

The following are additions to the February 10, 2012 VFW Washington Weekly

VFW Denounces Survey Military Benefits: Early last week, [Stars & Stripes reported](#) that a defense think tank, the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, was conducting a survey of current and former service members to gather data on priority benefits for those who serve. The survey comes in the wake of announcements from Department of Defense officials that personnel benefits and programs could face potential cuts in the coming years – cuts the VFW has vowed to fight. After reading through the survey, VFW leaders balked at the tone of the questions, which asked participants to rate certain military benefits over others, and then determine the kinds of benefit packages that would be preferable to service members in the future. The VFW discourages members from participating in the survey, since the data will likely be used as an endorsement of certain benefit cuts by service members, themselves. The VFW's reaction caught the attention of Military Times, which discussed the survey in this week's print edition. To read more about the survey and to read VFW's full reaction, click here: <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/2012/01/vfw-denounces-survey-on-military.html>.

VFW Builds Coalition to Support Student-Veteran Success: VFW staff in Washington have been working over the last month to build a coalition, pushing for student-veteran success in higher education. The coalition, comprised of 10 organizations vested in supporting student-veterans, recently sent a series of letters to leaders in Congress and the White House, calling for improved consumer education for potential student-veterans and a streamlined method of recourse for veterans who feel they were victims of fraud, waste or abuse while using their benefits. Recent reports indicate that some of today's newest student-veterans may lose their benefits by enrolling in schools that fail to confer relevant educational credentials. While some continue to point fingers at certain sectors of higher education, the VFW has chosen to look at the root causes of the problem, making concrete recommendations on how to improve the system. The VFW believes that by ensuring veterans understand their benefits and can take action when a school breaks the rules, student-veterans will be able to use their G.I. Bill effectively, molding the next generation of American leaders, as we intended. To read the letter and to learn more about VFW's recommendations, click here: <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/2012/02/vfw-builds-coalition-to-support-student.html>