

# March 14, 2014

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2. **Air Force nuke crew failings worse than reported .**
3. **Judge: Technicality prevents decorated soldier from receiving Medal of Honor.**
4. **Marine Corps to create experimental task force with 25 percent women.**
5. **US Army to proceed with planned exercise in Ukraine.**
6. **Pentagon officials: We need more base closures.**
7. **'Consolidated' TRICARE: Higher user fees, more freedom.**
8. **Navy still has tuition assistance money available.**
9. **VA: We budgeted before DOD; troop reductions not accounted for.**
10. **Shinseki: Advance Funding Won't Solve VA Problems.**
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12. **Doing the right thing for veterans.**
13. **Veterans: sacrificial lambs.**
14. **Norovirus is suspect in four deaths at Minneapolis VA home.**
15. **Veterans Study: Prescribed Opioids Trigger Chronic Use.**
16. **PTSD cited as Iraq War vet seeks lesser sentence.**
17. **Florida VA: Collier, Lee have greatest need for new veterans nursing home.**
18. **Homeless vets unable to find help turn to self-medication and compound their problem.**
19. **Ground broken for apartments serving disabled, homeless veterans.**
20. **American Legion helps local veterans with disability claims.**
21. **App Connects Military Families.**
22. **One Dog's Powerful Healing Effects on Two Wounded Veterans.**
23. **Former Veterans Affairs Psychiatrist Sentenced for Medicare Fraud.**
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25. **Today in History:**

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1. [Man Arrested For Defrauding The United States Army Reserve](#). Federal Grand Jury in Puerto Rico Returns 7-Count Indictment Against Man Who Received Veterans Benefits Using Assumed Identity.
2. [Air Force nuke crew failings worse than reported](#). Failings exposed last spring at a U.S. nuclear missile base, reflecting what one officer called "rot" in the ranks, were worse than originally reported, according to Air Force documents obtained by The Associated Press.
3. [Judge: Technicality prevents decorated soldier from receiving Medal of Honor](#). Lt. Garlin Murl Conner was the second-most decorated soldier during World War II, earning four Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars, seven Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Cross.
4. [Marine Corps to create experimental task force with 25 percent women](#). The Marine Corps will open new combat jobs to women, allow women to volunteer for combat specialty training previously closed to them and create a co-ed experimental task force to evaluate how female Marines perform as part of a ground combat unit, Marine officials said.
5. [US Army to proceed with planned exercise in Ukraine](#). The status of two annual U.S. Army Europe military exercises that were scheduled for July — one in Russia, one in western Ukraine — is being affected differently by the situation in Ukraine, which has been described as the worst crisis since the end of the Cold War.
6. [Pentagon officials: We need more base closures](#). John Conger, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, said he knows the last round of BRAC, in 2005, left "a bad taste" in the mouths of many in Congress, but that this would be different.
7. ['Consolidated' TRICARE: Higher user fees, more freedom](#). TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care option for 5.5 million beneficiaries who enroll for a modest fee to be guaranteed timely access to primary care, would cease to exist within a few years under the "Consolidated TRICARE" plan proposed in the fiscal 2015 defense budget.
8. [Navy still has tuition assistance money available](#). While other services' tuition programs are turning troops away, the Navy has more tuition assistance cash than it can use, Navy officials said this month.

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9. [VA: We budgeted before DOD; troop reductions not accounted for.](#) Lawmakers fear that the Veterans Affairs department might not be asking for enough money to meet its needs, the National Journal reported Thursday.
10. [Shinseki: Advance Funding Won't Solve VA Problems.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military.com:** Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki on Wednesday told a Senate panel that advance funding for all VA operations would not solve all the department problems in the event of another government shutdown.
11. [VA: We budgeted before DOD; troop reductions not accounted for.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Stars and Stripes:** Lawmakers fear that the Veterans Affairs department might not be asking for enough money to meet its needs, the National Journal reported Thursday.
12. [Doing the right thing for veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Daily Hampshire Gazette:** Last month, the leaders of more than 20 veterans' service organizations supported a bill by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders that would have resulted in the most comprehensive legislation for veterans in decades.
13. [Veterans: sacrificial lambs.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NorthJersey.com:** Where is the accountability when it come to veterans benefits? It seems many of our legislators do not understand accountability. Must veterans continue to carry budget cuts on their backs?
14. [Norovirus is suspect in four deaths at Minneapolis VA home.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Star Tribune:** Four residents of the state veterans home in [Minneapolis](#) died over the weekend from a possible outbreak of a highly contagious foodborne illness that is particularly dangerous to the sick and elderly.
15. [Veterans Study: Prescribed Opioids Trigger Chronic Use.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Epoch Times:** A new study finds that of the nearly 1 million veterans who receive opioid medications, more than half continue to use the drugs chronically.
16. [PTSD cited as Iraq War vet seeks lesser sentence.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Blade:** An Iraq War veteran convicted of shooting at Oregon police officers deserves "one fair shot" to have his sentence lessened because of his post-traumatic stress disorder, his attorney told the Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday.

