



House adjourns for five-week recess

The Hill

Summer break is now officially underway for the House, with lawmakers expected to be out of Washington until September. Legislation to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the 2016 defense authorization didn't make it to the floor before the August break. Autumn is already shaping up to be an intense season for lawmakers when they return to session after Labor Day.

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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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Drug co-pays, retirement changes delay NDAA agreement

Military Times

Add Tricare pharmacy co-pays to the growing list of disputes holding up the 2016 defense authorization bill. At the start of July, lawmakers in the House and Senate were hopeful that the annual policy bill could be finalized before the August congressional recess. But fights over a host of issues have stalled progress on a compromise. "I still hope we can get an agreement," McCain told reporters. "But we still have issues that still need to be ironed out. All these issues are connected to one another."

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Congress bails out the VA, helping avoid furloughs

Government Executive

The Senate on Thursday approved legislation by a vote of 91-4 that would give the Veterans Affairs Department budget flexibility to avoid closing hospitals this summer. Because of the impending congressional recess, the Senate was forced to take up the House's stop-gap bill to avoid shutting down infrastructure projects and also to fix the VA budget problem.

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New body fat rules, big changes to Navy BCA

Navy Times

The Navy is easing up on its body fat standards and looking more closely at how it measures health overall. "We like to speak of a culture of fitness, but we really haven't implemented a culture of fitness across the Navy. Fitness should truly be about being healthy and mission readiness," said chief of naval personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran. Although it will be harder to fail the body composition assessment under the new rules, sailors will get only two failures instead of three before they are booted.

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Carter: Future force depends on military child education

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Defense Secretary Ash Carter thanked military children for their sacrifices and championed a family-focused approach to educational pathways for them and their service member parents. To maintain its advantage, the U.S. military must remain an attractive, inviting, supportive place for those who serve, and for families of all kinds, the defense secretary said. Given the abundance of career path choices the Defense Department must not take for granted that military children are twice as likely to become service members as other children or that service members are more inclined to recommend uniformed service to their children.

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Here's what veterans want in their civilian careers

U.S. News & World Report

Savvy employers know that military veterans often hold the solution to their continuing struggle to attract and retain high-quality talent. They understand that military-experienced personnel possess skills, attitudes and abilities beyond those of most people who have not served. Thus, veterans can add disproportionate value to any team or organization. But as veteran unemployment drops to one of the lowest levels in years (now 4.4 percent), hiring managers are finding themselves competing aggressively for this worthy talent pool.

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