

June 27, 2013

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2. GAO slams USAID's Haiti rebuilding efforts.
3. Obama re-nominates Dempsey as chairman of the joint chiefs.
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5. Sneakers to women's underwear for troops skirt buy-American law.
6. US, S. Korea start talks next week on divvying up troop expenses.
7. Supreme Court strikes down DOMA; Hagel promises benefits ASAP.
8. Veterans will have disability claims answered faster with new system.
9. Shinseki: Utah VA 'superb' in pilot of new system for veteran disability claims.
10. Veterans' Disability Compensation Claims Go Electronic.
11. New study links PTSD to heart disease, other ailments.
12. Senators Criticize VA Approach to Reviewing Sexual Assault Claims.
13. Study shows lifestyle change works in a large national healthcare system.
14. Helping female veterans with jobs, housing, counseling.
15. Fresh from War, Veterans Need Interpreters to Land Jobs.
16. For Veterans, Lottery Funds Are No Sure Bet.
17. Coalition strives to provide 100 homes in 100 days for Dallas-area veterans in need.
18. PTSD Stricken Soldiers in Yelm Say Horses Save Lives.
19. West Deptford veteran honored Phillies.
20. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 27, 2013:
21. Today in History:

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1. ['Candy Bomber' featured quest at 65th Berlin Airlift anniversary](#). It's been 65 years since the children of Berlin gazed into the sky in anticipation of seeing chocolate bars tied to parachutes dropping from pilot Gail Halvorsen's plane.
2. [GAO slams USAID's Haiti rebuilding efforts](#). U.S. efforts to help rebuild Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake have been plagued by poor planning, delays and mistaken cost estimates that have forced many projects to be scaled back, the Government Accountability Office has concluded in a report released this month.
3. [Obama renominates Dempsey as chairman of the joint chiefs](#). The White House announced Wednesday afternoon that President Obama intends to renominate Gen. Martin Dempsey as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Adm. James 'Sandy' Winnefeld as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
4. [GAO slams USAID's Haiti rebuilding efforts](#). U.S. efforts to help rebuild Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake have been plagued by poor planning, delays and mistaken cost estimates that have forced many projects to be scaled back, the Government Accountability Office has concluded in a report released this month.
5. [Sneakers to women's underwear for troops skirt buy-American law](#). At boot camp, U.S. Army recruits receive four sets of camouflage fatigues, 100 percent American-made. For women, the clothing package from Uncle Sam is missing one layer: undies. Neither gender gets sneakers.
6. [US, S. Korea start talks next week on divvying up troop expenses](#). The U.S. and South Korea will begin negotiations next week on how much each country will pay for the upkeep of American troops on the peninsula, according to South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
7. [Supreme Court strikes down DOMA; Hagel promises benefits ASAP](#). Gay military couples could soon have access to the same benefits as their heterosexual counterparts with today's Supreme Court decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act.
8. [Veterans will have disability claims answered faster with new system](#). [KTVB](#) The U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs was in Boise Wednesday for a big announcement for veterans looking to file for a disability claim. It surrounds processing claims faster. The big announcement changes the way veterans will file a disability

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9. [Shinseki: Utah VA 'superb' in pilot of new system for veteran disability claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Salt Lake Tribune:** Veterans can now file their disability claims online, a move that will help the Department of Veterans Affairs erase its backlog of claims in 2015, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said in Salt Lake City Tuesday.
10. [Veterans' Disability Compensation Claims Go Electronic.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **KTVX-TV:** The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the launch of an electronic claims processing system, called the Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS). They hope the system will help them eliminate the disability backlog by the end of 2015.
11. [New study links PTSD to heart disease, other ailments.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **USA Today:** More scientists worry that mental illnesses from war, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, can damage the body as much as the emotions. Some even speculate that war could cause an early aging affect.
12. [Senators Criticize VA Approach to Reviewing Sexual Assault Claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Government Executive:** The Veterans Affairs Department is facing criticism from two senators over its approach to reviewing previously denied disability claims related to sexual trauma.
13. [Study shows lifestyle change works in a large national healthcare system.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Emory University:** A study conducted by researchers at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and Emory University demonstrates that lifestyle change can be achieved in a large-scale healthcare setting and could be a model strategy for fighting diabetes nationally. The research was presented at the American Diabetes Association's 73rd Scientific Sessions.
14. [Helping female veterans with jobs, housing, counseling.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **KCPQ-TV (Video):** On Saturday, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs is hosting the 2013 Washington Women Veterans Summit at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center, offering help with housing, jobs and counseling services.
15. [Fresh from War, Veterans Need Interpreters to Land Jobs.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Time:** Military veterans and hiring managers are at an impasse: employers are looking for the skills veterans possess, but military jargon goes one way, and business lingo the other, often leaving both parties lost in translation.
16. [For Veterans, Lottery Funds Are No Sure Bet.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Wall Street Journal:** Veterans Cash, a Texas lottery game that the state started in 2009 to benefit former soldiers, has been a boon to charities that applied to receive its funds... But now, ticket sales are waning as the novelty wears off, according to state officials, while a growing number of nonprofit groups compete for the game's dwindling proceeds as they try to help soldiers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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17. [Coalition strives to provide 100 homes in 100 days for Dallas-area veterans in need.](#) [Hyperlink to Story Dallas Morning News \(The Scoop Blog\)](#): The initiative represents “a promise that we can do better as a community for taking care of our veterans,” said Michael Faenza, president and CEO of the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance.
18. [PTSD Stricken Soldiers in Yelm Say Horses Save Lives.](#) [Hyperlink to Story MyNorthwest.com](#): Moises was at the VA office when he learned about Rainier Therapeutic Riding, a non profit program in Yelm that uses horse back riding to help active duty and veteran soldiers with PTSD. The program is completely free and soldiers can come for as long as they'd like. I asked Moises if he had ever ridden a horse before.
19. [West Deptford veteran honored Phillies.](#) [Hyperlink to Story NJ.com](#): Every year, Major League Baseball engages in their “Tribute for Heroes” campaign... Each major league team selects three people from their area that are deserving veterans or current service members... Louis Namm was nominated... Namm has worked for the Veterans Affairs (VA) in the Vocational Rehabilitation office in Philadelphia for 39 years. There, he helps encourage and guide veterans back into society, school and work.
20. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 27, 2013:**
 - **June 27, 2013.** HVAC will hold a hearing to discuss VA's capital investment options to provide Veterans with care. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon
 - **July 10, 2013.** The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Armed Services entitled, “DOD and VA Collaboration to assist Service Members Returning to Civilian Life.” 10:00 A.M.; 2118 Rayburn
21. **Today in History:**
 - [1743](#) – [War of the Austrian Succession: Battle of Dettingen](#): On the battlefield in Bavaria, [George II](#) personally leads troops into battle. The last time that a British monarch would command troops in the field.
 - [1759](#) – General [James Wolfe](#) begins the siege of [Quebec](#).
 - [1806](#) – British forces take [Buenos Aires](#) during the first [British invasions of the Río de la Plata](#).
 - [1895](#) – The inaugural run of the [Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's Royal Blue](#) from [Washington, D.C.](#), to [New York, New York](#), the first U.S. passenger train to use [electric locomotives](#).
 - [1898](#) – The first solo [circumnavigation](#) of the globe is completed by [Joshua Slocum](#) from Briar Island, [Nova Scotia](#).
 - [1905](#) – [Battleship Potemkin uprising](#): sailors start a mutiny aboard the Battleship *Potemkin*, denouncing the crimes of autocracy, demanding liberty and an end to war.

