

# February 6, 2014

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2. USS Mount Whitney, USS Taylor in Black Sea ahead of Olympics.
3. CBO: Military pension payments to fall 5 percent by 2023 with cut.
4. New GI Bill tool helps calculate benefits, compares schools.
5. VA launches new online college comparison tool.
6. House passes bill to give veterans in-state tuition, halt VA executive bonuses.
7. Following Student Veterans.
8. New research: Blast injury predicts PTSD.
9. Gulf War veterans and IBS.
10. Veterans benefits lag behind food stamp payments.
11. WWII vet granted benefits after long battle with VA.
12. VA still fighting paper war.
13. New site for Montana veterans up and running.
14. Bill to give edge to vets in hiring advances in Iowa House.
15. Congress seeks to spur construction of Orlando's VA hospital.
16. Colorado Rep. Mike Coffman targets delays of VA hospital projects.
17. Not enough parking is provided for patients and employees at Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
18. Feinstein Unveils Plan To House Homeless Veterans At West LA Campus.
19. Veterans hospital enhancing security measures in response to patient death.
20. VA Butler seeks to link needy veterans with healthy food.
21. Legion group returns to Hot Springs.
22. Labor Department Awards Grants for Homeless Vet Reintegration.
23. Stand down helps vets in need.
24. Fort Worth's impostor general gets 5 years probation for ruse.
25. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 6, 2014:
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1. [Navy sidelines 30 nuclear instructors suspected of cheating](#). Senior enlisted sailors allegedly cheated on tests administered to personnel who train other sailors to safely operate nuclear reactors that power Navy submarines, Navy officials said Tuesday.
2. [USS Mount Whitney, USS Taylor in Black Sea ahead of Olympics](#). A pair of Navy ships has entered the Black Sea, where the top U.S. commander in Europe has said they will be available to respond to any emergencies arising from the Winter Olympic games in Sochi.
3. [CBO: Military pension payments to fall 5 percent by 2023 with cut](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Post:** Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.) has introduced an omnibus Veterans Affairs bill that would eliminate the pension cut and expand certain veterans benefits, such as dental and medical care, education and caretaker stipends.
4. [New GI Bill tool helps calculate benefits, compares schools](#). The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new tool to help servicemembers, veterans and their families calculate Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and compare schools and training programs nationwide.
5. [VA launches new online college comparison tool](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Air Force Times:** The Veterans Affairs Department has unveiled a new way for student veterans to quickly get important information about schools they're considering attending.
6. [House passes bill to give veterans in-state tuition, halt VA executive bonuses](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Post:** The House this week unanimously passed a bill that would expand veterans' educational benefits and end bonuses for the senior executives at the Department of Veterans Affairs for five years.
7. [Following Student Veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Inside Higher Ed:** The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs [released](#) the [GI Bill comparison tool](#) on Tuesday. The site [features](#) datasets on the price and student outcomes of more than 10,000 VA-approved education and training programs.
8. [New research: Blast injury predicts PTSD](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **U-T San Diego:** This is one of two recent studies by San Diego researchers with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that chip away at questions surrounding the signature wounds of the Iraq and Afghanistan war generation — PTSD and traumatic brain injury.

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9. [Gulf War veterans and IBS. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Journal Times:** Many veterans might be familiar with the term “Gulf War syndrome.” However, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs now uses the term “medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illnesses.” The VA recognizes that irritable bowel syndrome may have been a direct result of service on active duty during the Gulf War.
  
10. [Veterans benefits lag behind food stamp payments. Hyperlink to Video](#) **FOXNews.com (Video):** In this 4:16 video, a *Fox News Channel* legal analyst reports that social welfare recipients wait an average of 30 days for food and energy assistance whereas Veterans who risked their lives for their country wait many months or even years for disability benefits.
  
11. [WWII vet granted benefits after long battle with VA. Hyperlink to Article](#) **USA Today:** He's had to convince the government that sent him off to war that it should help support him due to the disabilities he suffers from his time on active duty. Last week the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notified him that he had been granted a full disability award for injuries suffered in combat.
  
12. [VA still fighting paper war. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Politico:** Veterans still face significant delays on their disability claims that sometimes total hundreds of days at the Department of Veterans Affairs, an agency that long has struggled to upgrade for the 21st century.
  
