



DoD budget threatens commissary benefit

National Military Family Association (NMFA) Facebook

Of all the cuts included in the budget, none are as harmful to military families' finances as the plan's proposal for the commissary. If enacted, the proposals would effectively gut the commissary over the long term, ending a valuable benefit that military families have relied on for generations...Proposed cuts to the commissary budget could ultimately lead to a complete loss of this benefit. We are fighting back against this proposition, and you can help us drive the point home. Let us know in the comments: Would you continue shopping there if the prices increased? NMFA has received 30 pages of comments and has shared the best ones with the Senate Armed Services Committee staff in a face to face meeting.

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Veterans' support builds for consolidating commissaries and exchanges

Military.com

Groups including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) are not opposed to finding efficiencies through consolidation IF the overall value of commissary savings is retained and without a net negative impact to military families, either in terms of payment or accessibility. The National Military Family Association and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) expressed reservations about the proposal: "We have some concerns about the consolidation; specifically it seems to eliminate the assurances of the 30 percent savings, which is a critical part of non-cash compensation for military families."

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With or without BRAC, DoD's footprint is shrinking

Federal News Radio

In each of the past four years, the Pentagon has proposed a new round of base closures and Congress has rejected every one so far. But with or without lawmakers' approval, the military's footprint is shrinking. The Defense Department has hinted that it may move to close some bases even without Congress' explicit permission. Existing law provides for one-by-one base closure processes the department could implement unilaterally, as long as Congress is given fair warning. But another de facto BRAC alternative is already playing itself out as a natural consequence of budget-driven military downsizing.

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Fort Hood hosts Odierno for fourth virtual town hall

DVIDS

This was the fourth virtual town hall in which Odierno fielded questions but the first conducted next to Soldiers. Several Soldiers asked the chief about changes to compensation and retirement plans, especially in light of the recommendations offered by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC). After the session, Odierno addressed potential sequestration cuts and their affects, especially at Fort Hood, where cuts to personnel could top 16,000.

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U.S. expands participation in exercises with Philippines

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. is more than doubling the number of troops it's sending to the annual Balikatan exercise in the Philippines this month. The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines will send a total of 6,000 troops to train with 5,000 Filipino soldiers. The larger number is a result of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement the two nations signed last year, which will lead to more U.S. troops in the Philippines over the next 10 years.

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