

Stressed military families reject the same life for their kids

NBC News

A new annual survey of military families shows a majority of active-duty military families — 57 percent of them — said they were unlikely to recommend that their own children join the service. That would be almost unheard of in past decades. Military families tend to remain military families. So why the negative feelings? "It is the cuts in benefits. It's the reductions in forces at the same time as we are increasing our mission," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, president and CEO of Blue Star Families. [READ MORE](#)

Congress approves 2.1% troop pay raise in 2017

Military.com

The U.S. Senate on Thursday joined the House of Representatives in approving a 2.1 percent pay raise next year for troops. The upper chamber passed the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which included the pay increase, by a vote of 92-7. The bill now heads to President Barack Obama's desk for his signature. [READ MORE](#)

With changes swirling in veterans health care, senators press for action on stalled projects

Daily Press

18 senators are urging quick action from the lame duck Congress on two dozen stalled VA projects, including a major one in Hampton Roads. Virginia Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine joined 16 of their colleagues calling for Congress to set aside funding for a list of health care centers, outpatient clinics and research facilities proposed throughout the Veterans Affairs system. [READ MORE](#)

Consumer advocate urges troops, families to protect their finances

U.S. Department of Defense

Holly Petraeus from the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau discussed how service members and their families can help protect their finances. She advises service members to check their credit report annually and ensure it's accurate. As the CFPB's chief Petraeus has three main goals: to provide financial education for military families; monitor complaints made by military families to the CFPB; and work with federal and state agencies to improve consumer protection for military families. [READ MORE](#)

Dunford: Service member efforts over past year have made America safer

U.S. Department of Defense

Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford and Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Troxell led a USO troupe to the region as a way to thank soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Defense Department civilians and contractors. The holidays are a special time of year and one where all would wish to be with their families, but many in Afghanistan cannot. "But I got to tell you, this is your family too," the chairman said. [READ MORE](#)

NASA remembers American legend John Glenn

NASA

"Today, the first American to orbit the Earth, NASA astronaut and Ohio Senator John Glenn, passed away. We mourn this tremendous loss for our nation and the world. As one of NASA's original Mercury 7 astronauts, Glenn's riveting flight aboard Friendship 7 on Feb. 20, 1962, united our nation, launched America to the forefront of the space race, and secured for him a unique place in the annals of history. [READ MORE](#)