

A landmark anniversary coming

Defense Commissary Agency

DeCA will observe the 150th anniversary of the commissary benefit itself on Saturday, July 1, 2017 and will kick off its 25th birthday celebration of the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), which was established on Oct. 1, 1991. Together, the two observances will highlight the history, longevity and importance of the commissary benefit, the great savings and value the benefit has brought to our military community since 1867, and DeCA's continuation of those savings since October 1991.

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Buyer beware? Big changes may be coming to the commissary

National Military Family Association

In recent years, as budgets have gotten tighter, the commissary—and the \$1.4 billion it receives each year—has become a favorite target of officials in Congress and at the Pentagon. Congress and the Department of Defense (DoD) are convinced that changing the way the commissary does business will allow them to reduce commissary funding while still delivering savings to military families. Are they right? It looks like we'll find out...starting next year. [READ MORE](#)

Lawmakers begin discussion to reconcile defense policy bill

National Association for Uniformed Services

House and Senate chairmen and ranking members of the armed services committees met Thursday to begin negotiations on a final fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. At stake are decisions on a number of quality of life reforms including: Pay raise for active duty personnel, plan to increase TRICARE fees for under-age-65 retirees, and sweeping changes to modernize Commissary operations. [READ MORE](#)

Congress offers limited relief for military survivors

Military Officers Association of America

The unfair deduction of VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities affects around 63,000 survivors. Congress recognized the unfairness of the SBP-DIC offset and created the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) in 2007 to begin phasing out the offset. The law authorizing SSIA is set to expire in October 2017. Both the Senate and House versions of the FY 2017 defense bill contain provisions extending SSIA, however, they come up short in addressing the repeal of the offset in a comprehensive way. [READ MORE](#)

Senators push to advance sweeping veterans bill before July 4

Military Times

Multiple members of the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee spent nearly an hour in the late afternoon arguing the full chamber needs to quickly vote on the pending Veterans First Act, a massive veterans omnibus authored by committee chairman Johnny Isakson, R-Ga. The measure contains a host of new accountability rules and a dramatic expansion of caregiver support programs. [READ MORE](#)