

Coalition Update



March 4, 2016

Senators to Pentagon: Don't mess with Commissary employees' compensation

Government Executive

Lawmakers encouraged the Defense Department to continue to search for ways to save money within DeCA, perhaps through restructuring, they also cautioned the department to "proceed carefully with any proposal that could harm the commissary benefit, including conversion of DeCA employees to non-appropriated funds employees." [READ MORE](#)

Carter to revive 'Force of the Future' plan despite lawmaker criticism

Military.com

Carter insisted that he was not trying to take the business model to the extreme in crafting the proposals. "We're not a company. We're not Walmart," he said. As a military organization, "we're not like anybody else. Our objective here simply is force effectiveness. We're trying to make sure that we continue to attract and retain the very best." [READ MORE](#)

Here's what NMFA is fighting for in 2016

National Military Family Association

Service members and their families have kept trust with America, even after multiple deployments and separations. Unfortunately, that trust is being tested. This year, we're honing in on seven extremely important things military families deserve: Health Care, Pay, Spouse Employment, Children's Education, Commissaries, Veterans Affairs, and Transitional Benefits. We will fight for Congress to reject budget proposals that threaten military family well-being as a way to save. [READ MORE](#)

President awards Medal of Honor to Navy Seal for hostage rescue heroism

U. S Department of Defense

President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Edward C. Byers Jr., making him the sixth Navy SEAL in the force's history to receive the U.S. military's highest honor. Byers was awarded the prestigious honor for his courageous actions while serving as part of a team that rescued an American civilian doctor who was held hostage in Afghanistan. [READ MORE](#)

First Lady to women veterans: 'Tell your story'

U. S Department of Defense

The first lady and Dr. Jill Biden attended an annual Women's History Month reception, honoring women veterans and hosted by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi at the Capitol's National Statuary Hall. Obama challenged her audience and "folks around the country" to take action on behalf of women veterans: legislate for them, aid in their transition to civilian life, commit to giving them jobs. [READ MORE](#)