



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, February 07, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 06



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

Finally, we're able to get out a newsletter. Mostly due in part to family issues.

I do want to talk about one issue and that's the **COVID** virus. According to two news sources counts of infected people with **COVID** has **dropped 40%** over last week. This is indeed good news, but neither mentioned how many were cured, and how many passed away,

When we post information regarding the Vaccine, we are not pushing it in any way, we're simply providing the information for you as an individual to make your own decision.

We've also got several pieces in the library on the [Veterans-For-Change.org website](https://www.veterans-for-change.org). And plans to upload even more very soon.

I do know **Merck Pharmaceuticals** has stopped making their version of the vaccine claiming it's dangerous and causing too many ill side effects.

I know a few on both sides of the fence, pro and con who made the decision, and also on both sides of the fence people who contracted the **COVID** virus. And I personally have lost friends on both sides of the fence including a relative.

The only other thing I know for sure is several on the against the vaccine side have recovered, but will be in home care for as much as a year. And the few who have survived the vaccine and still contracted the virus are still in the hospital, and two are on life support at this time.

As with all vaccines known to man, there is always a small percentage who cannot tolerate the

vaccine(s) and have adverse effects with very few incidents of death, but the majority have had no side effects and have not contracted what illnesses they were vaccinated against.

So, when attacking vaccines, do your homework first, and please don't bitch at me, or accuse me of trying to kill anyone. I am only providing the information I receive for everyone read and to make their own decision.

The FDA has finally approved blood donation collection again, there are a couple of postings regarding blood donations, and currently we are low on supplies nationwide and many hospitals have postponed any surgery that is an elective and only handling people in desperate need.

In this edition under FDA are several recall notices that you may or may not be interested, all depending on if you use the product or know someone who does.

I know the issue of Burn Pits, and airborne exposure is still an issue for many Veterans, right now I can't provide any relevant news or information, and what is coming out is very little at best, but we are still working on Congress to bring

this issue to the top of the list and pay close attention to it and to pass legislation to force the VA to begin dealing with it properly.

We know there are many issues of concern to a large number of Veterans and we're not forgetting any of them. The list is rather long, and seems like when we get one fixed or rectified, four or five more pop up.

This too is a reason why we're not getting documents uploaded to the library and web links added to the weblinks section, however, we did add a little more than 50 new weblinks.

The **TAKE ACTION** has been updated and one more item has been added, so please don't forget to take a look and **TAKE ACTION!** Even if the bill doesn't help you it will help thousands of others, and we hope that those who end up being helped will in return help those we're still fighting for.

We'd like to remind everyone to please continue to practice safe practices like masks when out, keeping safe social distancing, steer clear of anyone sneezing or coughing to help protect yourself and your family.

We continue to gain momentum on [MEWE](#), and some of our followers that we'd lost when we migrated from Face Book over to MEWE are finding us again, and please to rejoin us. And we encourage all of our readers to join us there, links to all our pages are further down in this newsletter.

And I'd like to encourage everyone who can to help and support Military-Veterans Advocacy go to www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org. They helped all our Blue Water Navy Veterans, and are still working on BWN and now many other issues, and I offer a hat off to them and Commander John Wells!

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org




How to Find What Your TRICARE Plan Covers

Are you familiar with all the ways TRICARE covers you? TRICARE offers comprehensive coverage to

help you get and stay healthy. This year, get familiar with what's covered. Knowing what services are and aren't covered will help you avoid unexpected out-of-pocket costs.


To learn more, [read the article](#).



COVID-19 presents challenges to heart health and physical fitness

A healthy heart is a prerequisite for a fully trained combatant or a fit beneficiary. Without a healthy heart, a soldier cannot expect to complete tasks such as loading 155 mm rounds onto a bustle rack, or a beneficiary may huff and puff going up stairs.


[Read More](#)



Your actions
could save a life.

Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis.

VeteransCrisisLine.net

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



COVID-19 Vaccines and TRICARE

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has asked the FRA to share the following messaging regarding TRICARE coverage of vaccine issuance at network and non-network pharmacies.

TRICARE Network Pharmacies: TRICARE beneficiaries should contact their local TRICARE network pharmacy to determine if they may schedule an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as supplies are distributed in their area. You can locate a local [TRICARE network pharmacy](#) online.

