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2. Pentagon programs target of China cyber threat.
3. Odierno: Don't rule out ground wars when cutting Army forces.
4. NATO head to visit DC amid debate over Syria.
5. Former POWs from WWII share their stories.
6. Patriot Guard Riders become a fixture at military funerals.
7. Pressure and progress as deadline for homeless veterans looms.
8. Federal dollars to house homeless vets in WA, OR.
9. Rep. Wittman proposes bill to put Army officer in charge of Arlington Cemetery.
10. Fargo VA Medical Center expands use of telemedicine.
11. Caring for Those Heroes With Invisible Wounds.
12. Command Sgt. Major Tim Walz's New Mission: Getting Disability Benefits to Wounded Soldiers.
13. Father and Son Travel Across America to Meet Veterans.
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17. Indiana man gets Obama's ear on VA backlog, budget cuts as national American Legion commander.
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1. [Navy in South Korea getting first female commander](#). The Department of Defense has announced the appointment of the first female commander for U.S. Naval Forces Korea.
2. [Pentagon programs target of China cyber threat](#). New revelations that China used cyberattacks to access data from nearly 40 Pentagon weapons programs and almost 30 other defense technologies have increased pressure on U.S. leaders to take more strident action against Beijing to stem the persistent breaches.
3. [Odierno: Don't rule out ground wars when cutting Army forces](#). Defense budget chaos and bad assumptions about the future of American warfare could result in an Army that's too small to do its job, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno said Wednesday.
4. [NATO head to visit DC amid debate over Syria](#). NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen begins a two-day visit to Washington on Thursday at a time when alliance members are grappling over how to deal with the situation in Syria and the shape of the mission in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of combat troops next year.
5. [Former POWs from WWII share their stories](#). It was like it happened yesterday. For former prisoners of war, the experiences of captivity in the hands of enemy forces can feel as vivid as the recent events and emotions.
6. [Patriot Guard Riders become a fixture at military funerals](#). Military members probably have a deeper appreciation for Memorial Day than most, but it's what J.R. Bedford has done since he left the Air Force that has given him a better understanding of the annual observance.
7. [Pressure and progress as deadline for homeless veterans looms](#). Officials will have to find housing for about 60 homeless veterans every day for the next 32 months to reach their self-proclaimed deadline to get every former servicemember off the street.
8. [Federal dollars to house homeless vets in WA, OR](#). [San Francisco Chronicle](#) The grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was announced Wednesday, along with other grants to pay for housing homeless veterans around the country. Washington will receive a ...

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9. [Rep. Wittman proposes bill to put Army officer in charge of Arlington Cemetery.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post (AP):** Republican Rob Wittman announced Tuesday that he has introduced legislation that would require placement of a commissioned officer in charge of Army National Cemeteries, which has Arlington National Cemetery as its centerpiece.

10. [Fargo VA Medical Center expands use of telemedicine.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Grand Forks Herald:** The Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center and its outreach clinics are expanding the use of telemedicine to provide health care to more vets in rural areas.

11. [Caring for Those Heroes With Invisible Wounds.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Huffington Post:** As a society, we celebrate and honor our returning veterans, but there are heroes in the shadows -- the 10 million family caregivers of veterans, many of whom struggle to cope with the brain-related disability affecting their veteran that others don't see.

12. [Command Sgt. Major Tim Walz's New Mission: Getting Disability Benefits to Wounded Soldiers.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Huffington Post:** Congressman Tim Walz -- the highest-ranking enlisted soldier on Capitol Hill -- is fighting for a group of veterans few have ever heard of: wounded soldiers discharged with "personality disorder."

13. [Father and Son Travel Across America to Meet Veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The New York Times:** Alex Velez drags the limb around, waiting for an overburdened Department of Veterans Affairs to schedule an amputation. The department has deemed it "optional," but he believes that a prosthetic leg will give him much greater mobility.

14. [Veterans wait as computers refuse to talk.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post (The Fold Blog):** Bob Fearing waited 33 months for the Department of Veterans Affairs to decide what disability benefits he should receive. The backlog is blamed on incompatible computer systems, so can a congressman's novel solution do what five years and \$1 billion couldn't?

15. [VA struggles under weight of claims backlog.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Minnesota Public Radio (The Daily Circuit):** Sec. Eric Shinseki has announced a plan to eliminate the backlog in 2015. In an effort to speed up processing, the Veterans Benefits Administration has decided to begin issuing provisional decisions on veterans' claims. But some critics suggest the VA will not be able to move fast enough to eliminate the backlog, which now numbers more than half a million claims... We examine the cause of the backlog and the efforts to alleviate it.

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16. [US Government Continues Update Of VA Benefits System. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Digital Journal:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling with an outdated system for logging benefits claims. The Federal Savings Bank informs readers that recently, the VA benefits system has been a top priority to update, and reduce the backlog of claims.

