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2. Railroads hire many veterans returning from war.
3. Crackdown on military sex assault may have unintended consequences.
4. Navy's top officer: Global surge ability lessened, but Pacific ops restored.
5. Ex-Defense chief Gates says DOD budget must be smarter.
6. Breedlove assumes command at EUCOM, Stavridis retires.
7. Veterans Affairs Secretary Outlines Plan to End Compensation Claims Backlog.
8. VA commits to trim backlog on claims.
9. Summaries of the 10 bills targeting growing backlog of US veteran claims.
10. VA's new budget missing funds to create burn-pit registry.
11. Grant will aid female veterans in Delaware.
12. Portland VA adds five mental health workers in national initiative to hire 1,600.
13. Expanding Medicaid could help 13,000 Illinois vets.
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1. [The Hmong, Vietnam era allies, honor their dead from long-ago war](#). The old Hmong veterans stood at ragged attention, in a cemetery whose soil is still closed to them.
2. [Railroads hire many veterans returning from war](#). Mark Major once led a team of soldiers in combat in Iraq. Now he leads a team of railroad employees. The difference, he says, is obvious: "I'm not getting shot at anymore."
3. [Crackdown on military sex assault may have unintended consequences](#). A newspaper review further shows that out of the public eye, military judges are questioning an Air Force program that provides alleged victims with special legal assistance.
4. [Navy's top officer: Global surge ability lessened, but Pacific ops restored](#). The Navy has lost two-thirds of its rapid "surge capability," meaning the service has less flexibility to use its largest battle groups to respond to global hotspots, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert said Friday.
5. [Ex-Defense chief Gates says DOD budget must be smarter](#). Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates says there are smart ways to reduce the size of the nation's defense budget.
6. [Breedlove assumes command at EUCOM, Stavridis retires](#). Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove became head of U.S. European Command on Friday, assuming leadership at a time of fiscal constraint and growing instability just beyond Europe's edges in places such as Syria.
7. [Veterans Affairs Secretary Outlines Plan to End Compensation Claims Backlog](#). [Hyperlink to Story WSAZ-TV \(Video\)](#): The wait is over; that's the bottom line for veterans who have not received compensation for their claims.

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8. [VA commits to trim backlog on claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Herald-Dispatch:** An initiative to expedite the backlogged health care claims of the nation's veterans was announced Thursday at the VA Regional Office in Huntington. Eric Shinseki, the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, traveled from Washington, D.C., to Huntington to make the announcement at what he called one of the VA's top performers.

9. [Summaries of the 10 bills targeting growing backlog of US veteran claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Bangor Daily News:** VA Claims, Operations and Records Efficiency Act (Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick) -- requires DoD to provide certified, complete, and electronic records to VA within 21 days.

10. [VA's new budget missing funds to create burn-pit registry.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** The Veterans Affairs Department's proposed fiscal 2014 budget contains no funding to establish or maintain a registry for service members exposed to open-air burn pits.

11. [Grant will aid female veterans in Delaware.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **News Journal:** Women remain a minority within the military's ranks. And when it comes to services provided outside the government umbrella, they also often remain an afterthought.

12. [Portland VA adds five mental health workers in national initiative to hire 1,600.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Oregonian:** Five mental health workers have joined the Portland VA Medical Center as part of a national hiring initiative, with four of them joining the center's program to bring services to rural veterans.

13. [Expanding Medicaid could help 13,000 Illinois vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Seattle Post-Intelligencer (AP):** More than 40,000 uninsured military veterans in Illinois could have new access to health insurance under the national health overhaul law, according to a new interactive tool based on U.S. census data.

14. [Auditor raises questions on veteran home operations.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **U-T San Diego:** California's independent state auditor recommended Thursday that the state take immediate steps to control spending on veterans retirement homes, including possibly charging residents more to recoup a larger share of the costs.

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15. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as May 11, 2013:

- **May 15, 2013 (T).** The Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs intends to hold a legislative hearing on VA's benefit programs and other purposes.

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 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 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 Paralympics Team and the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance to United States Paralympics, Inc., and for other purposes
- 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)

DRAFT BILLS

- S. XXXX Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013 (Sanders/Burr)
- S. XXX Claims Processing Improvement Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. XXX Veterans Equipped for Success During Transition Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. XXX A bill to provide in-state tuition to transitioning Veterans (Sanders)

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- S. XXX 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 under through congressional offices, and for other purposes (Sanders)
- S. XXX Veterans' Outreach Act of 2013 (Sanders)

