



## Continuing resolutions, budget uncertainty harm readiness, service secretaries say

U.S. Department of Defense

The Army, Navy and Air Force service secretaries testified in support of DoD's proposed fiscal year 2019 budget of \$686 billion, highlighting that, if approved, it would provide the services the monetary means to field a more lethal force as outlined in the National Defense Strategy. "Fiscal uncertainty has done a great deal to erode our readiness and hamper our ability to modernize," Army Secretary Mark T. Esper said. [READ MORE](#)

## Student loan forgiveness benefit on the chopping block

Military Times

A benefit that lets service members and other government workers write off student loan debt would vanish under a new proposal in Congress. Republican-backed legislation would eliminate a program that allows borrowers in full-time public service jobs to have their student loans forgiven after making payments for 10 years - a move that military and veterans groups say would hurt their members. [READ MORE](#)

## The GI Bill gets a makeover

National Military Family Association

A few months ago, Congress passed the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, commonly referred to as the Forever GI Bill. These new benefits are actually expansions to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and include 31 new provisions that aids service members and their dependents. [READ MORE](#)

## New vision and dental plans coming soon to military families and retirees

U.S. Department of Defense

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in partnership with the Defense Health Agency and the Department of Defense, announced the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) will be offered for the first time to TRICARE eligible retirees and their families during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season. Active duty family members will be eligible to enroll in FEDVIP vision insurance. [READ MORE](#)

## Advocates push for fourth VA under secretary to focus on economic opportunity

Military Times

Advocates are calling for a new division of the VA that would focus on economic challenges facing veterans. The proposed Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration would have its own undersecretary and would handle home loans, employment programs and education assistance. [READ MORE](#)

## Mailing of new veteran ID cards delayed

Military.com

Veterans waiting for their new ID card to arrive by mail won't see it until at least April, officials announced in an email this week. The free ID cards, available to honorably discharged veterans of all eras through the Department of Veterans Affairs website, were to be mailed in early March, VA officials told Military.com in January. [READ MORE](#)