



Commissary reformers eye appeal of "cost-plus-5-percent" pricing

Stars and Stripes

Defense officials appear ready to ask Congress to repeal a law that commissaries must sell products at cost plus five percent, a formula that for decades has ensured commissary shoppers everywhere pay the same prices. Candace Wheeler, Spokesperson for the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits said, "DoD's stated objective all along has been to reduce appropriations for the commissary benefit. The problem is that their 'business speak' does not match their 'budget speak.' The fact is they want to increase the costs to military patrons and make them feel good about it."

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Commissaries still in jeopardy

The Retired Enlisted Association

A couple of weeks ago we sent an alert asking you to contact your Senators and Representative and let them know you oppose cuts in funding for the commissaries and you responded dramatically. Even though members of Congress have gone home or on vacation, their staffs are still working and keeping track of what they hear from their constituents. If we are going to save the commissaries it's important that we keep up the pressure on Congress. The House and Senate are trying to reach an agreement on funding for commissaries in the next fiscal year and the current Senate bill would slash the commissary benefit and force you to pay more when you shop at a commissary. TREA is part of a coalition to save our commissary benefits and we are fighting to save the benefit, but we need your continued help to keep the pressure up on Congress.

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Visit your elected officials during August recess!

Save Our Benefit

During the month of August, Congress is on recess, and most elected officials return to their home districts to meet with constituents. We encourage you to take this opportunity to visit your Senators and Representatives at their home offices, during town hall meetings, or information sharing events. When you speak to them, ask them to: Support the House version of the Defense Bill, which protects critical commissary funding; Reject the Senate version of the Defense Bill, which includes language that would be detrimental to the commissary benefit and transfers operating costs to military patrons.

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CBO: Full sequester relief could add as many as 1.4M jobs

The Hill

Reversing sequestration spending caps could create as many as 1.4 million jobs over the next two years, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said Tuesday. Easing those ceilings would lead to increased government spending, which in turn would lead to an increase in economic output and higher employment, the CBO said. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have expressed support for relieving sequestration again, which Congress had approved in a 2013 budget deal that applied to 2014 and 2015.

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As politicians bicker over funding, military families cut back on vacations this summer

MSN Money

Sequestration and economic worries are prodding America's career military families to scale back their rest and relaxation plans again this summer. A new survey finds they're trimming their vacation plans because of looming federal spending cuts. Forty-seven percent of middle-class military families -- those with household incomes of at least \$50,000 -- intend to spend less money this year on their summer vacations, according a First Command Financial Behaviors Index poll.

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Military Times publishes annual Benefits Guide for troops, vets and families

Army Times

Military Times is publishing its annual Benefits Guide, a one-stop resource on the dizzying array of pay and benefits programs offered to active-duty and reserve component service members, retirees, veterans and their families. It has everything they need to know to get the most out of their government benefits. The guide is a living document, updated each year with changes made by the Pentagon, the Veterans Affairs Department and Congress.

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