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**Air Force Sergeants Association Joins Fight to Preserve
Earned Military Benefits**

Washington, D.C. (May 23, 2013) – With over 113,500 members and 50 plus years of advocacy experience, the organization representing enlisted members of the Air Force and their families has added its voice to help promote and protect commissary and exchange benefits. [The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits](#) announced today that the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) has joined the Coalition as a Valued Associate member. With the addition of AFSA, *Save Our Benefit* [Valued Associates](#) now represent 1.6 million service members, veterans, and their families.

Save Our Benefit is gratified that the President’s proposed budget for the coming fiscal year beginning October 1, 2013 fully funds the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). However, the Coalition remains concerned that furloughs and hiring restrictions will cause serious damage to the commissary benefit, and create long lines, service disruptions, and reduce product availability.

“Shopping at the Commissaries and Exchanges has proven to be invaluable to past and present military members as well as to the Services themselves via recruiting and retention efforts, stated John R “Doc” McCauslin, Chief Executive Officer for AFSA. “We stand ready to fight in preserving these benefits *earned* through military service.”

“AFSA has a proven track record of working to enhance and maintain quality of life benefits for its members, and we are pleased to welcome them to the Coalition,” said Patrick Nixon, President of *The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits*. “Commissaries and exchanges are part of the solution to our Nation’s budget challenges, not part of the problem – providing a great return to the Department of Defense on every dollar that is spent to provide this benefit. They also support several key White House initiatives – hiring veterans and military spouses, and promoting healthy lifestyles,” added Nixon.

Millions of service members, veterans, retirees, military families, and survivors rely on commissaries and exchanges to stretch their household budgets. Military families save thousands of dollars each year by using their commissary and exchange benefits. In remote and overseas locations, they are often the only affordable shopping opportunity available. In metropolitan areas, where prices are consistently higher, commissaries and exchanges help keep prices affordable. For some junior enlisted military families and fixed income retirees, these savings can be the difference between making ends meet and filing for public assistance.

AFSA advocates on behalf of enlisted members of the Air Force to include – Active Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, Veterans, Retirees, and their Families or Survivors. AFSA maintains this “Total Force” perspective as it addresses a myriad of enlisted issues tied to Military Pay & Benefits, Veterans Programs, and Quality of Life. While perspectives may originate with enlisted Airmen in mind, many of AFSA’s efforts yield results for all ranks in all branches of service.

Service members and their families, veterans, concerned citizens, and organizations who wish to join [*The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits*](#) or to learn more, please visit www.SaveOurBenefit.org.