TRICARE Non-network Pharmacies: TRICARE beneficiaries can receive the COVID-19 vaccine at non-network pharmacies - at no charge - as supplies are distributed in their area. Currently, under the federal response, pharmacies are prohibited from balance billing patients for COVID-19 vaccines.

Note: TRICARE does NOT cover access to other vaccines (e.g., flu, shingles, etc.) at non-network pharmacies; therefore, the preferred option is to utilize a TRICARE network pharmacy for all other

covered vaccines.



VA Secretary Nominee Discusses Priorities in Senate Confirmation Hearing

Secretary of Veterans Affairs nominee Denis McDonough appeared before the Senate Veterans Committee today. He talked about his first priority, which is getting Veterans through this pandemic. As the pandemic continues to claim Veteran lives, he said the path ahead won't be easy.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs faces great challenges – challenges made even more daunting by the coronavirus pandemic," he said. "Its capabilities have not always risen to the needs of our Veterans. If confirmed, I promise to fight – every single day – to ensure that our Veterans have the access to world-class, compassionate care they have earned."

McDonough cited four other priorities for VA and discussed how Veterans continue to inspire him.

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

1. VA
hiring
oncologists
for
female
Veterans
care
2. VA
nurse
CPR
training
pays
off
3. VA
making
extra
effort
to
connect
with
women
Veterans
4. World
War
II
Purple
Heart
Veteran,

95,
says
“Each
day
is
a
gift”

5. Fire
Delays
Housing
for
Homeless
Veterans
in
Marshfield

6. Homeless
Veteran
handed
keys
to
her
dream
home:
'It
means
everything
to
me'

7. Veteran
caregivers
can
receive
COVID-

19
testing,
vaccinations

8. Study
of
post-
mortem
brain
tissue
yields
new
insights
on
PTSD

9. VA
bridges
digital
divide
for
Veteran
with
old
laptop

10. Sensory
machine
a
big
hit
on
memory
care
floor

11. FDA
lifts
ban
based
on
European
service
blood
donations

12. Veteran
and
his
wife
get
help
from
VA
in
cancer
fight

13. Moving
forward
with
stress
management



SVAC Votes to Advance VA Secretary Nominee

After a nomination hearing last week, the Senate

Veterans' Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve Denis McDonough as President Biden's choice to serve as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The nomination now heads to the Senate floor for a confirmation vote by the full chamber. The VA Secretary requires full Senate approval, and he is expected to be approved overwhelmingly.



Independent Budgets Released

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), have released two reports: [The Independent Budget: Veterans' Agenda for the 117th Congress](#), [Critical Issues and The Independent Budget: FY 2022-2023 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Budget Recommendations](#). “For over 30 years, the VFW has partnered with our colleagues at PVA and DAV to produce The Independent Budget, which recommends proper funding and staffing for all programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs,” said VFW National Commander Hal Roesch. “Ensuring that veterans receive proper health care and benefits during this tumultuous time has never

been more important.” The reports list toxic substance exposures, VA infrastructure, minority veterans, and employment among many critical issues facing today’s veterans. The reports also provide estimates for funding the VA will require in order to provide health care, benefits, and transition services to more than ten million veterans, their families, and survivors.



Veterans-For-Change Web Site

The Veterans-For-Change website has been around since 2009. The looks pretty much stay the same for now, but in the background our new webmaster has been working on a whole new look and feel, a facelift so-to-speak. And we’re sincerely hoping to roll out the new website sometime this coming June.

Constant improvement and change are being done to make our website the most user friendly “**One-Stop-Shop**” website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on

the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you'd like it to be.

We also have a forum with for Mental Health and are currently seeking a new Licensed Mental Health Worker, where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average **1,819** hits per day, and downloads average **2,009** per day with a total **7,085,777** visitors as of Sunday evening.

