

What the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act means for you

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Congress' annual defense authorization bill is chock full of measures that impact troops, their families and retirees. It's now one step closer to becoming reality after House and the Senate negotiators agreed on a compromise version that will soon head for a vote in each chamber before hitting the president's desk. [READ MORE](#)

2018 military pay raise is the biggest in eight years, but how generous is it?

Military Times

Congressional lawmakers are boasting that the recently passed fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill has the largest pay raise for troops in the past eight years. But that has less to do with newfound generosity among lawmakers and more to do with the expected rise in civilian wages next year. Included in the massive budget bill is a 2.4 percent pay raise for service members starting Jan. 1. [READ MORE](#)

Pilot program helps overseas military spouses work from home

Military Times

Congress wants to help more military spouses living overseas find work, even if that means telecommuting across an ocean. Tucked into the annual defense authorization bill, which is expected to be signed into law by President Donald Trump later this month, is a provision for a new pilot program "providing telework facilities for military spouses on military installations outside the United States." [READ MORE](#)

Pentagon plans changes to Post-9/11 GI Bill transferability

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"The Department of Defense intends to issue a policy change to the 'Post-9/11 GI Bill' regarding the transferability of benefits to eligible family members," Anthony Kurta, acting deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in a written statement. "Effective one year from this change, the ability to transfer benefits will be limited to service members with less than 16 years of total service." [READ MORE](#)

26,000 US troops total in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, DoD reports

Military Times

The U.S. has almost 26,000 troops deployed total in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, according to a new DoD report, far exceeding the Pentagon's previously acknowledged troop levels overseas. The U.S. has 8,892 forces in Iraq, 15,298 troops in Afghanistan and 1,720 in Syria, for a total of 25,910 troops serving in the three war zones according to DoD. [READ MORE](#)

VA failed to report 90 percent of poor-performing doctors: Watchdog

Military.com

The Department of Veterans Affairs fails to report 90 percent of poor-performing doctors to national and state databases intended to alert other hospitals of misconduct, according to findings released Monday by the Government Accountability Office. The government watchdog found VA officials were slow to investigate when concerns were raised about the performance of certain doctors. [READ MORE](#)