

# January 29, 2014

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2. Pentagon opposes COLA cut, but warns of more ahead.
3. Pentagon to review all military medals.
4. NATO, state of European defense to be considered in Munich.
5. Dozens more implicated in nuke cheat probe.
6. Grand Junction veteran to attend State of the Union for his daughter.
7. Who was that Army Ranger honored by Obama? Cory Remsburg's stirring story.
8. Obama's G.I. Bill Fixation Could Wreak Havoc.
9. Winter Census Tallies Homeless Veterans.
10. County recognized by HUD for outstanding veteran housing program.
11. Paul Rieckhoff discusses the future of veteran benefits.
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13. COLA cuts remain a top issue for veteran constituents.
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16. Save the VA lays out EIS procedure.
17. Exclusive: Orlando VA costs to run \$150M over budget, more delays possible.
18. First look at Brasfield & Gorrie's \$50.8M claim against the VA.
19. Gastrointestinal backlog reported at second east Georgia VA hospital.
20. Veterans say changes still needed at Atlanta VA.
21. Fight against veteran brain injury going high tech to change lives.
22. Military affairs beat: Needs of women veterans surveyed.
23. VA Kicks Off Contracting For New Electronic Health Records System.
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1. [Internal memo alleges JPAC ethics violations, mishandling of military remains](#). Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command personnel may have desecrated remains and excavated incorrect sites, internal documents obtained by Stars and Stripes allege.
2. [Pentagon opposes COLA cut, but warns of more ahead](#). While not seeking an immediate repeal, Pentagon leaders on Capitol Hill called recent cuts to military retirement unexpected and unfair, but also ceded that cuts are inevitable "if the department is going to maintain the current force."
3. [Pentagon to review all military medals](#). The Pentagon announced Tuesday a broad-ranging review to examine military medals, ordered by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, would likely kick off within a month or so and be complete by late 2014 or early 2015.
4. [NATO, state of European defense to be considered in Munich](#). Is it a linchpin for global security or a relic of the Cold War that is becoming increasingly irrelevant? NATO, at once described by observers as the greatest military alliance in history and a coalition that is shirking its responsibilities, is ever at a crossroads.
5. [Dozens more implicated in nuke cheat probe](#). The number of Air Force service members implicated in a scandal involving alleged cheating on tests of nuclear missile launch operations has roughly doubled from the 34 initially cited by the Air Force, officials said Tuesday.
6. [Grand Junction veteran to attend State of the Union for his daughter](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Denver Post**: "War is devastating," Telford said. "They don't get to vote on whether they go to war. And the payback is they come back with broken bodies and hurt minds. We owe them the opportunity to get well."
7. [Who was that Army Ranger honored by Obama? Cory Rensburg's stirring story](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Detroit Free Press (29 July, 2010 USA Today Reprint)**: (Editor's note: This article first ran July 29, 2010. We're reprinting it after President Barack Obama honored Rensburg in his State of the Union Tuesday night.

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8. [Obama's G.I. Bill Fixation Could Wreak Havoc.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Bloomberg News:** As President Barack Obama delivers a State of the Union address tonight devoted to social mobility and rising inequality, it's a safe bet that he will single out the GI Bill for special mention, as he has done in the past.
  
9. [Winter Census Tallies Homeless Veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NPR (Audio):** Every winter the Department of Housing and Urban Development picks a night in January for a "point-in time" survey of the nation's homeless. One group of particular concern is the number of veterans in shelters or on the street.
  
10. [County recognized by HUD for outstanding veteran housing program.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Today's News-Herald:** Mohave County was recently recognized as the 2013 Most Valuable Partner Award by way of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the county's exemplary work housing area homeless military veterans.
  
11. [Paul Rieckhoff discusses the future of veteran benefits.](#) [Hyperlink to Video](#) **FoxNews.com, The Kelly File (Video):** In this 2:50 video Paul Rieckhoff reacts to President Obama's State of the Union Speech, deriding COLA cuts for Veteran retirees and urging further progress on the Backlog.
  
12. [Lawmakers Revisit COLA Cut for Military Retirees.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **ABC News (AP):** Congress is revisiting its decision to cut annual cost-of living adjustments to pensions for most working-age military retirees after talk of the cuts drew outrage from veterans groups and others.
  
13. [COLA cuts remain a top issue for veteran constituents.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Times:** Members of Congress said the 1 percent COLA cut included in last month's budget deal was a top issue for veterans during town halls held during last week's recess.
  