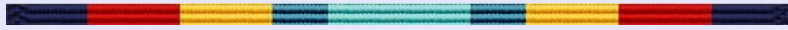
If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE of CHARGE!** You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send us a notification to approve your account. Once received, and we approve, the system will send you an E-Mail letting you know your account has been approved. Be sure to check your junk and spam folders just in case you don't receive it in your In-Box.

www.Veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **20,047** documents in 233+ Libraries, added 33 new documents on-line (Updated: 01/12/21)
- FAQ's on-line with **1,843** FAQ's on 104 topics! (Updated 05/30/20 - 46 NEW)
- Multiple Forums
 - o Afghanistan Veterans
 - o FMP - Foreign Medial Program
 - o Gulf War & Desert Storm Veterans
 - o Iraq Veterans
 - o Korean Veterans
 - o Men Veterans Forum
 - o Mental Health for Veterans (Counselor Needed)
 - o Political Issues
 - o Suggestion Box
 - o The Mess Hall
 - o VA Hospitals and Medical Centers
 - o Veteran Affairs
 - o Vietnam Veterans
 - o Welcome Mat
 - o Women Veterans Forum
 - o WW II Veterans
- Job Postings
- Memorial Pages (Updated: 04/23/20) (3 Added)
- News (Articles On-Line: **10,198**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **7,942**, Added 47 New Links

(Updated: 02/03/21)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail: Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org



Study Indicates Child Care Affordability and Access a Problem for Active Duty

The most recent Military Family Lifestyle Survey (MFLS) indicates that 27 percent of active duty who have children said child care is their top stressor in their life, and 58 percent reported they are not always able to find child care that worked for their situation. The survey shows that 24 percent of spouses who wanted to work or needed work were not doing so due to long child care wait lists. Additionally, 44 percent of unemployed spouses with children reported affordable child care as a barrier to employment. First launched in 2009, the MFLS provides a yearly snapshot of the state of military families, offering crucial insight and data to help inform policy makers. The FRA 2021 Survey of Military and Veterans Benefits indicates that 75 percent of active-duty members rate availability of child care as very important (the highest rating).

The FRA has tirelessly advocated for increased funding for child care development centers at military installations and availability of 24-hour day care. It is often said that the individual joins the military, but the family re-enlists. Accessible and affordable child care is a critical factor in retention and recruitment.



Veterans Rapid Retraining Bill Introduced in House

On Monday, Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL) introduced VFW-supported H.R. 637. A few days prior, Sens. Tester (D-MT) and Moran (R-KS) introduced the senate version of this legislation. This important legislation would provide 12 months of retraining benefits to certain veterans who became unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Veterans between the ages of 22 and 66 who are not eligible for other VA education benefits would qualify for retraining assistance in high-demand occupations. The VFW thanks our friends in Congress for this effort to address veteran unemployment arising from the global pandemic.

[Learn more.](#)



Jim, below are links to all currently active pre-written E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the pre-written E-Mails, and to also call your Reps or Senators and ask for their support on a weekly basis!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help!
(Updated 02/07/21)

1. [Oppose TRICARE fee Increases](#)
2. [Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Tool Finds High-risk Veterans

VA has created a tool to identify high-risk veterans who would be eligible first for the COVID-19 vaccine according to CDC vaccine guidelines. VA's electronic medical records make it possible for the tool to sort veterans according to age and health conditions. To help the process, veterans and their caregivers can ensure their contact information is current, [sign up](#) for updates, and express their interest in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Read more.](#)



CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!

To Call your Representative:

202-225-2305

To Call your Senators:

202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

To call Different Members of Congress:

202-224-3121

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!

www.veterans-for-change.org



VA Pension Plans for You

If you're a retired or disabled Veteran or surviving spouse, you may be eligible for the Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefit programs. Learn how you and your family can [overcome financial challenges with supplemental income](#).



COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available Through TRICARE

The White House has announced that COVID-19 vaccines will be made available through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program. TRICARE beneficiaries should [contact their local TRICARE network pharmacy](#) to determine if they can schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine once the vaccines are delivered to their area.

[Learn more.](#)



Follow us on [MEWE](#)! The support staff at [MEWE](#) is responsive, open to suggestions and works very hard to protect your personal information.

We hope you will join us on this new site.

[VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

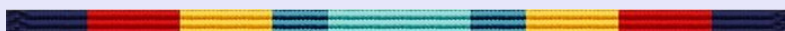
[HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF
VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

[AMVETS GROUP](#)

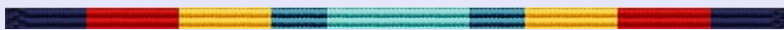
[VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP](#)

[{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO
SERVED OUR GREAT NATION](#)

[AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY](#)



"History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us."



