



## **Coalition and Valued Associates Advocacy and Actions...**

During the recent Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on military compensation, Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich) asked the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) to address a number of discrepancies between testimony provided by MOAA and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This week MOAA responded to the committee, addressing three key areas: personnel cost share of the Services budget, future forecast (based on growth rate), and lost purchasing power for military families.

According to MOAA, "During the hearing the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Jonathan Greenert (USN), asserted that analysis of 'literal pay' reflects a 4 percent loss of purchasing power, or \$2,500. But follow up analysis shows the CNO included only pay caps and changes to the housing allowance. But the comparison ignores the impact of cuts to the commissary subsidy and new out-of-pocket health care costs for active duty military families." MOAA analysis shows a sergeant (E-5) with a family of four would lose an average of \$5,000 in purchasing power, with a loss of nearly \$3,000 in commissary savings, if the FY 2015 budget proposal is fully enacted. To read MOAA's entire response, go to: [www.moaa.org/MRCountersServiceChiefs](http://www.moaa.org/MRCountersServiceChiefs).

The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) held a town hall meeting on MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida on Thursday, 22 May from 7–9 PM. Commissioners heard testimony from service members, retirees, veterans, family members, and concerned citizens regarding the importance of military compensation and earned benefits. Representatives from the Defense Commissary Agency; the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) DeCA Council 172; and military and veteran's service organizations, to include Coalition Valued Associates, were also in attendance.

Established by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2013, the nine member commission is tasked to review the military compensation and retirement programs and make recommendations for their modernization to the President and Congress in February of 2015. Members of the Commission include: Mr. Alphonso Maldon, Jr. (Chairman), former Congressman Stephen Buyer, former Congressman Chris Carney, retired Army General Peter W. Chiarelli, retired Navy Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, Jr., Mr. Mike Higgins, former Senator Bob Kerrey, former Senator Larry Pressler, and the Honorable Dov Zakheim. To learn more about the commission, access upcoming town hall meetings, or provide comments, visit: <http://www.mcrmc.gov/>.