



## **Military, veterans groups urge Congress not to allow radical, irreversible changes to critical benefits**

### NMVA

The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), a non-partisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military and veteran service organizations, also sent a letter to congressional leaders this week urging them to reject the DoD budget proposal to cut \$322 million in commissary funding and legislative changes enabling these cuts. "NMVA believes the cuts are premature. Two recent reports, one from RAND and one from the Business Executives for National Security (BENS), call into question DoD's strategy related to the future of the commissaries and exchanges, particularly raising prices on food and household goods. It is our understanding that none of the DoD proposals have been appropriately evaluated and, if the cuts are implemented, the Defense Commissary Agency will have no choice but to begin diminishing both the savings and access to the benefit."

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## **Coalition urges Congress to reject cuts to commissary budget**

Military Times

A coalition of organizations advocating to protect military shopping benefits has sent a letter to leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services committees urging them to reject the Pentagon's proposed cuts to commissary funding. They also asked the committees to reject the legislative changes the Pentagon has requested, which would allow the commissaries to raise prices in order to pay for some operating costs. "The Pentagon's budget cuts will destroy the commissary benefit," the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits wrote in an April 16 letter...Repeatedly, families noted that they wouldn't shop at commissaries if prices rise, which would, in effect end the benefit.

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## **AUSA opposes commissary cuts**

Association of the United States Army

The Association of the U.S. Army is a co-signer of a letter to Congress opposing proposed cuts in funding for commissaries. Along with other members of the Coalition to Save our Military Shopping Benefits, the association is asking Congress to reject a Defense Department proposal that would cut \$322 million in commissary funding in fiscal year 2016. A similar letter from a federal employee union was sent in March to the leaders of the congressional committees responsible for military personnel policy. The American Federation of Government Employees said the cut in commissary funding "is a badly disguised attempt to put the commissaries into a death spiral."

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## **MOAA urges Congress to sustain military pay and benefits**

Military Officers Association of America

Budget cuts undo Congress's decade of work to rebalance military compensation with the extraordinary demands and sacrifices of a military career. The FY 2016 budget submission proposes several significant pay and benefit cuts that are inconsistent with the extreme sacrifices exemplified by the last 13 years of combat operations. Capping pay, increasing out-of-pocket expenses for housing, slashing commissary savings, and increasing TRICARE costs for military families would repeat the insidious measures that led to retention and readiness problems in the past.

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