



Trump's surprise pick for the next VA secretary raises questions

Military Times

President Donald Trump's sudden firing of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and surprise nomination of the White House's top physician to take his place has raised concerns among lawmakers and veterans groups who worry it will disrupt ongoing efforts to reform the massive federal bureaucracy. Veterans groups and prominent lawmakers had petitioned Trump to keep Shulkin in place in recent weeks, arguing his tenure was mostly characterized by significant, meaningful reforms. [READ MORE](#)

Army may extend basic training, introduce new fitness regime

Military.com

Senior U.S. Army leaders are pushing a campaign to enhance recruiting, toughen physical fitness training and extend Basic Combat Training to prepare soldiers for a major future conflict. Secretary of the Army Mark Esper spoke Monday at the Association of the United States Army's Global Force Symposium about his vision for the Army of 2028 that calls for a larger, more physically fit force. [READ MORE](#)

Air Force cuts overseas tours to ease pressure on airmen. Is your job coming home?

Air Force Times

Amid growing concerns that repeated deployments may be burning out airmen, the Air Force is taking a hard look at who it sends overseas, whether they're actually needed there — and if they should come home. "We've been at this for 17 years," said Gen. Dave Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff. "It's time now for us to take a good, hard look" at who is deploying. [READ MORE](#)

Lawmaker wants to make military sabbatical program permanent

Federal News Radio

A member of the House Armed Services Committee is trying to solidify into law a 10 year personnel program that lets military members take a sabbatical from service. The career intermission pilot program has been touted by military leadership as one way to retain service members who need to care of a sick loved one or want to go back to school to better their career. [READ MORE](#)

Mattis to check on military spouse deportation protections

Military Times

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he would need to look into reports of military spouses facing deportation and whether or not there may be additional protections for them. In the past month, Military Times has been contacted by numerous military families, both active duty and veteran, whose undocumented spouses or dependents are facing possible deportation. [READ MORE](#)

Finalists chosen for 2018 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

U.S. Department of Defense

Thirty employers around the country have been selected as finalists for the 2018 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. ESGR is a Defense Department program established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between reserve-component service members and their employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. [READ MORE](#)