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7. **Lawmakers seek in-state tuition rates for veterans.**
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1. [US official: Snowden leaks lead to Pentagon change](#) . A top U.S. military intelligence official said Tuesday that the Pentagon will have to make costly changes to programs and personnel because of leaks by former National Security Agency analyst Edward Snowden.
2. [Army recruitment fraud bilked taxpayers of tens of millions of dollars](#). The Army is conducting an investigation into large-scale fraud tied to an Army recruitment program, Sen. Claire McCaskill, the head of the Senate Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, disclosed Monday, a day before she held a hearing on the scandal.
3. [Navy to overhaul petty officer promotion standards](#). The Navy is making several changes to its advancement system for petty officers, including a formula that would add greater weight to performance evaluations and less to advancement tests.
4. [Navy probing alleged cheating on nuke reactor work](#) . The Navy is investigating 30 or more senior sailors in connection with alleged cheating on written tests designed to qualify them as instructors at a school that trains younger sailors to operate naval nuclear power reactors, officials said Tuesday.
5. [J.P. Morgan to Pay \\$614 Million for Submitting False Mortgage Claims](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Wall Street Journal:** J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. (JPM) will pay \$614 million to settle a case over false claims the bank made regarding certain mortgage loans submitted to be insured by the Federal Housing Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Justice Department said Tuesday.
6. [House Approves Bill to Temporarily Ban Senior Exec Bonuses at VA](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Government Executive:** The House unanimously passed a bill Monday that would ban bonuses for senior executives at the Veterans Affairs Department for the next five years.
7. [Lawmakers seek in-state tuition rates for veterans](#). The House overwhelmingly passed legislation Monday that would require public universities around the country to charge veterans in-state tuition rates or face financial penalty.

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8. [Senate to take up comprehensive veterans reform bill Thursday](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Times**: Sen. Bernie Sanders, Vermont independent, said Tuesday a comprehensive veteran's reform bill could be brought up on the Senate floor as early as Thursday.
9. [Overloaded vets bill would be a costly letdown](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Hill**: It's reassuring to hear a member of Congress state so unequivocally that we owe a tremendous debt to our veterans and service members, and I don't doubt Sanders's commitment to them. But alas, the devil is in the details, and the details of Sanders's bill should send up red flags to those who care about defense policy and veterans affairs.
10. [House Passes Veterans' Tuition Bill](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **National Journal**: Public universities will have to offer in-state rates for tuition and fees to veterans or face a financial penalty under a bill approved by House members Monday.
11. [Veteran Groups Launch Pre-Emptive Strike on Federal Budget](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Wall Street Journal (WashWire Blog)**: Four major veterans advocacy groups called for more veteran health-care spending in the next federal budget and changes to a number of Department of Veterans Affairs policies, in their annual outline of legislative goals released Tuesday morning.
12. [Additional death confirmed in Southeast VA hospital](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Augusta Chronicle**: The Department of Veterans Affairs has confirmed the death of another cancer patient and says that the condition of one more veteran worsened because of delays in gastrointestinal consultations in its Southeast region, which includes hospitals in Augusta and Columbia.
13. [House hearing to review veterans claims processing](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Stars and Stripes**: A hearing to review new technologies aimed at updating federal claims processing and erasing the massive Veterans Affairs disability claim backlog has been scheduled for Wednesday by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, according to a statement from chairman Jeff Miller, R-Fla.
14. [Army, Air Force Tap Goodwill Industries to Scan and Send Records to VA](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NextGov**: The Army and Air Force have contracted with a division of Goodwill Industries to scan and then transmit to the Veterans Affairs Department millions of pages of service treatment records of Army and Air Force personnel discharged this year.

