



## **Healthy Base Initiative ends, but concept continues**

**Military Times**

The Healthy Base Initiative, a DoD demonstration project at 14 installations that tested ways to improve the health and wellness of troops, civilians and their families, is ending this month. Base officials are submitting final data and completing an assessment survey by the end of August. They're measuring factors such as changes in the rates of obesity and overweight; change in the usage of tobacco; change in the percentage of total sales at commissaries that is fresh produce; the percentage change in designated tobacco areas; and the percentage of schools that have made positive changes.

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## **Visit your legislators at local office during August**

**Fleet Reserve Association**

With many legislators back in their district offices, this would be an excellent opportunity for a group of members or for individual Shipmates to visit them in person to express deep concerns on legislative issues. Oppose the pharmacy co-pay increase, cuts to commissary benefits, the smaller active duty pay increase and BAH reductions in Senate Defense bill; and ask Senators to support House provision to provide veterans status for 20-year reservists.

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## **Congress should follow its budget rules**

**National Defense**

As we move toward the end of fiscal year 2015 and the official Oct. 1 beginning of fiscal year 2016, once again we find ourselves facing the prospect of no approved budget reflected in appropriations bills. Here is just one example of the implications of this situation. Of the five members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who will be leaving their positions or retiring this September, none ever had a defense budget passed on time under regular order following the procedures of the Budget Control Act of 1974 during their entire term in office.

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