

The troops are hungry!

Huffington Post

About 23,000 active-duty service members rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly known as food stamps, according to the 2013 Census Bureau. Those food stamps are often used at commissaries, the discount stores on military bases. Last year, families spent about \$67 million in food stamps at commissaries, according to the Department of Agriculture, the agency that administers SNAP. "This suggests that people serving our country may be having difficulty making ends meet," the GAO report stated.

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The nation grieves with 9/11 Survivors, Trump tells Pentagon victims' families

U.S. Department of Defense

When the United States came under attack on Sept. 11, 2001, Americans turned their sorrow "into an unstoppable resolve to achieve justice" in the names of the fallen, President Donald J. Trump said at this morning's Pentagon 9/11 Memorial observance. "It was the worst attack on our country since Pearl Harbor, and even worse because this was an attack on civilians -- innocent men, women, and children whose lives were taken so needlessly," the commander in chief said. [READ MORE](#)

Trump marks World Suicide Prevention Day with call for open discussions

The Hill

President Trump marked World Suicide Prevention Day on Sunday, encouraging Americans to have an open discussion about the issue. "While we offer comfort and solace to survivors, we take heart in knowing that in joining together, communities can prevent suicides," Trump said in a statement. The president cited statistics showing suicide is now the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S., and noted that veterans, in particular, are at risk. [READ MORE](#)

Almost 10K total Army personnel engaged in Irma response

U.S. Department of Defense

The Total Army, which includes active duty, Reserve, and Army National Guard personnel, remains involved in or prepared to support state, territory and other federal agencies as part of Hurricane Irma relief operations, Army spokesman Col. Patrick Seiber said yesterday. "Governors are best postured to determine the needs of their residents and establish response priorities," he said. [READ MORE](#)

Commissaries honor Air Force's 70 years of service

Defense Commissary Agency

Seventy years ago on Sept. 18, the Army Air Forces ended and the Air Force was born. The Defense Commissary Agency, which this year is celebrating 150 years of the modern commissary benefit, is proud to salute the entire Air Force community on their service's anniversary, which from the start has been served by commissaries around the world. [READ MORE](#)

Veterans cautioned on VA loan charges

Consumer Affairs

If you are a military veteran, you may have been receiving solicitations to refinance your VA loan. After all, interest rates have been falling lately. But the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reports its complaint volume about VA loans and other financial products has steadily risen. A "significant" number of lenders are targeting veterans with refinance offers that carry high interest rates and closing costs. [READ MORE](#)

VA to shorten benefit enrollment program window to expedite claims

Stars and Stripes

Servicemembers will have less time to claim disability compensation before leaving the military but should get benefits faster under changes being made by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Starting Oct. 1, troops who want to resolve disability claims before leaving the military must enroll in the "Benefits Delivery at Discharge" program 90 days from separation rather than the current 60 days, the VA announced this month. [READ MORE](#)