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ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

FIRST QUARTER 2020

JANUARY 1 • MARCH 31

SUE RUSHKOWSKI

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Quarterly Issues/Programs List for WFED First Quarter 2020 • January 1 to March 31

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.

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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

- 🎧 Your Turn with Mike Causey – January 22 • 10:00 a.m. • 54 minutes
TSP thermometer: 2018 bad, 2019 good, 2020? Stock markets, like people and wine, have good years and not-so-good years. Investors who try to buy low and sell high don't have very good track records, but people try. Take 2018, please! That year the C fund, which tracks the S&P 500 was down 4.4%, but investors who continued to buy shares got a pleasant surprise in 2019 when the C fund was up 31.5%. The story was the same for the S fund (small cap) and I fund (international stock index), which also had bad years in 2018 but bounced back big time - 28% and 22.5% last year, respectively. That means something, but what? Mike Causey asked Washington, D.C., area financial planner Arthur Stein for his take. He has several self-made Thrift Savings Plan millionaires among his clients.

- 🎧 Your Turn with Mike Causey – January 29 – 10:00 a.m. – 54 minutes

Planning to Work Till you Drop: Why not? Depending on which expert you google, the average age of retirement for federal workers is late 50s to early 60s. No two sources give the same age. But some experts in retirement planning believe that many feds with memories of the Great Recession of 2008-2009 are working longer than they have to. So are you one of them? Although there is no mandatory retirement age for most federal jobs many people — law enforcement officers, air traffic controllers, firefighters and others — do have to leave by a certain time. Retiring under the Federal Employees Retirement System is more complex because of the reduced federal annuity — compared to Civil Service Retirement System — Social Security and the Thrift Savings Plan. The long-predicted retirement tsunami still hasn't happened. We also asked retirement expert Tammy Flanagan to consider why so many people are delaying retirement.

- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 12 • 7:07 a.m. • 9 minutes
Trump proposes federal pay raise, familiar retirement cuts in 2021 budget - President Donald Trump's proposed 1% across-the-board federal pay raise is an attempt to meet Congress "halfway" on the topic, as the administration also recommended more agency funding on employee performance rewards and bonuses. Proposals recommending cuts to employee retirement benefits are back again, which the White House has described as an attempt to bring federal benefits more closely in line with the private sector. But the Trump administration did

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pledge a clear goal to reskill and train a good chunk of the federal workforce. Federal News Network's Nicole Ogrysko explains the president's latest budget request.

- 🎧 Your Turn with Mike Causey – February 12 – 10:00 a.m. – 54 minutes
Downsizing your Pay/Pension for Life - In what's become the administration's evergreen budget plan, the White House has again proposed that federal workers kick in more of their salary — as in a lot more — toward their retirement plan in return for smaller — as in much smaller — lifetime annuities that are frozen when they retire. In other words they would pay more for a reduced benefit that would be stripped of any protection from inflation regardless of how long the retiree lived. My guests are Kenneth J. Thomas, president of NARFE and Jessica Klement, vice president for advocacy.

- 🎧 Your Turn with Mike Causey – March 1 – 7:11 a.m. 54 minutes
Planning to Retire Ever? Hold that Thought. If federal workers and retirees found themselves sleepwalking through the last 11 years of Wall Street's bull market, retirement benefits specialist Tammy Flanagan said the pandemic-driven stock-market volatility has been "a wake-up call." Flanagan, who has been providing retirement planning assistance to federal employees since 1985, talked about the right time to retire, Medicare and ways to manage one's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). "Retirement, for the most part, is a voluntary action," she said, "So if you get cold feet, up until the day of your final separation ... you can pull your application, unless your agency has some reason to not allow it. But generally speaking, you can pull it out."

- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – March 24 – 6:42 a.m. – 34 seconds
Coronavirus hits just as VBA was getting claims backlogs under control - Just as it was getting backlogs under control and ramping up a whole new congressionally-mandated benefit program, along came the coronavirus. Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary Dr. Paul Lawrence joined *Federal Drive with Tom Temin* for a situation report from the Veterans Benefits Administration.

