

# March 7, 2014

1. 'So many questions': Botched recovery mission didn't follow JPAC's own protocol.
2. Sailors reassured that budget cuts won't affect staffing levels.
3. Army's top sex assault prosecutor suspended after assault allegation.
4. Bill to remove commanders from sex assault prosecutions fails.
5. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair admits guilt on 3 counts; denies sex assault .
6. VRAP gets cash to carry through school terms.
7. Veterans' Attorney Voices Concerns About VA's Reported Destruction of Veterans' Medical Records.
8. New bill aims to improve veteran's rights for those honorably discharged.
9. U.S. Senate bill aims to streamline VA claims, reduce backlog.
10. Veterans benefits claims backlog: proposed legislation addresses a comprehensive problem.
11. No Money for Bold Men.
12. Proposed DHA budget would triple funds for DoD-VA integrated EHR.
13. Female Vets Speak At Nazareth College.
14. VA initiative shows early promise in reducing use of opioids for chronic pain.
15. P.. T.. S.. D.. Help For Our Veterans.
16. All The World's A Stage: Using Shakespeare To Help Veterans.
17. The War on Veterans: Congress and the White House Are Much Better at Starting Wars Than Cleaning Up After Them.
18. Homeless vets say program promising help was 'a nightmare'.
19. Veterans launch effort to help homeless comrades.
20. Fewer homeless vets in Shreveport/Bossier.
21. Veterans in Abington, Whitman worried about loss of services.
22. 5 things to know about getting a VA loan.
23. Civilian charged with stealing from Navy denies guilt.
24. Tampa VA worker gets six years for trading IDs for crack.
25. Multiple employees at Milwaukee's VA Center under investigation.
26. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 7, 2014:
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1. ['So many questions': Botched recovery mission didn't follow JPAC's own protocol.](#) Families of the missing and JPAC whistleblowers believe modern technology and the analysis of war and post-war documents can easily identify a great number of these World War II unknowns but say JPAC has chosen to ignore them.
2. [Sailors reassured that budget cuts won't affect staffing levels.](#) In the wake of Pentagon plans to slash the size of the Army and to rein in military spending, the chief of naval personnel insisted during a worldwide all-hands call Wednesday that the U.S. Navy would not be cutting back on personnel.
3. [Army's top sex assault prosecutor suspended after assault allegation.](#) The top Army prosecutor for sexual assault cases has been suspended after a lawyer who worked for him recently reported he'd groped her and tried to kiss her at a sexual-assault legal conference more than two years ago.
4. [Bill to remove commanders from sex assault prosecutions fails.](#) A Senate measure to strip military commanders of authority over prosecutions of sexual assaults and other serious crimes failed Thursday in a procedural vote.
5. [Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair admits guilt on 3 counts; denies sex assault.](#) Speaking in a hoarse voice with a rich Southern drawl, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair pleaded guilty Thursday to several misconduct charges, describing to a military judge an illicit sexual affair with a junior officer and inappropriate sex talk with two other female officers who sent him nude photos of themselves.
6. [VRAP gets cash to carry through school terms.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Army Times:** A \$65 million fix by the Veterans Affairs Department will keep thousands of unemployed veterans in job training programs through the end of this semester.
7. [Veterans' Attorney Voices Concerns About VA's Reported Destruction of Veterans' Medical Records.](#) [DigitalJournal.com](#) According to a February 26, 2014 report on Fox News, employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) destroyed veterans' medical files in an ...
8. [New bill aims to improve veteran's rights for those honorably discharged.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KXII-TV:** Ardmore State Senator Frank Simpson is pushing fellow legislators to do more for his fellow Oklahoma veterans. He's authored two bills aimed at better services and representation for all honorably discharged Oklahoma veterans.

