

Blue Star Families testifies before Congress

Blue Star Families

Military families are central to the security of our nation. Including military families as a level of analysis in defense considerations is not just the right thing to do--it's also the smart thing. Put another way, prioritizing quality of life for service members and their families' benefits recruitment, retention, overall readiness, and will be crucial to shaping successful future force planning initiatives. [READ MORE](#)

Proposed DoD Budget falls short for military families

National Military Family Association

NMFA executive director Joyce Raezer reminded lawmakers Tuesday that a military family's quality of life is key to a service member's quality of service. "Does this budget make a service member more ready to perform the mission? Does it make a mom feel her sick child's health is a priority?" "Does it ease uncertainty? Does it ensure support will be available?" DoD must take a comprehensive look at how to best ensure military family needs are met. It's not something that can be done piecemeal. The daily struggles add up and hurt the families our nation needs to remain strong. [READ MORE](#)

Senator blasts military pay plan, retirement changes

Military Times

Sen. Lindsey Graham, chairman of the Senate Armed Services personnel subcommittee blasted next year's service member pay raise and the proposed changes to military retirement as "shortchanging" troops instead of rewarding their sacrifice. "For the last three years, this administration has failed to allow service members' pay to keep up with private-sector wage growth," stated Graham during a hearing Tuesday. [READ MORE](#)

Service Personnel Chiefs raise concerns with retirement reforms

Military.com

Speaking before a Senate Armed Services Committee panel on personnel posture Tuesday, Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel Lt. Gen. James McConville said he worried that the Army's noncommissioned officers would be less likely to benefit from retirement reforms designed to help troops who save over the course of their careers. "A lot of our young soldiers live paycheck to paycheck. And if they can't start saving early, they're going to have a tough time staying with the force when they get to 20, 25 years." [READ MORE](#)

Most Americans favor cutting defense budget, survey finds

Defense News

A majority of Americans favor cutting the US defense budget in five out of seven key areas, a survey by the University of Maryland has found. An overall cut of \$12 billion was called for by a majority of the more than 7,000 respondents. [READ MORE](#)