



Lawmaker: Military leaders must make budget cuts, or Congress will

Reuters

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., told Navy and Marine Corps officials testifying before the House Appropriations Committee that they'd better be prepared to make budget cuts. "With respect, I will advise you that we will cut the \$13 billion with you or we will cut it without you, but we need to do the job the law requires us to do," he said Thursday.

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Sequestration endangers defense strategy, Dempsey says

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

While the U.S. military remains strong, sequestration endangers the mission of protecting America and its interests, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey told the Senate today. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Secretary Ash Carter testified before the Armed Services Committee. Both men said the military would not be able to fulfill defense strategic guidance if sequestration triggers in October.

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Senior Enlisted Advisors: Uncertainty affects quality of life

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Service members and their families are concerned about potential sequester-caused cuts to the military's budget and possible changes to quality of life, pay and compensation programs, the services' senior enlisted advisors told a House panel. The Army's senior enlisted leader said adequate funding is key to showing soldiers how much leadership cares. "Caring for our people builds trust, and trust is built with predictability," Dailey said. This, he said, "is the unwritten contract" between the American people, its leaders and the Army's soldiers and civilians.

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VFW says ending sequestration is top 2016 priority

Military.com

Members of the nation's oldest veterans' service organization will be lobbying to end sequestration this week when they appear before congressional committees and meetings with lawmakers in their offices. "Our members -- all voting constituents -- will use this face-to-face opportunity [with Congress] to demand ... an end to the sequester," VFW National Commander John W. Stroud said. With the U.S. still at war, the cuts required under the sequester will devastate military readiness, homeland security, the quality-of-life of military families and veterans, he said.

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The Bottom Line – Budget vs Commission

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Within a few days of each other, the White House and the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) both released their ideas for transforming military pay and benefits. The administration's FY 2016 budget rehashes many proposals that don't attempt to modernize or reform pay and benefits—they simply continue to erode them. On the other hand, the MCRMC report contains 15 recommendations to totally overhaul pay and benefits. Some appear to be well thought out and have our support.

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DoD plan would 'destroy' commissaries, say industry reps

National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)

A NAUS ally in the fight to retain the Commissary benefit, the American Logistics Association (ALA), which represents manufacturers, distributors and brokers of products sold in commissaries and base exchanges, has released a position paper that contrasts DoD's plan to "wreck" commissaries with less onerous recommendations of a blue-ribbon panel to consolidate all base store operations to gain efficiencies. The Defense Department's fiscal 2016 budget request would slash taxpayer support of base grocery stores by \$322 million in 2016 and by \$1 billion next year, which the ALA says would "destroy" the shopping benefit.

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Pentagon: Another BRAC will save money

Military Times

The Pentagon is pushing for a new round of base closures geared specifically toward saving money. Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations John Conger told the House Appropriations Committee that the last round of closures was "not designed to save any money" and was more about rebalancing the force than cutting costs. "We look at the next round as an efficiency-driven one. In such a budget environment as we have today, it only makes sense to avoid spending money on excess," he said.

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Army announces new Afghanistan deployments

Army Times

More than 2,300 soldiers from three major Army units will deploy to Afghanistan this spring and summer, officials have announced. The deployments are part of the regular rotation of forces to Afghanistan, where the mission in January transitioned to a train-and-advise mission called Resolute Support. About 10,000 U.S. troops are now in the country.

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