



Don't erode military pay and benefits

Military Officers Association of America

MOAA is urging its members to write their Members of Congress...The Pentagon again is asking in the FY 2016 budget proposal to simply erode pay and benefits and all of Congress' hard work. The budget calls for capping pay below private-sector pay growth for a third straight year (with four more years planned), increasing out-of-pocket housing expenses, slashing commissary benefits, and cutting health care benefits. Last year, Congress staved off many of the proposals. I ask that you block these proposals that would continue down the path of repeating the unwise measures that led to past retention and readiness problems...MOAA challenges the administration's \$4 trillion FY 2016 budget proposal, which once again calls for cuts to military people programs, in this month's article "History Repeats" on pages 31-32.

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Rand: Price increases likely will hurt commissaries

Military Times

"We've all said it: You raise the prices, shoppers won't come, and you end the benefit," said Joyce Raezer, executive director of the National Military Family Association. "This is evidence that the DoD budget proposal will destroy the commissary savings." "I'm grateful to DoD for telling Rand to look at this. Rand has validated what we've been saying"... "DoD has been saying that military families will accept higher costs. Rand has said the evidence doesn't point to that," Raezer said. "Military families will vote with their feet."

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Can Your Commissary Benefit Be Saved?

AUSA Family Readiness

Picture this. You are purchasing groceries for your family at your go-to store. The usual traffic of shoppers is lighter, the prices you have come to rely on have increased, and the friends and co-workers you are used to bumping into are nowhere to be found. Are you at a chain grocery store in your neighborhood? No, it could be the commissary of the future if some Members of Congress have anything to say about it.

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Study: Increasing commissary prices 29% won't make up \$1B budget cut

Military.com

Officials with the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits, a commissary advocacy group, agreed with the report's findings. "While the RAND report is correct in pointing out flaws in DoD's arguments and major second and third order effects of destroying this benefit, it only scratches the surface of the major consequences of pulling the rug out from under a very successful program that delivers so much to so many for so little," said Candace Wheeler, a coalition spokesperson. "DoD is sailing in dangerous and uncharted waters and Congress needs to look behind the curtain and examine DoD's proposal to cut off the blood flow to services cherished and valued by millions of military, particularly young families and fixed income retirees."

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Study: Commissary price hikes to offset funding cuts could backfire

Stars and Stripes

Raising prices at commissaries to compensate for a possible decrease in taxpayer funding could backfire, causing customers to shop elsewhere, according to a new RAND report. The study, published last week, says the Defense Department could expect to lose customers, depending on how much prices are raised and the convenience and affordability of shopping substitutes. If that happens, potential increases to store revenue from higher prices could be more than offset by a decrease in the number of purchases, RAND researchers concluded.

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The best way to use the commissary benefit is to be an informed shopper

EPR Retail News

What a commissary patrons know about their commissary benefit – how it works, its history and its features – can make all the difference in how they use it. Just ask Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Stuart M. Allison, the Defense Commissary Agency's senior enlisted advisor to the director. "The best way to use the commissary benefit is to be an informed shopper," Allison said.

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