



FEDERAL NEWS NETWORK.COM

WFED

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ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

THIRD QUARTER 2019

JULY 1 • SEPTEMBER 30

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Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

ISSUES OF CONCERN

The Federal News Network on WFED 1500 AM provides comprehensive coverage of the Federal Government and is the go-to news source for the federal community. WFED's coverage is non-partisan, non-political, and designed to help executives understand and make better decisions about issues affecting their agencies and their companies. WFED has identified the following as significant issues facing our community this quarter:

1. **Pay and Benefits** – The latest information affecting federal employees' pay, benefits and retirement.
2. **Workforce** – The current issues affecting the quality and performance of federal employees, managers, and contractors.
3. **Management** – Federal leaders and their strategies for shaping the direction of the agencies they head with particular focus on human resource management issues including selecting, developing, training, and managing a high-quality, productive workforce.
4. **Procurement and Acquisition** – Issues related to how the Federal Government plans, negotiates and awards contracts for projects. One out of every ten dollars of federal money goes to contractors who perform specific jobs, supply labor and materials, or for the sale of products and services.
5. **Technology** – Strategies that govern how to manage individual Federal Government networks; the latest directives, IT challenges, successes and cybersecurity objectives.
6. **Defense and Security** – How the Department of Defense is managing the programs, policies and challenges facing our defense and intelligence communities, especially national security and military force issues.
7. **Veterans Affairs** – Issues affecting veterans of the American armed forces; public policies, benefits, services, and programs carried out by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUE – RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

Federal News Network on WFED 1500 AM comprise the key source of breaking news, information and analysis for the individuals responsible for carrying out and supporting the missions of federal agencies. As part of our continuing effort to serve our listeners, WFED has consulted federal agency managers, policy makers and contractors to address issues of concern to members in our community. Programming dealing with each issue listed is outlined below:

PAY AND BENEFITS

-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – July 15 • 7:07 a.m. • 9 minutes
Salary Council members make official case for comprehensive federal pay changes – Three members of the Federal Salary Council have made their official recommendations to the President's pay agent suggesting how to improve the way government evaluates and compensates federal employees. They suggest a variety of options to change the way government compares federal pay to the private sector and uses the comparisons to compensate federal employees. However, not all members of the council agree with the recommendations. Federal News Network's Nicole Ogrysko reports what the members are recommending and the next steps forward.

-  **Your Turn** – July 24 • 11:05 a.m. • 54 minutes
Retirement prep tips: Boost your Social Security benefit 76% - Most current and former federal workers are or will be eligible for monthly Social Security benefits. For most feds, it will be the third source of retirement income along with their Federal Employees Retirement System annuity and investments in the Thrift Savings Plan. The amount of the indexed-to-inflation Social Security benefit will be important for some people. For those with little or no post-retirement income that steady Social Security payment will be critical. While Social Security is available as early as age 62, benefits expert Tammy Flanagan said most people could dramatically boost that monthly payment by delaying it. Despite that, she said that 72% of Social Security recipients are receiving reduced benefits, and will for life, because they took them before their full retirement age. Tammy is going to try to cover all the basics and then some, to help put more money in your monthly retirement income and reduce costs to you.