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15. [Morning Edition](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NPR (Audio)**: This 47 second audio clip discusses progress to eliminate the Backlog highlights the IAVA report calling for improved accuracy.
16. [Breaking For-Profit College News: VA Shopping Tool, Coalition Letter, Andrews Quitting](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post**: The Department of Veterans affairs launched a new website, the GI Bill Comparison Tool, allowing vets, and to some extent other students, to compare college options. The initiative is part of action on President Obama's 2012 executive order to protect vets and current service members against predatory education practices, an order that the for-profit colleges' trade association, APSCU, called a "deeply unfortunate development."
17. [New VA tool lets troops, vets determine GI Bill benefits](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **USA Today**: The Department of Veterans Affairs unveiled a new online tool today allowing current and former service members or their dependents to compare colleges and universities, calculating what their G.I. Bill benefits provide at each institution.
18. [University announces new veterans' affairs advisory group](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Californian**: In a continued effort to address the concerns of student veterans, UC President Janet Napolitano announced the formation of a new veterans' affairs advisory group Monday.
19. [Feinstein bill pushes housing for homeless vets at West L.A. VA campus](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Los Angeles Times**: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) introduced a bill Tuesday to smooth the way for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to partner with private agencies to develop housing for homeless veterans on its West Los Angeles campus.
20. [Ribbon-cutting, blessing of home for homeless veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Salisbury Post**: State and local elected representatives joined officials with the Col. Abram Penn Veterans Foundation for a ribbon-cutting and blessing ceremony Monday afternoon. The Foundation closed on the property Friday and on Monday afternoon had a ribbon cutting to commemorate the milestone. The property was purchased for \$50,000 and will be financed by the county over nine years.
21. [Report: Rocky Hill veterans' housing goes unused](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Seattle Post-Intelligencer (AP)**: Five houses in Rocky Hill that state officials set aside and renovated for Connecticut military veterans have sat mostly empty for several years, while statistics show one in 10 homeless people in the state is a veteran, according to a published report.

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22. [VA offers help with personal online veterans' health record.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Grand Island Independent:** An event in which veterans can receive help in signing up for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' secure, online personal record has been rescheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 19 in the main outpatient clinic lobby at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 2201 N. Broadwell Ave.
23. [What is on my mind: At the moment, Vietnam veterans and Agent Orange.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Slate:** At the moment, I cannot help but complain about the Vietnam War veterans, specifically the Navy's continual struggle with the Veterans Administration over proper funding for Agent Orange-related illnesses
24. [Helping wounded vets move from 'surviving' to 'thriving'.](#) **Stars & Stripes** Back when Michael Baker was a nuclear submarine technician in the Navy, he was a triathlete who spent as much time as he could exploring the Hawaiian outdoors near his naval base. But since a ...
25. [Legion Starts Month-long TBI/PTSD Survey.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military.com:** The American Legion is conducting a month-long online survey of veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder in order to gather data about the care and treatment that vets are getting.
26. [An honest look at welcoming our veterans home.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **(MSNBC Video):** Pres. Obama applauded Army Ranger Cory Remsburg and Budweiser threw Lt. Chuck Nadd a welcome home parade in their Super Bowl ad. James Fallows and Wes Moore discuss the realities of welcoming our veterans home.
27. [Former fighter pilot named new director of Punchbowl.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Honolulu Star-Advertiser:** A former Air Force fighter pilot and onetime inspector general for Pacific Air Forces will become the new director of Punchbowl Cemetery March 9, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced today.
28. [Tomah VA to honor vets during National Salute, Creative Arts Festival.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **La Crosse Tribune:** The Tomah Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center will host a week of special activities to honor its veterans from Feb. 9-15 during the 2014 National Salute to Veteran Patients.
29. [Veterans Arts Festival invites candidates.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Courier:** The 2014 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is scheduled for Feb. 10-12 in the theater, building 15, at the Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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30. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 4, 2014:

- **February 5, 2014.** HVAC-DAMA will hold a hearing entitled, "Beyond Transformation: Reviewing Current Status and Secondary Effects of VBA Technology."
- **February 20, 2013.** HVAC Health will be holding a field hearing in Camarillo, California focusing on mental health treatment and access.
- **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
- **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Sanders, I-Vt.) will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- **March 6, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations.
- **March 26, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.

