



*(December 8, 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

~~~~~  
**In This Briefing:** [OPM retirement claims backlog unchanged /](#)  
[Senators urge repeal of DOD per diem cuts](#)  
~~~~~



- **OPM keeps pace with new retirement claims in November**

The Office of Personnel Management's inventory of retirement claims remained static last month.

- **Senators urge rollback of DOD per diem cuts**

Two senators last week sent a joint letter to Senate appropriations

leadership urging them to defund a new Defense Department policy implementing cuts to per diem and lodging reimbursement rates for DOD travelers on long-term assignment until a pending report on the matter is completed and studied.

- **Air Force enhancing base security**

The Air Force is introducing tougher security measures at its facilities, the department's secretary said.