



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

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July 15, 2010

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Military Personnel
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Wilson
Ranking Member, Military Personnel
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Davis and Ranking Member Wilson:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans organizations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, recommends that the Subcommittee's oversight hearing on the Military Resale System originally scheduled on April 23, 2010 be rescheduled during the remaining months of the Second Session of the 111th Congress.

We understand that the House National Defense Authorization bill is completed, however, the commissary and exchange systems are especially important to active, Guard/Reserve and retired communities and there are pending issues that may impact the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) and the military exchanges. These include availability of future appropriated funds to support MWR activities, the effects of BRAC actions and associated deadlines, the required 3% withholding from vendor payments effective on January 1, 2012 (per the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005); resources to construct new commissary stores and the budget outlook per DoD directives associated with mandatory funding cuts in FY 2011 and beyond. In addition, the hearing would be beneficial to recently confirmed senior leaders within the Department who shoulder major oversight responsibilities for these programs.

The Coalition notes the growing war-related stress on the force and the associated effects on military personnel and their families and firmly believes that robust MWR, family support and other quality of life and benefit programs – including commissaries and exchanges - are absolutely essential to addressing these challenges. This is reflected in the recent DoD MWR Customer Satisfaction Survey results which indicate that satisfaction with MWR programs has a significant impact on military readiness.

Your consideration of this request is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
American Logistics Association
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Army Aviation Association of America
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States
Association of the United States Army
Association of the United States Navy
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, U.S. Coast Guard
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States
Fleet Reserve Association
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America
Marine Corps Reserve Association
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Association for Uniformed Services
National Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Reserve Enlisted Association of the United States
Reserve Officers Association
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces
The Retired Enlisted Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States