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- 2. US, South Korea not backing down to North Korea's threats.**
- 3. Brain research could lead to breakthroughs for troops with TBI, PTSD.**
- 4. As US packs up in Afghanistan, the return of the dreaded MRE.**
- 5. Disabled Veterans Sports Clinic Opens in Colorado.**
- 6. Disabled veterans gather at Snowmass.**
- 7. VA wait time for first-time veterans claims lowest in Providence.**
- 8. Klobuchar, Walz tout bill to restore vets benefits.**
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- 10. Student veterans and a space of their own: A tale of two schools.**
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- 12. VA Butler to set to break ground on outpatient center.**
- 13. Jeff Crawford Worried Veterans Affairs Housing Program Would Evict Him For Medical Marijuana Use.**
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- 15. Louisiana soldier looks past back injury to new baby, new career.**
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1. [Hagel to forfeit part of salary in keeping with furloughs.](#) Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has agreed to forfeit part of his salary to show solidarity with civilian workers who will be forced to take unpaid leave, Pentagon spokesman George Little said today.
2. [US, South Korea not backing down to North Korea's threats.](#) Outsiders may think war could break out at any minute, and perhaps it could. But for South Koreans, the current crisis with North Korea is just another chapter in a long history of confrontations with their provocative neighbor.
3. [Brain research could lead to breakthroughs for troops with TBI, PTSD.](#) The White House on Tuesday unveiled a \$100 million research initiative to better understand how the human brain works, a bold undertaking with potentially life-changing ramifications for troops with debilitating combat injuries.
4. [As US packs up in Afghanistan, the return of the dreaded MRE.](#) After years of base buildups and access to massive dining halls with a substantial selection of ethnic food options and specialty nights, soon many servicemembers will instead be chowing down on a plateful of MRE, or Meals, Ready to Eat — also referred to by nicknames inspired by the packaged food's taste, or lack thereof.
5. [Disabled Veterans Sports Clinic Opens in Colorado.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#)
American Forces Press Service: An Iraq war veteran now serving as a senior Department of Veterans Affairs official opened the world's largest and longest-running disabled sports event here last night, and he challenged almost 400 veterans to reach for new heights through teamwork and mental and physical toughness.
6. [Disabled veterans gather at Snowmass.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Aspen Times:**
Nearly 400 U.S. military veterans — ranging from an 87-year-old former soldier in the Korean war to a 21-year-old recently wounded in Afghanistan — have converged at Snowmass Village for the 27th annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.
7. [VA wait time for first-time veterans claims lowest in Providence.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Providence Journal:** Veterans are now waiting nearly 11 months for the first-time claims to be processed by the Veterans Administration. But the wait in Providence is only one quarter of that average.

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8. [Klobuchar, Walz tout bill to restore vets benefits. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Post-Bulletin:** Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Congressman Tim Walz are holding a Minneapolis press conference to discuss their legislation aimed at helping wrongly discharged military veterans restore their benefits.

9. [Why I Like Veterans in My Classes. Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Wall Street Journal:** I teach health-care administration in a large state university. I can almost always spot veteran students, of either gender. They operate with a "get it done" mentality—no fooling around, no whining, no missed deadlines. Natural leaders and organizers on team projects, they work hard themselves and expect everyone else to do their part.

10. [Student veterans and a space of their own: A tale of two schools. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Public Insight Network:** There are more veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan studying at American colleges and universities today than ever before. For many of them, the ticket to higher education has been the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

11. [Service: When Women Come Marching Home. Hyperlink to Story](#) **KQED (Video):** KQED aired an hour long documentary on Women Veterans. The following link includes the 3:15 minute trailer and 29 second PBS promotion for that documentary.

12. [VA Butler to set to break ground on outpatient center. Hyperlink to Above Story](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** The Department of Veterans Affairs and Westar Development plan to break ground on Friday on a \$75 million outpatient center in Butler that will have a state-of-the-art water sterilization system designed to prevent a Legionnaires' outbreak such as the ones in VA hospitals in Pittsburgh.