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17. [Florida VA: Collier, Lee have greatest need for new veterans nursing home.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Naples Daily News:** Collier and Lee counties could be in the running for a 120-bed skilled nursing home operated by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to serve aging veterans and create nearly 200 new jobs, according to state documents.
18. [Homeless vets unable to find help turn to self-medication and compound their problem.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **MLive.com:** Nearly 140,000 veterans stayed in a shelter at some point in 2012, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
19. [Ground broken for apartments serving disabled, homeless veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Mississippi Business Journal:** Officials have broken ground on an apartment complex in Biloxi that will serve disabled, homeless veterans.
20. [American Legion helps local veterans with disability claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Augusta Chronicle:** National and state teams from The American Legion were available to discuss veteran's benefits, community service opportunities and local posts they could join near their homes.
21. [App Connects Military Families.](#) [Hyperlink to Audio](#) **NPR (Audio):** Military families face unique challenges in finding aid for veterans. Now there's an app to help. A member of the National Military Family Association tells us how.
22. [One Dog's Powerful Healing Effects on Two Wounded Veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **ABC News (Video):** Justin Lansford and his longtime girlfriend, Carol Balmes, love doting on their golden retriever, Gabe. But there is much more to this four-legged friend than meets the eye.
23. [Former Veterans Affairs Psychiatrist Sentenced for Medicare Fraud.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **eNews Park Forest:** A licensed psychiatrist formerly employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was sentenced today to serve 18 months in prison for falsely claiming to provide at-home services to Medicare beneficiaries.
24. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 14, 2014:**
  - **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

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- **March 25, 2014.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing on Veterans Affairs Bills.
  - H.R. 2942 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - H.R. 3056 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of outreach and support services to veterans pursuing higher education under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - H.R. 3614 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve the recognition by states of skills learned in the military by a Veteran when issuing licenses and credentials.
  - H.R. 4031 — Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.
  - H.R. 4037 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to training and rehabilitation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities, and for other purposes.
  - H.R. 4038 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in the information technology of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to process claims more efficiently, and for other purposes.
  - H.R. 4147 — Student Veterans IT Upgrade Act.
  - H.R. 4150 — Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2014.
  - H.R. 4151 — Veterans Education Survey Act of 2014.
  
- **March 25, 2014.** HVAC O&I will hold legislative hearing with issues related to construction, health, and other matters.
  - *HR 3593* – Mandating arrangement with US Army Corps of Engineers for three major construction projects
  - *Draft bill* – informed consent for psychotropic drugs
  - *Draft bill* – oversight of contracts with service-disabled veteran owned small businesses
  - *Draft bill* –Gulf War Illness
  - *Draft bill* –Improve information security by implementing actions to improve transparency and governance
  - *Draft bill* –Biological implant protocol and procurement
  
- **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.

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- **March 26, 2014:** HVAC DAMA will hold a Legislative Hearing on bills related to NCA and VBA.
  - HR 2018 – Honor Those Who Served Act
  - HR 2088 – Centers for Excellence
  - HR 2119 – Veterans Access to Speedy Review (Video Hearing)
  - HR 2529 – Veterans Spouse Equal Treatment Act
  - HR 3671 – NCA Medallion Bill
  - HR 3876 – Burial with Dignity Act
  - HR 4095 – Annual COLA
  - HR 4102 – Require Payment for Accrued Benefits to Veterans Estate
  - HR 4141 – Expand Enhanced Use Leases to Cemeteries
  - HR 4191 – Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act (REVISED)
  
- **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
  
- **March 27, 2014.** HVAC Health intends to hold a Legislative Hearing on health related bills.
  - H.R. 183 – The Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act
  - H.R. 2527 – Veterans counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training
  - H.R. 2661 – The Veterans Access to Timely Medical Appointments Act
  - H.R. 2974 – To provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes
  - H.R. 3387 – The Classified Veterans Access to Care Act
  - H.R. 3508 – Qualifications of hearing aid specialists
  - H.R. 3180 – To include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects (Kaptur)
  - H.R. 3831 – The Veterans Dialysis Pilot Program Review Act of 2014 (Roe)
  - H.R. 4198 – The Appropriate Care for Disabled Veterans Act
  - DRAFT – To authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2014 and for other purposes. (VA FY14 Construction Package)

## 25. Today in History:

- [1590](#) – [Battle of Ivry](#): [Henry of Navarre](#) and the [Huguenots](#) defeat the forces of the [Catholic League](#) under the [Duc de Mayenne](#) during the [French Wars of Religion](#).

