



Trump gives Pentagon authority to set troop levels

CNN Politics

President Donald Trump has delegated the authority to set official troop levels in the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria to Secretary of Defense James Mattis, the Pentagon said Wednesday. "At the request of Secretary of Defense Mattis, the president has delegated force management authority to the secretary," Pentagon spokesman Maj. Adrian Rankine-Galloway told CNN Wednesday. [READ MORE](#)

Add your voice to the annual Blue Star Families survey

Military Times

What's important to you and your military family? Make your concerns known by participating in the Blue Star Families annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey, which is open through May 19. Active-duty service members, veterans and family members are eligible to participate in the anonymous survey, which takes about 30 minutes to complete. The findings and analysis of the survey will be released in November; click [here](#) to participate. [READ MORE](#)

House backing away from proposal to 'tax' GI Bill

Military.com

The House Veterans Affairs Committee abruptly postponed a hearing this week to consider a draft proposal to expand GI Bill education benefits by imposing what the Veterans of Foreign Wars called a "tax on the troops." The hearing was to have considered more than a dozen proposals, but one item calling for new recruits to pay \$100 a month for up to two years for GI Bill eligibility drew fire from the VFW. [READ MORE](#)

VA silent on timeline for Veteran ID cards

Military.com

Veterans will have to wait an unknown amount of time before they can get a photo ID card from the Department of Veterans Affairs under a law passed in 2015. The VA estimated in March 2016 that the cards would be available this year. However, repeated requests by Military.com to VA officials for an update on the timeline for availability went unanswered. [READ MORE](#)