13. [Jeff Crawford Worried Veterans Affairs Housing Program Would Evict Him For Medical Marijuana Use. Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Huffington Post:** An Army veteran says he was in danger of losing the apartment he found through Veterans Affairs simply because he uses medical marijuana -- but the apartment provider says it was all a big misunderstanding.

14. [Viewpoint: Why PTSD could mean the end of the all-volunteer military. Hyperlink to Story](#) **MLive.com:** The pathology of post-traumatic stress disorder and major depression will be the demise of the all-volunteer Army. Because of the persistent effects of mental illness among veterans, the military is losing its ability to lure the next generation.

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15. [Louisiana soldier looks past back injury to new baby, new career.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Denver Post (El Paso Times)**: But when he arrived back at Fort Bliss at the end of the 11-month deployment and went through in-processing, they did some x-rays and discovered the extent of his injury. Williams is now attached to the Fort Bliss Warrior Transition Battalion. He has been getting treatment for about 15 months and is getting help with his transition to the next phase of his life.
16. [Veterans services may be regionalized.](#) [Hyperlink to Above Story](#) **The Daily News of Newburyport**: City officials have engaged in preliminary discussions about the possibility of merging Amesbury's Veterans' Services department with those in Newburyport, Newbury, Merrimac and Salisbury to create a new regionalized service that would serve veterans living in all five communities.
17. [ABC 33/40 News at 6PM.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **WCFT (Video)**: WCFT reports in a 36 second video on clergy being trained in supporting Veterans with PTSD at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center.
18. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as April 3, 2013:**
- **(TBD)**. The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs. 10:00 A.M.; 418 Russell
 - **April 10, 2013**. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, will conduct a hearing entitled "Sustaining the Sacred Trust: An Update on our National Cemeteries." 2:30 P.M.; 334 Cannon
 - **April 10, 2013**. The House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity is expected to hold a legislative hearing on Educational Benefits and other purposes. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon

The list of bills is as follows:

- *H.R. 357* GI Tuition and Fairness Act (Rep. Jeff Miller (FL))
- *H.R. 844* VetSuccess Enhancement Act (Rep. Mark Takano (CA))
- *H.R. 631* Servicemembers' Choice in transition Act of 2013 (Rep. Bill Flores (TX))
- *H.R. 562* VRAP Extension Act of 2013 (Rep. Jeff Miller (FL))
- *H.R. 1305* Eligibility under the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
- *H.R. 1316* Responsibilities of the Directors and Assistant Directors of Veterans Employment and Training
- *H.R. 1402* Five-year extension of Paralympics program authorities (grant and stipend)

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- Five-year extension of certain work-study authorities (expected to be introduced shortly)
- Draft bill entitled Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013 (expected to be introduced shortly)
- **April 11, 2013.** HVAC FY14 Budget Hearing. 10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.; 334 Cannon House Office Building
- **April 16, 2013 (T).** The House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs is expected to hold a legislative hearing on Disability Benefits and other purposes.

The tentative bill list is as follows:

- H.R. 569 Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013 (Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ))
 - H.R. 570 American Heroes COLA Act (Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ))
 - H.R. 602 Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act (Rep. Jeff Miller (FL))
 - H.R. 671 Ruth Moore Act of 2013 (Rep. Chellie Pingree (ME))
 - H.R. 679 Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act (Rep. Tim Walz (MN))
 - H.R. 733 Access to Veterans benefits Improvement Act (Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ))
 - H.R. 894 Improve Supervision of Fiduciaries of Veterans (Rep. Bill Johnson (OH))
 - H.R. 1405 Inclusion of an appeals form in any notice of decision issued for the denial of a benefit claim
- **April 18, 2013.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY14 Budget Hearing. 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.; H-140, Capitol
 - **April 18, 2013.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY14 Budget Hearing. 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.; 125 Dirksen

