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3. Navy opens 267 Coastal Riverine Force jobs to women.
4. The last casualties: As a long war ends, risks still prove real.
5. Lawmakers seek extension of vets' unemployment benefits.
6. Post-9/11 vet unemployment rate jumps to 9.2 percent.
7. VA didn't pay some veterans' health costs, report says.
8. Researchers link Iraq dust with some vets' lung problems.
9. Preop PET Cuts Lung Cancer Surgery.
10. Study ties troubled sleep to lower brain volume.
11. Current Mental-Health Resources Fail Our Heroes.
12. 'We have to learn how to come home,' says veteran at conference.
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1. [Pentagon outlines ideas for hybrid retirement system](#). Amid attempts to reduce military personnel spending, the Pentagon on Thursday presented its official thinking on the politically touchy issue of how remake the military retirement system.
2. [Commissaries to be run as a business, not a benefit](#). Behind the plan to slash taxpayer support of commissaries is a concept Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and his senior advisors have embraced that base grocery stores should operate as a business and not a benefit.
3. [Navy opens 267 Coastal Riverine Force jobs to women](#). Women can now be assigned to the 267 combat positions in the Coastal Riverine Force that were previously closed to them, the Navy announced Friday.
4. [The last casualties: As a long war ends, risks still prove real](#). These days, 12 years after the start of America's longest war, far fewer U.S. troops are being killed or wounded in Afghanistan. The military's drawdown has picked up pace, and Afghans have begun to shoulder the brunt of the fighting. But the war continues to churn out American casualties by the dozen each week. Their injuries rarely make headlines.
5. [Lawmakers seek extension of vets' unemployment benefits](#). The Help Hire Our Heroes Act, which would continue training assistance for unemployed veterans, has been introduced in the House.
6. [Post-9/11 vet unemployment rate jumps to 9.2 percent](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Military Times: The unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans jumped in February, nearly erasing the gains of a few months ago, Bureau of Labor Statistics data show.
7. [VA didn't pay some veterans' health costs, report says](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)
USA Today: Even as the Obama administration works to provide health coverage to millions of uninsured Americans, government investigators uncovered dozens of cases where the VA failed to cover emergency hospital costs for uninsured disabled veterans.
8. [Researchers link Iraq dust with some vets' lung problems](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Military Times: Researchers at Stony Brook University in New York have coined the term "Iraq-Afghanistan war lung injury" to describe respiratory symptoms developed by some veterans — and they have duplicated the problem in mice, using dust from Camp Victory in Baghdad

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9. [Preop PET Cuts Lung Cancer Surgery. **Hyperlink to Article** MedPage Today:](#) Routine preoperative PET imaging led to a significant reduction in unnecessary surgery for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a review of almost 1,000 cases showed.

10. [Study ties troubled sleep to lower brain volume. **Hyperlink to Article**](#) **Reuters:** People who have trouble sleeping tend to have less volume in certain regions of the brain than those without sleep problems, a new study of Persian Gulf War veterans suggests.

11. [Current Mental-Health Resources Fail Our Heroes. **Hyperlink to Article**](#) **Roll Call:** In January, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported that suicide rates for younger veterans, ages 18 to 29, had increased significantly from 2009 to 2011. The suicide rate for male veterans increased by 44 percent, while the rate among female veterans increased by 11 percent.

12. [‘We have to learn how to come home,’ says veteran at conference. **Hyperlink to Article**](#) **The News Tribune:** Wicks shared his story Friday with an audience of nearly 200 at the University of Washington Tacoma, urging them to show compassionate, nonjudgmental care for veterans leaving the military after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan... His testimony was part of a conference on veterans and military families that was targeted at professionals in social work, counseling and human resources.

13. [Heinrich Continues To Tackle Veterans Claims Backlog. **Hyperlink to Article**](#) **KRWG-FM:** U.S. Senator Marin Heinrich (D-N.M.) joined his colleagues on the VA Backlog Working Group... to unveil the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Reform Act, a comprehensive bill designed to reduce the backlog of veterans' disability claims.

