Col, USAF (Ret) in NJ! Thanks Al!

[At Military's 'Turning Point,' Panetta Avoids Bold Moves](#)

(Washington Post) ...Panetta's approach reflects a management style that throughout his career has placed a premium on consensus over major reforms and collegiality over bold thinking, said officials who have worked with him. "He has always run a happy, productive shop," said former ambassador James Dobbins, who worked closely with Panetta in the Clinton White House.

[Military Takes Apps To War](#)

(Wall Street Journal) ...Darpa, the defense research arm that contributed to the development of the Internet, has launched an effort

[Will Looming Defense Cuts Play Role In Election?](#)

(Stars and Stripes) Most lawmakers and Capitol Hill staffers concede that they have virtually no chance of finding a solution for looming defense budget cuts before the November elections.

[Sequester Shield May Pit Troops Versus Procurement](#)

(Bloomberg Government (bgov.com)) President Barack Obama's intention to protect military personnel from sequestration of \$54.7 billion in fiscal 2013 defense funds may force the Pentagon to cut other accounts by more than the 9.6 percent, Bloomberg Government has estimated.

[National Guard at Risk](#)

Heritage.org

Two prominent experts in the field of homeland security — one a former assistant secretary of defense, the other a retired three-star general from the **National Guard** — discussed this issue recently at The Heritage Foundation. They pointed out an ...

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[NFL, Army Partner to Combat TBI](#)

[Army to Keep Current PFT for Now](#)

[CAC Card Replacements](#)

- [New AF Tactics and Techniques Manual](#)

[Syria Insists On Military Solution](#)

(Philadelphia Inquirer) The Syrian regime said Monday that there will be no dialogue with the opposition before the army crushes the rebels, the latest sign that President Bashar al-Assad is determined to solve the crisis on the battlefield even if many more of his people have to pay with their lives.

[Aviation Buffs Uncover US Drone Launches](#)

(The Australian) The US military has been launching spy drones from the Edinburgh air force base near Adelaide for several years, it has emerged.

[When It Pays To Talk To Terrorists](#)

(New York Times) TOMORROW marks the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Munich massacre in which Palestinian militants killed 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team. For many Westerners, the incident was the most chilling example of international terrorism before 9/11.

[Wars Not Even Worth A Mention](#)

(Boston Globe) There is little use in trying to make the 2012 presidential campaign a referendum on foreign policy. Sorry, my friends in international relations; I know your phones aren't exactly ringing. Academics and wonks can try to get the candidates to focus on Afghanistan, Iran, or the

Pentagon's budget, but those issues have little traction. It's a bit humbling for many in the field who pine for relevance amid long discussions about Medicare and the economy. It was so easy to be needed when John McCain ran for president.

[China's Guns](#)

(Washington Post) A consequence of China's rise as a global economic superpower has been the nation's quest for resources, influence and riches in Africa, extracting minerals and food, building highways and schools, and selling cheap cellphones and pharmaceuticals. In July, President Hu Jintao pledged that China would lend \$20 billion to African governments for agriculture and infrastructure.

[Navy SEAL Bin Laden Book Out-Selling '50 Shades' On Amazon](#)

(Reuters.com) "No Easy Day," the controversial book by a former U.S. Navy SEAL about the commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden, has stormed to the top of U.S. book sales on online retailer Amazon.com.

[Fuel Leak Drifts Toward City's Water Supply](#)

(Los Angeles Times) As environmental disaster sites go, it doesn't look like much. A scattering of rusting wellhead covers and a machine noisily sucking hydrocarbon vapors from the earth scarcely hint at what has grown into a \$50-million headache.

[In Beijing, Clinton Will Push For Talks Over Disputed Islands](#)

(New York Times) As tensions mount with its neighbors over islands in nearby strategic waterways, China has scored some subtle victories, making the United States and its allies increasingly uneasy about the potential for violent confrontations.

