

THREAT: Freeze military pay

SITUATION: Based on DoD's 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, some in DoD and Congress believe that military base pay, when added with other in-kind compensation and benefits, provides a higher annual income than comparable civilian careers. Now Washington is using this rationale to advocate for a military pay freeze.

VFW POSITION:

- VFW opposes freezing military base pay.
- In-kind benefits, such as health care, commissary and PX privileges and retirement pensions are included in the "salary equation." Comparing military salary and benefits to civilian occupation salary and benefits is an unfair comparison. There is no comparison between the physical, mental and family sacrifices made between military service and civilian careers.
- Each in-kind benefit that makes up a large portion of military salary is under attack as well for being too lucrative.
- Less than one percent of Americans choose to serve in uniform. If the salary and benefits were truly that great, the percentage of Americans willing to serve would be much higher.