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9. [U.S. Senate bill aims to streamline VA claims, reduce backlog. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Las Vegas Review Journal:** A bill that aims to streamline veterans claims was proposed in Congress on Thursday by senators who said the government has failed to uphold its duty to disabled service members for the past 20 years.
10. [Veterans benefits claims backlog: proposed legislation addresses a comprehensive problem. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Patriot-News:** On Wednesday afternoon, Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., is set to unveil legislation designed to reduce a chronic backlog of veterans benefits claims that impacts approximately a million veterans.
11. [No Money for Bold Men. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Show with Jon Stewart (Video):** In this 3:22 clip (Part 1 of 2), at 2:02 Jon Stewart begins to address the Senate's rejection of Senator Bernie Sanders' Veterans Omnibus Bill, focusing on Republicans' role in its defeat.
12. [Proposed DHA budget would triple funds for DoD-VA integrated EHR. Hyperlink to Article](#) **FierceHealthIT:** The Defense Health Agency has requested a seven percent budget increase for 2015--\$1.6 billion--to support operations and maintenance of health information management systems, [reports](#) *Nextgov*.
13. [Female Vets Speak At Nazareth College. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Rochester Homepage (Video):** Female veterans visited Nazareth College Wednesday night to talk about their experiences. The Office of Veterans Affairs at Nazareth honored International Women's Days by bringing four prominent female veterans to the school for a panel discussion. Organizers say it is an opportunity for enlisted students to see someone who was once in their shoes and a chance for civilians to learn about the reality of war.
14. [VA initiative shows early promise in reducing use of opioids for chronic pain. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Char-Koosta News:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has initiated a multi-faceted approach to reduce the use of opioids among America's veterans using VA health care.
15. [P.. T.. S.. D.. Help For Our Veterans. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Columbia Star:** Mankind's earliest literature tells us a significant proportion of military casualties are psychological, and witnessing death can leave chronic psychological symptoms.

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16. [All The World's A Stage: Using Shakespeare To Help Veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WUWM-FM (Audio)**: Using the characters and words of Shakespeare, the group works with veterans suffering from PTSD and a range of other mental health and reintegration issues.
17. [The War on Veterans: Congress and the White House Are Much Better at Starting Wars Than Cleaning Up After Them.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Truthout**: If our leaders really want to honor Cory Remsburg, they should stop making people go through what he experienced. It's time to stop waging unnecessary wars and start taking better care of our wounded warriors.
18. [Homeless vets say program promising help was 'a nightmare'.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KING-TV (Video)**: Kathie King is still adjusting to her whirlwind move from New Mexico to Oak Harbor -- a move that began last summer after she saw an ad on Craigslist. King said the ad intrigued her because it was titled, "Homes for Heroes, Homes for Veterans."
19. [Veterans launch effort to help homeless comrades.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WFMZ-TV**: Veterans served our country, and now people in Reading are gathering to serve them.
20. [Fewer homeless vets in Shreveport/Bossier.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KSLA-TV (Video)**: The latest numbers show the amount of homeless veterans in the Shreveport/Bossier area has dropped by more 32 percent, and now local groups are joining forces to try to eliminate homelessness as a whole.
21. [Veterans in Abington, Whitman worried about loss of services.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Wicked Local**: But Coyle and other local veterans say they fear a proposed regionalization of veterans services in Abington and Whitman will limit the effectiveness of veterans agents and diminish their ability to obtain benefits.
22. [5 things to know about getting a VA loan.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Bankrate.com**: As banks tighten lending standards, demand has increased tremendously in recent years for Veterans Affairs mortgages, known as VA loans.
23. [Civilian charged with stealing from Navy denies guilt.](#) A Navy civilian accused of forging documents and accepting more than \$360,000 in illegal housing payments pleaded not guilty to charges in a federal courtroom in Iowa on Tuesday.

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**24.** [Tampa VA worker gets six years for trading IDs for crack.](#) [Hyperlink to Article Tampa Bay Times:](#) On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington sentenced identity thief and former hospital clerk David F. Lewis, 50, to six years in prison after hearing from Timoney, one of dozens of victims.

**25.** [Multiple employees at Milwaukee's VA Center under investigation.](#) [Hyperlink to Article WISN-TV \(Video\):](#) WISN 12 News has learned of a criminal investigation at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center involving the staff. The VA Medical Center is being very tight-lipped about the exact nature of the investigation, but WISN 12 News learned it involves accusations of the misuse of prescription drugs and involves multiple employees.

