



Response of Joyce Wessel Raezer, Executive Director, National Military Family Association

To: June 2, 2013 article, "Plan to shut military supermarkets shows difficulty of cutting defense spending"

Posted June 4, 2013, 5:01 PM on Washington Post website

At the National Military Family Association, we know military families are proud of their service to our Nation and of their service members. As is seen in many of the comments to this article, they want all their fellow citizens to understand that service and the human and family costs that come with it. They cannot understand how others can discount that service and its impact. Military families aren't shy about calling out inefficiencies or unnecessary programs when they see them. Remember, they are taxpayers, too, and know that money spent unwisely may hurt someone or result in failures to protect our Nation. But, military families also believe that the people making decisions about their families' well being or what compensation is right for our service members should understand the implications of those decisions. People who suggest change must not treat the service of our military members and their families as just another job, especially given what they've experienced over the past twelve years of war. Instead of saying military families have too much, Americans should be asking why it's important to support those who choose to serve and what must our Nation do to support the military people we'll need for the future. Instead of asking "what should be cut?" we need to be asking military families "what do you need in order to keep yourselves and our Nation strong?"