



Coalition and Valued Associates Advocacy and Actions...

In addition to holding Town Hall meetings across the country to better understand service members and their families' compensations preferences, the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) announced this week that they will be seeking further input from service members on their preferences. Over the next few months, a number of active-duty, National Guard and reserve service members will receive surveys from the Commission. The survey will ask participants to value individual elements of their compensation package in relation to each other. The Commission also plans to survey retired service members.

Save Our Benefit is encouraging our members to take the survey, leave comments on the MCRMC website, and to let the Commission know how important their commissary benefit is to them and their family. We have shared this information with our valued associates and have encouraged them to share it with their members as well.

The Coalition and our valued associate partners continue to encourage service members and their families to attend town hall meetings, and to share their opinions and concerns with the Commission. As we reported last month, the Commission recently held a town hall meeting at MacDill AFB, Florida and will be holding another one this month at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 25-26 June. Although many of our valued associates, and the ALA and Coalition have met with the Commission or have been asked to testify, we continue to believe it is extremely important they hear directly from the military community.

According to the American Forces press release on 3 June, the Honorable Alphonso Maldon Jr., MCRMC Chairman, said that understanding service members' compensation preferences is central to the commission's effort to craft modernization recommendations. Over the past year, he noted, the commission has benefitted from meetings with service members, veterans, retirees and their family members. "Additionally," he said, "representatives of the uniformed services, military and veterans' service organizations, and other subject-matter experts have greatly added to our understanding of the breadth of current military compensation and benefit systems. These engagements have reinforced what we've always known: Our people are the strength of our uniformed services."

The ALA and the Coalition continue to message that we support this review and urge delay of any cuts until such time as the report mandated by the House and the review being conducted by the Commission is complete...so that cuts do not take place ahead of DeCA's ability to achieve them without impacting our military families' commissary benefit.