14. [House Veterans Affairs chairman: We'll be forced to take legislative action if Obama won't fix veteran issues.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Caller:** The chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee slammed President Obama's record on veteran issues ahead of Obama's sixth State of the Union address Tuesday, declaring that Congress "will be forced to take legislative action" to hold the administration accountable.

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15. [A Proposed Conservative Alternative to Disability Compensation for Vets. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Nonprofit Quarterly:** Thomas Meyer suggests that the VA system for compensating disabled veterans has made these returning heroes and heroines focus on identifying themselves as disabled, rather than progressing into education and jobs.
16. [Save the VA lays out EIS procedure. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Rapid City Journal:** In a town hall-type meeting that was part informative and part pep rally, members of the Save the VA Committee laid the groundwork for the next stage of the battle to save the VA Black Hills Health Care System's Hot Springs campus.
17. [Exclusive: Orlando VA costs to run \\$150M over budget, more delays possible. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Orlando Business Journal:** The Orlando VA Medical Center, now under construction, is facing a new challenge — one with the potential to push the project back another year.
18. [First look at Brasfield & Gorrie's \\$50.8M claim against the VA. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Orlando Business Journal:** [Brasfield & Gorrie](#) LLC is turning to the legal system to get \$50.8 million in overages on the [Orlando VA Medical Center](#), according to documents obtained Jan. 28 by *Orlando Business Journal*
19. [Gastrointestinal backlog reported at second east Georgia VA hospital. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Augusta Chronicle:** The Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta isn't the only hospital of its kind in east central Georgia to delay consultations for gastrointestinal patients
20. [Veterans say changes still needed at Atlanta VA. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The American Legion:** The consensus, according to veterans who attended a Legion town hall meeting Monday, is that things are better, but changes still need to be made - particularly an increase in staff and correcting a problem with the phone system
21. [Fight against veteran brain injury going high tech to change lives. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Tweaktown.com** Medical researchers and military veterans are increasingly teaming up to study traumatic brain injuries (TBI) that U.S. personnel are dealing with after returning home from the battlefield

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22. [Military affairs beat: Needs of women veterans surveyed.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Star Tribune:** A national survey of women veterans points to a greater need for access to community-based medical care and a need to integrate traditional veterans services with primary care, reproductive care and mental health care.
23. [VA Kicks Off Contracting For New Electronic Health Records System.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NextGov:** The Veterans Affairs Department has released the first procurement for its next-generation electronic health record system, with a focus on support services for the Health Systems Informatics division of the Veterans Health Administration
24. [House Committee Seeks Answers on Recent VA Health Data Breach.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **iHealthBeat:** On Friday, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chair Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) sent a letter to Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki with questions about the agency's latest health data breach
25. [Lawmakers push college credit for veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The San Francisco Chronicle (AP):** Military veterans working toward a degree could have help if an amendment approved in the Indiana Senate moves forward.
26. [Financial aid, peer support drawing veterans to Catholic universities.](#) Catholic News Service - (CNS) -- Catholic colleges and universities across the United States are ... Many Catholic institutions participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' ...
27. [Pup, GI pal reunited after being injured in Afghanistan.](#) Sgt. Eric Goldenthal and his bomb-sniffing dog, Corky, were injured in an attack by Taliban militants in Afghanistan earlier this month. They reunited after each received medical treatment at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and the U.S. Army's Dog Center Europe in Germany.
28. [Margie Risseuw works to provide veterans with benefits they deserve.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Cape Gazette:** To meet Margie Risseuw, you'd never guess that, in addition to enjoying beach life, she's one of two highly qualified, accredited claims agents in Delaware for the office of the U.S. General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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29. [Wilmington VA Medical Center's Mobile Outreach Clinic visits Atlantic City](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WMGM-TV**: Providing a wide variety of care for our local veterans, the Wilmington VA Medical Center's Mobile Outreach Clinic parked in Atlantic City Tuesday.
30. [Killeen veterans cemetery get \\$5 million grant for upgrades](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KXXV-TV (Video)**: The Department of Veterans Affairs is awarding a nearly \$5 million grant for expansion and upgrades to the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen.
31. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as January 29, 2014:**
- **February 5, 2014.** HVAC-DAMA will hold a hearing entitled, "Beyond Transformation: Reviewing Current Status and Secondary Effects of VBA Technology."
  - **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
  - **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Sanders, I-Vt.) will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.
  - **March 6, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations.
  - **March 26, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.
32. **Today in History:**
- [1814](#) – France defeats Russia and [Prussia](#) in the [Battle of Brienne](#).
  - [1834](#) – US President [Andrew Jackson](#) orders first use of federal soldiers to suppress a [labor](#) dispute.
  - [1845](#) – "[The Raven](#)" is published in the [New York Evening Mirror](#), the first publication with the name of the author, [Edgar Allan Poe](#)
  - [1850](#) – [Henry Clay](#) introduces the [Compromise of 1850](#) to the [U.S. Congress](#).
  - [1856](#) – [Queen Victoria](#) institutes the [Victoria Cross](#).
  - [1861](#) – [Kansas](#) is admitted as the 34th [U.S. state](#).
  - [1863](#) – [Bear River Massacre](#).
  - [1886](#) – [Karl Benz](#) patents the first successful [gasoline](#)-driven [automobile](#).
  - [1891](#) – [Liliuokalani](#) is proclaimed Queen of Hawaii, its last monarch.
  - [1900](#) – The [American League](#) is organized in [Philadelphia](#) with eight founding teams.
  - [1907](#) – [Charles Curtis](#) of [Kansas](#) becomes the first Native American [U.S. Senator](#).