13. [New site for Montana veterans up and running. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Great Falls Tribune:** Veterans have a new online tool to find health, employment, benefit and other resources tailored specifically to Montana veterans.
  
14. [Bill to give edge to vets in hiring advances in Iowa House. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Omaha World-Herald (AP):** Veterans could get preferential treatment in the hiring and promotion decisions of private businesses under a bill an Iowa House panel approved Tuesday.
  
15. [Congress seeks to spur construction of Orlando's VA hospital. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Orlando Sentinel:** Frustrated by ongoing problems with VA construction projects, a pair of U.S. lawmakers today revived efforts to pass legislation that would bring more oversight to these efforts, including a long-delayed VA hospital in Central Florida.

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16. [Colorado Rep. Mike Coffman targets delays of VA hospital projects.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Denver Post:** Rep. Mike Coffman introduced legislation Wednesday to speed construction and rein in costs of three Veterans Affairs hospital construction projects, including the one in Aurora.
17. [Not enough parking is provided for patients and employees at Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KMGH-TV:** Insufficient parking at the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center is making it more difficult for veterans to get the care they need.
18. [Feinstein Unveils Plan To House Homeless Veterans At West LA Campus.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **CBS Los Angeles (Audio):** Sen. Dianne Feinstein has introduced legislation that would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to lease out part of its West Los Angeles campus as housing for homeless veterans.
19. [Veterans hospital enhancing security measures in response to patient death.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Columbia Missourian:** In the aftermath of a patient being beaten to death by another patient last February, Truman Veterans Hospital has changed its violent patient response system.
20. [VA Butler seeks to link needy veterans with healthy food.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette:** The spirit of giving at the holidays seems to peter out in January, but the needs of some of the weakest in the community grow. That's one of the main reasons behind a drive to link local veterans with donated food, says an official with the VA Butler Health Care.
21. [Legion group returns to Hot Springs.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Rapid City Journal:** A System Worth Saving visits 12-15 VAs each year, but a return to Hot Springs after only two years leads local spokesmen for the Save the VA Campaign to believe that perhaps the American Legion is delving more deeply into the Hot Springs struggle to retain and rebuild the VA.
22. [Labor Department Awards Grants for Homeless Vet Reintegration.](#) The Labor Department has awarded two grants totaling \$900,000 to fund services provided by the department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez announced yesterday. Grants of \$450,000 each were

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- 23.**     [Stand down helps vets in need.](#) Jacksonville Daily News ... to speak with at least 15 organizations ranging from the Department of Veterans Affairs to Semper Fi Fund, ...
- 24.**     [Fort Worth's impostor general gets 5 years probation for ruse.](#) A Fort Worth man who wove an elaborate web of lies, convincing friends, family and even some government officials that he was a brigadier general in the Army, fessed up to his ruse Tuesday, pleading guilty to impersonating a public servant.
- 25.**     **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 6, 2014:**
- **February 20, 2013.** HVAC Health will be holding a field hearing in Camarillo, California.
  - **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
  - **February 27, 2014.** Hearing of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HVAC EO) entitled, "VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program: Further Performance and Workload Management Improvements Needed."
  - **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee 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: BVA, JWV, MOPH, AMVETS, TREA, MOAA, VVA, NGUAS and NASDVA.
  - **March 12, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations: PVA, IAVA, GSW, WWP, FRA, AFSA, NCAO, AXPOW.
  - **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.
- 26.**     **Today in History:**

- [1778](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): In [Paris](#) the [Treaty of Alliance](#) and the [Treaty of Amity and Commerce](#) are signed by the [United States](#) and [France](#) signaling official recognition of the new republic.
- [1788](#) – [Massachusetts](#) becomes the sixth state to ratify the [United States Constitution](#).

