Coalition Update



July 29, 2016

Government wants more data on military members' food stamps

The federal government says it needs more information on how many active military members and their families use food assistance programs. Between 2014 and 2015, military members spent more than \$21 million in SNAP benefits, also known as food stamps, according to a new Government Accountability Office report. "It's really hard to know what to do if you don't know how big the problem is or who is affected by it," said Eileen Huck, National Military Family Association. **READ MORE**

AAFES celebrates 121 years of service, support

Defense Media Activity

On July 25, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service marks a milestone -121 years of serving Soldiers, Airmen, retirees and military families. On July 25, 1895, General Order No. 46 established the exchange on military installations, directing post commanders to set up an exchange at every post. Since then, exchanges have faithfully served alongside service members wherever they are called to serve. **READ MORE**

Plan to cut BAH benefit would penalize airmen

Air Force Times

The proposal to cut Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) would penalize dual-military married couples by eliminating the housing stipend to one of the dual-married members. Cutting spending to reduce the federal debt is logical and reasonable. Increasing the burden on military families, who already sacrifice daily in service to our country, is neither reasonable nor logical. Our military families deserve better. **READ MORE**

Bipartisan House bill challenges DoD travel cuts

Federal News Radio

Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle are fighting back against the Pentagon's cost-cutting plan for employees who travel for work. Last fall, DoD announced plans to significantly scale back its reimbursements for service members and civilians who are serving away from their normal duty stations for extended periods of time. **READ MORE**

DoD program aids military members, civilian employees with disabilities U.S. Department of Defense

July 26, 2016 marked the 26th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the landmark civil rights legislation that has removed barriers for millions of Americans and serves as a gold standard around the world. The Defense Department offers free assistive technology devices to support military personnel and federal employees with disabilities. **READ MORE**