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- [1916](#) – [World War I](#): Paris is first bombed by German [zeppelins](#).
- [1918](#) – [Ukrainian–Soviet War](#): The [Bolshevik Red Army](#), on its way to besiege [Kiev](#), is met by a small group of military students at the [Battle of Kruty](#).
- 1918 – Ukrainian–Soviet War: An [armed uprising](#) organized by the [Bolsheviks](#) in anticipation of the encroaching [Red Army](#) begins at the [Kiev Arsenal](#), which will be put down six days later.
- [1936](#) – The [first inductees](#) into the [Baseball Hall of Fame](#) are announced.
- [1941](#) – [Alexandros Koryzis](#) becomes [Prime Minister of Greece](#) upon the sudden death of his predecessor, dictator [Ioannis Metaxas](#).
- [1943](#) – The first day of the [Battle of Rennell Island](#), [U.S. cruiser Chicago](#) is torpedoed and heavily damaged by Japanese bombers.
- [1944](#) – [World War II](#): Approximately 38 men, women, and children die in the [Koniuchy massacre](#) in Poland.
- 1944 – In [Bologna](#), Italy, the [Anatomical theatre of the Archiginnasio](#) is destroyed in an air-raid.
- [1963](#) – The [first inductees](#) into the [Pro Football Hall of Fame](#) are announced.
- [1967](#) – The "ultimate high" of the [hippie](#) era, the [Mantra-Rock Dance](#), takes place in [San Francisco](#) and features [Janis Joplin](#), [Grateful Dead](#), and [Allen Ginsberg](#).
- [1989](#) – [Hungary establishes diplomatic relations with South Korea](#), making it the first [Eastern Bloc](#) nation to do so
- [1991](#) – [Gulf War](#): The [Battle of Khafji](#), the first major ground engagement of the war, as well as its deadliest, begins.
- [1996](#) – President [Jacques Chirac](#) announces a "definitive end" to French [nuclear weapons testing](#).
- [1998](#) – In [Birmingham, Alabama](#), a bomb explodes at an [abortion](#) clinic, killing one and severely wounding another. Serial bomber [Eric Robert Rudolph](#) is suspected as the culprit.
- [2001](#) – Thousands of student protesters in [Indonesia](#) storm parliament and demand that [President Abdurrahman Wahid](#) resign due to alleged involvement in corruption scandals.
- [2002](#) – In his [State of the Union address](#), President [George W. Bush](#) describes "regimes that sponsor [terror](#)" as an [Axis of evil](#), in which he includes [Iraq](#), [Iran](#) and [North Korea](#).
- [2005](#) – The first direct commercial flights from mainland China (from [Guangzhou](#)) to [Taiwan](#) since 1949 arrived in [Taipei](#). Shortly afterwards, a [China Airlines](#) flight lands in Beijing.
- [2009](#) – The [Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt](#) rules that people who do not adhere to one of the three [government-recognised religions](#), while not allowed to list any belief outside of those three, are still [eligible to receive](#) government [identity documents](#).
- 2009 – [Governor of Illinois Rod Blagojevich is removed from office](#) following his conviction of several corruption charges, including the alleged solicitation of personal benefit in exchange for an appointment to the [United States Senate](#) as a replacement for then-[U.S. president-elect Barack Obama](#).