



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



July 12, 2021



Hard Truths and the Duty to Change: Recommendations from the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military

MST Prosecution Changes: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced that he will be recommending the prosecution of sexual assaults in the military be taken out of the military chain of command. He plans to work with Congress to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The change comes after a 300-page report completed by the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military was released by the White House with more than 80 recommendations. The commission met with military and veterans service organizations, victim advocacy groups, and active duty and veteran sexual assault survivors. The findings focus on four areas — accountability, prevention, climate and culture, and survivor care and support. [Read the report.](#)



VA Education and Training Options: The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in June the jobless rate for all veterans rose to 4.8 percent, which is up from 4.1 percent the previous month. If you are a veteran in need of a job or job training, VA has a number of programs to help. The VA's [VET TEC](#) program can help veterans start or advance their careers in the technology industry. [Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program](#) can assist veterans with education and training if they are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. VA has also partnered with [Salesforce](#) that has created a program to provide free training, certifications, and career opportunities for veterans.



VA Answers FAQs about COVID-19 Delta

Variant: The highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus strain is rapidly sweeping across the United States. Studies have shown that fully vaccinated individuals have protection against the Delta variant. Under the [SAVE LIVES Act](#), veterans, caregivers, and spouses may receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Check with your local VA facility for vaccine clinic times. [Learn more.](#)



Learn Where the VFW Stands on Legislation: The National Legislative Service staff regularly testifies before Congress on behalf of our VFW members. Our testimonies cover a wide array of issues that are critically important to veterans from all eras. While comprehensive toxic exposure legislation is currently our number one priority, we actively advocate on many varied issues concerning veterans' earned benefits, care options, and delivery. The VFW currently supports 69 bills and opposes one bill pending before the 117th Congress. [View current legislation.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and four new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Fireman 2nd Class Ralph C. Battles, 25**, of Boaz, Alabama, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Battles. He will be buried on Aug. 28, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Battles.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Louis N. Crosby, 18**, of Orangeburg, South Carolina. was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Crosby will be buried Aug. 18, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Crosby.](#)

-- **Marine Pfc. Henry E. Ellis, 22**, of Roanoke, Virginia, was a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Service Battalion, 1st Marine Division. He was killed in action on Nov. 30, 1950, while defending the convoy of which he was a member near Koto-ri, North Korea. Ellis will be buried Aug. 23, 2021, in Salisbury, North Carolina. [Read about Ellis.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Pete Conley, 19**, of Chapmanville, West Virginia, was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Conley will be buried in Pecks Hill, West Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Conley.](#)

-- **Marine Corps Pfc. Glenn F. White, 19**, was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. White died on the third day of battle. Interment services are pending. [Read about White.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Morris E. Swackhammer, 20**, was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division. In August, his unit landed on the southern coast of France as part of Operation DRAGOON. After securing the coastal ports, the 36th ID drove north, meeting with the D-Day invasion force before turning toward Germany. On Nov. 22, 1944, Swackhammer's unit engaged in a heavy firefight with enemy troops in a wooded area northwest of Fraize. Interment services are pending. [Read about Swackhammer.](#)

-- **Navy Storekeeper 1st Class Harry E. Walker, 36**, was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Walker. Interment services are pending. [Read about Walker.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Arthur R. Thinnis, 17**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7,

1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Thinnes. Interment services are pending. [Read about Thinnes.](#)

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