19. Today in History:

- [1834](#) – The generals in the [Greek War of Independence](#) stand trial for [treason](#).
- [1860](#) – The first successful [United States Pony Express](#) run from [Saint Joseph, Missouri](#) to [Sacramento, California](#) begins.
- [1865](#) – [American Civil War](#): [Union](#) forces capture [Richmond, Virginia](#), the capital of the [Confederate States of America](#).
- [1882](#) – [American Old West](#): [Jesse James](#) is killed by [Robert Ford](#).
- [1885](#) – [Gottlieb Daimler](#) is granted a [German patent](#) for his [engine](#) design.
- [1888](#) – The first of 11 [unsolved brutal murders](#) of women committed in or near the impoverished [Whitechapel](#) district in the [East End](#) of [London](#), occurs.
- [1895](#) – Trial of the [libel](#) case instigated by [Oscar Wilde](#) begins, eventually resulting in his imprisonment on charges of [homosexuality](#).
- [1922](#) – [Joseph Stalin](#) becomes the first [General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union](#).

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- [1929](#) – [RMS Queen Mary](#) is ordered from [John Brown & Company Shipbuilding and Engineering](#) by [Cunard Line](#).
- [1936](#) – [Bruno Richard Hauptmann](#) is executed for the kidnapping and death of [Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr.](#), the baby son of pilot [Charles Lindbergh](#).
- [1942](#) – [World War II: Japanese](#) forces begin an assault on the [United States](#) and [Filipino](#) troops on the [Bataan Peninsula](#).
- [1946](#) – Japanese [Lt. General Masaharu Homma](#) is executed in the Philippines for leading the [Bataan Death March](#).
- [1948](#) – [President Harry S. Truman](#) signs the [Marshall Plan](#), authorizing \$5 billion in aid for 16 countries.
- [1948](#) – In [Jeju, South Korea](#), a civil-war-like period of violence and [human rights abuses](#) begins, known as the [Jeju massacre](#).
- [1955](#) – The [American Civil Liberties Union](#) announces it will defend [Allen Ginsberg](#)'s book [Howl](#) against [obscenity](#) charges.
- [1968](#) – [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) delivers his "[I've Been to the Mountaintop](#)" speech.
- [1969](#) – [Vietnam War: United States Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird](#) announces that the United States will start to "[Vietnamize](#)" the war effort.
- [1973](#) – [Martin Cooper](#) of [Motorola](#) made the [first handheld mobile phone call](#) to [Joel S. Engel](#) of [Bell Labs](#), though it took ten years for the [DynaTAC 8000X](#) to become the first such phone to be commercially released.
- [1974](#) – [The Super Outbreak](#) occurs, the second biggest tornado outbreak in recorded history (after the [April 25–28, 2011 tornado outbreak](#)). The death toll is 315, with nearly 5,500 injured.
- [1975](#) – [Bobby Fischer](#) refuses to play in a [chess](#) match against [Anatoly Karpov](#), giving Karpov the title of World Champion by default.
- [1981](#) – The [Osborne 1](#), the first successful [portable computer](#), is unveiled at the [West Coast Computer Faire](#) in [San Francisco](#).
- [1996](#) – Suspected "Unabomber" [Theodore Kaczynski](#) is captured at his cabin in [Montana, United States](#).
- [1996](#) – A [United States Air Force](#) airplane carrying [United States Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown](#) crashes in [Croatia](#), killing all 35 on board.
- [1997](#) – The [Thalit massacre](#) begins in [Algeria](#); all but 1 of the 53 inhabitants of [Thalit](#) are killed by guerrillas.
- [2000](#) – [United States v. Microsoft](#): [Microsoft](#) is ruled to have violated [United States antitrust laws](#) by keeping "an oppressive thumb" on its competitors.
- [2004](#) – [Islamic terrorists](#) involved in the [11 March 2004 Madrid attacks](#) are trapped by the police in their apartment and kill themselves.
- [2008](#) – [ATA Airlines](#), once one of the 10 largest U.S. passenger airlines and largest charter airline, files for bankruptcy for the second time in 5 years and ceases all operations.
- [2008](#) – [Texas](#) law enforcement cordons off the [FLDS's YFZ Ranch](#). Eventually 533 women and children will be removed and taken into state custody.