31. Today in History:

- [1597](#) – A group of early [Japanese Christians](#) are [killed](#) by the new government of [Japan](#) for being seen as a threat to Japanese society.
- [1778](#) – [South Carolina](#) becomes the second state to ratify the [Articles of Confederation](#).
- [1782](#) – [Spanish](#) defeat [British](#) forces and [capture Minorca](#).
- [1810](#) – [Peninsular War: Siege of Cádiz](#) begins.
- [1849](#) – [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)'s first class meets at [Madison Female Academy](#).
- [1869](#) – The largest [alluvial gold](#) nugget in history, called the "[Welcome Stranger](#)", is found in [Moliagul, Victoria, Australia](#).
- [1885](#) – King [Leopold II of Belgium](#) establishes the [Congo](#) as a personal possession.
- [1900](#) – The [United States](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) sign a treaty for the [Panama Canal](#).
- [1909](#) – Belgian chemist [Leo Baekeland](#) announces the creation of [Bakelite](#), the world's first synthetic [plastic](#).
- [1913](#) – [Greek military aviators](#), [Michael Moutoussis](#) and [Aristeidis Moraitinis](#) perform the first [naval air](#) mission in history, with a [Farman MF.7](#) hydroplane.
- [1917](#) – The [current constitution](#) of [Mexico](#) is adopted, establishing a [federal republic](#) with powers separated into independent executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

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- 1917 – The [Congress of the United States](#) passes the [Immigration Act of 1917](#) over [President Woodrow Wilson](#)'s veto. Also known as the *Asiatic Barred Zone Act*, it forbade immigration from nearly all of south and southeast [Asia](#).
- 1918 – [Stephen W. Thompson](#) shoots down a German airplane. It is the [first aerial victory by the U.S. military](#).
- 1918 – [SS Tuscania](#) is torpedoed off the coast of Ireland; it is the first ship carrying American troops to Europe to be torpedoed and sunk.
- 1919 – [Charlie Chaplin](#), [Mary Pickford](#), [Douglas Fairbanks](#), and [D.W. Griffith](#) launch [United Artists](#).
- 1924 – The [Royal Greenwich Observatory](#) begins broadcasting the hourly time signals known as the [Greenwich Time Signal](#) or the "BBC pips".
- 1937 – [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) proposes a plan to enlarge the [Supreme Court of the United States](#).
- 1941 – [World War II](#): [Allied](#) forces begin the [Battle of Keren](#) to capture [Keren, Eritrea](#).
- 1945 – World War II: General [Douglas MacArthur](#) returns to [Manila](#).
- 1958 – [Gamal Abdel Nasser](#) is nominated to be the first president of the [United Arab Republic](#).
- 1958 – A [hydrogen bomb](#) known as the [Tybee Bomb](#) is lost by the [US Air Force](#) off the coast of [Savannah, Georgia](#), never to be recovered.
- 1962 – [French President Charles de Gaulle](#) calls for [Algeria](#) to be granted independence.
- 1971 – Astronauts land on the moon in the [Apollo 14](#) mission.
- 1972 – [Bob Douglas](#) becomes the first [African American](#) elected to the [Basketball Hall of Fame](#).
- 1975 – Riots break in [Lima, Peru](#) after the police forces go on strike [the day before](#). The uprising (locally known as the *Limazo*) is bloodily suppressed by the military dictatorship.
- 1976 – The [1976 swine flu outbreak](#) begins at Fort Dix, NJ.
- 1985 – Ugo Vetere, then the mayor of [Rome](#), and [Chedli Klibi](#), then the mayor of [Carthage](#) meet in [Tunis](#) to sign a treaty of friendship officially ending the [Third Punic War](#) which lasted 2,131 years.
- 1988 – [Manuel Noriega](#) is indicted on [drug smuggling](#) and [money laundering](#) charges.
- 1994 – [Byron De La Beckwith](#) is convicted of the 1963 murder of [civil rights](#) leader [Medgar Evers](#).
- 1994 – During the [war in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) more than 60 people are killed and some 200 wounded as a mortar shell slams into a downtown marketplace in [Sarajevo](#).
- 1997 – The so-called [Big Three banks](#) in [Switzerland](#) announce the creation of a \$71 million fund to aid [Holocaust](#) survivors and their families.
- 2000 – [Russian](#) forces [massacre](#) at least 60 civilians in the Novye Aldi suburb of [Grozny, Chechnya](#).
- 2004 – [Rebels](#) from the [Revolutionary Artibonite Resistance Front](#) capture the city of [Gonaïves](#), starting the [2004 Haiti rebellion](#).
- 2008 – A [major tornado outbreak](#) across the [Southern United States](#) kills 57.