



### **Coalition sends letter to Senate and House Appropriations Committee leaders**

Save Our Benefit

The Coalition to Save our Military Shopping Benefits valued associates urge the Senate and House Appropriations Committee Chairmen and Ranking Members to reject DoD's budget proposal to slash \$322 million in commissary funding, along with changes to legislation that would enable these cuts. The letter sent last Friday, May 8, 2015 mirrors the Coalition letter sent to leaders of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees in mid April.

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### **Senate panel backs military retirement change, troop pay raise of 1.3%**

Military.com

Lawmakers on a Senate panel agreed to overhaul the military retirement system and give troops a less-than-expected pay raise next year. "Troops deserve the 2.3% pay raise," said Joyce Wessel Raezer, executive director of the National Military Family Association. The bill would continue to erode pay and benefits for currently serving members and their families, according to the Military Officers Association of America. "The subcommittee mark is very disappointing," Norb Ryan, the organization's president and chief executive officer, said in a statement.

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### **Potential defense budget cuts dishonors military personnel**

Statesman Journal

Between the FY 2014, FY 2015 and FY 2016 pay caps, the proposed Basic Allowance for Housing reductions, the reductions in commissary savings, and the new TRICARE fee structure, an E-5's family of four would experience a loss of over \$5,100 in purchasing power annually ; and an O-3's family of four would experience a loss of over \$6,400. These significant pay and benefit cuts are inconsistent with the extreme sacrifices exemplified by the last 13 years of combat duty. The military is the 1 percent that protects our nation and their sacrifice should be honored.

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### **Study highlights employment problems for veterans**

Stars and Stripes

Despite recent national efforts to hire veterans and educate employers, a new report released Tuesday says that vets have trouble finding and keeping jobs and that civilian employers struggle to understand them. Some of the training and indoctrination that serves troops well in war works against them in their job search, according to the report, produced by the University of Southern California and Volunteers of America. It calls for "civilian basic training" as troops transition out of the armed services.

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### **Search continues for missing U.S. helicopter in Nepal**

DoD News, Joint Task Force 505 News Release

The search is continuing for a U.S. Marine Corps UH-1Y Huey helicopter reported missing in Nepal with six U.S. Marines and two Nepalese service members aboard, Joint Task Force 505 officials reported today. The aircraft, which was delivering humanitarian aid to people affected by the recent earthquake and was evacuating casualties back to Kathmandu, went missing yesterday near Charikot, Nepal. Officials said the status of those aboard is unknown.

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