WORKFORCE

- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 10 • 6:07 a.m. • 8 minutes
OPM launches new online collection of agency bargaining agreements, per Trump workforce EOs - The Office of Personnel Management on Thursday launched a new online database of collective bargaining agreements from agencies across government. The creation and launch of the new collective bargaining agreement database, which Federal News Network previewed earlier this week, fulfills a requirement of one of the president's May 2018 workforce executive orders. The president's EO on collective bargaining had given agencies a deadline to submit all current collective bargaining agreements and new arbitration awards to OPM. That organization was then responsible for prescribing a format for agencies to submit these agreements and then make them all publicly available online. The new collective bargaining agreement database lives

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on OPM.gov. It's a tool specifically for agency labor relations specialists, who, moving forward, will use the system to directly submit CBAs to OPM for public view. But OPM said the database also serves as a tool for the public, too.

- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 27 • 9:07 a.m. • 9 minutes**
Lack of quorum hits 3-year mark at MSPB, with no clear end in sight - The three-member board has lacked a quorum since January 2017, and it's had no members since last March. Petitions for review, which federal employees and agencies can file when they disagree with an initial decision from an administrative judge, have piled up over the last three years. As of the end of 2019, the backlog of pending appeals sat at 2,529 cases, according to the MSPB. Tristan Leavitt serves as the MSPB's acting chief executive while the board remains member-less. He said MSPB attorneys continue to review and draft decisions as if board members were present. But official decisions - and all that paperwork - can't go anywhere until the Senate confirms at least two of the President's nominees to the board. The extensive backlog of cases continues to grow, and that means employee appeals are left unresolved. If, and when, the board does reach a quorum, the backlog of pending appeals will take at least a couple years to resolve.

- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 14 – 9:54 a.m. – 9 minutes and 47 seconds**
Jeff Neal: Taking the Long View of Federal Employment. - It's been a tough few weeks for federal employees, at least for those who worry about their jobs, their pay and their retirements. Maybe they should take the long view, as heard from former Department of Homeland Security Chief Human Capital Officer Jeff Neal. What we are seeing is warmed-over ideas. We won't see any big changes in civil service. There is no reform being proposed. We have a 1950's civil service. The chance of reform is zero.

- 🎧 **Federal Newscast – February 26 – Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds**
State Department workforce more diverse but its leadership is not - The State Department's workforce has grown more diverse over nearly two decades, but that diversity hasn't filtered up to the agency's higher ranks. The Government Accountability Office found the overall racial and ethnic diversity of State's workforce increased, from 28% in 2002 to 32% in 2018. But the watchdog also found that the agency remains less diverse at the GS-13 level and above in the Civil Service, and at all ranks of the Foreign Service. Meanwhile, GAO found that minority workers saw a lower rate of promotion than white employees.

- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – March 2 • 6:48 a.m. • 8 minutes**
Congress could help with staff shortages at airports - Warning of long lines and flight delays, the union representing Transportation Security Administration officers said airports are understaffed, officers underpaid. That could change under a bill in the House sponsored by Bennie Thompson, who is the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. The bill would change the laws governing TSA officers, and it has a little bipartisan support in terms of co-sponsors. The union that represents most of the federal workers backs it, but the National Right to Work committee, among others, opposes it. With more on this, the Federal Drive with Tom Temin spoke to Bloomberg Government Editorial Director Loren Duggan.

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- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – March 13 – 12:57 p.m. – 7 minutes 48 seconds
Are Telework Protocols Coming Too Late? - Too little and too late. That's what my next guest, a long time expert on the federal workplace, sees in the administration's approach so far to telework in the virus scare. Bob Tobias is a professor in the Key Executive Leadership program at American University. He joined Tom Temin to discuss further. Tom: OPM did issue guidance last week and told agencies to basically open up telework policies. What's your sense of how clear the communication really is and how federal workforce as a whole can really understand what's going on? **Bob Tobias:** And you point out, Tom, OPM did issue something because something had to be issued. But the question is whether something will get the job done, which is to create an opportunity for federal employees to continue to effectively carry out the public's business. And I think the answer to that is no. And the reason is, for a long time, the continuity of operations should have included a telework policy, but agencies haven't done it in OMB and OPM haven't enforced that requirement. So the only agencies I believe who are fully prepared to have an effective workforce are those who have over the years, through collective bargaining, created telework policies that have worked both in terms of creating an infrastructure for performance and a methodology for evaluating the performance of those who are performing telework.

