



(October 16, 2015)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing:** [Federal Daily by FederalSoup.com](http://FederalSoup.com)  
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- **No COLA for 2016**

Federal, military and Social Security retirees and disabled veterans will not get a cost-of-living adjustment in 2016, the federal government announced.

- **Union pushes back on higher Medicare Part B premiums**

The National Treasury Employees Union is calling on Congress to pass legislation that would protect about 16 million retirees who will be hit by sharply higher premiums for Medicare Part B coverage next year.

- **CBP HR official exonerated**

A Merit Systems Protection Board administrative judge this month dismissed a complaint against a Customs and Border Protection human resources executive charged with participating in an effort to bypass competitive civil service hiring procedures.

FEND Highlights

- **Federal pay back in the news**

A libertarian think tank has rekindled the debate over federal civilian pay, arguing that federal employees have enjoyed years of faster compensation growth and higher pay than private-sector workers.

- **CBP hiring bill heads to president**

The Senate this month unanimously approved the Border Jobs for Veterans Act, which will put veterans to work as Customs and Border Protection officers at understaffed U.S. ports of entry. The bill was sent to the president for his signature.