Save on Online Shopping

Honorably discharged Veterans of all U.S. Armed Forces can shop online at any of the military exchanges! Access exclusive military pricing and offers, tax-free shopping, and more. [Check your eligibility and start saving today!](#)



Mobile Vet Centers Arrive on Capitol Hill

This week, VA deployed two Mobile Vet Centers to provide outreach, counseling, and referral services to the U.S. National Guard, U.S. Capitol Police, lawmakers, or congressional staffers. Mobile Vet Centers are often activated to support disaster-

affected areas and serve as a component of VA's emergency response. When planning local or regional events a Mobile Vet Center to connect veterans with benefits, enrollment, and other VA services can be requested.

[Learn more.](#)



Office of Inspector General

1. Disaster Resilience: FEMA Should Take Additional Steps to Streamline Hazard Mitigation Grants and Assess Program Effects
2. Veterans Community Care Program:

Immediate
Actions
Needed
to
Ensure
Health
Providers
Associated
with
Poor
Quality
Care
Are
Excluded



Housing Help for Veterans

VA offers three grant programs to help Veterans and service members with service-connected disabilities buy, build, or modify a home to meet their needs and live more independently. Find out if you're [eligible for a disability housing grant and how to apply](#).



Blood donations remain vital for service member care

When it comes to the need for donated blood,

soldiers on the battlefield understand.

[Read More](#)



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !

Eliminating the pandemic – one shot at a time

Before the onset of the current pandemic outbreak last year, retired Navy Capt. Tom Danaher visited his son stationed in the South Pacific.

[Read More](#)

Blood Donation Need Still Critical

With the severe winter weather and seasonal illness, the Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood, platelets, or plasma to help maintain a

sufficient supply for those battling COVID-19, cancers, other infections, or trauma victims. Those who donate in [February](#) will receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card via email. Please schedule an appointment using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), or calling 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).



Speak out: DHA observes Black History Month

"Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice".

[Read More](#)



1. Boston
Scientific
Recalls
EMBLEM
S-
ICD
Subcutaneous
Electrode
(Model
3501)
Due
to
Risk
of
Fractures
2. Safety
Recall
for
Deluxe
Heat
Therapy
Massager

3. FDA
Drug
Shortages
4. Hong
Thai
Foods
Corp
Issues
Allergy
Alert
on
Undeclared
Milk
Allergens
in
Golden
Boy
Custard
Muffin
Banana
5. Dole
Fresh
Vegetables
Announces
Limited
Voluntary
Recall
of
Dole™
Endless
Summer
Salad
Kit

Due
to
Undeclared
Allergens

6. Think!
and
Interpac
Technologies,
Inc.,
Issue
Voluntary
Recall
and
Allergy
Alert
on
Undeclared
Tree
Nuts
in
Think!
Protein
+
Fiber
Oatmeal,
Farmer's
Market
Berry
Crumble
Products
7. Penumbra's
Recall
of

the
JET
7
Reperfusion
Catheter
Due
to
Distal
Tip
Damage

8. FDA
Approves
New
Treatment
For
Adults
With
Relapsed
Or
Refractory
Large-
B-
Cell
Lymphoma

9. FDA
Authorizes
Marketing
of
Novel
Device
to
Reduce
Snoring

and
Mild
Obstructive
Sleep
Apnea
in
Patients
18
Years
and
Older

10. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)
Update:
FDA
Announces
Advisory
Committee
Meeting
to
Discuss
Janssen
Biotech
Inc.'s
COVID-
19
Vaccine
Candidate

11. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)
Update:

FDA
Continues
Important
Work
to
Support
Medical
Product
Development
to
Address
New
Virus
Variants


12. Xeljanz,
Xeljanz
XR
(tofacitinib):
Drug
Safety
Communication

-
Initial
Safety
Trial
Results
Find
Increased
Risk
of
Serious
Heart-
related

Problems
and
Cancer
with
Arthritis
and
Ulcerative
Colitis
Medicine

13. Initial
safety
trial
results
find
increased
risk
of
serious
heart-
related
problems
and
cancer
with
arthritis
and
ulcerative
colitis
medicine
Xeljanz,
Xeljanz
XR
(tofacitinib)

14. Apotex
Corp.
Issues
Voluntary
Nationwide
Recall
of
Enoxaparin
Sodium
Injection,
USP
Due
to
Mislabeling
of
Syringe
Barrel
Measurement
Markings



**VA has capacity to administer
600,000 vaccine doses a week**

VA is delivering vaccines at more than 215 sites across the country, with plans to expand to additional sites as vaccine supplies increase.

