



## **Military's health, wellness advocates dive into details for troops, families**

"We want the whole base community involved in providing accessible, appropriate nutrition to troops and their Families," said Col. Deydre Tyhen of the Army Surgeon General's office. "That means the commissary, the Exchange, the chow hall and key agencies 'out in town.'"

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## **Defense committees appear open to eliminating support for commissaries**

Association of Defense Communities

Defense officials may be disappointed that the conference report for the fiscal 2016 defense authorization bill rejects the administration's proposal to slash federal funding for commissaries in the near-term, but a provision added in the House-Senate conference requiring the department to draw up a plan for eliminating taxpayer support for military grocery stores and exchanges indicates that lawmakers may be closer to embracing the cost-cutting reform than previously believed.

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## **In defense bill battle, military pay and benefits are casualties**

Military Times

Military advocates lost on almost every big benefits fight they waged in the legislative run-up to the fiscal 2016 defense authorization bill. "Over the last 10 years, the (military) community has fought hard to increase benefits to catch troops up to the private sector," said Bill Rausch, political director for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "Now, after all the battles we've won, we're starting to see retreats. That's concerning to us."

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## **Lawmakers looking at more military personnel reforms**

Military Times

Fresh off a slate of planned military benefits changes and trims, congressional defense leaders Tuesday said they are already looking ahead to more entitlement and personnel reforms in 2016. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, called growing military personnel costs "one of our greatest challenges" in coming years, saying that "we're going to have to make some tough decisions" soon.

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## **Troops wait to see if Obama will sign or veto defense bill**

Defense One

Military pay and benefits hang in the balance as US troops and their families await President Barack Obama's decision on whether to veto the defense authorization bill. The bill includes a 1.3% pay raise and overhauls the military retirement system, but the president has threatened to veto it over an unrelated measure.

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