



### **Pentagon's budget proposal increases costs to families**

Military.com

A series of changes proposed by the White House in the president's annual budget plan looks to drastically change Tricare, increase health care fees, decrease commissary hours while increasing the cost of food, and lower the amount of money given to troops for housing costs. Under the proposal, commissaries would also be open fewer days and, as a result, cut staff. In addition, the plan calls for doing away with the current tax-payer subsidy that covers "second destination" shipping of goods to rural locations, and instead adding those costs to the price of products.

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### **DOD budget looks for savings in quality-of-life benefits**

Defense Communities

The president's fiscal 2016 budget request released Monday reprises cost-savings reforms to commissary benefits and the basic allowance for housing (BAH) from the previous year's request, with some tweaks. The request calls for military grocery stores to cut back their operating days and hours to save \$300 million in federal subsidies next year, and requires service members to pay an additional 4 percent in out-of-pocket costs for BAH over the next two to three years.

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### **2016 defense budget released: military families face financial pressures**

National Military Family Association

The first thing to note about the proposed budget request for 2016, released February 2, is its size. The Administration requested more than \$534 billion for the base defense budget, the largest such request ever. However, under the spending caps set by sequestration, the Department of Defense (DoD) budget should be \$499 billion. That leaves it up to Congress either to undo sequestration or find the cuts themselves. And even at this higher level, the budget proposal includes more financial strain on military families when it comes to compensation and benefits.

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### **Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commissions releases report**

AUSN and Navy News

Last week the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission released its long awaited report. The report makes 15 key reform recommendations ranging from a consolidation of the Reserve Component's 30 duty statuses into 6 broader statuses, a consolidation of the military's commissary and exchange systems, and a replacement of the current 20+ year retirement system with a system that would auto-enroll service members in the Thrift Savings Plan, among many other recommendations. AUSN will continue to work with Members of Congress and their staffs to ensure that our service members, veterans, and military families are provided with the benefits that they have earned through their years of honorable service to our nation.

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