

Mattis asks Congress for stable Budgets, end to Sequestration

U.S. Department of Defense

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis launched a full-throated attack on looming across-the-board spending cuts during a budget hearing on Capitol Hill, saying "no enemy in the field has done more to harm the combat readiness of our military than sequestration." The sequestration provision of the Budget Control Act of 2011 imposes across-the-board spending cuts if Congress and the White House cannot agree on more targeted cuts. [READ MORE](#)

The Pentagon wants to sweeten retirement benefits for senior enlisted troops

Military Times

The Pentagon wants to upgrade its new retirement package so the military's longest-serving enlisted personnel have greater incentive to remain in uniform. Introduced in late-May, the proposal calls for removing eligibility limits on the dollar-for-dollar contributions that will be made to troops' 401(k)-style investment accounts. Current rules halt those payments once personnel reach 26 years of service. [READ MORE](#)

DoD launches online program to help military survivors of sexual abuse, assault

U.S. Department of Defense

The Defense Department launched an online and mobile educational program to help individuals begin to recover, heal and build resiliency after a sexual assault. The self-guided program, called, "Building Hope and Resiliency: Addressing the Effects of Sexual Assault," can be completed at the user's pace and features information about coping mechanisms, practical relaxation exercises, definitions, links to resources and referrals for ongoing support. [READ MORE](#)

It's time to focus on children of wounded warriors, experts say

Military Times

There has been an increased focus on wounded warriors since the Sept. 11 attacks and, in recent years, on their caregivers. Now, it's time to shine a national light on the needs of their children, said Linda Davidson, executive director of Our Military Kids. "We need a voice for these children, to help them connect with the communities where they live and hang out," said Barbara Thompson, who recently retired as DoD's director of the office of family policy. [READ MORE](#)