



State of the Union offers few new military, vet proposals

Military Times

President Obama praised the end of the combat mission in Afghanistan and vowed to continue "to hunt down terrorists" but offered no new military or veterans proposals in his State of the Union speech Tuesday. Several lawmakers criticized the President for failing to discuss the military budget and oncoming spending cuts.

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Hagel initiatives enable veteran, military support organizations

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel signed two policy memorandums directing Defense Department leaders to implement standardized procedures to allow veteran and military service organizations, and military-support nonprofits better access to provide needed support to troops and military families. In a recent letter sent to national VSOs and MSOs, Secretary Hagel outlined his directives which are designed to remove "unnecessary barriers and inconsistencies" in dealing with these organizations.

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Top 10 Wins for Military Families in 2014

National Military Family Association

From budget battles to the looming MCRMC report, was 2014 all doom and gloom for military families? Not necessarily. While the budget pressures are REAL and will continue into 2015 and beyond, here are the top 10 wins for military families in 2014.

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Town hall to address cuts at Joint Base Lewis-McChord

The News Tribune

The Army hosted a town hall meeting on Wednesday to discuss the proposed cuts at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Military officials heard from local residents about the impact personnel cutbacks at the base would have on the community. Joint Base Lewis-McChord is facing the loss of up to 11,000 troops and civilians.

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Soldiers and families push back against Army drawdown at town halls

Military.com

Governors and community leaders nationwide have been lining up to voice their opposition to the Army's planned drawdown due to budget cuts. "At this point, the Army has not made final decisions on the specifics for re-alignments resulting from force reductions below 490,000," the Army statement said. The sequester cuts for the military were eased in 2015 budgets, but are slated to resume in 2016 unless Congress acts.

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Special Report: State of Defense 2015

Defense One Staff

Defense One's annual comprehensive report, "State of Defense" explores how the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines are planning on moving beyond sequestration and uncertainty and into the era of constant combat in surprise conflicts. "Nobody wants more certainty about their futures more than the men and women in uniform," states the report. "Congress and the president may finally move them beyond the sequestration era, easing fears in pocketbooks and at PXs."

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Terrorism threat prompts increased security at military installations in Europe

Stars and Stripes

U.S. military installations across Europe are increasing security in the wake of the recent terrorist attack in Paris and disrupted plots in Belgium, Germany and France, U.S. European Command said on Wednesday.

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