



Service chiefs ask Congress to maintain military readiness, fund credentialing program

U.S. Department of Defense

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday, the military's top enlisted advisors and the acting assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs discussed the importance of single service member and military family readiness programs. The DoD officials testified alongside executive officers for the National Military Family Association and Blue Star Families. [READ MORE](#)

Commissary (Included in congressional statement)

National Military Family Association (NMFA)

Military families consistently tell us the commissary is one of their most valued benefits. We view the commissary as an important element of military compensation and thank Congress for fully funding it in the FY17 NDAA. However, we are concerned about changes to commissary operations that the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) is implementing pursuant to provisions included in last year's Defense authorization. (Extracted from full testimony) [READ MORE](#)

Changes to the commissary benefit (Included in congressional statement)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

We join with our associates in The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits in expressing our concerns about threats to the savings families will be able to achieve as the Military Resale System moves forward to achieve an estimated \$2 billion in reductions [to commissaries and exchanges] over a 5-year period [2017-21] including adding private labels in the commissary. [READ MORE](#)

Retired Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, Ia Drang battle commander, dies at 94

Stars and Stripes

Retired Lt. Gen. Harold G. "Hal" Moore, an American hero known for saving most of his men in the first major battle between the US and North Vietnamese armies passed away last Friday. Moore co-authored the book, "*We Were Soldiers Once and Young*" which told the story of the 1965 battle of La Drang and was later turned into a major motion picture. [READ MORE](#)

Free tax software support available for military families

U.S. Department of Defense

With the tax season upon us, service members and their families can access free tax-filing software and consultations to help them navigate the task of submitting their annual taxes. Military members and their families can visit the Military OneSource website or call 1-800-342-9647 for the no-cost "MilTax" software.

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