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1. [**Russian troops take over Ukraine's Crimea region.**](#) Russian troops took over Crimea as the parliament in Moscow gave President Vladimir Putin a green light Saturday to use the military to protect Russian interests in Ukraine. The newly installed government in Kiev was powerless to react to the action by Russian troops based in the strategic region and more flown in, aided by pro-Russian Ukrainian groups.
2. [**Analysis: Limited US, European options in Ukraine.**](#) Despite blunt warnings about costs and consequences, President Barack Obama and European leaders have limited options for retaliating against Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, the former Soviet republic now at the center of an emerging conflict between East and West.
3. [**NATO chief says Russia's actions in Ukraine threaten Europe security.**](#) Russia's intervention in Ukraine threatens European security, NATO's civilian chief cautioned Sunday, but U.S. military officials said there were no immediate plans to take defensive action in response to Russia's seizure of Ukraine's Crimea region on the Black Sea.
4. [**Hundreds of gunmen surround Ukraine military base.**](#) As hundreds of armed men surrounded a Ukrainian military base in Crimea on Sunday, world leaders and Ukraine's new prime minister urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to pull back his military.
5. [**Will Sgt. Bergdahl be left behind in Afghanistan?**](#) The case of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, held by the Taliban since 2009, has arisen again as the U.S. and other countries engage in diplomatic efforts to free him. But if he is released, will America's only prisoner of the Afghan war be viewed as a hero or a deserter?
6. [**Our View: Veterans bill not taken seriously in U.S. Senate.**](#) [Hyperlink to Article Fayetteville Observer](#): A package of benefits for veterans became a casualty of election-year sniping on Capitol Hill last week... Republicans said they supported much of what Democrats included in the legislation, but not everything. At least one concern rings true - expanding benefits to more people too quickly could have swamped a system that already faces severe delays.
7. [**VA accountability means focusing on results, not more spending.**](#) [Hyperlink to Article Las Cruces Sun-News](#): Incredibly, they now propose vastly expanding the VA's responsibilities — thereby ensuring the ultimate collapse of an already dysfunctional system... That's the reality of a new veterans' services omnibus bill, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, a \$30 billion package introduced in the Senate by Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent.

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8. [Veterans Speak Out Against a Debilitating Federal Workplace Harming the Health of America's Returning Military.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **OpEdNews.com:** In a recently released statement veterans, members of The Coalition For Change, Inc. (C4C), called for the U.S. Congress and the Obama administration to stop the political power play and to mandate that federal supervisory and management officials face discipline for willfully breaking civil rights and whistleblower-protection laws.

9. [Marines confront stigma of post-traumatic stress.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military Times:** Now [Culberson] wants to set an example for other Marines who have resisted getting the treatment they need, often because they fear being stigmatized, even within the Marine Corps, as “damaged goods.” He’ll spend the first week of March in Malibu Canyon, Calif., participating in Save A Warrior, a five-day-long resiliency program aimed at helping veterans who have returned from the war zones.

10. [Government straddles both sides in toxic water cases.](#) President Obama signed a law in 2012 offering health benefits to thousands of former Marines and their families who were exposed decades ago to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, N.C. But in a related case headed to the Supreme Court in April that could bolster or block their claims for damages, Obama's Justice Department has argued that the clock has run out.

11. [Redress delayed is redress denied.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily News:** On Feb. 9, The Daily News published my opinion piece on the op-ed page headlined, “Government sending mixed messages to Lejeune water victims.” ...I want to update you on another step I have taken.

12. [SC lawmakers look to make lying about military service a crime.](#) The South Carolina General Assembly is considering a bill that would make it a crime for a person to lie about his or her military service or receive a medal in order to gain a tangible benefit.

13. [Incentives program offers benefits to employers, vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Durango Herald:** The Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program provides eligible veterans with the opportunity to obtain training and practical hands-on experience concurrently through the Special Employer Incentives program. The SEI program is for eligible veterans who face challenges in obtaining employment.

