

40 Military, Veterans organizations urge Senate to 'Look before you leap'

The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits

40 organizations representing tens of millions of Veterans and military personnel and their families support the Inhofe-Mikulski amendment to delay commissary privatization until the requested reports are received and analyzed. The Senate and the House are about to approve major legislative reforms to the management and structure of commissaries that are supported by the Administration, which also opposes commissary privatization and has said that there is little if any interest by the private sector.

READ MORE ([link to Coalition white paper](#))

Military family advocate supports Inhofe, Mikulski amendment on privatization

National Military Family Association

We oppose the proposal in S. 2814 to privatize selected commissaries. We fear this plan would lead to higher prices for military families and potentially disrupt the complex military resale system. The commissary system works well and provides military families a substantial benefit at relatively low cost to the Department of Defense. Altering this benefit in any significant way must not be done without careful study and consideration. **READ MORE** ([link to NMFA letter](#))

Congress divided on Army drawdown, troop pay raise

Stars and Stripes (tiered subscription model)

A key Senate panel supported the Obama administration plan to keep troop pay raises low and reduce the size of the Army in the 2017 defense budget. The \$602-billion budget plan is now headed to the full Senate for a vote and puts the chamber at odds with the House, which is proposing to give troops the biggest pay hike in years and reverse the Army drawdown with an additional \$16B in military spending.

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<http://www.stripes.com/news/congress-divided-on-army-drawdown-troop-pay-raise-1.409462>

Pentagon to harden US military bases against ISIS attacks

Defense One

The U.S. military will further harden U.S. bases against the Islamic State and other terrorist groups, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Friday, as part of a \$180 million spending effort over the next three years to better protect troops from attacks. **READ MORE**

Requirement that women register for draft advances

The Washington Post (tiered subscription model)

The Senate Armed Services Committee added a provision to its version of the annual defense policy bill that calls for women to sign up with the Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18 — just as men are — beginning in January 2018, according to a summary of the legislation released by the committee.

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https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/congress/senate-panel-says-women-should-register-for-military-draft/2016/05/12/13f5c874-18a5-11e6-971a-dadf9ab18869_story.html