

April 11, 2013

- 1. Care and Benefits for Veterans Strengthened by \$153 Billion VA Budget.**
- 2. Hagel: Budget Request Balances Many Needs.**
- 3. South Korea raises alert level in anticipation of North Korea launch.**
- 4. Army budgets fall slightly, as does end strength.**
- 5. State House panel OKs Baker's veterans bill.**
- 6. Boehner presses for specifics on VA backlog.**
- 7. UC Expert Will Help Lead Study Comparing PTSD Treatments.**
- 8. Huge demand for veterans' aid, but limited resources.**
- 9. More Arizona veterans report dealing with military sexual trauma.**
- 10. Care center puts vets and families under one roof.**
- 11. Project Homeless Connect helps more than 700 in Santa Cruz.**
- 12. Baucus applauds veteran budget measure: Proposal would extend tax credit.**
- 13. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as April 11, 2013:**
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1. [Care and Benefits for Veterans Strengthened by \\$153 Billion VA Budget.](#) Continuing the transformation of the Department of Veterans Affairs into a 21st century organization, the President has proposed a \$152.7 billion budget, a 10.2 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2013, that will support VA's goals to expand access to health care and other benefits, eliminate the disability claims backlog, and end homelessness among Veterans. The budget includes \$66.5 billion in discretionary spending, largely for healthcare, and \$86.1 billion for mandatory programs - mostly disability compensation and pensions for Veterans.
2. [Hagel: Budget Request Balances Many Needs.](#) President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2014 budget request for the Defense Department balances competing operational and strategic needs while ensuring the maximization of taxpayer dollars and addressing internal imbalances, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said today. In a joint news conference at the Pentagon with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the secretary said the budget request takes ...
3. [South Korea raises alert level in anticipation of North Korea launch.](#) South Korea has raised its military alert level and stepped up monitoring of North Korea, local news reports said Wednesday, amid indications that the Pyongyang regime could be preparing for a missile test.
4. [Army budgets fall slightly, as does end strength.](#) The Army would cut about 20,000 active-duty soldiers next year as it continues reducing toward a planned 2017 end strength of 490,000 troops, according to budget plans announced Wednesday at the Pentagon.
5. [State House panel OKs Baker's veterans bill.](#) [Wilkes Barre Times-Leader](#) Acceptable training organizations include The American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars organizations and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, said Diane McNaughton, director of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness ...
6. [Boehner presses for specifics on VA backlog.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Seattle Post-Intelligencer (AP):** U.S House Speaker John Boehner said Tuesday that he wants a coherent plan and more specifics from the head of the Department of Veterans Affairs on what is being done to reduce the growing backlog of veterans' disability claims.

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7. [UC Expert Will Help Lead Study Comparing PTSD Treatments.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **HealthCanal.com:** A University of Cincinnati expert on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) will play a leading role in a 17-site, \$9 million study that will compare the two leading evidence-based treatments for PTSD.
8. [Huge demand for veterans' aid, but limited resources.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Green Bay Press-Gazette:** Paying bills and having enough money left to provide for his children have been challenging for Appleton resident Phillip Burns since he returned home more than two years ago from his second tour of duty in Iraq.
9. [More Arizona veterans report dealing with military sexual trauma.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Cronkite News:** Luisa Valdez said she was 18 and new to the Army when knocks awoke her and four male service members pushed her back into her barracks room and onto the bed.
10. [Care center puts vets and families under one roof.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Stars and Stripes:** At a new VA mental health facility here, veterans go to the right, their families to the left — and their doctors meet in the middle.
11. [Project Homeless Connect helps more than 700 in Santa Cruz.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Santa Cruz Sentinel:** When Sylbia Blan first attended Project Homeless Connect four years ago, she was desperate for a job and medical services.
12. [Baucus applauds veteran budget measure: Proposal would extend tax credit.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Great Falls Tribune:** A proposal included in the White House's budget for fiscal year 2014 is a step in the right direction to fighting veteran unemployment, Democratic Sen. Max Baucus said.
13. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as April 11, 2013:**
 - **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.