## **26. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 7, 2014:**

- **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 12, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 13, 2014.** HVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
- **March 25, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 26, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.
- **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

## **27. Today in History:**

- [1799](#) – [Napoleon Bonaparte captures Jaffa](#) in [Palestine](#) and his troops proceed to kill more than 2,000 [Albanian](#) captives.
- [1814](#) – Emperor Napoleon I of France wins the [Battle of Craonne](#).
- [1827](#) – [Brazilian](#) marines unsuccessfully attack the temporary naval base of [Carmen de Patagones, Argentina](#).
- 1827 – [Shrigley Abduction: Ellen Turner](#) is [abducted](#) by [Edward Gibbon Wakefield](#), a future [politician](#) in colonial [New Zealand](#).
- [1850](#) – [Senator Daniel Webster](#) gives his "Seventh of March" speech endorsing the [Compromise of 1850](#) in order to prevent a possible [civil war](#).

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- [1862](#) – [American Civil War](#): [Union](#) forces defeat [Confederate](#) troops at the [Pea Ridge](#) in northwestern [Arkansas](#).
- [1876](#) – [Alexander Graham Bell](#) is granted a [patent](#) for an [invention](#) he calls the [telephone](#).
- [1900](#) – The [German](#) liner [SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse](#) becomes the first ship to send [wireless](#) signals to shore.
- [1902](#) – [Second Boer War](#): In the [Battle of Tweebosch](#), a [Boer](#) commando led by [Koos de la Rey](#) inflicts the biggest defeat upon the [British](#) since the beginning of the war
- [1912](#) – [Roald Amundsen](#) announces that his expedition had reached the [South Pole](#) on [December 14, 1911](#).
- [1914](#) – [Prince William of Wied](#) arrives in [Albania](#) to begin his reign.
- [1936](#) – [World War II](#) (Prelude to): In violation of the [Locarno Pact](#) and the [Treaty of Versailles](#), [Germany reoccupies the Rhineland](#).
- [1945](#) – World War II: American troops seize the [Ludendorff Bridge](#) over the [Rhine River](#) at [Remagen](#).
- [1950](#) – [Cold War](#): The [Soviet Union](#) issues a statement denying that [Klaus Fuchs](#) served as a [Soviet](#) spy.
- [1951](#) – [Korean War](#): [Operation Ripper](#) – [United Nations](#) troops led by [General Matthew Ridgeway](#) begin an assault against [Chinese](#) forces.
- [1965](#) – [Bloody Sunday](#): A group of 600 [civil rights](#) marchers are forcefully broken up in [Selma](#), Alabama.
- [1968](#) – [Vietnam War](#): The [United States](#) and [South Vietnamese military](#) begin [Operation Truong Cong Dinh](#) to root out [Viet Cong](#) forces from the area surrounding [Mỹ Tho](#).
- [1985](#) – The song "[We Are the World](#)" receives its international release.
- [1986](#) – [Challenger Disaster](#): Divers from the [USS Preserver](#) locate the crew cabin of [Challenger](#) on the ocean floor.
- [1989](#) – [Iran](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) break diplomatic relations after a row over [Salman Rushdie](#) and his controversial novel, [The Satanic Verses](#).
- [1994](#) – [Copyright Law](#): The [U.S. Supreme Court](#) rules that [parodies of an original work are generally covered](#) by the doctrine of [fair use](#).
- [2004](#) – [New Democracy](#) wins the [Greek elections](#).
- [2006](#) – The terrorist organization [Lashkar-e-Taiba](#) coordinates a [series of bombings](#) in [Varanasi](#), [India](#).
- [2007](#) – The [British House of Commons](#) votes to make the upper chamber, the [House of Lords](#), 100% elected.
- [2009](#) – The [Real Irish Republican Army](#) [kills](#) two British soldiers and two civilians, the first [British military](#) deaths in [Northern Ireland](#) since [The Troubles](#).
- [2009](#) – The [Kepler space observatory](#), designed to discover [Earth-like planets](#) orbiting other stars, is launched.