

## Lawmakers voice concern as more troops are sent to Middle East

The Hill

Fears are growing in Congress about the deeper U.S. involvement in the Middle East, sparked by President Barack Obama's decision to send 250 more special operations troops to Syria to help in the fight against the Islamic State. "Whenever you have troops in harm's way, unintended consequences could occur. I'm very worried that our troops, while advisers, are still in the middle of the war and without authorization from Congress," said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif. [READ MORE](#)

## Panel confirms first female officer for warfighting command

Fox News

The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved the nomination of the first female officer to lead one of the military's warfighting commands. Members of the panel on Tuesday confirmed Air Force Gen. Lori Robinson to be commander of U.S. Northern Command. The panel acted on a voice vote. The command is responsible for preventing attacks against the United States. [READ MORE](#)

## Congress takes its first step toward killing the military draft

Military Times

The military draft may be headed for the scrap heap. The House Armed Services Committee will include instructions to examine the Selective Service program's viability and possible "alternatives" as part of its review of the annual defense authorization bill next week. [READ MORE](#)

## Congress' self-imposed pay freeze, military pay and more

Government Executive

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers have moved toward freezing their own pay for the eighth consecutive year. But they appear to be taking a more generous approach to military pay. The House Armed Services Committee has started working on the fiscal 2017 Defense Authorization bill, and the initial version includes a 2.1 percent pay hike for troops. [READ MORE](#)

## Problems voting overseas

Government Executive

The 2016 presidential election is drawing attention to the highly decentralized nature of the U.S. election system, where every state seems to operate according to a unique set of rules and deadlines. For military personnel and federal employees serving overseas, figuring out how to vote absentee makes the process even more daunting. [READ MORE](#)