

April 5, 2013

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- 5. Sexual assault prevention focus of awareness training at USAREUR garrisons.**
- 6. Military porn case shrinks barracks privacy.**
- 7. Army calls on VA to work harder on disability checks.**
- 8. Creation of vets affairs office in US to lobby for WW II PH vets claims pushed.**
- 9. Researchers Hope Medical Database Will Advance Veterans' Health.**
- 10. PGA Announces Down Range Golf Clinic at American Lake Veterans Course.**
- 11. Arizona Veterans' Services director resigns.**
- 12. Data show number of jobless vets on decline.**
- 13. FOX and Friends.**
- 14. VA speeds up millions in GI Bill payments.**
- 15. Patients Like Online Health Records Access, Study Says.**
- 16. Some vets frustrated by one-sided format at VA town hall meeting.**
- 17. UA, VA Partner to Meet Needs of Rural Veterans.**
- 18. RI Homeless Population Increased by 10 Percent in 2012, More Veterans Lack Homes.**
- 19. Homeless Female Veterans Face Challenges In San Diego.**
- 20. The Real Veteran Unemployment Problem.**
- 21. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as April 4, 2013:**
- 22. Today in History:**

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1. [Benjamin Purcell, highest ranking Army POW in Vietnam, dies at 85.](#) Forty years after he was released as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, former Columbus resident and retired Army Col. Benjamin Harrison Purcell Jr. died Tuesday of natural causes at his home in Clarksville, Ga. He was 85.
2. [Texas students come together to bury homeless sailor.](#) The huge parade of cars, full Catholic funeral Mass and a military burial with rifle salute were fit for any local dignitary Wednesday, but it was all to honor a homeless Navy veteran.
3. [Baker relieved of duties as Task Force-Horn of Africa commander.](#) Gen. Carter Ham, AFRICOM commander, lost confidence in Army Maj. Gen. Ralph Baker's ability to lead, but the command isn't releasing any further details at this time because the alleged misconduct is being appealed, a spokesman said.
4. [World War II veteran recalls 1945 devastation in Dresden.](#) The images of the German city of Dresden after the Allied firebombing in February 1945 are still vivid in the mind of 87-year-old Gerald "Jerry" Lamb.
5. [Sexual assault prevention focus of awareness training at USAREUR garrisons.](#) The skit played out like this: A young male soldier was pounding out pushups with ease, while a female soldier keeping count made a point of letting him know she noticed.
6. [Military porn case shrinks barracks privacy.](#) A newly upheld conviction of a former Fort Bragg soldier on charges of possessing computer-animated child porn offers several key lessons for military men and woman well beyond the sprawling North Carolina Army base.
7. [Army calls on VA to work harder on disability checks.](#) USA TODAY The Department of Veterans Affairs is under growing pressure to reduce a mountain of pending veteran disability claims, and a new voice has been added to the chorus — the U.S. Army. The Army has spent tens of millions of dollars and doubled staffing ...
8. [Creation of vets affairs office in US to lobby for WW II PH vets claims pushed.](#) GlobalPost Under the bill, the Office of Veterans Affairs is mandated with the task to represent, negotiate and lobby for the rights, privileges and benefits of the Filipino veterans with the appropriate US offices. "Veterans who have fought for our country ...

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9. [Researchers Hope Medical Database Will Advance Veterans' Health.](#) [Southern Maryland Online](#) By creating a medical database of health information gathered from U.S. veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs hopes to better understand how genes affect the health of both veterans and civilians. The Million Veteran Program aims...
10. [PGA Announces Down Range Golf Clinic at American Lake Veterans Course.](#) [Patch.com](#) The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced an inaugural Down Range Golf Clinic (DRGC), an exciting new therapeutic program for disabled Veterans.
11. [Arizona Veterans' Services director resigns.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **AZCentral:** The director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services has resigned in part over his hiring of a former state legislator whose recent comments about women serving on the front lines have inflamed veterans groups.
12. [Data show number of jobless vets on decline.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Seminole Chronicle:** When David Sazama endured searing temperatures, sandstorms and the unpredictability of the Middle East as an Army noncommissioned officer during Operation Desert Storm, he learned a few things about discipline, honor and initiative.
13. [FOX and Friends.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **FNC (Video):** This segment from the FOX News show, FOX and Friends, highlights the claims Backlog facing the VA.
14. [VA speeds up millions in GI Bill payments.](#) **Dayton Daily News:** The 23,000 Ohio veterans enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill are getting millions to cover the cost of higher education faster than ever, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, thanks to a new paperless system.
15. [Patients Like Online Health Records Access, Study Says.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **InformationWeek:** Veterans in study said the ability to view notes, lab results and other documents helped them communicate better with their doctors and led to better health.
16. [Some vets frustrated by one-sided format at VA town hall meeting.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Clarion-Ledger:** A "town hall" meeting for veterans to share their concerns about health care at the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center turned into a time for VA administrators to praise their institute as one of the nation's best.