-  **Mike Causey's Federal Report** – August 11 • Every hour, 6:05 a.m. to 6:05 p.m. • 54 seconds
D-Day for pay raise, health premiums, retiree COLA - The size and purchasing power of your 2020 biweekly paycheck or monthly annuity payment will be decided in a couple of months. Inflation (or lack of the same), politics and increasing medical costs will all play a hand in how much more or less you actually have to spend in the coming year. The good news about the January 2020 cost of living adjustment for federal, military and Social Security retirees is that there almost certainly will be one. The not-so-good news is that because of flat-line inflation the January catch-up for millions of retirees probably won't be as much as they hoped, and maybe not even enough to cover higher Federal Employees Health Benefits Program health premiums that will kick in in January.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – September 3 • 6:07 a.m. • 8:45 minutes
Trump reverses course, announces federal pay raise for 2020 - President Trump delivered a big surprise to federal employees late Friday. In a surprising reversal, President Donald Trump announced his plans to implement a federal pay raise - rather than a pay freeze - for civilian employees in 2020. Under Trump's proposed pay plan, civilian federal employees would get an across-the-board pay raise of 2.6% next year. Locality pay rates, however, will remain frozen at 2019 levels. The pay raise would become effective Jan. 1. All presidents must submit an alternative pay plan to Congress by Aug. 31. Otherwise, automatic locality increases under the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act (FEPCA) kick in at the start of the next year. The President's decision is a significant surprise because his 2020 budget submission included a recommendation to freeze federal pay for next year. He had also initially implemented a freeze for 2019, but Congressional appropriators later added a retroactive pay raise of 1.9% for this year.
-  **Your Turn** – September 11 • 11:06 a.m. • 54 minutes
TSP: Love it or leave it, big changes coming next week - Effective Sept. 15, major changes will take effect in the TSP, changes that will make it more attractive for life-time investors and more convenient for people who need to withdraw different amounts over their retirement. Mark Keen, certified financial planner and federal benefits expert for National Active and Retired Federal Employees, will talk about what the changes are and what they will mean to you. Jessica Klement, NARFE vice president for advocacy, will talk about the long legislative battle to get Congress to approve the historic changes.
-  **Your Turn** – September 18 • 11:06 a.m. • 54 minutes
2020 taxes, your TSP, mortgage and health premiums - While some people are already working on their 2020 taxes, there are probably many more still trying to figure out what they did right or wrong, because of the 2017 tax law. Many were surprised to learn that it no longer paid to itemize deductions that had been important in the past. Because of these changes in the tax law, there many steps an individual federal employee can take to minimize his or her tax bill. Before taking advantage of any tax-saving opportunities, it is always necessary to consider whether the opportunity makes sense and remember that the ultimate tax shelter is to simply not make any money. Tom O'Rourke answers your questions on this episode of Your Turn with Mike Causey.

WORKFORCE

-  **Federal Newscast** – July 12 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds
More resistance to merging OPM and GSA - Yet another legislative attempt to block the Trump administration's proposed merger of the Office of Personnel Management with the General Services Administration passed the House. The amendment is part of the 2020 defense authorization bill. It prevents the administration from transferring resources from OPM to GSA. The House already included and passed similar language in its 2020 appropriations bill.
-  **Mike Causey's Federal Report** – July 15 • Every hour, 6:05 a.m. to 6:05 p.m. • 54 seconds

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

Are federal workers grossly overpaid or underpaid? - Short answer is: Yes. You'd think an official, book-length report on how screwed up federal salaries are would be a bestseller both in major federal enclaves, but a report by three of the six member Federal Salary Council, with an issue date of May 2 and first reported by Federal News Network's Nicole Ogrysko, has yet to register on anybody's chart. The 35-page report, with a lengthy 5-page executive summary isn't Fifty Shades Of Gray or Gone With the Wind, but it's very important to the federal salary-setting system which has been a work in progress for more than 100 years. It shows the frustration of the three non-union council members who do yeoman work year after year on an issue (that costs a lot of money), only to be ignored by presidents, Congress and the general public.



Federal Drive with Tom Temin – August 9 • 7:07 a.m. • 8 minutes

Agencies are launching new reskilling, IT career opportunities in all shapes and sizes - When it comes to reskilling and training their employees for future IT opportunities, agencies are beginning to learn one size truly does not fit all. It's why the Trump administration is engaged in several pilots designed to provide new career opportunities in IT for federal employees at all levels. USDA is the latest agency to announce a new training and reskilling opportunity, this time geared for rising IT employees interested in becoming a CIO or CISO. The Agriculture Department -this week - announced a new Senior Executive Service candidate development for up-and-coming IT leaders. The program is open to GS-14s and 15s at all agencies who have at least one year of supervisory experience.



Federal Drive with Tom Temin – August 30 • 7:07 a.m. • 9 minutes

USDA considers rehiring retirees to fill relocation-related workforce gaps –The two bureaus affected by the Agriculture Department's upcoming relocation to Kansas City are asking retirees to consider returning to their former agencies as part-time reemployed annuitants of the Economic Research Service or the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Both bureaus are expected to lose significant portions of their workforces in the coming month, as ERS and NIFA relocate their headquarters by Sept. 30. Employees must accept mandatory reassignments to Kansas City or they will lose their current jobs. An ERS retiree, who asked to remain anonymous, received a call from a former agency supervisor last week. At least two current employees at ERS and NIFA also said their supervisors were planning to approach retirees to gauge their interest in returning to their agencies.