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14. [Delaware veterans still experiencing service delays.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **News Journal: Military:** Delaware veterans seeking compensation for service-related injuries or illnesses are getting pushed to the back of the line as older claims from larger service centers keep getting transferred to Wilmington.
15. [Veterans in respite program relocated.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System relocated a short-term care program used by dozens of Western Pennsylvania veterans and their families, moving respite services from the H.J. Heinz campus in O'Hara to about 16 nursing homes across the region.
16. [Who would you rather fund?](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Frederick News-Post:** As a Vietnam-era veteran, I feel moved to comment on the recent federal budget. The budget proposal cuts \$6 billion in veterans' benefits over the next two years in order to fund increased welfare for illegal immigrants. By the way, the 2014 funding for the Veterans Administration is a paltry \$157.6 billion.
17. [Malone veteran clinic slated for closure gets one-month extension.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Watertown Daily Times:** The clinic originally was scheduled to close in August, but was granted an extension until the end of February after U.S. Rep. William L. Owens, D-Plattsburgh, intervened with the Department of Veterans Affairs.
18. [Malone vet clinic closure delayed.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Press-Republican:** The closure of the Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Malone has been delayed for a month.
19. [Utah veterans want their sweat lodge leader back.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Salt Lake Tribune:** The agreement gives the American Indian veterans weekly sweat lodge ceremonies and everything else they wanted, except for one thing — the permanent return of the man who has officiated the sweat lodge ceremonies.
20. [Vietnam Veterans of America host Agent Orange town hall meetings.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Topeka Capital-Journal:** The national organization is working to educate Kansans about Agent Orange, a defoliant deployed during the Vietnam War... The organization has scheduled three Agent Orange town hall meetings for the month of March, including one March 16 at the Prairie Band Casino and Resort, 12305 150th Road in Mayetta.

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21. [Female veterans luncheon planned for March 8 at University of Redlands.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **San Bernardino Sun:** Female veterans will be recognized at the Inland Empire Women Veterans luncheon planned for March 8 at the University of Redlands.

22. [VA Loan Limit Increase for Oahu to Make it Easier for Hawai'i Veterans to Own a Home.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Hawaii Reporter:** U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) lauded the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) for listening to Hawai'i's veterans and quickly increasing the loan guarantee limit for the City and County of Honolulu

23. [3 Fort Bragg veterans receive Posse Foundation's Veterans Scholarships.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Fayetteville Observer:** Three recent Fort Bragg veterans are among 20 who will attend college as part of a nonprofit program aimed at increasing the graduation rates of those who leave the military.

24. [Service Dog Program at VA Frustrates A Claxton Wounded Warrior.](#) WSAV-TV A Claxton wounded warrior has to fight another battle, this time with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Kinard family said it's been a ...

25. [In Just 100 Days DC Finds Homes for More Than 200 Homeless Veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Good Men Project Magazine (ThinkProgress):** Galvanized by the injustice of a veteran risking his life for his country only to later find himself without a home, a group of agencies and organizations known as Veterans NOW convened in August of last year to develop a plan to put D.C. on track to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.

26. [Making a home for every homeless vet.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Al Jazeera America:** As more troops have returned from Iraq (the last left in December 2011) and Afghanistan, the Obama administration has set an ambitious goal: Get all homeless veterans off the streets by 2015... This mandate from above has opened up federal funding and transformed the Veterans Affairs' approach to the problem, leading to unprecedented cooperation with private groups and the adoption of the "housing first" philosophy embraced by many homeless advocates.

27. [Lodging for W.Va. patients' families to stay open.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AP):** The Jeffrey George Comfort House will remain open after an anonymous local donor offered to assume its \$545,000 mortgage, said Jo Fannin, executive director.

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28. [At Work With | Lawrence Arthur Forman, rabbi and chaplain.](#)
[Hyperlink to Article](#) **Virginian-Pilot:** The VA handles the care and healing of its wounded warriors, basically. Most of these are older people that I deal with. I deal with hospice, death and dying. You deal with people who are damaged, physically and mentally. You deal with the problems that every hospital has, too.
29. [Widow hopes new group helps lift fog of grief for others.](#) After climbing out of an abyss of despair, Becky Blanchard is doing something she knows her husband would have done: she's reaching out to help others in their grief.
30. [Travis Mills: Afghanistan vet, quadruple amputee is 'not a sob story'.](#) When Travis Mills stepped on a landmine while on active duty in Afghanistan, losing his arms and legs, all he could think about was whether he would ever see his wife and 7-month-old daughter again.
31. [A veteran making a difference.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Aspen Times:** Toward this goal, Adam McCabe and I have teamed up at Huts For Vets where we take combat veterans into the wilderness at the 10th Mountain Division Huts. The transitions we've seen hearten us to the promise that veterans can find reaffirmation in life, that healing happens in nature and with camaraderie at the huts.
32. [Veterans gather for adaptive sports at Pineland Farms.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Sun Journal:** and two staff members participating at the Team Semper Fi Nordic/Biathlon camp put on by New Gloucester's Pineland Farms' Veterans Adaptive Sports and Training program on Saturday.
33. [History reburied? NY's 1755 battle site covered up.](#) Despite its rich history, Lake George's efforts to preserve remnants of its Colonial past often have fallen short, bested by economic development interests in a southern Adirondack town where tourism is the only industry.
34. [Documentary explores life in postwar Germany for African-American servicemembers.](#) The film, inspired by the book "A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African-American GIs, and Germany," takes its title from a quote in Colin Powell's autobiography in which he describes postwar Germany as a "breath of freedom" for black military personnel stationed there.

