



Looming federal budget fight could hit military pay and bonuses

Military Times

The latest congressional impasse over the federal budget could hit troops' bonuses starting next month, unless a deal is reached in the next few weeks. Pentagon leaders have been warning lawmakers for weeks that some of their proposed budget fixes could leave military units without enough funds for equipment maintenance, training hours and base programs. [READ MORE](#)

There's a plan in Congress to start charging troops for their GI Bill benefits

Military Times

A congressional proposal to make service members buy into their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits surprised veterans groups on Tuesday, with advocates divided over whether it amounts to a long-term fix for the benefit or an unfair bill for veterans. The plan would deduct \$2,400 from future service members' paychecks to establish eligibility for revamped post-military education benefits. [READ MORE](#)

Army expands search for Guard, Reserve officers and NCOs who want to go on active duty

Army Times

The Army is knee-deep in its effort to grow the active component to 476,000 soldiers by the end of September. The next step: Bringing Army Reserve and National Guard troops on active duty. The move is part of an ongoing effort to grow the Army by 16,000 in the active force and 28,000 overall by Sept. 30 — and it marks a reversal of a drawdown that had been going on for years. [READ MORE](#)

TAPS honors survivors, mentors at annual gala

U.S. Department of Defense

Since 1994, when tragedy strikes a military family, TAPS has been there. The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors has helped 70,000 surviving family members cope with the devastating loss of loved ones. "What TAPS really means to those of us still in uniform is that someone is always going to be there for us and our families, especially if we confront tragedy," said Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and keynote speaker at the TAPS Honor Guard Gala. [READ MORE](#)