



## Continuing resolutions create uncertainty in Defense Department

U.S. Department of Defense

For the last nine years, DoD has been subject to continuing resolutions instead of having budgets, and the department needs stability and predictability to spend resources wisely and get service members the equipment and training they deserve, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said here yesterday. Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford said another continuing resolution will mean the department will go four months into fiscal 2018 and be at a lower spending level than last year. [READ MORE](#)

## US military members receive biggest pay bump since 2010

Yahoo Finance

Military members will see their paychecks rise by the largest percent increase since 2010 this week. At the end of December, President Donald Trump, by way of executive order, mandated a 2.4% pay hike for uniformed service members and a 1.9% raise for federal workers. The new pay increase went into effect on Jan. 1, however, this is the first full week that paychecks will reflect the higher amounts. [READ MORE](#)

## Army phases out its early retirement program to retain more troops

Federal News

As the Army continues to move away from its plans to draw down its end strength, the service is phasing out its temporary early retirement program. Starting Feb. 28, the Army will terminate its temporary early retirement authority (TERA), according to a Dec. 15, 2017, memo signed by Army Secretary Mark Esper. Soldiers who are eligible for TERA must have submitted their request by Jan. 15 to be considered for the last batch. [READ MORE](#)

## Free tax filing software available to military members

U.S. Department of Defense

With the new year bringing a new tax season, Military OneSource has launched its free tax software to support military members and their families in the annual task of filing. The MilTax software is available through the Military OneSource website, and walks military families through a variety of filing scenarios. The tax software allows users to submit a federal and up to three state tax returns at no cost. [READ MORE](#)

## Why don't more people serve? The US is launching a commission to find out

Military Times

Next week the U.S. will launch a two-year effort to find ways to increase military and civic service among its citizenry, especially U.S. youth. The effort will be spearheaded by an 11-member commission that will travel the country in 2018 and 2019 "to ignite a national conversation around service and develop recommendations that will encourage and inspire all Americans, particularly young people, to serve. [READ MORE](#)

## Kevlar for the Mind: Why veterans shouldn't shy away from political careers

Military Times

There are a lot of jobs that are well-suited for veterans. Some veterans decide to go back to school and become health care providers, educators, information technology experts or business leaders. Others stay connected to federal service by becoming government contractors or civil servants in career fields similar to what they did on active duty. And some become politicians. [READ MORE](#)