



Sweeping commissary proposals worry watchdogs, unions, manufacturers

Military.com

A series of new proposals issued this month in a long-anticipated study on the military commissary system has raised alarms among commissary watchdogs, union officials and industry representatives. The report recommended a series of changes that would allow the commissary system to set its own prices based on region, reduce employee wages and benefits, and consolidate operations. "The report's recommendations need to be challenged," said Candace Wheeler, a spokeswoman for the Save Our Benefit coalition. "The Pentagon shouldn't take cuts ahead of the system's ability to absorb them without impacting patrons."

[READ MORE](#)

Give troops the pay and benefits they deserve

Military Officer's Association of America

The Senate is all that stands between troops and the pay and benefits they actually deserve. Military families have done enough and the future force is at stake. Look at the situation from the troops' perspective: frequent and dangerous long deployments; lower pay; higher costs for food, housing, and health care; not to mention the uncertainty of getting a pink slip downrange – or worse. Is this the kind of environment you'd want to work and live in or have your spouse exposed to? Pitting readiness against personnel is a false choice and a breach of faith. The solution is simple: Congress needs to support both readiness and the people programs necessary to sustain the force. It is not a case of one or the other.

[READ MORE](#)

How Congress quietly killed military healthcare reform

The Hill

Service members need portable benefits to take with them throughout their careers, including healthcare. In the end, conversations about cost savings in military compensation are largely treading water unless they propose military healthcare reform. Other areas of compensation — basic pay, **commissary benefits** or Basic Allowance for Housing — all enjoy near-unanimous support among military families. Reductions to each benefit were proposed by different stakeholders in this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) process, and each had met stone walls of resistance from Congress, advocacy groups, or the military itself.

[READ MORE](#)

Guard commissary privileges

Air Force Sergeants Association via DVIDS

It was 12 years ago that, after many years of effort, AFSA and its Coalition partners achieved year-round commissary benefits for members of the Guard and Reserve. An article in *DVIDS* focusing on the benefit specifically for Guardsmen reports, "Since the passage of the National Defense Authorization act of 2003, National Guardsmen, retirees and their authorized family members have enjoyed unlimited access to the nation's military commissaries. Before 2003, Guardsmen were limited to 24 commissary shopping days annually."

[READ MORE](#)