

## Veterans online exchange benefit being tested, nearer for millions

Military Officers Association of America

The last time Forrest Cornelius, 51, shopped in a base exchange was in 1989, when he completed his six-year stint in the Marine Corps. He recalls saving 10 to 15 percent on department store goods and that shoppers paid no sales tax. Last month, Cornelius began to enjoy those advantages again as one of 12,000 or so “beta test” participants for veterans' online exchange shopping, which is to open for millions of honorably discharged veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. [READ MORE](#)

## VA Choice funding problem looms for Congress

Military Times

When they return from legislative recess lawmakers will have only a few days to address financial problems with the Veterans Affairs Choice program before users start to see significant problems. Last month, in testimony before the Senate, VA Secretary David Shulkin warned lawmakers that money in the Choice program funds was being spent at a faster rate than officials expected, threatening to bankrupt the program before the end of the fiscal year. [READ MORE](#)

## Veteran unemployment rises again in June

Military Times

The first month of summer may have brought an extra 200,000 jobs for Americans, but veteran employment took a slight hit. The unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans was 5.1 in June, up from 4.6 percent in May and the highest unemployment rate recorded for the group since January, according to the latest monthly employment figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [READ MORE](#)

## Marines can get an extra \$10,000 by re-enlisting before Sept. 30

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps announced retention bonus levels for fiscal 2018. The bonus program includes five new initiatives, including the extra \$10,000 for Marines who submit their re-enlistment packages early. Marines are eligible for retention bonuses based on their rank, military occupational specialty and how much active-duty service they have in the military. [READ MORE](#)

## 14 tips for dealing with deployment, from spouses who've been there

Military Times

There are multiple programs to help families prepare for and handle deployments, and resources like Military OneSource that offer assistance to families before, after and during the separations. But sometimes the best wisdom comes from the spouses themselves. [READ MORE](#)