17. [Indiana man gets Obama's ear on VA backlog, budget cuts as national American Legion commander. Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Republic (Evansville Courier & Press):** Koutz joined the American Legion, and through the years held several offices in the local post. He then moved up the national chain of command until last September, when he became the American Legion's National Commander.

18. [Program offers job training to veterans. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Chicago Tribune:** This month, Ayala and two other veterans were the first to complete the program for free and receive their Building Operator Certifications, which would have cost \$1,250 per student. The Veterans Building Operator Certification program is run by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, with help from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Department of Veterans.

19. [Veteran-hiring initiative needs more answers. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman has introduced a two-part bill aimed at creating pilot programs to help veterans find jobs.

20. [Mich. budget may boost funding for veterans' homes. Hyperlink to Story](#) **San Francisco Chronicle (AP):** A conference committee approved the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget on Tuesday that would increase funding for the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home by about \$1.7 million.

21. [Congressional foot-dragging hurts vets. Hyperlink to Story](#) **PhillyBurbs.com:** Unlike Social Security recipients, whose benefits are adjusted automatically each year based on the federal consumer price index, veterans receiving payments have been at the mercy of a highly unreliable Congress.

22. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as May 30, 2013:**
 - **June 4, 2013.** HVAC Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations will hold a hearing entitled, "How Secure is Veterans Private Information?" 2:00 P.M.; 334 Cannon

 - **June 5, 2013.** The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a legislative hearing on VA's benefit programs and other purposes. 10:00 A.M.; Russell 418

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The tentative bill list is as follows:

- S. 6 Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013 (Reid)
- S. 200 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the interment in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration of individuals who served in combat support of the Armed forces in the Kingdom of Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975, and for other purposes (Murkowski)
- S.257 GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013 (Boozman)
- S.262 Veterans Education Equity Act of 2013 (Durbin)
- S. 294 Ruth Moore Act of 2013 (Tester)
- S. 373 Charlie Morgan Military Spouses Equal Treatment Act of 2013 (Shaheen)
- S. 430 Veterans Small Business Opportunity and Protection Act of 2013 (Heller)
- S. 492 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require States to recognize the Military experience of Veterans when issuing licenses and credentials to Veterans, and for other purposes (Burr)
- S. 495 Careers for Veterans Act of 2013 (Burr)
- S. 514 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional Educational Assistance under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to Veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, math, or an area that leads to employment in a high-demand occupation, and for other purposes (Brown)
- S. 515 A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to extend the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program to cover recipients of Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry scholarship, and for other purposes. (Brown)
- S 572 Veterans Second Amendment Act (Burr)
- S. 629 Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2013 (Pryor)
- S. 674 Accountability for Veterans Act of 2013 (Heller)
- S. 690 Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2013 (Schatz)
- S. 695 Veterans Paralympic Act of 2013--A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the Authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a monthly assistance allowance to Disabled Veterans training or competing for the Paralympic Team and the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance to United States Paralympics, Inc., and for other purposes (Boozman)
- S. 705 A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to ensure Memorials commemorating the service of the United States Armed Forces may contain religious symbols, and for other purposes (Burr)
- S. 735 Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. 748 Veterans Pension Protection Act (Wyden)
- S. 778 A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue cards to Veterans that identify them as Veterans, and for other purposes. (Burr)

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- S. 819 Veterans Mental Health Treatment First Act of 2013 (Burr)
- S. 863 Veterans Back to School Act of 2013 (Blumenthal)
- S. 868 Filipino Veterans Promise Act (Heller)
- S. 889 Servicemembers' Choice in Transition Act of 2013 (Boozman)
- S. 893 Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. 894 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend expiring authority for work-study allowances for individuals who are pursuing programs of rehabilitation, education, or training under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to expand such authority to certain outreach services provided through congressional offices, and for other purposes. (Sanders)
- S. 922 Veterans Outreach Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. 927 Veterans Equipped for success During Transition Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. 928 Claims Processing Improvement Act of 2013 (Sanders)

DRAFT BILLS

- S. XXX Franchise Education for Veterans for Veterans Act of 2013 (Moran)
- S. XXX A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain misfiled documents as motions for reconsideration of decisions by the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes. (Blumenthal)
- S. XXX Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 (Begich)
- S. XXX Giving Rise to Emerging Environmental Technologies for Vets Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. XXX Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act (Franken)
- S. XXX A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education that are approved for purposes of the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to charge Veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate, and for other purposes.
- S. XXX A bill to provide in-state tuition to transitioning Veterans (Sanders)

23. Today in History:

- [1539](#) – In [Florida](#), [Hernando de Soto](#) lands at [Tampa Bay](#) with 600 soldiers with the goal of finding [gold](#).
- [1588](#) – The last ship of the [Spanish Armada](#) sets sail from [Lisbon](#) heading for the [English Channel](#).
- [1635](#) – [Thirty Years' War](#): the [Peace of Prague \(1635\)](#) is signed.
- [1806](#) – [Andrew Jackson](#) kills [Charles Dickinson](#) in a duel after Dickinson had accused Jackson's wife of [bigamy](#).