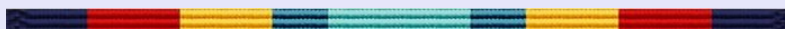
[Read More](#)



If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.



CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!



Innovative mobile technologies impact DOD health surveillance

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of collaboration and information-sharing forums for those working in the health field.

[Read More](#)



**Our values
match yours.**



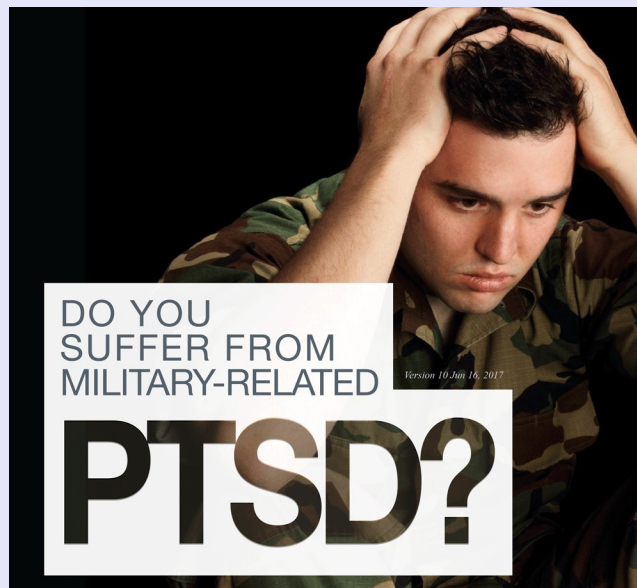
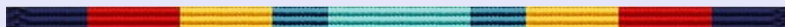
www.veterans-for-change.org



USU launches into 2021 with Team Wellness Challenge

Every New Year brings resolutions to change or improve our health, fitness, attitudes, or habits.

[Read More](#)



**Veterans Crisis Line:
1-800-273-8255 & Press 1
Ntl Call Center for Homeless Vets
1-877-424-3838**



COVID-19 Vaccination Options for National Guard and Reserve Members

If you're a National Guard or Reserve member,

you're eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine for free. The vaccine itself is offered at no cost, but there may be a cost based on your TRICARE plan for an office visit or if you require follow-on care. You can get the vaccine when available at your local military hospital or clinic, your civilian provider, TRICARE retail network pharmacies, and TRICARE non-network providers or TRICARE non-network pharmacies.

To learn more, [read the article](#).



Concerned about airborne hazard exposures?

Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan or other areas of Southwest Asia may have been exposed to airborne hazards like burn pits. Here's how to proactively monitor your health and help other Veterans.

The post [Concerned about airborne hazard exposures?](#) appeared first on Vantage Point.

[Read More](#)



We know most Veterans have had issues both current and in the past with the Veterans Affairs, and we'd really like to hear from you!

So now is your chance to voice your concerns, opinions, problems, compliments, advice, etc., anything you'd like to have heard.

We will be creating another category in the "NEWS" section of the website called "SOUND OFF" and instead of us continually sending this type of information in fax blasts to all 535 members of Congress, we will be adding to the website as we know many members of Congress do watch us, and this makes it a lot easier for us to track the number of people reading the issues.

In addition, it might even open the door for your

fellow Veteran's to see they're not alone, and they too might voice their concerns.

Your story can be as long or as short as you'd like to express what you have to say, we can post as anonymous, or if you want we can post your name to the article, just tell us how you would like for us to post your story and we will adhere to your request.

We only ask that you keep it clean from foul language, and we will edit only to correct grammar, and if need be to edit out any foul language as that is an almost immediate cut off from Congress to pay attention.

Send your story to JIM.DAVIS@VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE.org and we will get it posted as quickly as we can. And if you have a title for your story that would be fantastic, as we will be providing the story title and link to Congress.



DOD experts explain: The science behind the COVID-19 vaccines

Almost six weeks after the Food and Drug Administration issued emergency use authorization for the first two COVID-19 vaccines, many

questions have arisen concerning their efficacy in attacking the SARS-CoV-2 virus and deadly COVID-19 disease.

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification for a service member who has been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors is:

U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Howard S. Magers, 18, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen,

including Magers. Interment services are pending.
[Read about Magers.](#)



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

**Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and
Family!**

**Please do not reply to this E-Mail,
this is an unattended E-Mail address,
please send all correspondence to:**

Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org

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