Federal Drive with Tom Temin – September 27 • 7:07 a.m. • 7 minutes

Appeals court denies unions chance for a rehearing over Trump's workforce executive orders - Federal employee unions suffered a big blow earlier this week. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Wednesday denied unions a chance to rehear their case against the President's executive orders on collective bargaining and official time. The unions and the Trump administration have been locked in a series of legal battles over these executive orders for over a year, but they could end soon. In the meantime, the Office of Personnel Management is out this week with new instructions for agencies to review and then update their performance management policies. Federal News Network's Nicole Ogrysko has details.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

MANAGEMENT

-  **On DoD** – July 24 • 11:06 a.m. & 2:06 p.m. • 54 minutes
New tactics by DoD inspector general mean more whistleblower cases resolved - In the Defense Department, complaints of whistleblower reprisal are difficult to prove, especially when the victims are contractor employees. In the seven years since Congress strengthened contractors' rights to lodge complaints about retaliation, investigators have only managed to substantiate four cases. But the department's inspector general is taking a new approach to reprisal complaints. So far, the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process has produced a massive increase in the number of alleged reprisal victims who've been able to get some relief: 82 cases have been resolved through ADR since the program's launch in late 2017, including 36 in the latest six-month reporting period. Nilgun Tolek, the DoD IG's director for whistleblower retaliation, said the decision to begin the new ADR program with contractor reprisal complaints was based on a prediction that private-sector employees and firms would readily embrace it.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – August 28 • 6:34 a.m. • 9:30 minutes
One high-level vacancy at NASA could spell trouble for future of space exploration - In July, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine demoted the agency's associate administrator for Human Exploration and Operations. Bill Gerstenmaier had served as NASA's Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations since 2005. However, after ongoing delays with the Space Launch System rocket and the risk of not returning to the moon by 2024, Bridenstine decided a change was needed. Although a career NASA employee currently fills the position on an acting basis, the lack of a permanent associate administrator for Human Exploration and Operations could threaten NASA's ability to meet some of the ambitious goals set by the administration. Eric Berger, Senior Space Editor at Ars Technica explains to Federal News Network's Eric White what led up to Gerstenmaier's removal, and what it means.
-  **Federal Newscast** – September 5 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds
EPA's chief financial officer is stepping down - Holly Greaves, the Environmental Protection Agency's chief financial officer, has stepped down just over a year into the job. Greaves worked as a senior manager for professional services network KPMG before serving as the CFO since last March. Wednesday marked her last day in the position. Deputy CFO David Bloom will serve as EPA's acting CFO. Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler, in an all-hands email, thanked Greaves for her role in maintaining a 19-year streak of clean audit opinions.
-  **Federal Newscast** – July 27 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds
Senate confirms Eugene Scalia to lead Labor Department - The Senate has confirmed Eugene Scalia as the Trump administration's next secretary of Labor. Scalia, son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, had previously worked as the agency's top lawyer during the George W. Bush administration. In private practice, Scalia has a long record of defending major corporations against financial and labor regulations. He'll take over the role from Pat Pizella, who has served as acting Labor secretary. President Donald Trump's last permanent pick for the job, Alexander Acosta, resigned in July.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