[Clinton Urges Unity In Dealing With China](#)

(Washington Post) Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Monday for Southeast Asian states to present a united front to the Chinese in dealing with territorial disputes in the South China Sea to "literally calm the waters." And she urged all parties to make "meaningful progress" on a process for ending conflicts by November.

[Glimmer Of Reform Seen In N. Korea](#)

(Washington Post) Under new leader Kim Jong Eun, North Korea in recent months has shifted its rhetoric to emphasize the economy rather than the military and is introducing small-scale agricultural reforms with tantalizing elements of capitalism, according to diplomats and defector groups with informants in the North.

[Iran And North Korea Team Up On Technology](#)

(CNN) They've often been portrayed as members of the so-called rogues gallery, but now, Iran and North Korea have a new deal to team up on science and technology, and that's raising serious concerns because the United States has long accused both of them of teaming up on advanced weapons. Our Brian Todd is digging into the story for us.

[Economy, Not War, Has Pakistanis Losing Sleep](#)

(USA Today) Danish Arif, a seller of colorful fabrics at the Mehran Bazaar, repeated what many here say about the direction of Pakistan and its latest change in leaders.

[Colonel's Corruption](#)

(Stars and Stripes) ...Mouton brought an open mind to working with the Afghan colonel. Less than two months later, after suspicions arose among U.S. officers that Wasil had ties to the Taliban, Mouton was investigating him.

[Frontline Stories](#)

(NBC) In Afghanistan, U.S. forces have temporarily suspended training for some new police recruits after a spike in the number of attacks by Afghan forces who are supposed to be partners with the U.S. The so-called insider attacks have killed dozens of Americans so far this year. NBC's Jim Maceda spent some time recently with U.S. Special Forces, including a Green Beret whose mission has become a lot more dangerous.

[Once Denied A Purple Heart, A Soldier Gets Her Medal](#)

(NPR) The United States Army has awarded Michelle Dyarman a Purple Heart, the honor American troops receive for being wounded in action. Dyarman suffered the injury in a second, but receiving the Purple Heart took seven years.

[Hasan's Beard May Delay Trial Past Holiday Season](#)

(San Antonio Express-News) If things had stayed on schedule, a trial would have started two weeks ago for Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, but instead a judge and his attorneys have sparred over a thick beard he has grown in violation of Army regulations.

[Standing Against The Odds](#)

(Dallas Morning News) Soldier who lost his limbs fulfills goal to greet returning combat unit.

[To Back Democracy, U.S. Prepares To Cut \\$1 Billion From Egypt's Debt](#)

(New York Times) Nearly 16 months after first pledging to help Egypt's failing economy, the Obama administration is nearing an agreement with the country's new government to relieve \$1 billion of its debt as part of an American and international assistance package intended to bolster its transition to democracy, administration officials said.

[U.S. Denies Israeli Newspaper Report Of Secret Iran Contacts](#)

(Reuters.com) The White House on Monday denied an Israeli newspaper report that accused Washington of secretly negotiating with Tehran to keep the United States out of a future Israel-Iran war.

[Iran Completes 30 Percent Of Missile Defence System: Commander](#)

(Reuters.com) Iran has built about 30 percent of a missile defence system it is developing in place of the Russian S-300 system Moscow refused to sell it, and hopes to complete the system by next year, a senior military official said on Monday.

[CIA Chief Visits Turkey For Regional Talks: Official](#)

(Yahoo.com) CIA chief David Petraeus is visiting Turkey for meetings on regional issues, a US official told AFP on Monday.

[Army to Hold Suicide Stand Down](#)

- [TRICARE Benefit Unchanged](#)
- [Army Studies Virtual Reality PTSD Therapy](#)
- [Army Contracting Command is Recruiting](#)
- [New Rules for AF Reservists](#)
- [Navy Suicide Prevention Awareness Month](#)
- [Navy Command Leadership Option](#)
- [24th Annual Navy Counselors Symposium](#)

[Maybe Obama Has Israel's Back](#)

(Wall Street Journal) Maybe Martin Dempsey chose his words poorly. Maybe the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't mean to imply Israel would be committing a crime when he told reporters last week that the U.S. would not be "complicit" with an Israeli attack on Iran.