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- [1814](#) – [Napoleonic Wars: War of the Sixth Coalition](#) – the [Treaty of Paris \(1814\)](#) is signed returning French borders to their 1792 extent. [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) is exiled to [Elba](#).
- [1842](#) – John Francis attempts to murder [Queen Victoria](#) as she drives down [Constitution Hill](#) in London with [Prince Albert](#).
- [1854](#) – The [Kansas-Nebraska Act](#) becomes law establishing the [US territories](#) of [Nebraska](#) and [Kansas](#).
- [1868](#) – Decoration Day (the predecessor of the modern "[Memorial Day](#)") is observed in the [United States](#) for the first time (By "Commander-in-chief of the [Grand Army of the Republic](#)" [John A. Logan](#)'s proclamation on May 5).
- [1876](#) – [Ottoman sultan Abd-ul-Aziz](#) is deposed and succeeded by his nephew [Murat V](#).
- [1883](#) – In New York City, a rumor that the [Brooklyn Bridge](#) is going to collapse causes a stampede that crushes twelve people.
- [1899](#) – Female [Old West](#) outlaw [Pearl Hart](#) robs a stage coach 30 miles southeast of [Globe, Arizona](#).
- [1911](#) – At the [Indianapolis Motor Speedway](#), the first [Indianapolis 500](#) ends with [Ray Harroun](#) in his [Marmor Wasp](#) becoming the first winner of the 500-mile auto race.
- [1913](#) – [First Balkan War](#): the [Treaty of London, 1913](#), is signed ending the war. [Albania](#) becomes an independent nation.
- [1922](#) – In [Washington, D.C.](#), the [Lincoln Memorial](#) is dedicated.
- [1925](#) – [May 30 Movement](#): [Shanghai Municipal Police](#) Force shoot 13 protesting workers to death.
- [1937](#) – [Memorial Day massacre](#): [Chicago](#) police shoot and kill 10 labor demonstrators.
- [1941](#) – [World War II](#): [Manolis Glezos](#) and Apostolos Santas climb on the Athenian [Acropolis](#), tear down the Nazi [swastika](#).
- [1942](#) – World War II: [1000 British bombers launch a 90-minute attack on Cologne, Germany](#).
- [1948](#) – A dike along the flooding [Columbia River](#) breaks, obliterating [Vanport, Oregon](#), within minutes. Fifteen people die and tens of thousands are left homeless.
- [1958](#) – Memorial Day: the remains of two unidentified American servicemen, killed in action during World War II and the [Korean War](#) respectively, are buried at the [Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#) in [Arlington National Cemetery](#).
- [1961](#) – Long time Dominican dictator [Rafael Trujillo](#) is assassinated in [Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic](#).
- [1963](#) – A protest against pro-Catholic discrimination during the [Buddhist crisis](#) is held outside [South Vietnam](#)'s National Assembly, the first open demonstration during the eight-year rule of [Ngo Dinh Diem](#).
- [1966](#) – Former [Congolese](#) Prime Minister [Evariste Kimba](#) and several other politicians are publicly executed in [Kinshasa](#) on the orders of President [Joseph Mobutu](#).
- [1966](#) – Launch of [Surveyor 1](#) the first US spacecraft to achieve landing on an extraterrestrial body.
- [1967](#) – The [Nigerian](#) Eastern Region declares independence as the [Republic of Biafra](#), sparking a [civil war](#).

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- [1968](#) – [Charles de Gaulle](#) reappears publicly after his flight to [Baden-Baden, Germany](#), and dissolves the French National Assembly by a radio appeal. Immediately after, less than one million of his supporters march on the [Champs-Élysées](#) in [Paris](#). This is the turning point of [May 1968 in France](#).
- [1971](#) – [Mariner program](#): [Mariner 9](#) is launched to map 70% of the surface, and to study temporal changes in the atmosphere and surface, of [Mars](#).
- [1972](#) – [The Angry Brigade](#) goes on trial over a series of 25 bombings throughout the [United Kingdom](#).
- [1972](#) – In [Tel Aviv, Israel](#), members of the [Japanese Red Army](#) carry out the [Lod Airport Massacre](#), killing 24 people and injuring 78 others.
- [1974](#) – The [Airbus A300](#) passenger aircraft first enters service.
- [1989](#) – [Tiananmen Square protests of 1989](#): the 33-foot high "[Goddess of Democracy](#)" statue is unveiled in [Tiananmen Square](#) by student demonstrators.
- [1998](#) – [Nuclear Testing](#): Pakistan conducts an underground test in the [Kharan Desert](#). It is reported to be a plutonium device with yield of 20kt.
- [2003](#) – [Depayin massacre](#): at least 70 people associated with the [National League for Democracy](#) are killed by government-sponsored mob in [Burma](#). [Aung San Suu Kyi](#) fled the scene, but is arrested soon afterwards.
- [2012](#) – Former [Liberian](#) president [Charles Taylor](#) is sentenced to 50 years in prison for his role in atrocities committed during the [Sierra Leone Civil War](#).