

Long-awaited PX opens at Camp Humphreys in time for holiday shopping

Stars and Stripes

Confetti swirled in the air while South Korean drummers and the 8th Army band played Monday to celebrate the grand opening of Camp Humphreys' new post exchange, the third largest in the world. "The fact that [the Army and Air Force Exchange Service] was able to pull this all together and do it in time for our holiday shopping is just a phenomenal undertaking," 8th Army commander Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal told hundreds of eager shoppers. [READ MORE](#)

White House officials looking into merging VA and Tricare health services

Air Force Times

Lawmakers and veterans advocates are demanding more details of a secret White House plan to merge parts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the military's Tricare health system in an effort to trim billions in federal medical bills. But VA Secretary David Shulkin insists there is no underhanded effort to sneak through major reforms, and that the work thus far amounts to brainstorming about ways to make veterans care more efficient. [READ MORE](#)

Trump's hurricane relief request adds \$1B to fix military facilities

Defense News

The White House asked Congress on Friday for \$44 billion in additional relief for this year's hurricanes, of which \$1.16 billion is for rebuilding military facilities in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and the U.S. islands. The White House request for added disaster relief in response to hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria asks lawmakers to make spending cuts to offset relief costs approaching \$100 billion. [READ MORE](#)

Having fewer veterans in Congress makes it less likely to restrain the president's use of force

The Washington Post

Scholars traditionally argue that Congress has done little to oversee military policy. But some new research suggests that Congress may indeed be able to constrain the White House in its decisions about when and how to use military force — especially, my research shows, if enough members of Congress are military veterans. [READ MORE](#)

DoD eyes a change to GI Bill transferability

Military Times

The Pentagon is weighing a policy change that would limit certain service members from transferring their education benefits to dependents, a Defense Department official said in a written statement this week. In response to questions from the Senate Armed Service Committee about military retention, Anthony Kurta said the Department of Defense "intends to issue a policy change to the Post-9/11 GI Bill," prohibiting service members with 16 or more years in uniform from transferring the benefit to their dependents. [READ MORE](#)

Air Force offers follow-on program for airmen with short tours

Air Force Times

Airmen who were selected for a dependent-restricted short tour can apply for the follow-on assignment program, according to an Air Force news release. If selected for one of these tours as a second or later assignment, airmen can use the program to exchange permanent change-of-station allowances for advance assignment consideration of a stateside assignment, the release said. The Defense Department-designed program aims to give service members family stability and decrease PCS costs. [READ MORE](#)