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35. [Western NY man accused of lying to get benefits. Hyperlink to Article](#)
The Wall Street Journal (AP): A western New York man says he's been wrongly accused of faking a disability to obtain \$9,000 a month in veterans' and workers' compensation benefits.
36. ['War hero' admits lying to get government benefits. Hyperlink to Article](#)
Stars and Stripes (Orlando Sentinel): Walter Eatman of St. Cloud claimed that he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after being haunted by memories of combat in Vietnam, where he was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star... The trouble is, none of the claims were true, federal prosecutors said.
37. [Holland man, 56, charged with fraud in getting VA, workers' comp benefits. Hyperlink to Article](#)
Buffalo News: A Holland man has been charged with receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration and workers' compensation under false pretenses, U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul Jr. announced.
38. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 3, 2014:**
- **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee 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: BVA, JWV, MOPH, AMVETS, TREA, MOAA, VVA, NGUAS and NASDVA.
 - **March 12, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations: PVA, IAVA, GSW, WWP, FRA, AFSA, NCAO, AXPOW.
 - **March 12, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
 - **March 13, 2014.** HVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
 - **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
 - **March 25, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."

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- **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.
- **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

39. Today in History:

- [1776](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): The first [amphibious landing](#) of the [United States Marine Corps](#) begins the [Battle of Nassau](#).
- [1779](#) – American Revolutionary War: The [Continental Army](#) is routed at the [Battle of Brier Creek](#) near [Savannah, Georgia](#).
- [1799](#) – The [Russo-Ottoman siege of Corfu](#) ends with the surrender of the French garrison.
- [1820](#) – The [U.S. Congress](#) passes the [Missouri Compromise](#).
- [1836](#) – Texans celebrate the first [Texas Independence Day](#) with the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence, officially broke Texas from Mexico, and creating the [Republic of Texas](#).
- [1845](#) – [Florida](#) is admitted as the 27th U.S. state.
- [1857](#) – [Second Opium War](#): France and the United Kingdom declare war on China.
- [1861](#) – [Alexander II of Russia](#) signs the [Emancipation Manifesto](#), freeing serfs.
- [1865](#) – Opening of the [Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation](#), the founding member of the [HSBC Group](#).
- [1873](#) – [Censorship in the United States](#): The U.S. Congress enacts the [Comstock Law](#), making it illegal to send any "obscene, lewd, or lascivious" books through the mail.
- 1875 – The [first ever organized indoor game](#) of [ice hockey](#) is played in [Montreal, Canada](#) as recorded in [The Montreal Gazette](#).
- [1878](#) – The [Russo-Turkish War](#) ends as [Bulgaria](#) regains its independence from [Ottoman Empire](#) according to the [Treaty of San Stefano](#); shortly after [Congress of Berlin](#) stripped its status to an autonomous state of the Ottoman Empire.
- [1885](#) – The [American Telephone & Telegraph Company](#) is incorporated in [New York](#).
- [1904](#) – Kaiser [Wilhelm II of Germany](#) becomes the first person to make a [sound recording](#) of a political document, using [Thomas Edison's phonograph cylinder](#).
- [1905](#) – Tsar [Nicholas II of Russia](#) agrees to create an elected assembly, the [Duma](#).
- [1910](#) – [Rockefeller Foundation](#): [J.D. Rockefeller Jr.](#) announces his retirement from managing his businesses so that he can devote all his time to [philanthropy](#).
- [1913](#) – Thousands of women march in a [suffrage parade](#) in Washington, D.C.
- [1915](#) – [NACA](#), the predecessor of [NASA](#), is founded.
- [1918](#) – Germany, Austria and Russia sign the [Treaty of Brest-Litovsk](#) ending Russia's involvement in [World War I](#), and leading to the independence of Finland, [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#) and Poland.
- [1923](#) – [TIME](#) magazine is published for the first time.
- [1924](#) – The thirteen-century-old Islamic [caliphate](#) is abolished when [Caliph Abdul Mejid II](#) of the Ottoman Empire is deposed. The last remnant of the old regime gives way to the reformed [Turkey](#) of [Kemal Atatürk](#).

