



Military pay commission poised to issue recommendations

The Hill

Military advocacy groups, many of which are SaveOurBenefit valued associates, strongly oppose reducing benefits that troops and their families have been promised and earned, especially after a decade of war and repeated deployments.

According to a Commission spokesperson, the panel has identified a number of efficiencies. Rather than cutting benefits, the Commission was focused on making them more efficient, modern and valuable to service members and their families. The commission's recommendations will be submitted to the President and Congress no later than Feb. 1, and will be made available to the public at the same time.

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Lobbyist Ryan gears up for military benefit fight

POLITICO Pro (login required)

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), an important SaveOurBenefit member, has been a critical voice in the debate over military pay and benefits. MOAA played a substantial role in last year's repeal of the short-lived cut to veteran pensions.

MOAA is "going to have a lot of influence" in the looming showdown, according to Center for American Progress senior fellow Lawrence Korb.

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In 2015, Army will lose nearly 20,000 soldiers in drawdown **Army Times**

The Army stands to lose 18,200 soldiers in the drawdown plan for 2015, through attrition and reduced accessions, but also with retention screening boards that may lead to soldiers being forced out.

Initially the Army was poised to end the cuts at 490,000 in 2018, but sequestration and related budgetary pressures have moved up that target to Sept. 30, 2015. If sequestration stays in effect, the Army will have to cut an additional 40,000 in 2016 and 2017. SaveOurBenefit valued associates continue to urge Congress to end sequestration now!

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Military veterans among Congress' newest class

Stars and Stripes

Several veterans are among the 71 new lawmakers in Congress this year. Martha McSally is a retired Air Force colonel and the first female fighter pilot to carry out a combat mission. Other new lawmakers include two former Marines and a former soldier, all of whom served in Iraq.

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Obama, Hagel mark end of Operation Enduring Freedom

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

After 13 years of combat operations, Operation Enduring Freedom drew to a close on Dec. 28, 2014 in a ceremony at the International Security and Assistance Force headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"For more than 13 years, ever since nearly 3,000 innocent lives were taken from us on 9/11, our nation has been at war in Afghanistan," Obama said. "Now, thanks to the extraordinary sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, our combat mission in Afghanistan is ending, and the longest war in American history is coming to a responsible conclusion."

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