PROCUREMENT AND ACQUISITION

-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – July 16 • 7:07 a.m. • 9 minutes
Pentagon prevails in legal challenge to its JEDI Cloud contract - A federal judge on Friday signaled the end of months of legal wrangling over the Pentagon’s controversial JEDI Cloud contract by ruling in favor of the Defense Department and rejecting the central claims in a bid protest lawsuit filed by Oracle America. In a brief two-page ruling, Judge Eric G. Bruggink granted DoD’s motion for judgment, clearing the way for the department’s planned award of the up-to-\$10 billion contract to either Microsoft or Amazon Web Services next month. Oracle and another bidder, IBM, had already been excluded from the competition because of “gate criteria” DoD established as part of the JEDI acquisition process. As part of its suit, Oracle had challenged the rationality of the gates, arguing, in part, that they were based on arbitrary measures of various cloud providers’ service offerings. But Bruggink found the department was within its rights to establish the gates, and Oracle was properly excluded from the rest of the bidding process.
-  **On DoD** – July 17 • 11:06 a.m. & 2:06 p.m. • 54 minutes
Army issues solicitation to commercialize IT on its installations - Responses to the Army’s Enterprise IT-as-a-Service prototype are due within a month, work is set to begin by the end of this year. The Army is kicking off a rapid acquisition process for a pilot project that could eventually wind up commercializing the IT networks on its more than 200 bases around the world. Assuming the pilots are successful, it’s likely to be several more years before the vendor-managed technology is fully up and running on each installation. But officials strongly suspect the modernization process would take even longer if the Army continued to own and operate its own networks — a paradigm the other military services have already moved away from.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – August 8 • 6:34 a.m. • 9 minutes
Gauging Oracle’s next steps after JEDI bid protest loss - There are still a lot of unanswered questions about the future of the Pentagon’s JEDI Cloud contract. One of the biggest is whether Oracle will continue its legal challenge to the contract after losing its bid protest lawsuit at the Court of Federal Claims. It could take the case to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, but hasn’t made a decision just yet. Joe Petrillo is a procurement attorney at the firm Petrillo and Powell. He talked to Jared Serbu about the likelihood of success of an appeal, based on how the case has gone so far. *UPDATE: August 26 - Oracle Corp. has begun the process of appealing a federal judge’s ruling that tossed out the company’s months-long legal challenge of the Defense Department’s mega-cloud contract known as JEDI.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – September 19 • 6:34 a.m. • 8:30 minutes
Space X protest reveals limits of OTA contracts - Deals made under other transaction authority, as opposed to regular procurement contracts, help the government buy innovation and prototypes. That was the case with the Air Force looking for new space launch technology. The Air Force awarded three OTAs, but not to Space X. Space X filed a bid protest in federal court and discovered whether a protest is even possible under OTA. For details, procurement attorney Joseph Petrillo of Petrillo and Powell joined Federal Drive host Tom Temin.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

TECHNOLOGY

-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – July 26 • 6:07 a.m. • 7 minutes
Federal CIO Kent: AI pushes need to retrain ‘broader swath’ of federal employees - Agencies have gotten buy-in from their employees when it comes to automating rote tasks like data entry, but it’s a tougher sell to those employees - and the public - to trust artificial intelligence tools for data-driven decision-making. Some agencies, including the General Services Administration, IRS and Defense Logistics Agency expect to save tens of thousands of work hours through robotic process automation-powered bots for back-office functions. A new wave of data-centric hires at agencies brings the promise of making the transition a little smoother. There’s also room for automation grow, according to research from the Partnership for Public Service and IBM’s Center for the Business of Government. Up to a third of Treasury Department employees, for example, hold jobs with tasks that could become automated in the near future.
-  **Ask the CIO** – August 8 • 10:06 a.m. & 2:06 p.m. • 54 minutes
Broken processes spurred the Marshals Service’s IT modernization effort - The U.S. Marshals Service’s technology modernization effort has little to do with the actual technology. The Justice Department bureau is upgrading its processes that will lead to successful IT implementations. Karl Mathias, the chief information officer of the U.S. Marshals Service, said he hired a new chief technology officer, Christine Finnacle, to help develop a 5 to 10-year technology modernization roadmap. He said the agency is adopting a risk-based and agile approach to system updates. Mathias said agile is a major step toward dev/ops but the two concepts are not synonyms. The Marshals Service is moving toward agile and eventually dev/ops, but there still are some legacy systems where the waterfall approach remains in place.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – September 13 • 6:07 a.m. • 9 minutes
After a dozen years, agencies freed from restrictive cyber policy - The albatross hanging on agencies’ necks for the past decade that made it much harder to move the cloud, is finally gone. The Office of Management and Budget on Thursday released the final Trusted Internet Connections (TIC) policy that outlines four uses cases and a series of deadlines to implement a more flexible security architecture. Federal News Network executive editor Jason Miller discusses why the new TIC policy will also make IT modernization easier.
-  **Ask the CIO** – September 19 • 10:06 a.m. & 2:06 p.m. • 54 minutes
DISA teaming up with US Cyber Command on a zero trust lab - A lot of agencies and vendors talk about the move to a zero trust architecture, but few are actually putting the pieces in place to improve their cybersecurity. The Defense Information Systems Agency may be one of the few exceptions. Jason Martin, the vice director of the Development and Business Center at DISA, said the agency is doing a better job in merging data to oversee and manage employee access to systems. DISA is working with the U.S. Cyber Command to launch a zero trust pilot. Martin said a big step for the Defense Department will be consuming enterprise data from disparate databases to oversee and manage access of employees to systems and data. In addition to the zero trust lab, DISA is focusing a lot of work around identity authentication and verification as another step toward implementing this cyber approach.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

