

Commissary changes on course — or lost?

Military Officers Association of America

As MOAA has reported before (“Are Commissaries in Jeopardy?”), many new changes have come to the commissary after last year's National Defense Authorization Act gave DoD the ability to sell items above or below cost, as well as encouragement to introduce a private label of its own. MOAA recently received an update on some changes, and we're sharing some details with you. [READ MORE](#)

Commentary: Military spouse employment is a national security issue

Navy Times

Military spouses are the unsung heroes of our nation's defense. Sixteen years into America's longest-running war and in the face of millions of service member deployments, military spouses have met the challenges that confront them head-on. With military spouse unemployment ranging from 20 percent to 25 percent, and underemployment at 35 percent to 40 percent over the last decade, military families are more likely to live on a single full income than civilian families. [READ MORE](#)

Bringing back the draft

Military Times

Restarting the military draft after more than four decades of an all-volunteer force would be complicated. But it could be done. One plan calls for young conscripts to have a choice: two years on active duty or six years in the reserves. Either way, they'd first have to undergo basic training and job training. Whichever option they choose, their obligation is fulfilled with a single combat deployment. [READ MORE](#)

Senate OKs bills to address VA budget crisis, claims backlog

U.S. News & World Report

The Senate has approved a pair of bills taking aim at urgent problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs, clearing a \$3.9 billion emergency spending package to fix a looming budget crisis and adopting new measures to pare down a rapidly growing backlog of veterans' disability claims. [READ MORE](#)

Veterans using private doctors at greater risk for opioid abuse

The Wall Street Journal (tiered subscription model)

Veterans using a Department of Veterans Affairs program to seek care from doctors in the private sector instead of the VA face a greater danger of becoming entangled in the country's opioid epidemic, the VA said Tuesday. [READ MORE](#)

A soldier survived 48 hours of terror in Vietnam. He just received the Medal of Honor

Washington Post

President Trump on Monday presented the Medal of Honor to an Army veteran who 48 years ago repeatedly risked his life to save 10 fellow soldiers during a deadly, days-long fight along Vietnam's central coast. In recognizing James McCloughan, now a 71-year-old retired teacher from Michigan, Trump recounted a gripping tale of selflessness and bravery. [READ MORE](#)