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17. [UA, VA Partner to Meet Needs of Rural Veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#)
Newswise: The University of Alabama and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have partnered together to create a trained workforce capable of meeting the medical and mental health needs of veterans in rural communities.
18. [RI Homeless Population Increased by 10 Percent in 2012, More Veterans Lack Homes](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Republic:** The number of homeless people in Rhode Island surged by more than 10 percent last year, according to statistics released Wednesday that reflect the state's economy and a social safety net that advocates say is stretched to the breaking point.
19. [Homeless Female Veterans Face Challenges In San Diego](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **KPBS-TV:** Amber Ramirez doesn't like to think of herself as a veteran.
20. [The Real Veteran Unemployment Problem](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#)
Huffington Post: There have been many confusing articles in the press recently about whether the unemployment situation for veterans is improving or getting worse.
21. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as April 4, 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

22. Today in History:

- [1621](#) – The [Mayflower](#) sets sail from [Plymouth, Massachusetts](#) on a return trip to [England](#).
- [1792](#) – [U.S. President George Washington](#) exercises his authority to [veto](#) a bill, the first time this power is used in the [United States](#).
- [1818](#) – In the [Battle of Maipú](#), [Chile's](#) independence movement – led by [Bernardo O'Higgins](#) and [José de San Martín](#) – win a decisive victory over Spain, leaving 2,000 Spaniards and 1,000 Chilean patriots dead.
- [1862](#) – [American Civil War](#): The [Battle of Yorktown](#) begins.
- [1879](#) – [Chile](#) declares war on [Bolivia](#) and [Peru](#), starting the [War of the Pacific](#).
- [1922](#) – The [American Birth Control League](#), forerunner of [Planned Parenthood](#), is incorporated.
- [1923](#) – [Firestone Tire and Rubber Company](#) begins production of balloon-tires.
- [1932](#) – Alcohol [prohibition](#) in [Finland](#) ends. Alcohol sales begin in [Alko](#) liquor stores.

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- 1932 – [Dominion of Newfoundland](#): 10,000 rioters seize the [Colonial Building](#) leading to the end of self-government.
- 1933 – U.S. President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) signs two [executive orders](#): 6101 to establish the [Civilian Conservation Corps](#), and [6102](#) "forbidding the Hoarding of Gold Coin, Gold Bullion, and Gold Certificates" by U.S. citizens.
- 1942 – [World War II](#): The [Imperial Japanese Navy](#) launches a carrier-based air attack on [Colombo, Ceylon](#) during the [Indian Ocean Raid](#). Port and civilian facilities are damaged and the [Royal Navy](#) cruisers [HMS Cornwall](#) and [HMS Dorsetshire](#) are sunk southwest of the island.
- 1943 – World War II: American bomber aircraft accidentally cause more than 900 civilian deaths, including 209 children, and 1300 wounded among the civilian population of the [Belgian](#) town of [Mortsel](#). The target is the Erla factory one kilometer from the residential area hit.
- 1944 – World War II: 270 inhabitants of the Greek town of [Kleisoura](#) are executed by the [Germans](#).
- 1945 – [Cold War](#): [Yugoslav](#) leader [Josip "Tito" Broz](#) signs an agreement with the [Soviet Union](#) to allow "temporary entry of Soviet troops into Yugoslav territory".
- 1946 – Soviet troops leave the island of [Bornholm, Denmark](#) after an 11 month occupation.
- 1949 – [Fireside Theater](#) debuts on [television](#).
- 1949 – A fire in a hospital in [Effingham, Illinois](#), kills 77 people and leads to nationwide fire code improvements in the [United States](#).
- 1951 – [Ethel and Julius Rosenberg](#) are sentenced to death for performing [espionage](#) for the Soviet Union.
- 1956 – [Fidel Castro](#) declares himself at war with the [President of Cuba](#).
- 1956 – In [Sri Lanka](#), the [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna](#) win the [general elections](#) in a landslide and [S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike](#) is sworn in as the [Prime Minister](#).
- 1957 – In [India](#), [Communists](#) win the first elections in united [Kerala](#) and [E.M.S. Namboodiripad](#) is sworn in as the first [chief minister](#).
- 1958 – [Ripple Rock](#), an underwater threat to navigation in the [Seymour Narrows](#) in [Canada](#) is destroyed in one of the largest non-nuclear controlled explosions of the time.
- 1969 – [Vietnam War](#): Massive [antiwar demonstrations](#) occur in many U.S. cities.
- 1971 – In Sri Lanka, [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna](#) launches insurrection against the [United Front](#) government of [Sirimavo Bandaranaike](#).
- 1976 – In the [People's Republic of China](#), the [April Fifth Movement](#) leads to the [Tiananmen incident](#).
- 1986 – Three people are killed in the [bombing](#) of the [La Belle Discothèque](#) in [West Berlin, Germany](#).
- 1992 – [Alberto Fujimori](#), president of Peru, [dissolves the Peruvian congress](#) by military force.
- 1992 – The [Siege of Sarajevo](#) begins when [Serb paramilitaries](#) murder peace protesters [Suada Dilberovic](#) and [Olga Sučić](#) on the Vrbanja Bridge.
- 1998 – In [Japan](#), the [Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge](#) linking [Awaji Island](#) with [Honshū](#) and costing about \$3.8 billion [USD](#), opens to traffic, becoming the largest [suspension bridge](#) in the world.
- 1999 – Two [Libyans](#) suspected of bringing down [Pan Am flight 103](#) in [1988](#) are handed over for eventual trial in the Netherlands.

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- [2009](#) – [North Korea](#) launches its controversial [Kwangmyŏngsŏng-2](#) rocket. The satellite passed over mainland [Japan](#), which prompted an immediate reaction from the [United Nations Security Council](#), as well as participating states of [Six-party talks](#).
- [2010](#) – Twenty-nine coal miners are killed in an explosion at the [Upper Big Branch Mine](#) in [West Virginia](#).