



## Congressman Joe Wilson addresses MOAA council leaders

San Antonio Express-News

On the subject of keeping commissaries open for military members and their families around the globe, Congressman Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) said, "It's important to have a worldwide system. It's not just the ability to buy an American product at a remote location ... It's also an [employment] opportunity for spouses and children. Please keep fighting on that." [READ MORE](#)

## Congresswoman visits Fort Drum, assesses overall readiness

Fort Drum, United States Army

"Commissaries are really important. I was able to meet with the Soldiers and some of the spouses who shop at the commissary," said U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21<sup>st</sup>). "It's a really important benefit, and as I spoke with military Family Members, it's one of their top priorities of benefits that they report." "I want to make sure we support our commissaries and AAFES, which are so important to the quality of life and well-being and savings – particularly for our young Soldiers," she said. [READ MORE](#)

## Lawmakers push for a bigger military pay raise and 27,000 more troops

Military Times (tiered subscription model)

House lawmakers want a 2.1 percent military pay raise for next year and a force expansion totaling 27,000 troops beyond the Pentagon's request, according to their first draft of the annual defense authorization bill released Tuesday. [READ MORE](#)

## Fight over GI Bill cuts builds: 'Either you're with us or against us'

Marine Corps Times

Officials from Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America said the move goes back on a promise made to those families that the full benefit would be available when they need it, and for the first time pulls money out of the GI Bill to fund outside programs. They painted the legislative proposal as a betrayal of veterans' service and accused lawmakers of viewing earned benefits as a "piggy bank" for other wants. [READ MORE](#)