

Should more troops become eligible for food stamps?

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Too many military personnel still struggle to feed their families and need an easier way to get food stamps, according to a new bill from San Diego congresswoman Susan Davis. The legislation comes as food pantries and other charities said they continue to encounter strong demand from military households for their services. Between September 2014 and August 2015, active-duty troops spent more than \$21 million worth of food stamps at base commissaries, according to the Pentagon. [READ MORE](#)

House, Senate finalize annual defense policy bill

The Hill

The final version of an annual defense policy bill jettisons a number of controversial provisions and would authorize \$3.2 billion more than President Obama requested. The troop pay raise would be 2.1 percent, above the president's request for 1.6 percent pay raise. End strength would also be increased across the services. Gone is a provision that would have required women to register for the draft. [READ MORE](#)

First Lady welcomes service members, families to White House holiday preview

U.S. Department of Defense

First Lady Michelle Obama hosted nearly 200 service members, spouses, children, veterans and wounded warriors at this year's annual White House holiday décor preview as part of a Joining Forces initiative celebration. Military families remind Americans of what matters, Obama told the audience in the East Room. "Even as you serve this country in uniform, or you hold everything together here at home as a military spouse, or you prepare to attend another new school as a military kid ... you all still find time to contribute even more to your communities and to this country." [READ MORE](#)

New peer-support service launches

U.S. Department of Defense

The Defense Department launched a new call and outreach center that offers confidential peer support to active duty service members, National Guardsmen, reservists and family members through 24/7 chat, phone and text. The DoD "BeThere" peer support call and outreach center is staffed by peers who are veteran service members and family members of veterans, and aims to provide support for everyday problem-solving of career and general life challenges. [READ MORE](#)

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: 75 years after the attack

As the nation observes the 75th anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Defense Department honors the men and women who lost their lives, and those who fought on to preserve the nation's freedom. [READ MORE](#)