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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

14. Today in History:

- [1713](#) – [War of the Spanish Succession \(Queen Anne's War\)](#): [Treaty of Utrecht](#).
- [1775](#) – The last execution for [witchcraft](#) in [Germany](#) takes place.
- [1809](#) – [Battle of the Basque Roads](#) Naval battle fought between France and the [United Kingdom](#)
- [1814](#) – The [Treaty of Fontainebleau](#) ends the [War of the Sixth Coalition](#) against [Napoleon Bonaparte](#), and forces him to abdicate unconditionally for the first time.
- [1856](#) – [Battle of Rivas](#): [Juan Santamaria](#) burns down the hostel where [William Walker's filibusters](#) are holed up.
- [1868](#) – Former [Shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu](#) surrenders [Edo Castle](#) to Imperial forces, marking the end of the [Tokugawa shogunate](#).
- [1876](#) – The [Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks](#) is organized.
- [1908](#) – [SMS Blücher](#), the last [armored cruiser](#) to be built by the [German Imperial Navy](#), launches.
- [1945](#) – [World War II](#): American forces liberate the [Buchenwald concentration camp](#).
- [1951](#) – [Korean War](#): President [Harry Truman](#) relieves [General of the Army Douglas MacArthur](#) of overall command in [Korea](#).
- 1951 – The [Stone of Scone](#), the stone upon which [Scottish](#) monarchs were traditionally crowned, is found on the site of the altar of [Arbroath Abbey](#). It had been taken by Scottish nationalist students from its place in [Westminster Abbey](#).
- [1952](#) – The [Battle of Nanri Island](#) takes place.
- [1955](#) – The [Air India Kashmir Princess](#) is bombed and crashes in a failed assassination attempt on [Zhou Enlai](#) by the [Kuomintang](#).
- [1961](#) – The trial of [Adolf Eichmann](#) begins in [Jerusalem](#).
- [1968](#) – President [Lyndon B. Johnson](#) signs the [Civil Rights Act of 1968](#), prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing.
- [1970](#) – [Apollo 13](#) is launched.

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- [1976](#) – The [Apple I](#) is created.
- [1979](#) – [Ugandan](#) dictator [Idi Amin](#) is deposed.
- [1981](#) – A massive [riot](#) in [Brixton](#), [South London](#), results in almost 300 police injuries and 65 serious civilian injuries.
- [1987](#) – The [London Agreement](#) is secretly signed between [Israeli](#) Foreign Affairs Minister [Shimon Peres](#) and [King Hussein](#) of [Jordan](#).
- [1989](#) – [Ron Hextall](#) becomes the first [goaltender](#) in [NHL](#) history to score a goal in the [playoffs](#).
- [1990](#) – Customs officers in [Middlesbrough](#), England, United Kingdom, say they have seized what they believe to be the barrel of a [massive gun](#) on a ship bound for [Iraq](#).
- [1993](#) – 450 [prisoners rioted](#) at the [Southern Ohio Correctional Facility](#) in [Lucasville](#), [Ohio](#), and continued to do so for ten days, citing grievances related to [prison conditions](#), as well as the forced [vaccination](#) of [Nation of Islam](#) prisoners (for [tuberculosis](#)) against their religious beliefs.
- [2001](#) – The detained crew of a United States [EP-3E](#) aircraft that [landed](#) in [Hainan](#), [China](#) after a collision with a [J-8](#) fighter is released.
- [2002](#) – The [Ghriba synagogue bombing](#) by [Al Qaeda](#) kills 21 in [Tunisia](#).
- [2002](#) – [Over two hundred thousand people marched](#) in Caracas towards the Presidential Palace of Miraflores, to demand the resignation of president Hugo Chávez. 19 of the protesters are killed, and the Minister of Defense Gral. Lucas Rincon announced [Hugo Chávez](#) resignation on national TV.
- [2006](#) – [Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](#) announces that [Iran](#) has successfully enriched [uranium](#).
- [2007](#) – [2007 Algiers bombings](#): Two bombings in the [Algerian](#) capital of [Algiers](#), kills 33 people and wounds a further 222 others.
- [2011](#) – [2011 Minsk Metro bombing](#)
- [2012](#) – A magnitude [8.2 earthquake](#) hit Indonesia, off northern [Sumatra](#) at a depth of 16.4 km. After that there are still more continuation earthquake. Tsunami had hit the island of [Nias](#) at [Indonesia](#).