



Erosion of U.S. military capabilities must be stopped, chairman tells Senators

U.S. Department of Defense

The erosion of American military capabilities is real and must be halted, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told the Senate Armed Services Committee here today. Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford asked members of the committee to provide adequate, stable budgets so that the Defense Department can fight today's battles, and prepare tomorrow's force. [READ MORE](#)

Senators: More must be done to reduce vet suicides

Military.com via Stars and Stripes

A boost in medical providers and resources, greater awareness of mental illness within the military and improving the treatment of exiting service members could help combat a disturbing trend of increased suicides among veterans, lawmakers said Wednesday. A detailed government report released earlier this month showed suicide risk is 22 percent higher among veterans compared to civilians. For female veterans, that risk was 2.5 times higher. [READ MORE](#)

Hiring new staff remains a problem for VA's suicide prevention efforts

Army Times

Ending veterans suicide will require more mental health professionals, more research into prevention options, and more public awareness from all of America, the secretary of Veterans Affairs warned lawmakers on Wednesday. "Every day I think about the number of Americans who are dying because we aren't addressing the problem well enough," David Shulkin said during a suicide prevention hearing before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. VA officials estimate 20 veterans a day nationwide commit suicide. [READ MORE](#)

Hospital ship heads to Puerto Rico as military struggles to direct aid

Military.com

The U.S. will send the hospital ship USNS Comfort to Puerto Rico in a ramped up military response, hampered by poor communications, to the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, the Pentagon said Wednesday. "We need to understand what [they] need in order to get the right stuff there to the right place," Air Force Gen. Lori Robinson, commander of U.S. Northern Command, said in an acknowledgement that initial assessments failed to gauge the scope of the disaster. [READ MORE](#)

National Guard leader says he's seen no delay in federal help to Puerto Rico

The Hill

The head of the National Guard Gen. Joseph Lengyel said he has not seen any political posturing that would deny or slow aid to the U.S. territory, which has been hit by two powerful Category 5 storms in the past month. Puerto Rico's nearly 3.5 million residents are now living without electricity, and Lengyel expects it will be "more than a month" until electricity is fully restored. [READ MORE](#)