[The Price Every State Must Pay: The National Guard and Sequestration](#)
[Heritage.org \(blog\)](#)

During a visit to the Niagara Falls Air and Reserve Station, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta praised the soldiers and airmen of the Reserve and **National Guard** for their service safeguarding the nation. He warned, however, that the looming defense ...

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[U.N.'s Ban, Egypt's Morsi Deliver Strong Messages In Iran](#)

(Washington Post) U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi delivered prominent and surprisingly effective messages at last week's summit of Non-Aligned Movement nations in Tehran despite Washington's unease at their even attending the Iran-hosted event.

[Too Hard On Kazakhstan -- \(Letter\)](#)

(Washington Post) Walter Pincus's Aug. 27 Fine Print column, "Why are we fostering ties with despots?," treated Kazakhstan unfairly. Kazakhstan regularly holds presidential and parliamentary elections. International observers have been divided over exactly how free and open those elections have been, but to mention only what the harshest critics say without asking for comment from the government or others with a more positive view does a disservice to the readers of The Post.

[Stop Underestimating China's Military Spending -- \(Letter\)](#)

(Washington Post) It is unsettling that Washington is only now waking up to Beijing's gathering geopolitical assertiveness in East Asia after a decade of U.S. strategic distraction in Western and Central Asia. Michael O'Hanlon and James Steinberg ["How 'Air-Sea Battle' fits in U.S. planning," op-ed, Aug. 24] rightly pointed out that America's challenge is how to do more with less. The aim of "Air-Sea Battle" is to leverage superior U.S. aerospace and naval technologies in what is primarily a maritime defense environment while relying on Asian allies and friends to provide critical ground force weight.

Coming Down the Pike: Building upon the success of [the ORS-1 satellite](#), the Defense Department's Operationally Responsive Space office is progressing with its next three satellite projects, said office officials. ORS-2, the next satellite in the series, is envisioned, like ORS-1, to provide combatant commanders with enhanced battlespace awareness during its planned one-year orbital mission. It will feature a modular, rapidly configurable bus that uses plug-'n'-play technology and will carry a radar and electronic tactical support payloads, according to an Aug. 30 office release. The satellite's modular bus is scheduled for delivery before summer's end, but the satellite's launch date is still to be determined, states the release. (Kirtland [report](#) by Michael P. Kleiman)

Boeing Begins B-1 Structural Fatigue Testing: Boeing has begun a five-year fatigue test on a B-1B bomber wing at the company's facility in Tukwila, Wash., to help validate the aircraft's predicated life expectancy, [announced](#) the company. "This comprehensive testing is a proactive way for Boeing to meet its mission of keeping the B-1 bomber fleet ready and viable," said Rick Greenwell, the company's B-1 program director. Fatigue testing on a B-1 fuselage will begin in Tukwila in November 2013, according to the release. Boeing projects that the B-1 will remain structurally viable out to 2050. (For more on the Air Force's efforts to sustain and modernize the B-1 fleet, see [Old Bombers, New Again](#) from *Air Force Magazine's* 2012 archive.)

Winged JDAM Completes Wind Tunnel Testing: A winged version of Boeing's joint direct attack munition recently completed wind tunnel testing, announced the company. Boeing is building the 500-pound JDAM Extended Range weapon for the Royal Australian Air Force under a contract awarded in 2011. First delivery of these munitions, which Boeing will assemble in Australia, is slated for 2015, states the company's Aug. 30 [release](#).

[n Kansas, Former POWs Help Feed the Hungry](#)

[sraeli Leader Calls for 'Clear Red Line' on Iran](#)

Godspeed all.....Wayne

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"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