



Hello, all.

I am so pleased to begin my term as your National Third Vice Commander. My thanks to Paul and the legislative team in DC for their helpful transition, and I cannot wait to serve you throughout my time in this position.

The temperature is finally starting to cool down in the nation's capital (but only in terms of the weather). Tensions on Capitol Hill are beginning to ramp up as the House returns from August recess today. Congress has until the end of the month to pass critical funding bills or risk sending the country into a government shutdown. We will let you know when we have more information on the status of these bills.

Yesterday was the 22nd anniversary of September 11, 2001. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who continue to be impacted by this tragic event as we all take this time to remember the lives lost. We will continue to honor their memories and commemorate their legacy always.

Other updates can be found below. I look forward to working with our team in Washington and getting you the most up-to-date, relevant information wherever you are.

Sending fond wishes and positive energy this week. Thank you.

With high regard,

-Sandy Vorhies, AMVETS National Third Vice Commander



Today, Tanya Bradsher was confirmed by the Senate as the [first female deputy secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs](#) after a 50-46 vote. She has served as the chief of staff to VA Secretary Denis McDonough since March 2021. Despite the contentious leadup to her confirmation, she is expected to be sworn into her new post within the next few days.

The [9/11 terrorist attacks](#) on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC took place 22 years ago yesterday. The official death toll has been placed at almost 3 thousand people, including those who crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. First Lady Jill Biden laid a wreath at the [Pentagon's remembrance ceremony](#) yesterday morning, hosted by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. President Joe Biden attended a [commemoration event in Anchorage, Alaska](#) upon his return from the G20 summit.

A [6.8 magnitude earthquake](#) struck Morocco on Friday evening, killing 2.5 thousand people and leaving just as many injured. It was the strongest earthquake recorded in the country in over a century, and the search for survivors continues. For information on how you can help, click [here](#).

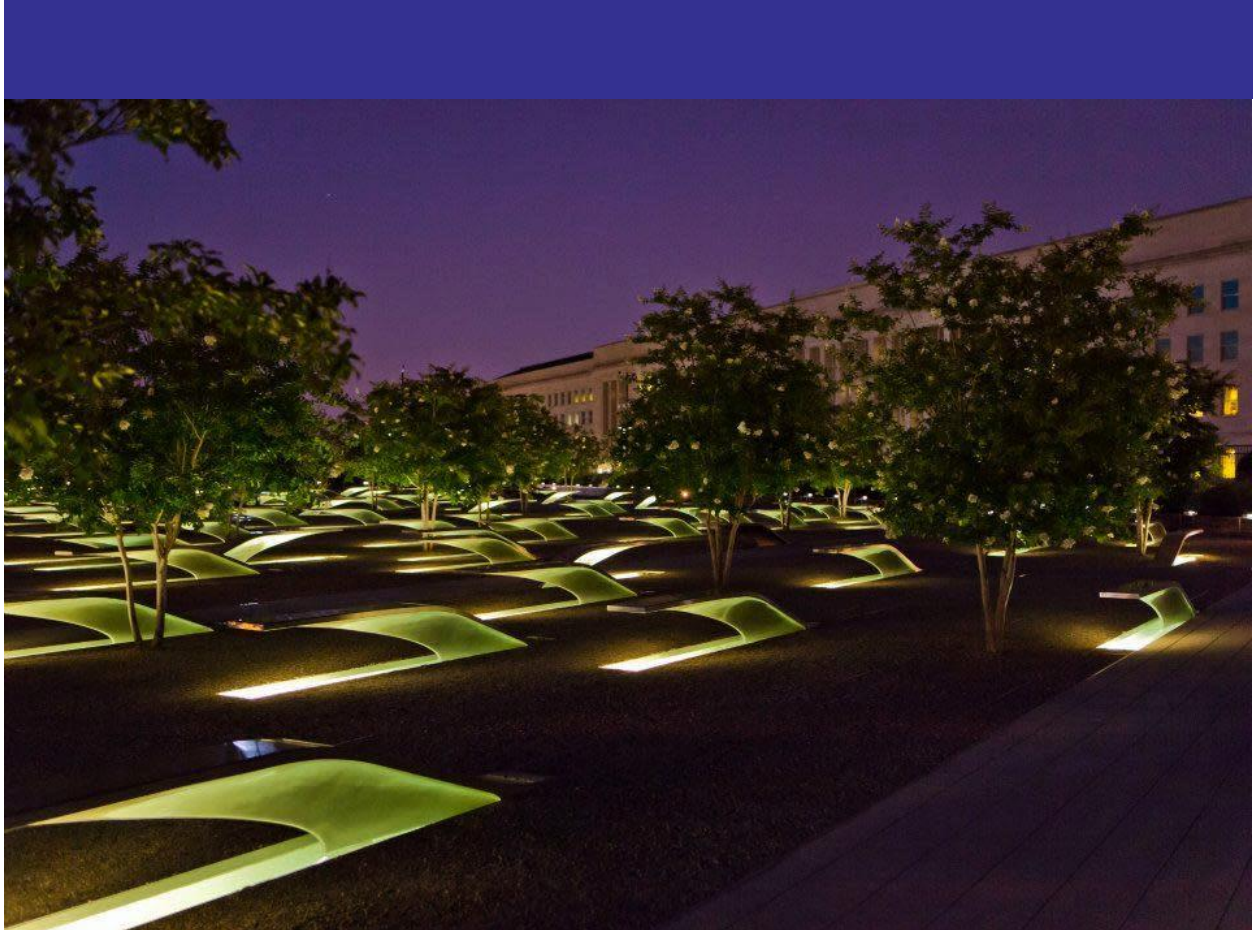
In a [letter to airmen](#) late last week, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown warned that the Chinese military is "targeting and recruiting U.S. and NATO-training military talent," including veterans. Several schemes have been reported where China has sought the expertise of serving and former American pilots to train the country's military personnel. Allies have also been asked to caution their active duty and veteran populations against such recruitment efforts.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has issued an advisory following its investigation into allegations that the VA did not adequately oversee [electronic health record modernization](#) (EHRM) progress reports from its vendor. The advisory states that while these allegations were not substantiated, the VA lacked timelines for when Cerner, the contractor, was required to submit corrections to insufficient progress reports. OIG has asked the VA to detail the actions it plans to take to improve the deliverable review process for future contracts.

As the House returns from recess today, an [ugly fight with the Senate](#) is shaping up over the budget. Congress has a September 30 deadline for passing crucial funding bills, and Senators are urging their counterparts in the House to work in a more bipartisan manner to avoid a potential government shutdown. Still, hard-right Republicans are threatening to hold their line indefinitely.

The VA released a [new advertisement campaign](#) ahead of National Suicide Prevention Week. Part of the "Don't Wait. Reach Out." campaign, these ads are meant to help veterans who are hesitant

to seek assistance or professional help. They will air online and on television, as well as be available through most social media platforms. To watch these videos, click [here](#).



Yesterday marked the 22-year anniversary of the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington, DC. The [National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial](#) was created in 2008 to honor the 184 lives lost in the District of Columbia. We encourage you to mark the legacy of the day and never forget.

This Week's Events

September
14

House Veterans Affairs Committee Full Committee Markup on Pending Legislation

VA Electronic Health Record Modernization: Get Well Soon?

Thursday's House Veterans Affairs Committee full committee markup will take place at 10:30am and can be viewed [here](#).

*The **Senate** is in session Monday-Thursday.*

*The **House** is in session Tuesday-Friday.*



Starting July 16th, 988 will be a universal entry point so that no matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

In the meantime, please continue to share 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to be connected with a trained, caring counselor.

We're here for you.

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