16. Today in History:

- [1647](#) – [Peter Stuyvesant](#) arrives in [New Amsterdam](#) to replace [Willem Kieft](#) as [Director-General](#) of [New Netherland](#), the [Dutch colonial settlement](#) in present-day [New York City](#).
- [1745](#) – [War of Austrian Succession: Battle of Fontenoy](#) – French forces defeat an [Anglo-Dutch-Hanoverian](#) army.
- [1792](#) – [Captain Robert Gray](#) becomes the first documented [white person](#) to sail into the [Columbia River](#).
- [1812](#) – [Prime Minister Spencer Perceval](#) is assassinated by [John Bellingham](#) in the lobby of the [House of Commons](#), [London](#).
- [1813](#) – In [Australia](#), [William Lawson](#), [Gregory Blaxland](#) and [William Wentworth](#) lead an expedition westwards from [Sydney](#). Their route opens up inland Australia for continued expansion throughout the 19th century.
- [1820](#) – [HMS Beagle](#), the ship that will take [Charles Darwin](#) on his scientific voyage, is launched.
- [1846](#) – President [James K. Polk](#) asked for and received a Declaration of War against [Mexico](#), starting the [Mexican-American War](#)
- [1857](#) – [Indian Revolution: Indian](#) rebels seize [Delhi](#) from the British.
- [1858](#) – [Minnesota](#) is admitted as the 32nd [U.S. State](#).
- [1862](#) – [American Civil War](#): The [ironclad CSS Virginia](#) is scuttled in the [James River](#) northwest of [Norfolk, Virginia](#).
- [1867](#) – [Luxembourg](#) gains its independence.
- [1880](#) – Seven people are killed in the [Mussel Slough Tragedy](#), a gun battle in [California](#)
- [1891](#) – The [Ōtsu incident: Tsarevich](#) Nicholas Alexandrovich of [Imperial Russia](#) (later [Nicholas II](#)) suffers a critical head injury during a sword attack by [Japanese](#) policeman Tsuda Sanzō. He is rescued by [Prince George of Greece and Denmark](#).
- [1907](#) – 32 [Shriners](#) are killed when their chartered train derailed at a switch near Surf Depot in [Lompoc, California](#).
- [1910](#) – An act of the [U.S. Congress](#) establishes [Glacier National Park](#) in [Montana](#).
- [1924](#) – [Mercedes-Benz](#) is formed by [Gottlieb Daimler](#) and [Karl Benz](#) merging their two companies.
- [1927](#) – The [Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences](#) is founded.
- [1943](#) – [World War II](#): American troops invade [Attu Island](#) in the [Aleutian Islands](#) in an attempt to expel occupying [Japanese](#) forces.
- [1944](#) – World War II: The [Allies](#) begin a major offensive against the [Axis Powers](#) on the [Gustav Line](#).

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- [1945](#) – World War II: Off the coast of [Okinawa](#), the [aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill](#) is hit by two [kamikazes](#), killing 346 of its crew. Although badly damaged, the ship is able to return to the U.S. under its own power.
- [1946](#) – [UMNO](#) is created.
- [1949](#) – Siam officially changes its name to [Thailand](#) for the second time. The name had been in use since [1939](#) but was reverted in [1945](#).
- [1949](#) – [Israel](#) joins the [United Nations](#).
- [1960](#) – In [Buenos Aires, Argentina](#), four [Israeli Mossad](#) agents capture fugitive [Nazi Adolf Eichmann](#) who is living under the alias of Ricardo Klement.
- [1967](#) – [Andreas Papandreu](#), [Greek economist](#) and socialist politician, is imprisoned in [Athens](#) by the [Greek military junta](#).
- [1973](#) – Citing government [misconduct](#), [Daniel Ellsberg](#) has charges for his involvement in releasing the [Pentagon Papers](#) to [The New York Times](#) dismissed.
- [1987](#) – [Klaus Barbie](#) goes on trial in [Lyon](#) for [war crimes](#) committed during World War II.
- [1987](#) – In [Baltimore, Maryland](#), the first [heart-lung transplant](#) takes place. The surgery is performed by Dr. [Bruce Reitz](#) of the [Stanford University School of Medicine](#).
- [1995](#) – In New York City more than 170 countries decide to extend the [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty](#) indefinitely and without conditions.
- [1996](#) – After the aircraft's departure from [Miami, Florida](#), a fire started by improperly handled [oxygen](#) canisters in the cargo hold of [Atlanta-bound ValuJet Flight 592](#) causes the [Douglas DC-9](#) to crash in the [Florida Everglades](#) killing all 110 on board.
- [1996](#) – The [1996 Mount Everest disaster](#): on a single day eight people die during summit attempts on [Mount Everest](#).
- [1997](#) – [Deep Blue](#), a [chess-playing supercomputer](#), defeats [Garry Kasparov](#) in the [last game](#) of the rematch, becoming the first [computer](#) to beat a world-champion chess player in a classic match format.
- [1998](#) – India conducts [three underground atomic tests](#) in [Pokhran](#) to include a [thermonuclear](#) device.
- [2000](#) – [Second Chechen War](#): [Chechen](#) separatists [ambush Russian](#) paramilitary forces in the Republic of [Ingushetia](#).