MANAGEMENT

- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 13 – 6:08 p.m. – 7 minutes 34 seconds
The Secret to managing through shutdowns, relocations and retirements - The longest government shutdown in U.S. history, office moves and pending retirement waves were no match for some agencies this year and their attempts to keep their employees engaged in 2019. Though relocations, proposed mergers and other big changes clearly put a dent in employee morale at some agencies this past year, several other organizations held their own during a seemingly tumultuous 2019, according to the Partnership for Public Service's Best Places to Work in Federal Government rankings.
- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 14 – 6:24 p.m. 7 minutes 56 seconds
Morale at DHS: Not as Bad as you Think? It's easy to look at the Department of Homeland Security's last-place ranking on annual government engagement scores and quickly assume the worst. Like a lot of jobs across government, the mission is stressful and often dangerous for DHS employees. National news headlines, a government shutdown and a conveyor belt of acting political leadership at the department haven't helped. Add the stressors that come from life outside the job, and it's forced DHS to think outside the box when it comes to its multi-year effort to improve employee engagement. It's why the department launched an employee and family readiness council over the past year, Angela Bailey, the DHS chief human capital officer, said Tuesday.
- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 7 – 8:46 a.m. • 8 minutes 34 seconds

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FBI Whistleblower Still Seeking Appeal Rights After 2016 Law Falls Short – Federal whistleblower Joe protections against retaliation, against being outed after making confidential allegations... have been enshrined in law. Several times. Yet problems persist, at least in the eyes of the whistleblower ecosystem. Here with the latest thinking in the whistleblower community, the co-founder and general counsel of the National Whistleblower Center, David Colapinto... When Congress passed a new bill designed to extend some protections to FBI professionals back in 2016, a longtime whistleblower and former employee of the agency was hopeful he would, at last, have his day in court. Darin Jones, a former GS-15, was fired back in 2012 from his position after he made at least eight disclosures of what he believed were violations of FBI procurement law and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to his supervisors. He appealed his termination with the Justice Department inspector general and submitted his case to the Merit Systems Protection Board. But, problems persist.

- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 20 – 7:18 a.m. – 8 minutes 55 seconds**
An old hand at the inner workings of government is about to apply his experience to one of the most fraught processes. Presidential transition. Dan Blair is former deputy director of the Office of Personnel Management among other federal jobs. He's former president of the National Academy of Public Administration, and senior counselor at the Bipartisan Policy Center. Now he's headed to the Center for Presidential Transition at the Partnership for Public Service. "We want to get the best people regardless of the administration who want to serve the country and so making this process fairer while still giving the Senate the opportunity to act on its advice and consent, it strike the correct balance and we can get these positions filled faster and with better people."

- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – March 25 – 6:02 p.m – 12 minutes 38 seconds**
Congressional Commission calls for sweeping changes to military, public service programs - The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service apparently has a knack for raising awareness about its mission during unplanned but pivotal moments of national emergency. Wednesday marked the second time in two years the commission called for timely improvements to military, national and public service programs — all while many of these government institutions are in the spotlight. The commission released its interim report last year during the middle of the 35-day government shutdown. The final report, which the commission issued to Congress and the president earlier this week, comes as the federal government responds to another emergency, a global pandemic.

PROCUREMENT AND ACQUISITION

- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 7 • 6:07 a.m. • 9 minutes**
At a crossroads: Federal acquisition must evolve more rapidly - Let's just state the obvious — agency contracting officers and other acquisition professionals jobs aren't getting any easier,

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anytime soon. Before you say, “Thanks for nothing,” the National Contract Management Association believes there is plenty of light at the end of the tunnel. Kraig Conrad, CEO of National Contract Management Association, said a new survey of federal acquisition professionals gives his organization’s members plenty of hope that the acquisition workforce will see some burden relief in the coming years. Through the survey, which polled federal senior procurement executives and chief acquisition officers, NCMA came away with three main findings that help answer the question of what they can do next to bolster and evolve the federal acquisition workforce: the role of the contracting officer, the business of contracting, and the workforce - are all changing.

