After You're Gone Will A Shadow Of You Remain?
What Are You Doing To Make An Impact?
Happy Groundhog Day!

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From Headquarters

Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commissions Releases Report

By Edgar Rodriguez, Director of Legislation and Government Relations

Last week the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission released its long awaited report. The report is filled with recommendations that would reform long standing military compensation programs. Overall, the report makes 15 key reform recommendations ranging from a consolidation of the Reserve Component's 30 duty statuses into 6 broader statuses, a consolidation of the military's commissary and exchange systems, and a replacement of the current 20+ year retirement system with a system that would auto-enroll service members in the Thrift Savings Plan, among many other recommendations. **Read More.**

Currently Serving

Navy Preps to Build New Amphibious Assault Ship

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Sailors and Marines coordinate to transport a Marine assault amphibious vehicle aboard the dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Chelsea Troy Milburn/Released)

By Kris Osborn, Defense Tech
The Navy is getting ready to take the next step in its ongoing competition to build a new amphibious assault ship for the service, officials said.

Called the LX(R), the new amphib will replace the Navy's existing fleet of LSD 41/49 dock landing ships in the 2020s and 2030s, said Navy spokesman Matthew Leonard.
Read More.

Join the Conversation!

Veteran News

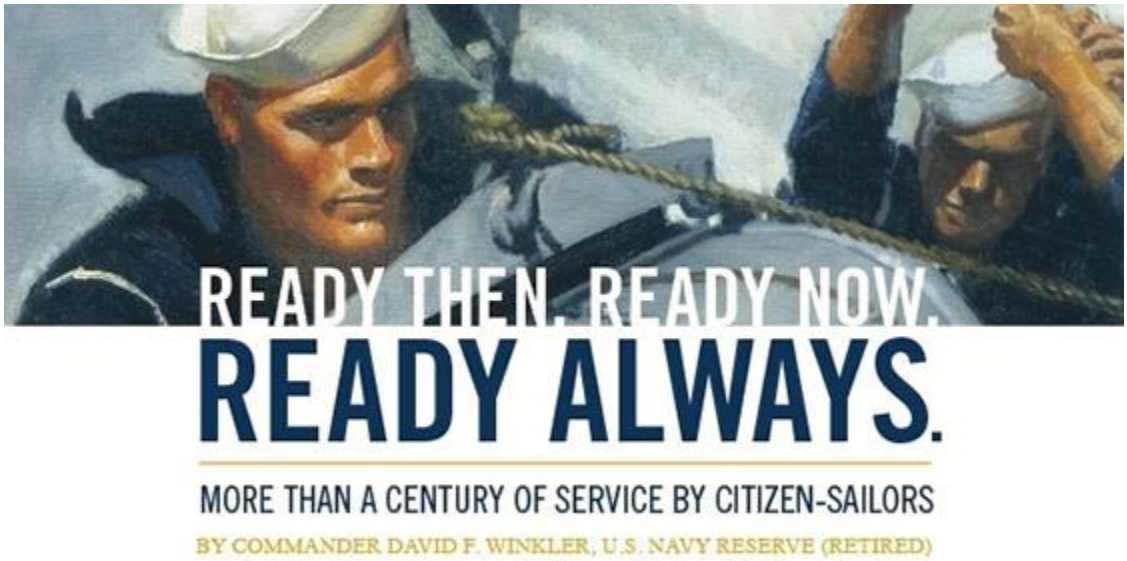
VA Sec. Bob McDonald hands out coats to homeless Veterans at the Washington, DC VA Medical Center on Saturday, January 24. Sec. McDonald and other VA leaders will participate in the nationwide point-in-time homeless count in January and February.
(VA photo by Robert Turtil)

Counting every Veteran on the way to ending homelessness

By Secretary Robert A. McDonald, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

This week, I am joining volunteers across the country to measure the scope of homelessness in America during the point-in-time (PIT) count.

The PIT counts being performed across the country will provide us with a critical benchmark for knowing how much progress we've made so far, but we know we have to continue to push forward urgently to achieve this goal. Read More.



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Midshipmen News

Oh, the places you'll SWO: Naval Academy seniors pick ships

"I know you're saying to yourself, where do I want to live? I say to myself, there's not a bad ship. There is a world of opportunity just waiting for you."
-- Vice Adm. Thomas Rowden, Commander, Naval Surface Forces

By Tim Prudente, The Capital Gazette

Ship selection night is part awards show, part NFL draft. The top of the class picks first. Some ships have few openings, such as the USS Donald Cook, its home port on the coast of Spain. It had two.

A military film crew streamed it all live online to families across the country, to ships around the world. Afterward, a table of swag awaited midshipmen, gifts sent by captains: water bottles and pint glasses and belt buckles and hats, all with ships' names.
Read More.

Photos provided by Naval Academy Public Affairs

ROTA, SPAIN
MAYPORT, FL
SAN DIEGO, CA

SASEBO, JAPAN
ROTA, SPAIN
MAYPORT, FL
YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
NORFOLK, VA

USS ARLINGTON LPD 24

USS DONALD COOK DDG 75
DIEGO, CA
ROTA, SPAIN
MAYPORT, FL
LCS CREW 104
LCS CREW 106
LCS CREW 206
LCS CREW 208
LCS CREW 209

Corporate News

Boeing Tapped for Air Force One Replacement

By Aaron Mehta, Defense News
The president of the United States will continue to be flown in an American-made plane, as the US Air Force has announced the next presidential aircraft will be produced by Boeing.

The service, in consultation with acquisition chief Frank Kendall, has selected the Boeing 747-8 design for its Presidential Airlift Recapitalization program.

In a statement announcing the selection, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James called the presidential aircraft "one of the most visible symbols of the United States of America and the office of the president of the United States." **Read More.**

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