



# ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



April 1, 2024



## **Congressional Watchdog Calls for DOD to Improve Transition:**

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a report titled *Service Members Transitioning to Civilian Life: Agencies Can Improve Warm Handovers for Additional Assistance*. During a review of DOD's warm handover process, GAO found that from April 2021 to March 2023, it did not provide needed transition assistance to 4,300 at-risk service members who were facing challenges with employment, housing, or medical care. The VFW continues to advocate for legislation to improve [transition from service](#), including H.R. 3933 / S. 2888, *TAP Promotion Act*, to require accredited representatives from national, state, and local organizations to be included in Transition Assistance Program classes. [Read the GAO report.](#)



**April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month:** Military sexual trauma (MST) relates to sexual assault or harassment that occurred during military service. Although VA is spotlighting MST education and treatment this month, it works year-round to raise awareness of its resources to address this issue. According to its website, "Healing after MST can take time. But no matter how long it's been, VA is here to help." Learn more and explore VA's [MST resources](#).



**VA Direct Deposit Consolidation Deadline:** As of April 20, 2024, VA will no longer send benefit payments for veterans or family members to more than one bank account. This is due to an IT modernization effort by VA for its GI Bill payment system. This change will impact approximately 50,000 students who receive the GI Bill and other VA benefits in separate direct deposit accounts. VA is sending weekly emails and text messages to this group of veterans and beneficiaries informing them of the upcoming change and asking them to select one bank account going forward. If students do not consolidate their bank accounts by April 20, VA will continue to send payments but will designate the non-education benefit payment account as the primary bank account. [Read more](#) for details on how to choose a single bank account for direct deposit.



**Vet Our Democracy:** VFW National Legislative Associate Director Joe Grassi joined a conference call briefing hosted by the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization We the Veterans and Military Families. It introduced the Vet Our Democracy podcast as its first civics education program. The podcast will focus on the rights and responsibilities that veterans, active duty military, and military families have as citizens, and offer suggestions on how veterans can support their local polling stations. [Listen to the podcast.](#)



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

- **Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Robert Allen, 20**, of Oakland, California, was assigned to the 860th Bombardment Squadron, 493rd Bombardment Group. He was killed in action on Aug. 18, 1944. He will be buried in San Diego, California, on July 12, 2024. [Read about Allen.](#)
- **Army Sgt. John O. Herrick, 19**, of Emporia, Kansas, was assigned to Company B, 149th Engineer Combat Battalion. He was killed in action en route to Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. He will be buried in his hometown on Nov. 11, 2024. [Read about Herrick.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Sgt. Frank J. Seiferheld, 25**, of New York, New York, was assigned to the 348th Bombardment Squadron, 99th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force. He went missing in action on Jan. 20, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Seiferheld.](#)

-- **Army Pvt. 1st Class Jimmy D. Smith, 21**, of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and was a member of Medical Company, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Eighth U.S. Army. He was killed in action on July 30, 1950. He will be buried in Kingsburg, California, on a date to be determined. [Read about Smith.](#)

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