- 🔊 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 27 – 6:13 p.m. – 8 minutes 27 seconds
OFPP’s Wooten pressing the levers to change the tools, rules, talent pools of federal procurement - Private sector experts from Amazon, Wells Fargo and American Airlines came to the White House yesterday to reveal their secrets to getting more value out of their procurement dollars. In return, the Office of Management and Budget issued a new challenge to those companies and anyone else who is interested to bring ideas across six areas for how the government can modernize its acquisition supply chain. Michael Wooten, the administrator in the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, said the challenge and entire supply chain modernization event is part of his goal to make federal acquisition frictionless.
- 🔊 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 31 – 8:02 a.m. – 5 minutes 6 seconds
DoD plans April contract award to fix fundamentally flawed moving system - Officials at U.S. Transportation Command say they’re getting close to awarding a multibillion dollar contract to overhaul the system for moving service members’ household goods across the country and around the world. Gen. Steve Lyons, TRANSCOM’s commander, said this week that DoD now plans to award its new Global Household Goods Contract (GHC) by the end of April, once it’s resolved concerns Congress has raised in the last two National Defense Authorization bills. If all goes according to plan, the new arrangement should be up and running in time for the harried summer moving season next year, Lyons said. The idea is to choose a single, large vendor to manage the entire process for the 400,000 military moves DoD funds each year, from subcontracting with hundreds of local moving and storage companies to tracking shipments and arranging for customs clearances.
- 🔊 Federal Newscast – February 20 – Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds
After hearing complaints, GSA moves to make beta.SAM.gov information easier to find - Faced with growing frustrations over the beta.SAM.gov contract opportunities portal, GSA is trying to make it easy to learn and ask questions about the site. GSA said it has consolidated all articles, how-to videos and industry day information in one place. The goal is to help vendors and contracting officers find information on how to best use the beta.SAM.gov site.
- 🔊 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 26 – 8:23 a.m. - 8 minutes 15 seconds
GSA relearns old lesson regarding blanket purchases - An old lesson had a new airing when a contractor challenged the set-up of a blanket purchasing agreement. The General Services Administration wanted to use a system of highest-technically ranked, and reasonable pricing

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for awarding equipment deals under the federal supply schedules. That's a no-no, as procurement attorney Joseph Petrillo of Petrillo and Powell told the *Federal Drive with Tom Temin*.

- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – March 4 – 7:40 a.m. 9 minutes 50 seconds
Pentagon teeing up nine programs to test new color of money for software development - Of all the challenges the Defense Department faces in buying and building software, the rules that govern how it pays for it are widely-considered one of the biggest. And Defense officials think they have a plan to convince Congress to finally change them. The Pentagon is lining up a series of nine acquisition programs it wants to use as test cases to prove out the concept of using a new Congressional appropriations category that's specific to software. They would let those programs break free from the "color of money" strictures that were originally designed for military hardware, but make little sense in the context of the agile software development model DoD aspires to embrace. Ellen Lord, the undersecretary of Defense for acquisition and sustainment, said DoD plans to announce the programs it's nominating for the software appropriations pilot "soon." Assuming Congress gives the okay, the department would start implementing the new funding line for those programs as soon as next fiscal year.

TECHNOLOGY

- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 9 – 7:32 a.m. – 8 minutes 37 seconds
Cloud computing and remote workers can reduce cybersecurity - Cloud computing and the comet trail of mobile and remote employees that go with it has the potential to reduce cybersecurity. That's one finding of a survey conducted by the SANS Institute. SANS analyst David Hazar joined *Federal Drive with Tom Temin* for the details.
- 🎧 Ask the CIO - January 16 – 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 54 minutes
VA's CFO, CIO collaboration opens the aperture of the value of \$4B in IT spending - The Veterans Affairs Department spends more than \$4 billion a year on information technology. But the details of that spend were limited. VA could say how much it was spending on the cloud or for application development, but couldn't compare itself to public or private sector benchmarks. Ryan Woodward, the Director of the Franchise Budget Office for Infrastructure Operations in the Office of Information and Technology at VA, said that all changed in the last year. By applying Technology Business Management (TBM) standards, VA now understands its IT spending two or three levels down and is driving better decisions and cost savings.
- 🎧 Ask the CIO – February 13 • 10:06 a.m. & 2:06 p.m. • 54 minutes
With foundation set, Education moves into phase 2 of IT modernization journey - The Education Department's theme for year two of its IT modernization journey is consolidation. The theme emerged only because year one successfully fixed long-standing infrastructure and basic technology issues. Jason Gray, the Education Department's chief information officer, said year two of this 5-to-8 year strategy is just the start of delivering better services at lower costs. Gray - who has been Education's CIO since 2016, making him now one of the longest serving

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technology executives - started this IT modernization journey with a focus on technology and process changes. This approach seems to be working well as Education was one of three agencies to receive an “A” grade on the latest FITARA scorecard.

- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 20 - 6:36 p.m. – 9 minutes 24 seconds
2 major cloud procurements will define intelligence community modernization in 2020 - 2020 is shaping up to be a big year for the intelligence community and its efforts to take cloud modernization to the next level. The goal is to develop a clearer narrative and “north star” for the IC’s cloud modernization strategy, John Sherman, IC chief information officer, said Wednesday at AFCEA NOVA’s IC IT Day in Herndon, Virginia. The IC published an official cloud strategy last year, which consolidated nearly 300 priorities from 17 different agencies into one document. The next iteration of the GovCloud will be known as the “hybrid compute initiative” (HCI) which Sherman described as a “high-performance analytic environment.” Cloud is a priority for the NSA and the CIA, among many agencies.
- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – March 13 – 7:00 a.m. - 8 minutes 55 seconds
Breaking down the Huawei v. Pentagon dispute - If nothing else, the long-running Huawei situation shows the importance of considering the supply chain when it comes to cybersecurity. Huawei being the Chinese telecommunications equipment maker basically banned by the federal government. This topic came up at the recent RSA security conference, where Bruce Schneier was. He’s Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard University, and well-known cybersecurity. He joined *Federal Drive with Tom Temin* to tell us more.
- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – March 27 • 2:21 p.m. • 9 minutes 35 seconds
Tackling the coronavirus with supercomputers - In the search to understand the coronavirus and its implications, the government is marshaling much of its supercomputer capacity. That includes NASA and its high performance computing complex. With how NASA is bending that capacity to bear on the crisis, *Federal Drive with Tom Temin* turned to the division chief of NASA Advanced Supercomputing, Dr. Piyush Mehrotra

DEFENSE AND SECURITY

- 🎧 Federal Newscast – January 6 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds
OPM has yet to fix issues with contracts to help 2015 data breach victims - There are still unresolved issues with how the Office of Personnel Management is handling a major identity theft services contract for victims of the 2015 cyber breaches. OPM last signed a contract with ID Experts and subcontractor Experian in December 2018. ID Experts is supposed to provide credit monitoring and identity theft protection services for victims of OPM’s two cyber breaches. The agency’s inspector general said ID Experts is performing its duties, but OPM isn’t keeping track of the contractor’s self-evaluations and didn’t visit the ID Experts facilities to review its performance. The IG has twice raised concerns about the agency’s handling of its credit monitoring services contracts.