14. [Benefit sessions planned for women veterans. **Hyperlink to Article**](#) **The Stokes News:** “March is the month the Department of Veteran’s Affairs recognizes female veterans,” said Veterans Service Officer Larry Hunsucker. He said there are approximately 4,200 veterans in Stokes County. “From looking at recent data it is obvious that the female veteran population in Stokes County has increased. It is safe to assume that 15 percent of the population may be women who have served in active duty.”

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15. [In-state tuition veteran bill stuck in Legislature.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Tribune:** Even though there's bipartisan support in the Legislature for the idea that veterans should automatically get in-state tuition at Washington colleges and universities, bills to do just that are stuck because lawmakers can't agree who should get credit for the policy.
16. [Building Bridges Between the Military and Universities.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The New York Times (At War):** As the military downsizes and returns to pre-war force levels or below, many of those leaving the service will take advantage of the post-9/11 GI Bill to obtain a university education. At the same time, senior military leaders of the last decade are seeking post-retirement opportunities, with some turning to universities to take positions as lecturers.
17. [Glendale group assists homeless women veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **YourWestValley.com:** The Retired Enlisted Association Chapter 34 in Glendale made a monetary donation on Feb. 13 to assist homeless women veterans... The goal is to raise awareness to the issue of homelessness among veterans. TREA supports military community outreach events.
18. [Veterans to get help standing down.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Bolivar Commercial:** After serving in the Vietnam War, many soldiers were relieved to hear the words, "Stand down soldier," from their commanding officers... The Gulf Coast Veteran Advocacy Council, Inc. and Taborian Urgent Care Center in Mound Bayou will host Mississippi's first Homeless Veterans Stand-Down.
19. [American Legion seeking comment on Cleveland VA medical center.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Plain Dealer:** The American Legion will be seeking public input regarding the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center in a town hall meeting on March 10.
20. [VA Accountability: a Project of Concerned Veterans for America.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Salem-News.com:** Suffice it to say, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is worried. News stories of persistent backlogs, destruction of records, and preventable deaths are flooding the airwaves -- and VA is in full-panic mode... Yet nothing has changed. Nobody has been fired. There is still no accountability inside VA's calcified bureaucracy.

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21. [VA2Vets Tour rolls through Georgia](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WAGA-TV (Video)**: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is rolling out the VA2Vets Tour to make sure eligible Veterans get the benefits that are available to them. The nationwide tour includes 70 RV's that are set up as mobile vet centers. They will roam the nation to reach as many counties as possible. The goal is to be accessible to Veterans who might otherwise not have access to a VA Center.

22. [Whistle-Blower Gets \\$63.9 Million as a Result of JPMorgan Settlement](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The New York Times (DealBook)**: A Louisiana man who helped federal prosecutors make their case against JPMorgan Chase's mortgage lending practices has earned \$63.9 million for his efforts.

23. [Milwaukee VA center co-workers charged with trading prescription drugs](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**: Four co-workers have been charged with exchanging or selling their own prescription medications while on the job at the Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

24. [Bidders vie for a piece of aviation history](#). A rare piece of Pearl Harbor's Dec. 7, 1941, history that even the USS Arizona Memorial museum would like to have in its collection is up for sale on eBay.

25. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 8, 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.

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26. Today in History:

- [1658](#) – [Treaty of Roskilde](#): After a devastating defeat in the [Northern Wars](#) (1655–1661), [Frederick III](#), the King of [Denmark-Norway](#) is forced to give up nearly half his territory to [Sweden](#) to save the rest.
- [1702](#) – [Anne Stuart](#), sister of [Mary II](#), becomes [Queen regnant](#) of [England](#), [Scotland](#), and [Ireland](#).
- [1722](#) – The [Safavid Empire](#) of [Iran](#) is defeated by an army from [Afghanistan](#) at [The Battle of Gulnabad](#), pushing Iran into anarchy.
- [1736](#) – [Nader Shah](#), founder of the [Afsharid dynasty](#), is crowned [Shah of Iran](#).
- [1775](#) – An anonymous writer, thought by some to be [Thomas Paine](#), publishes "African Slavery in America", the first article in the American colonies calling for the [emancipation](#) of slaves and the abolition of slavery.
- [1777](#) – Regiments from [Ansbach and Bayreuth](#), sent to support [Great Britain](#) in the [American Revolutionary War](#), mutiny in the town of [Ochsenfurt](#).
- [1782](#) – [Gnadenhütten massacre](#): Ninety-six [Native Americans](#) in [Gnadenhutten](#), [Ohio](#), who had converted to [Christianity](#) are killed by [Pennsylvania](#) militiamen in retaliation for raids carried out by other Indians.
- [1801](#) – [War of the Second Coalition](#): At the [Battle of Abukir](#), a British force under Sir [Ralph Abercromby](#) lands in Egypt with the aim of ending the [French campaign in Egypt and Syria](#).
- [1817](#) – The [New York Stock Exchange](#) is founded.
- [1844](#) – [King Oscar I](#) ascends to the thrones of [Sweden and Norway](#).
- [1862](#) – [American Civil War](#): The iron-clad [CSS Virginia](#) (formerly [USS Merrimack](#)) is launched at [Hampton Roads](#), [Virginia](#).
- [1868](#) – [Sakai incident](#): Japanese [samurai](#) kill 11 French sailors in the port of [Sakai](#) near [Osaka](#).
- [1910](#) – [French aviatrix Raymonde de Laroche](#) becomes the first woman to receive a [pilot's license](#).
- [1911](#) – [International Women's Day](#) is launched in [Copenhagen](#), [Denmark](#), by [Clara Zetkin](#), leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in [Germany](#).
- [1916](#) – [World War I](#): A [British](#) force unsuccessfully attempts to relieve the siege of [Kut](#) (present-day [Iraq](#)) in the [Battle of Dujaila](#).
- [1917](#) – International Women's Day protests in [St. Petersburg](#) mark the beginning of the [February Revolution](#) (so named because it was February on the [Julian calendar](#)).
- 1917 – The [United States Senate](#) votes to limit [filibusters](#) by adopting the [cloture rule](#).
- [1920](#) – The [Arab Kingdom of Syria](#), the first modern [Arab](#) state to come into existence, is established.
- [1921](#) – [Spanish Premier Eduardo Dato Irujo](#) is assassinated while exiting the [parliament](#) building in [Madrid](#).
- [1924](#) – The [Castle Gate mine disaster](#) kills 172 coal miners near [Castle Gate](#), [Utah](#).
- [1936](#) – [Daytona Beach Road Course](#) holds its first oval [stock car](#) race.
- [1937](#) – [Spanish Civil War](#): The [Battle of Guadalajara](#) begins.
- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): The [Dutch](#) surrender to Japanese forces on [Java](#).

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- [1947](#) – Thirteen thousand troops sent by the [Kuomintang](#) government of [China](#) arrived in [Taiwan](#) after the [228 Incident](#) and launched crackdowns which killed at least thousands of people, including many elites. This turned into a major root of the [Taiwan independence movement](#).
- [1949](#) – [Mildred Gillars](#) ("Axis Sally") is condemned to prison for treason.
- [1957](#) – [Egypt](#) re-opens the [Suez Canal](#) after the [Suez Crisis](#).
- 1957 – The [1957 Georgia Memorial to Congress](#), which petitions the [U.S. Congress](#) to declare the ratification of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the [U.S. Constitution](#) null and void, is adopted by the [U.S. state of Georgia](#).
- [1963](#) – The [Ba'ath Party](#) comes to power in [Syria](#) in a [coup d'état](#) by a clique of quasi-leftist Syrian Army officers calling themselves the National Council of the Revolutionary Command.
- [1966](#) – A bomb planted by [Irish Republicans](#) destroys [Nelson's Pillar](#) in [Dublin](#).
- [1974](#) – [Charles de Gaulle Airport](#) opens in [Paris, France](#).
- [1978](#) – The first radio episode of [The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#), by [Douglas Adams](#), is transmitted on [BBC Radio 4](#).
- [1979](#) – [Philips](#) demonstrates the [Compact Disc](#) publicly for the first time.
- [1983](#) – U.S. [President Ronald Reagan](#) calls the Soviet Union an "[evil empire](#)".
- [1985](#) – A [failed assassination attempt](#) on [Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah](#) in [Beirut, Lebanon](#), kills at least 45 and injures 175 others.
- [2004](#) – A new [constitution](#) is signed by [Iraq's Governing Council](#).