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- [1647](#) – [Thirty Years' War](#): [Bavaria](#), [Cologne](#), France and Sweden sign the [Truce of Ulm](#).
- [1757](#) – Admiral [Sir John Byng](#) is executed by [firing squad](#) aboard [HMS Monarch](#) for breach of the [Articles of War](#).
- [1780](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): [Spanish](#) forces [capture Fort Charlotte](#) in [Mobile, Alabama](#), the last [British](#) frontier post capable of threatening [New Orleans](#) in [Spanish Louisiana](#).
- [1782](#) – Battle of Wuchale: Emperor [Tekle Giyorgis](#) pacifies a group of [Oromo](#) near [Wuchale](#).
- [1794](#) – [Eli Whitney](#) is granted a [patent](#) for the [cotton gin](#).
- [1900](#) – The [Gold Standard Act](#) is ratified, placing [United States currency](#) on the [gold standard](#).
- [1903](#) – The [Hay–Herrán Treaty](#), granting the United States the right to build the [Panama Canal](#), is ratified by the [United States Senate](#). The [Colombian](#) Senate would later reject the treaty.
- 1903 – The [Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge](#) is established by US President [Theodore Roosevelt](#).
- [1910](#) – [Lakeview Gusher](#), the largest U.S. [oil well gusher](#) near [Bakersfield, California](#), vents to atmosphere.
- [1915](#) – [World War I](#): Cornered off the coast of [Chile](#) by the [Royal Navy](#) after fleeing the [Battle of the Falkland Islands](#), the German light cruiser [SMS Dresden](#) is abandoned and scuttled by her crew.
- [1939](#) – [Slovakia](#) declares independence under [German](#) pressure.
- [1942](#) – [Orvan Hess](#) and John Bumstead became the first in the United States successfully to treat a patient, Anne Miller, using [penicillin](#).
- [1943](#) – [World War II](#): The [Kraków Ghetto](#) is "liquidated".
- [1945](#) – World War II: The [R.A.F.](#)'s first operational use of the [Grand Slam bomb](#), [Bielefeld, Germany](#).
- [1951](#) – [Korean War](#): For the second time, [United Nations](#) troops recapture [Seoul](#).
- [1964](#) – A jury in [Dallas](#) finds [Jack Ruby](#) guilty of killing [Lee Harvey Oswald](#), the assumed assassin of [John F. Kennedy](#).
- [1967](#) – The body of U.S. President [John F. Kennedy](#) is moved to a permanent burial place at [Arlington National Cemetery](#).
- [1972](#) – Italian publisher and former partisan [Giangiacomo Feltrinelli](#) is killed by an explosion near [Segrate](#).
- [1978](#) – The [Israeli Defense Force](#) invades and occupies southern [Lebanon](#), in [Operation Litani](#).
- [1979](#) – In China, a [Hawker Siddeley Trident](#) crashes into a factory near Beijing, killing at least 200.
- [1980](#) – In Poland, a [plane crashes](#) during [final approach](#) near [Warsaw](#), killing 87 people, including a 14-man American [boxing](#) team.
- [1984](#) – [Gerry Adams](#), head of [Sinn Féin](#), is seriously wounded in an assassination attempt in central [Belfast](#).
- [1988](#) – [Johnson South Reef Skirmish](#): Chinese forces defeat Vietnamese forces in Johnson South Reef, disputed [Spratly Islands](#).
- [1994](#) – [Timeline of Linux development](#): [Linux kernel](#) version 1.0.0 is released.

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- [1995](#) – [Space Exploration](#): Astronaut [Norman Thagard](#) becomes the first American [astronaut](#) to ride to space on board a Russian launch vehicle.
- [2006](#) – Members of the [Chadian](#) military fail in an attempted [coup d'état](#).
- [2007](#) – The [Left Front](#) government of [West Bengal](#) sends at least 3,000 police to [Nandigram](#) in an attempt to break [Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee](#) resistance there; the [resulting clash](#) leaves 14 dead.
- [2008](#) – A series of [riots, protests, and demonstrations](#) erupt in [Lhasa](#) and elsewhere in [Tibet](#).