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- 🎧 **Federal Newscast – January 10 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds**
New Year, new ways for scammers to impersonate federal agencies - Scammers expanded their tactics to kick off 2020 and the Social Security Administration continues to be a top target. SSA's inspector general is warning of a new scam where bad actors are not only calling citizens, but sending fake emails and letters on SSA letterhead. The IG said it has received several phone calls detailing this new threat. SSA reminded citizens the agency will never threaten them, require payments in a retail gift card or wire transfer or send official letters with personal information.
- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 28– 7:21 a.m. – 9 minutes 26 seconds**
Autonomous weapons pose ethical, practical challenge to DoD - Military brass express worry about the prospect of autonomous weapons, robotic platforms that make their own decisions about when and where to shoot. Robert Marks said such weapons do come with practical and ethical challenges, but recommends continued development. He directs the Walter Bradley Center for Natural and Artificial Intelligence at Discovery Institute
- 🎧 **Federal Newscast – January 31 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds**
Senator asks intelligence community to look into Jeff Bezos phone hacking - After one of the world's wealthiest individuals had his phone hacked, one senator wants the intelligence community to begin an investigation. A UN report saying Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos' phone was hacked by officials from Saudi Arabia surfaced last week. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) is asking the FBI and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to find out if they agree with the report's findings, and what they know about the software that was used. He's worried about other U.S. citizens who may be targeted.
- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 12 – 7:47 a.m. – 10 minutes 36 seconds**
Congressional regulation of federal cybersecurity offers only a mixed bag of solutions - Cybersecurity is a big challenge for the federal government because of the way it encompasses technology, foreign policy, national security and crime. Carrie Cordero argues that Congressional oversight of federal cybersecurity is too much of a patchwork and ought to be consolidated. Cordero is an attorney with long experience in the national security end of the government, and is now a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security. She joined *Federal Drive with Tom Temin* to discuss.
- 🎧 **Federal Drive with Tom Temin – March 23 – 7:28 a.m. – 11 minutes 2 seconds**
Nearly 30,000 troops stuck in limbo because of DoD's coronavirus stop move orders - About 11,000 soldiers and 18,000 airmen have their next orders on hold due to the Defense Department's "stop movement" order, which will stay in effect until mid-May. Service members from all the military branches are waiting in limbo after DoD delayed most permanent changes of station (PCS) in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Some troops and their families have been or will be forced to move into temporary housing or hotels as they wait for the Pentagon to open up domestic travel again.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – January 10 – 11:49 a.m. – 9 minutes 26 seconds
Veterans legal services group sues over removal of public troop records - When the Defense Department pulled down public availability of records from discharge review boards, that raised a lot of hackles among veterans. Now The National Veterans Legal Services Program called the move illegal and has filed a lawsuit. NVLSP Executive Director Bart Stichman joined *Federal Drive with Tom Temin* in the studio to talk more.
- 🎧 Federal Newscast – January 31 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds
Employees at the Veterans Benefits Administration are responding well to some incentives designed to improve their performance, according to VBA Undersecretary Paul Lawrence. He said extra days off are pushing employees to meet and beat quarterly performance goals. Lawrence also said VBA is experimenting with small bonuses and other employee recognition programs. VBA is measuring the number and timeliness of its claims process.
- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 27 • 7:04 p.m. • 8 minutes 50 seconds
VA sets new July goal for initial electronic health record rollout - The Department of Veterans Affairs set a new goal for the rollout of initial electronic health record capabilities at its first facility this year, after development delays pushed back the original March timeline. July 2020 is the new goal for the initial rollout at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, though the department may deploy new EHR capabilities sooner, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie told Congress Thursday. “We have a great relationship with our private sector partner,” Wilkie told the House Veterans Affairs Committee. “We have a great relationship with the Department of Defense. But I was not satisfied. I promised you and [Rep. Phil] Roe (R-Tenn.) that if I was not satisfied, we would not launch.” “VA has been underfunded on the IT front. Throughout the last several decades we were right at the bottom. That is a bipartisan criticism, both Republican and Democratic administrations,” Wilkie said. “Raising that IT infrastructure profile is absolutely the key. Moving things to the cloud, getting people away from actually having to touch a claim, that’s what we’re working on.”
- 🎧 Federal Drive with Tom Temin – February 28 – 7:48 a.m. - 11 minutes 40 seconds
VA wants to be a leader in using artificial intelligence - Veterans Affairs last fall launched a new office with the goal of establishing the department as a leader in the use of artificial intelligence. It named Dr. Gil Alterovitz, formerly a health informatics researcher at the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology Division, as its director. For a progress report, *Federal Drive with Tom Temin* caught up with Alterovitz at an ACT-IAC artificial intelligence shared interest group meeting. He explained how the National Artificial Intelligence Institute is organized.
- 🎧 Federal Newscast – March 25 • Every hour, 6:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. • 20 seconds

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The Pentagon is taking even more precautions in the face of coronavirus and it may affect how work. The Pentagon increased its health lockdown to the second-highest level possible, closing eight entrances to the building and limiting who can come into it. The Defense Department announced it is now at Health Protect or HPCON Charlie. Protection measures for that indication include decontamination and severe restrictions of movement. Defense industry groups say they are working closely with DoD to ensure contractors can do their jobs.

- 🔊 **Public Service Announcement: Help Heal Veterans**
January 1 – March 31 • Broadcast 151 times at various times of day • 30 seconds
Each week, Help Heal Veterans supplies hundreds of therapeutic craft kits to military service members and veterans receiving medical care. This announcement explains how volunteers can get involved to help spread the mission of Help Heal Veterans to patients and support veterans through their healing process with clinician or therapist's guidance.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WFED broadcast 28 public service campaigns 1,669 times between January 1 and March 31 at various times of day. Each announcement was 30 or 60 seconds.

- 🎧 American Red Cross
- 🎧 Best Friends Animal Society
- 🎧 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
- 🎧 Easterseals Bright Stars
- 🎧 Federal Student Aid
- 🎧 Flu Vaccine (CDC)
- 🎧 Geico Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
- 🎧 Help Heal Vets
- 🎧 Leukemia Ball
- 🎧 Library of Congress Veterans History Project
- 🎧 Maryland & DC Army National Guard
- 🎧 NOVA Veterans Association
- 🎧 Sacred People
- 🎧 Safe Disposal of Opioids (FDA)
- 🎧 Shades for Migraine
- 🎧 Social Security Administration – Scam Warning
- 🎧 Stand Up To Cancer
- 🎧 Suicide Prevention
- 🎧 Tax Identity Theft (IRS)
- 🎧 Takata Airbag Recall (Toyota)
- 🎧 Trees for the Future
- 🎧 Wounded Warrior Project