

It's official: Military exchanges plan to offer online access to veterans by Nov. 11

Military Times

The military exchanges have the green light to open their online doors to veterans by Nov. 11, an idea initially proposed by a top exchange official nearly three years ago. Defense Department officials notified the congressional oversight committees Jan. 11 and Congress had 30 days to lodge any protests, but "to date, the department has not received any concerns from the committees," said a DoD spokesman. [READ MORE](#)

Online PX/BX shopping open to all vets

National Guard Association of the United States

A nearly three-year effort to give all honorably discharged veterans shopping privileges for online military exchanges has been approved. This change is estimated to affect 15 million veterans, according to the Defense Department. [READ MORE](#)

Commissary price comparisons: Don't try this at home

National Military Family Association via SpouseBuzz

One of the ways commissary officials plan to keep an eye on grocery prices near military bases is by sending real life humans to conduct commissary price comparisons once a quarter. The goal of these comparisons is, in part, to make sure the commissary is meeting the savings benchmarks Congress requires. "Military families need and deserve more transparency on these calculations. We must preserve commissary savings - military families deserve these benefits," states NMFA. [READ MORE](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/militaryfamily>

<https://www.spousebuzz.com/blog/2017/02/commissary-price-comparison-dont-try-this.html#.WKzT5Dk2J-s.twitter>

Defense Secretary asks DoD to seek organizational efficiencies

U.S. Department of Defense

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has distributed guidance to the Defense Department concerning organizational and structural reforms and establishing cross-functional teams to address mission effectiveness and efficiencies. "Secretary Mattis is committed to earning the trust of Congress and the American people by providing for the security of our nation while being the best possible steward of every taxpayer dollar spent on defense," said Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. Jeff Davis. [READ MORE](#)

Mattis is 'alone' in plans to boost defense budget, says House Armed Services Committee chairman

Defense News

House Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry worries the young Trump administration's slow pace getting Pentagon jobs filled — and Obama administration holdovers at DoD— may hurt plans to boost defense spending. [READ MORE](#)

Tax traps

Military Officers Association of America

As a child, I loved watching Saturday morning cartoons, especially those with Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner. I appreciated the intricate yet ludicrous contraptions the coyote would assemble to catch his foe. Of course, he never succeeded... Unfortunately, the same isn't true when it comes to you and the IRS. If you aren't aware of its tax traps, there's a good chance you'll get caught. [READ MORE](#)