



## Commissary price change benchmarks: 3 things to know

SpouseBuzz by Military.com

You may have heard that the commissary is about to welcome in some big changes. First there was a big battle in Congress over what changes, if any, to include. Then they commissioned a whole hill of studies. Then there was another battle or seven and then, finally, they made a decision. Instead of just asking the commissary to move from selling at wholesale to making a profit to cover their operation, Congress told officials that they need to keep groceries priced at a certain percentage below what things cost off base.

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## Risky Business: Commissary savings redefined to 20% stateside

Military Officers Association of America via Military Update

Brooke Goldberg, director of family policy and spouse programs for Military Officers Association of America, said senior defense officials have given assurances if the revised savings rate “drops even 1 percent, DeCA will begin evaluating a corrective measure.” Some advocates for military families fear that the mere perception of lower savings could put commissaries at greater risk. [READ MORE](#)

## Commissaries savings measurement changes

Air Force Sergeants Association

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) released new regional savings numbers for commissaries. Some AFSA members were quick to observe that changing the formula resulted in a much lower figure than the 30%+ savings figure touted by DeCA in past years. [READ MORE](#)

## Federal hiring freeze: More questions than answers

National Military Family Association

On January 23rd, President Trump issued a memorandum ordering an across-the-board hiring freeze on all federal agencies, with the exception of military personnel. So what does that mean for the military community? Think of all of the programs you have utilized over time as a military family--the Family Service Center, Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), Commissary, Exchange, Child Development Center, Youth Sports, Education Center, and Employment Assistance. All of these programs are staffed with civilian federal workers. If these positions are vacated and the programs aren't permitted to hire replacements, they will have no choice but to reduce their hours and/or their services altogether.

## Deployment is never easy

SpouseBuzz by Military.com

Most challenges in life become easier with repetition. But when it comes to saying goodbye to my husband as he deploys to combat, I find that it's never easy. As a military spouse, mother of three small children and a full-time employee, I've grown to understand that each deployment brings new obstacles, responsibilities and opportunities. I know that we are a resolute family that has the strength and perseverance to get through these difficult deployments, but I would be lying if I said it was easy to care for the family alone. [READ MORE](#)