



## **Inhofe praises passage of FY'16 NDAA**

[Inhofe.senate.gov/newsroom](http://Inhofe.senate.gov/newsroom)

The final bill did not include language from the Senate's NDAA that would have begun the privatization of commissaries, thereby preserving Inhofe's amendment that was adopted on the Senate floor. "The commissary is a vital part of military compensation providing a significant benefit to military families. MOAA is grateful for Senator Inhofe's leadership in stopping privatization of the commissary system. To conduct a privatization pilot with without proper assessment could have resulted in unintended consequences, putting this highly valued benefit at risk. We look forward to continuing to work with him to protect this vital benefit," said Vice Adm. Norb Ryan (USN Ret.), president of the Military Officers Association of America.

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## **Commissary catch-22**

[Military Officers Association of America](#)

This year's defense bill calls for DoD to figure out how to make the commissary system cost neutral. The report, due in March, will look at how DoD can privatize commissaries while keeping the same level of customer savings and satisfaction. It will also look at strategically closing commissaries in markets with competing shopping options, and the willingness of commercial grocers to provide eligible commissary patrons discounts. If cutting funding without increasing costs for consumers seem like conflicting ideas, it's because they are. It's unlikely that commissaries will be able to take the budget cut without passing the buck to shoppers.

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## **Senior leaders: Family welfare is factor of force readiness**

[AUSA News](#)

Watching out for the welfare of Army families directly impacts the state of our fighting force, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley said Monday. "If you take care of your people, your people will take care of the mission," he told a packed crowd of military spouses, soldiers, DoD civilians and others during a Senior Leaders Town Hall, held during the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C. The panel discussion brought together top military leadership to discuss pressing issues facing Army families. The conversation was part of a series of five AUSA Military Family Forums being held during the Annual Meeting.

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## **Seven things our army needs, right now**

[Defense One](#)

AUSA's president calls for stabilizing the size of the Army, giving it more money, and ending partisan conflict. "We have to mean it when we say we support the troops. Three consecutive years of caps on military pay and moves afoot to overhaul retired pay, increase out-of-pocket health care costs and cut taxpayer support for commissaries all are tough to swallow, for soldiers and especially for soldiers' families. The drip-drip-drip of discussion of benefits cuts is almost worse for morale than any actual changes."

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## **Army leaders vent: We still need ground forces**

[The Hill](#)

Outgoing Army Secretary John McHugh on Monday expressed frustration with a prevalent attitude that ground troops are decreasingly important as the administration tries to avoid again deploying soldiers to the Middle East. The Army is slated to reduce to 450,000 troops by the end of 2017, from about 490,000 currently, due to Pentagon budget cuts under the 2011 Budget Control Act. "We're in the extraordinarily rare position in American history where our budgets are coming down, but our missions are going up," he said. "At some point those two trend lines ... are going to put this Army and this nation in a very dangerous place."

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## **Former director of the Army budget to address ALA convention**

*American Logistics Association/Save Our Benefit*

Lieutenant General Roger G. Thompson, Jr., USA Ret., commanded at all levels through Army Major Command during his 34-year career. He served as the Director of the Army Budget and as the Deputy Commander in Chief, United States Transportation Command. LTG (Ret) Thompson is the Vice President of Membership and Meetings for the Association of the United States Army. AUSA is an active member of Save Our Benefit and The Military Coalition. AUSA continues to sound the alarm about the danger of sequestration, precipitous downsizing of the Army, and the need for a generous compensation package to secure the all-volunteer force.

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