DEFENSE AND SECURITY

-  **Federal Newscast** – July 22 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds
Former NSA contractor sentenced for hoarding sensitive materials - A former contractor who worked with the National Security Agency, is going to prison for up to nine years after pleading guilty to willful retention of national defense information. Harold Martin of Glen Burnie, Maryland also received three years of supervised release. Martin admitted he stole government property from secure locations and computer systems for nearly 20 years, including documents in both hard copy and digital form relating to the national defense.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – July 22 • 7:07 a.m. • 9 minutes
Upcoming policy changes shaping DoD's newly renamed security clearance agency - The Defense Department and Office of Personnel Management finally have their ducks in a row to move the massive security clearance program from one agency to the other. The newly renamed agency is also developing a new end-to-end IT system and it's preparing to implement a series of new policies that the Trump administration is slowly piloting. Charlie Phalen, director of OPM's National Background Investigations Bureau, is also the new acting director of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, which will eventually subsume the NBIB and serve as the security clearance, suitability and vetting provider for most of government. The ultimate goal, Phalen and other defense officials said, is to design a new security clearance organization that's positioned toward the future.
-  **On DoD** – August 28 • 11:06 a.m. & 2:06 p.m. • 54 minutes
Navy building more 'strategic' relationships with its key suppliers - For decades, the Navy's relationship with its spare parts suppliers has been relatively straightforward. But officials at Naval Supply Systems Command say they've come to realize that arms-length transactional approach doesn't give the Navy nearly enough insight into the health of its supply chain, nor does it give vendors enough of a view into the military's long-term needs. So, for at least its most important suppliers, NAVSUP says it's begun to interact with them on a more "strategic" basis. Thus far, it's identified nine large contractors to be part of what the command calls its Strategic Supplier Relationship Management (SSRM) program. The engagements typically start with high-level discussions between NAVSUP and a given company at the executive level, said Karen Fenstermacher, NAVSUP's executive for strategic initiatives.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – September 3 • 7:07 a.m. • 8:30 minutes
EXCLUSIVE: Pentagon will create Space National Guard if Space Force launches - The Space Force will get its own National Guard branch if Congress decides to create the new military service in its 2020 defense policy bill. The Defense Department will establish the Space National Guard in tandem with the Space Force and will have basic headquarters and staffing set up by the beginning of next year if Congress gives it the green light, Brig. Gen. Patrick Cobb, special assistant to the National Guard Chief for space, told Federal News Network's Scott Maucione in an exclusive interview. Regardless of the Space Force becoming its own branch or being placed within the Air Force, DoD will still establish the Space National Guard.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – September 27 • 6:33 a.m. • 9:30 minutes
Defense Department plans to use networked weapons in future of warfare - It takes microseconds for an electronic message to move from device to device, but in practice, those split seconds add up. The Defense Department plans to use networked weapons in the future. It's paying academia to find ways to reduce network latency — 24 institutions are sharing \$162 million. Federal News Network's Scott Maucione talked with Virginia Tech Electrical and Computer Engineering professor Jeffery Reed, the principal investigator of the project, for Federal Drive with Tom Temin.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