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- [1806](#) – [Battle of San Domingo](#): British naval victory against the French in the Caribbean.
- [1815](#) – [New Jersey](#) grants the first [American railroad](#) charter to [John Stevens](#).
- [1820](#) – The first 86 [African American immigrants](#) sponsored by the [American Colonization Society](#) depart New York to start a [settlement](#) in present-day [Liberia](#).
- [1840](#) – Signing of the [Treaty of Waitangi](#), establishing [New Zealand](#) as a [British](#) colony.
- [1843](#) – The first [minstrel show](#) in the [United States](#), The [Virginia Minstrels](#), opens ([Bowery Amphitheatre](#) in [New York City](#)).
- [1862](#) – [American Civil War](#): The U.S. Navy gives the [Union](#) its first victory of the war, capturing [Fort Henry, Tennessee](#) in the [Battle of Fort Henry](#).
- [1899](#) – [Spanish-American War](#): The [Treaty of Paris](#), a [peace treaty](#) between the [United States](#) and [Spain](#), is ratified by the [United States Senate](#).
- [1900](#) – The international arbitration court at [The Hague](#) is created when the [Senate of the Netherlands](#) ratifies an [1899 peace conference](#) decree.
- [1914](#) – The [Bondetåget](#), a peasant uprising in support of the monarchy, takes place in Sweden
- [1918](#) – [British](#) women over the age of 30 get [the right to vote](#).
- [1919](#) – The five-day [Seattle General Strike](#) begins.
- [1922](#) – The [Washington Naval Treaty](#) is signed in [Washington, D.C.](#), limiting the [naval armaments](#) of [United States](#), [Britain](#), [Japan](#), [France](#), and [Italy](#).
- [1934](#) – [Far right leagues](#) rally in front of the [Palais Bourbon](#) in an attempted [coup](#) against the [French Third Republic](#), creating a [political crisis in France](#).
- [1942](#) – World War II: The [United Kingdom](#) declares war on [Thailand](#).
- [1951](#) – *The Broker*, a [Pennsylvania Railroad](#) passenger train [derails](#) near [Woodbridge Township, New Jersey](#). The accident kills 85 people and injures over 500 more. The wreck is one of the worst rail disasters in American history.
- [1952](#) – [Elizabeth II](#) becomes [queen regnant](#) of the [United Kingdom](#) and the other [Commonwealth realms](#) upon the death of her father, [George VI](#). At the exact moment of [succession](#), she was in a [treehouse](#) at the [Treetops Hotel](#) in [Kenya](#).
- [1958](#) – Eight [Manchester United F.C.](#) players and 15 other passengers are killed in the [Munich air disaster](#).
- [1959](#) – [Jack Kilby](#) of [Texas Instruments](#) files the first [patent](#) for an [integrated circuit](#).
- 1959 – At [Cape Canaveral, Florida](#), the first successful test firing of a [Titan intercontinental ballistic missile](#) is accomplished.
- [1976](#) – In testimony before a [United States Senate](#) subcommittee, [Lockheed Corporation](#) president [Carl Kotchian](#) admits that the company had paid out approximately [\\$3 million in bribes](#) to the office of Japanese Prime Minister [Kakuei Tanaka](#).
- [1978](#) – The [Blizzard of 1978](#), one of the worst [Nor'easters](#) in [New England](#) history, hit the region, with sustained winds of 65 mph and snowfall of 4" an hour.
- [1981](#) – The [National Resistance Army](#) of [Uganda](#) launches an attack on a [Ugandan Army](#) installation in the central [Mubende District](#) to begin the [Ugandan Bush War](#).
- [1987](#) – Justice [Mary Gaudron](#) is appointed to the [High Court of Australia](#), the first [woman](#) to be appointed.

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- [1988](#) – [Michael Jordan](#) makes his signature [slam dunk](#) from the [free throw line](#) inspiring [Air Jordan](#) and the [Jumpman](#) logo.
- [1989](#) – The [Round Table Talks](#) start in [Poland](#), thus marking the beginning of overthrow of [communism](#) in Eastern Europe.
- [1996](#) – [Willamette Valley Flood of 1996](#): Floods in the [Willamette Valley](#) of [Oregon](#), [United States](#), causes over US\$500 million in property damage throughout the [Pacific Northwest](#).
- 1996 – [Birgenair Flight 301](#) crashed off the coast of the [Dominican Republic](#), all 189 people inside the airplane are killed. This is the worst accident/incident involving a [Boeing 757](#).
- [1998](#) – Washington National Airport is renamed [Ronald Reagan National Airport](#).
- [2000](#) – [Second Chechen War](#): [Russia captures Grozny](#), [Chechnya](#), forcing the separatist [Chechen Republic of Ichkeria](#) government into [exile](#).