



AFSA working to protect military stores

Air Force Sergeants Association

As a member of *the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits*, the Air Force Sergeants Association and its coalition partners sent a letter to congressional leaders. The letter, as reported by the American Logistics Association, read in part, "We strongly urge the Senate and House conferees to roll back provisions in the Senate version of the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act, which transfers operating costs to patrons including provisions to: (1) allow the Secretary of Defense to increase prices of goods at commissaries; (2) allow domestic transportation costs to be factored into the cost of goods and prices charged to patrons; and, (3) have patrons pay with surcharge costs that have traditionally been paid with appropriations."

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NAUS statement on National Defense Authorization

National Association for Uniformed Services

The Coalition greatly appreciates both Armed Services Committees for acting so expeditiously on the defense bill and for working on a return to regular order...However, still at stake are provisions that continue to erode the appropriate pay and benefits needed to sustain the all-volunteer force: A third straight year of capping military pay raises below private sector wage growth (with four more planned); A second year of reducing the commissary subsidy (with one more year planned); A second year of slowing the active duty basic allowance for housing (BAH); An additional increase in pharmacy co-pays (already tied to COLA) for the third time in four years (with an additional 9 years of increases planned).

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NMFA sends letter to conferees

National Military Family Association

Military families consistently tell us how much they value the savings they achieve by shopping at the commissary, which we consider a vital element in military compensation. For this reason, we **oppose** the provisions in S. 1376 that would transfer the cost of second destination shipping to commissary patrons, thereby increasing prices. We **support** Section 641 of H.R. 1735 that would protect commissary supplies and prices for military families assigned to Asia and the Pacific. We reiterate our opposition to Section 652 of S. 1376, which would require the Department of Defense to carry out a pilot program privatizing five commissaries. We fear that taking such a step would lead to the erosion of the commissary benefit, which military families tell us they rely on.

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NDAA conference winding down

Air Force Sergeants Association

Talks are still ongoing but negotiations on the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2016 by a joint House-Senate conference committee appear to be winding down. On July 15, news agencies were reporting that congressional leaders believe they can agree to a final version of the bill (HR 1735) in time for a House floor vote on the July 24. Roughly two dozen issues needing resolution remain, but conference leaders are confident these can be addressed quickly. AFSA's NDAA campaign ended July 10. Thank you to all those who participated. More than 50,000 letters were sent through our Legislative Action Center over the past week. We believe it will help produce a better bill for the military and our members.

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Selva discusses threats, capabilities during confirmation hearing

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

In his confirmation hearing, Air Force Gen. Paul Selva told the Senate Armed Services Committee that Russia is the preeminent threat, because that nation possesses conventional and nuclear capabilities, should Russian leaders choose to use them. Selva also noted another direct threat to the U.S. military: sequestration. "We see the effects of sequestration and the potential declines in the defense budget affecting readiness," he said. And they affect our ability to retain the best of those soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines."

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