



Dunford tapped for Joint Chiefs chairman, Selva for vice

Defense News

President Obama nominated Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Joseph Dunford to succeed Gen. Martin Dempsey as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, currently commander of U.S. Transportation Command, to serve as the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Dempsey is retiring after serving four years in the post

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Obama Joint Chiefs pick's tough task: Cut pay

Politico

It is a bond with the rank and file that will be sorely tested if the 59-year-old Dunford is confirmed by the Senate to be the nation's top military officer: The Obama administration is counting on Dunford to take the lead in pushing a series of proposals designed to shrink the pay and benefits of troops as the Pentagon wrestles with the need to rein in its personnel costs. Defense Secretary Ash Carter has proposed scaling back current plans for pay increases and benefits, including the subsidies troops receive for housing and subsidies for groceries. He also wants to reduce troops' traditional pensions and put in place a 401(k)-style retirement program.

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Carter urges senators to support stable defense budget

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Slashed budgets and high worldwide demand for U.S. military forces have created an unbalanced defense program that is taking on increasingly greater risks, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told a Senate panel this morning. "Over the past three fiscal years the Defense Department has taken more than three-quarters of a trillion dollars in cuts to its future-years defense spending," Carter said. The frequently sudden and unpredictable timing and nature of the cuts and continued uncertainty over sequestration have made the stresses greater forcing DoD to make a series of incremental, inefficient decisions.

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Obama sends pay, retirement commission recommendations to congress

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

President Obama sent the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission to Congress this week. The president is prepared to support specific proposals for 10 of the Commission's 15 recommendations. The four that require more study are: the proposal for a blended retirement system, reserve component duty statuses, exceptional family member support, and commissary and exchange consolidation.

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Proposal to change commissary workers' status

Military Times

A significant gap in wages and benefits offered to commissary workers and exchange employees doing the same jobs appears to be rooted in a simple fact: The Defense Commissary Agency is funded by taxpayer dollars, while the exchanges are self-supporting businesses that pay their employees out of store profits. DeCA has been under increasing pressure from defense officials to drastically cut its budget. But the idea of converting government employees to NAF is raising concerns about the effects of lower salaries and benefits on those employees, a group that includes a number of military spouses.

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House panel to rejects call for new round of base closing

13News Now

Hampton Roads residents who suffered through the anguish of the base closure process a decade ago may be spared in the coming year if members of the House of Representatives get their way. The House Armed Services Committee in approving the FY2016 Defense Authorization bill on a vote of 60-2 has rejected a proposal to initiate another Base Realignment and Closure round.

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Military appreciation month

Military.com

National Military Appreciation Month started as a simple idea; to gather America around its military family to honor, remember, recognize and appreciate those who have served and those now serving and to know the history behind it all. In 1999, legislation passed in the U.S. Senate designating May as National Military Appreciation Month, with the support and sponsorship of Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Representative Duncan Hunter (R-CA) of San Diego and over 50 veteran service organizations.

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