

EANGUS legislative update: commissary and exchange

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

The House Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing “Views on Commissary Reform” on January 13 at 10:30 AM ET. Four EANGUS Coalition partners will testify: American Logistics Association, Armed Forces Marketing Council, National Military Family Association, and Military Officers Association of America. EANGUS members can follow the hearing online. On average, commissary customers save about 30 percent on their grocery bills. Commissaries aren’t a subsidy, they are an earned benefit. Commissaries are the largest employers of military families in the world. They are also the leading employer in the nation for veterans and support more than 1,800 small businesses. [READ MORE](#)

Commissary hearing/updates

Air Force Sergeants Association

Wednesday January 13, the House Armed Services Subcommittee for Military Personnel held a hearing to receive views on commissary reform. Friends of AFSA from The Coalition to Save Our Benefit as well as The Military Coalition testified and answered questions. Much education is required for members of Congress to fully understand how each system operates separately but quite complementary to the other. [READ MORE](#)

Pentagon civilian workforce cuts on-target, contracting on the rise

Federal News Radio

The Defense Department is meeting its goal to cut spending on its civilian workforce. However, it’s spending more on contractors, despite pressure from Congress to reverse that trend. The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) took issue with the Boston Consulting Group’s recommendation to cut the pay and benefits of more than 15,000 federal employees working at DoD commissaries. AFGE said DeCA employees could face a 25 percent pay cut under the change. Many DeCA employees are veterans and military spouses whose families depend on their jobs,” AFGE said in testimony before the House Armed Service Military Personnel subcommittee. [READ MORE](#)

Lawmakers may overhaul Tricare piece by piece

Stars and Stripes (tiered subscription model)

A renewed push to overhaul the military’s Tricare health insurance system is underway in Congress, but it remains a daunting task for lawmakers. Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., who is leading the effort in the House, said fixing the troubled benefit might take numerous pieces of legislation that play out for years. Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, criticized President Barack Obama’s administration this week for trying to fix Tricare with “year after year” of fee increases. “Simply taking more money out of [servicemembers’] pockets is not reform.” [READ MORE](#)

Search suspended for Marines missing off Hawaii

Marine Corps Times

The search for 12 Marines missing after their two helicopters crashed off the coast of Hawaii last week has been suspended. “I know that nothing can ease the pain of the families of those missing, but I hope that the [search] efforts and the knowledge that so many were willing to put forth so much effort to try to bring those Marines home will provide some solace in the future,” said Capt. James Jenkins, commander of the Coast Guard’s 14th District. A memorial service is scheduled for Friday at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. [READ MORE](#)