

Budget cuts and 'Can Do' attitude: possible causes of deadly military accidents

Newsweek

Military chiefs are examining the factors behind a series of deadly accidents involving members of the armed services, which the chief of U.S. naval operations has blamed on budget cuts. Admiral John Richardson told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday that budget shortfalls and a spike in naval activities had affected his operations, contributing to a series of fatal collisions, the Associated Press reported. [READ MORE](#)

Air Force secretary: 'We are a service that is too small'

Air Force Times

As the Air Force marks its 70th birthday, it's facing a series of challenges unlike any other in its history. It continues to fight two active wars. Meanwhile, tensions with Russia and North Korea are heightening, forcing the service to focus more of its attention on Europe and Asia. The ongoing problems of sequestration and budget cuts, pilot shortages and other manning shortfalls are making it tougher for the service to meet its multiple missions around the world. [READ MORE](#)

DoD official: States 'spotty' in easing military spouses' licensing burdens

Air Force Times

States' efforts to ease licensing burdens for military spouses relocating from state to state have been "spotty," a defense official said, and plans are in the works to target trouble spots. "For those states that haven't done that well, we're going back. We're going to present this information to those states through their legislatures and ask them to progress further, clear it up," said Marcus Beauregard, director of the Defense Department state liaison office. [READ MORE](#)

Support building to move forward on BRAC review

Stars & Stripes

Congress probably won't approve a new round of base closures this year, but it could happen next year, an advocate for Robins Air Force Base told community leaders Tuesday. Dan Rhoades, the new director of strategy for the 21st Century Partnership said, "A lot of what you are seeing in the language in both the House and the Senate is how we are going to do BRAC, not whether we are going to do BRAC." [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](#)

National Guard plans relief efforts as Hurricane Maria slams Puerto Rico

National Guard Bureau

National Guard troops and members of federal agencies throughout the Caribbean region are hunkering down and making disaster relief preparations as Hurricane Maria made landfall today in Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm, with winds of 150 mph, weather officials said. With Maria following a similar path as Hurricane Irma, the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard is once again preparing for another massive storm. [READ MORE](#)