



Senate Pilot Project Would Privatize Some Commissaries

Stars and Stripes

At least five military commissaries would be privatized under a two-year pilot program proposed in a Senate version of the 2016 defense budget unveiled Thursday. Congress is eyeing benefits such as commissaries, pay and retirement for ways to reduce military personnel costs — a move that has riled troops and military service groups. “The VFW is against privatizing military commissaries and we are against the pilot program to test it,” John Stroud, the VFW national commander, said in a statement. “We want this language stripped from the Senate’s version of the defense bill.”

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Bolster the troops and national security by ending the sequester

The Hill

Sequestration is threatening our national security both abroad and at home. Across the country, Americans continue to hear about the ongoing threats to our national security. While we place our trust in our men and women in uniform to combat these threats, we must commit to providing them with the resources necessary to carry out their mission...On May 15, the House passed the fiscal 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which authorizes programs critical to our national defense. By providing this authorization, the House acted to curb the devastating effects of sequestration that compromise mission readiness for our deployed personnel around the world.

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Service members, get involved in government

The Hill

As we approach Memorial Day and pause as a nation to honor those who have fallen in defense of our freedom, our collective memories often turn to past conflicts. It is striking to realize that this will be the 14th consecutive year we pay tribute while our nation remains at war...The challenge is no longer in giving veterans a voice, but in giving them empowerment. We now hear our returning service members loud and clear. Listening isn’t the issue, getting results is. If we are to improve for the sake of tomorrow’s troops, we should look no further than the ones who serve and fight today. We must provide veterans and members of the armed forces with the resources they need to succeed once they come home from war.

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Stories of Service: The Homefront

PBS

“The strength of the armed forces of the United States is as much about its families as it is about its combat capability,” General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. More than two million men and women serve in America’s all-volunteer military force, and another three million are their husbands, wives, sons and daughters. Yet over the course of two long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the stories — and the service — of these military families have often been overlooked. In a revealing two-hour documentary special presented by Bob Woodruff, The Homefront will bring the true stories of these military families to a PBS audience. The Homefront premieres on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2015, 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. ET.

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It's time to remember our fallen heroes and all our flag symbolizes this Memorial Day weekend!

TAPS

Flags In at Arlington National Cemetery solemnly marks the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend here in Washington, D.C. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) will use this tradition done by the United States Army 3rd Infantry "Old Guard" Regiment, to call people across the country to simple acts of remembrance by putting their own Flags In. For many who fly American flags regularly, this will be an easy way to ascribe their pride, remember their heroes, and celebrate the freedoms which our fallen heroes preserved. For others, it will be the reminder to do something honoring those who died in service to the country and veterans who have since passed away. People can share their Flags In moment on social media platforms by using the hashtag #FlagsIn and tagging @taps4america.

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