-  **Federal Newscast** – July 10 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds
Pentagon delaying major change to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits - Controversial changes to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are now being delayed by the Pentagon. The Defense Department planned to discontinue the ability to transfer benefits to spouses and children for service members who served more than 16 years. It is now holding off on that change until next January.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – July 25 • 6:07 a.m. • 9 minutes
New accountability office hasn't made a dent in VA's 'culture of retaliation,' whistleblowers say- The Department of Veterans Affairs is developing new training and policies for both employees and investigators within the agency's Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. Whistleblowers at the Department of Veterans Affairs say not much has changed since the agency stood up a specific office dedicated to investigating whistleblower cases and potential retaliation. The office is working on new policies and training. It wants to help employees and supervisors better understand the whistleblowing process. But some of the other organizations that are supposed to receive and process VA whistleblower complaints say they're understaffed. That's leaving whistleblowers frustrated with they call an opaque. Federal News Network's Nicole Ogrysko Reports.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – July 29 • 7:07 a.m. • 9 minutes
Five years after Phoenix scandal, VA wait times still under scrutiny - It's been five years since the controversy over patient wait times rocked the Department of Veterans Affairs and shook up its entire leadership team, and patient wait times at the agency are still difficult to measure and track. VA today says it has no *secret* wait lists of veterans waiting for care. The department says wait times are down and that veterans are happier with VA services than they were back in 2014. But the Government Accountability Office says it can't be sure VA's data today is accurate, and whistleblowers are still coming forward to say something's not quite right with VA's appointment making procedures. More now from Federal News Network's Nicole Ogrysko.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – July 31 • 6:20 a.m. • 11 minutes
VA to spend \$10B on EHR replacement despite firm grasp on current system - The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to spend up to \$10 billion over the next 10 years to replace its electronic health record with a commercial product made by Cerner, but VA doesn't have a very good handle on exactly what it is that it's replacing. The Government Accountability Office said the department doesn't have a comprehensive definition of its current VistA system, or how much it's spending to keep it up and running. Carol Harris, director of Information Technology Acquisition Management at GAO, offered more information to Jared Serbu on the Federal Drive.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – August 6 • 6:20 a.m. • 11 minutes
VA says it's adding more walk-in clinics to treat minor cases every day - First through the Choice Act and then the MISSION Act, Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs have been trying to expand veterans' access to private sector medical providers since 2014. Those choices now extend to urgent care clinics. VA now has 5,000 of those walk-in clinics under contract to treat veterans with relatively minor illnesses and injuries, and said it's adding more every day. Dr. Kameron Matthews is the deputy undersecretary for Health for Community Care. She talked with Federal News Network's Jared Serbu about how the program works, and what types of care VA's hoping to provide through the clinics.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – September 23 • 6:34 a.m. • 9 minutes
VA is trying new strategies to deal with suicides among veterans - Suicides among veterans has become a vesting and persistent challenge for the Veterans Affairs Department. In recent months it's been trying some new strategies to reach at-risk veterans before it's too late. Dr. Matt Miller, the VA's Acting Director for Suicide Prevention, discusses the new strategies they are trying to reach at-risk veterans before it's too late.
-  **Federal Drive with Tom Temin** – September 23 • 6:20 a.m. • Part I - 9:30 minutes
September 24 • 6:20 a.m. • Part II - 9:30 minutes
Veterans Benefits undersecretary instituted quarterly performance briefings - Dr. Paul Lawrence walked into what you might call a complicated situation when he took over as the undersecretary for Veterans Benefits at the Veterans Affairs Department in 2018. Among the priorities were fixing the disability claims process and carrying out the Forever GI bill. Veterans Affairs isn't the only organization that cares about veterans and Lawrence is working to build what he calls a culture of cooperation with groups such as the veterans service organizations. He spoke with Federal News Network's Tom Temin who also asked him about a more immediate challenge -- namely identifying the Vietnam War Navy veterans who might've been exposed to agent orange.
-  **Public Service Announcement: Veterans History Project - Library of Congress**
June 1 – September 30 • Broadcast 106 times at various times of day • 30 seconds
The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED Third Quarter 2019 • July 1 – September 30

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WFED broadcast 22 public service campaigns 3,072 times between July 1 and September 30 at various times of day. Each announcement was 30 or 60 seconds.

-  AI Anon
-  American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons – Combating Opioid Abuse
-  American Red Cross
-  Cohen Family Clinic at Easterseals
-  Disaster / Flood Assistance (SBA)
-  Geico Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
-  Heroines of Washington for March of Dimes
-  Kars 4 Kids – Hot Car Safety App
-  Library of Congress Veterans History Project
-  Lupus Awareness
-  Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being (McPaw)
-  National Federation of the Blind
-  National Park Service GW Parkway Meet-up Walks
-  NOVA Veterans Association
-  PestWorld.org
-  Prescription drug abuse prevention
-  Safe Disposal of Opioids (FDA)
-  Smoking Cessation (CDC)
-  Social Security Administration – Scam Warning
-  Susan G. Komen More Than Pink Walk
-  Takata Airbag Recall (Toyota)
-  Veterans Affairs – Stand with Us