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- 1924 – The [Free State of Fiume](#) is annexed by [Kingdom of Italy](#).
- [1931](#) – The United States adopts [The Star-Spangled Banner](#) as its [national anthem](#).
- [1938](#) – [Oil](#) is discovered in [Saudi Arabia](#).
- 1938 – The [Mallard](#) the fastest steam driven train on the planet, was built by [LNER Doncaster Works](#) England
- [1939](#) – In [Mumbai](#), [Mohandas Gandhi](#) begins to fast in protest at the autocratic rule in [India](#).
- [1940](#) – Five people are killed in an arson attack on the offices of the [communist](#) newspaper [Norrskensflamman](#) in [Luleå](#), Sweden.
- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): Ten [Japanese](#) warplanes [raid the town](#) of [Broome, Western Australia](#), killing more than 100 people.
- [1943](#) – World War II: In London, England, 173 people are killed in a crush while trying to enter an air-raid shelter at [Bethnal Green tube station](#).
- [1944](#) – The [Order of Nakhimov](#) and [Order of Ushakov](#) are instituted in [USSR](#) as the highest naval awards.
- [1945](#) – World War II: American and Filipino troops [recapture Manila](#) in the [Philippines](#).
- 1945 – World War II: A former [Armia Krajowa](#) unit [massacres](#) at least 150 [Ukrainian](#) civilians in [Pawłokoma](#), Poland.
- 1945 – World War II: The [RAF accidentally bombs](#) the [Bezuidenhout](#) neighbourhood in [The Hague](#), Netherlands, killing 511 people.
- [1951](#) – [Jackie Brenston](#), with [Ike Turner](#) and his band, records "[Rocket 88](#)", often cited as "the [first rock and roll record](#)", at [Sam Phillips'](#) recording studios in [Memphis, Tennessee](#).
- [1958](#) – [Nuri as-Said](#) becomes the [prime minister](#) of [Iraq](#) for the 8th time.
- [1969](#) – [Apollo program](#): NASA launches [Apollo 9](#) to test the [lunar module](#).
- [1980](#) – The [USS Nautilus](#) is [decommissioned](#) and stricken from the [Naval Vessel Register](#).
- [1985](#) – [Arthur Scargill](#) declares that the [National Union of Mineworkers](#) national executive voted to end the longest-running industrial dispute in Great Britain without any peace deal over pit closures.
- 1985 – A [magnitude 8.3 earthquake](#) struck the [Valparaíso Region](#) of [Chile](#), killing 177 and leaving nearly a million people homeless.
- [1991](#) – An [amateur video](#) captures the beating of [Rodney King](#) by [Los Angeles police officers](#).
- 1991 – In concurrent referenda, 74% of the population of [Latvia](#) votes for independence from the [Soviet Union](#), and 83% in [Estonia](#).
- [1997](#) – The [tallest free-standing structure](#) in the [Southern Hemisphere](#), [Sky Tower](#) in downtown [Auckland](#), New Zealand, opens after two-and-a-half years of construction.
- [2002](#) – Citizens of Switzerland narrowly vote in favor of their country becoming a member of the [United Nations](#).
- [2004](#) – Belgian brewer [Interbrew](#) and [Brazilian](#) rival [AmBev](#) agree to merge in a \$11.2 billion deal that forms [InBev](#), the world's largest brewer.

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- [2005](#) – [Mayerthorpe tragedy](#): [James Roszko](#) murders four [Royal Canadian Mounted Police](#) constables during a drug bust at his property in [Rochfort Bridge, Alberta](#), then commits suicide. It is the deadliest peace-time incident for the RCMP since 1885 and the [North-West Rebellion](#).
- 2005 – [Steve Fossett](#) becomes the first person to fly an airplane non-stop around the world solo without refueling.
- [2009](#) – The [Historical Archive of the City of Cologne](#) collapses.