

Dunford: Now is the time to address military readiness shortfalls

U.S. Department of Defense

Military readiness must be bolstered, Defense Department leaders told the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee today. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the senators that sequestration gutted military readiness and asked the committee to approve a \$30 billion amendment to the fiscal year 2017 defense budget request to help the department recover. [READ MORE](#)

Democrats hammer Trump budget plan with DoD efficiency study

Defense News

Democratic lawmakers on Tuesday used a Pentagon efficiency study that claimed \$125 billion in unrealized savings to attack President Trump's plan to fund a defense hike with domestic cuts. U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the House oversight committee, was among House Democrats who questioned the wisdom of Trump's planned \$54 billion defense add when, according to the Defense Business Board study, there is huge waste in DoD's back-office bureaucracy. [READ MORE](#)

Army troop increase will send 4,500 additional soldiers to Fort Leonard Wood for basic

News Leader, USA Today Network

About 4,500 additional soldiers will cycle through Fort Leonard Wood this fiscal year as the U.S. Army works to increase the size of its ranks. The Army announced Monday that it plans to have 1.018 million soldiers in fiscal year 2017. That is a net gain of 28,000 soldiers across the branch, and includes members of the Army, Army Reserve and National Guard. [READ MORE](#)

Starbucks doubles down on military hiring after boycott threats

Yahoo Finance

Starbucks Corp., after facing a backlash for promising to hire refugees, plans to employ more U.S. military veterans. The coffee retailer will hire 25,000 veterans and their spouses by 2025, it said on Wednesday. Starbucks already has brought on 10,000 of them, ahead of a previously set goal. The chain also said it's opening 100 more locations near major U.S. bases in the next five years. [READ MORE](#)

USO-Metro honors enlisted leaders, actor Gary Sinise

U.S. Department of Defense

The USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore and Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, honored military senior enlisted advisors and presented actor Gary Sinise with the Spirit of Hope Award during a gala here last night. The gala built upon the USO slogan, "The Force Behind the Forces" in presenting awards to the top noncommissioned officers in the joint force and their wives.

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