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- [1923](#) – Capt. [Lowell H. Smith](#) and Lt. John P. Richter perform the first ever [aerial refueling](#) in a [DH-4B biplane](#)
- [1927](#) – [Prime Minister of Japan Tanaka Giichi](#) leads a conference to discuss [Japan's](#) plans for [China](#); later, a document detailing these plans, the "[Tanaka Memorial](#)" is leaked, although it is now considered a forgery.
- [1941](#) – Romanian governmental forces, allies of Nazi Germany, launch [one of the most violent pogroms](#) in Jewish history in the city of [Iasi](#), ([Romania](#)), resulting in the murder of at least 13,266 Jews.
- [1941](#) – German troops capture the city of [Bialystok](#) during [Operation Barbarossa](#).
- [1946](#) – In the [Canadian Citizenship Act](#), the [Parliament of Canada](#) establishes the definition of Canadian citizenship.
- [1950](#) – The [United States](#) decides to send troops to fight in the [Korean War](#).
- [1954](#) – The world's first [nuclear power station](#) opens in [Obninsk](#), near [Moscow](#).
- [1954](#) – The [1954 FIFA World Cup](#) quarterfinal match between [Hungary](#) and [Brazil](#), highly anticipated to be exciting, instead [turns violent](#), with three players ejected and further fighting continuing after the game.
- [1957](#) – [Hurricane Audrey](#) makes landfall near the [Texas-Louisiana](#) border, killing over 400 people, mainly in and around [Cameron, Louisiana](#).
- [1971](#) – After only three years in business, rock promoter [Bill Graham](#) closes the [Fillmore East](#) in New York, New York, the "Church of Rock and Roll".
- [1973](#) – The [President of Uruguay Juan María Bordaberry](#) dissolves Parliament and establishes a dictatorship.
- [1974](#) – U.S. president [Richard Nixon](#) visits the [Soviet Union](#).
- [1976](#) – [Air France Flight 139 \(Tel Aviv-Athens-Paris\)](#) is hijacked en route to Paris by the [PLO](#) and redirected to [Entebbe, Uganda](#).
- [1977](#) – [France](#) grants independence to [Djibouti](#).
- [1980](#) – [Italian Aerolinee Itavia Flight 870](#) mysteriously explodes in mid air while in route from [Bologna](#) to [Palermo](#), killing all 81 on board. Also known in Italy as the [Ustica disaster](#)
- [1981](#) – The [Central Committee of the Communist Party of China](#) issues its "Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China", laying the blame for the [Cultural Revolution](#) on [Mao Zedong](#).
- [1982](#) – [Space Shuttle Columbia](#) launched from the [Kennedy Space Center](#) on the final research and development flight mission, [STS-4](#).
- [1985](#) – The [U.S. Route 66](#) is closed
- [1991](#) – [Slovenia](#), after declaring independence two days before is invaded by [Yugoslav](#) troops, tanks, and aircraft starting the [Ten-Day War](#).
- [2007](#) – [Tony Blair](#) British Prime Minister since 2nd May 1997, resigns
- [2007](#) – The [Brazilian Military Police](#) invades the [favelas](#) of [Complexo do Alemão](#) in an episode which is remembered as the [Complexo do Alemão massacre](#).
- [2008](#) – In a [highly-scrutinized election](#) [President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe](#) is re-elected in a landslide after his opponent [Morgan Tsvangirai](#) had withdrawn a week earlier, citing violence against [his party's](#) supporters.