



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
UNDER SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Financial Readiness Concerns

Although current economic conditions in our country are causing higher rates of foreclosures of owned properties for many Americans, these same conditions do not appear to be forcing a significant number of foreclosures within the military. Reports and data obtained from the Services and other sources show that, while concern is certainly up, only a small number of servicemembers and their families who own homes are facing actual foreclosure. The greater effect of the foreclosure problem on our troops and families is believed to be on those who rent as landlords go into foreclosure.

Should a Service member experience mortgage problems, the first step homeowners should take to avoid foreclosure is to immediately contact their lender. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has trained counselors standing by who can meet with, counsel, and represent homeowners in matters relating to foreclosure. HUD can be contacted directly at 1-800-569-4287 and through their website at www.hud.gov/foreclosure. Additionally, servicemembers and their families can consult their local Legal Services Office for assistance, and trained consultants are standing by at Military One Source at 1-888-342-9647 and at the website www.militaryonesource.com to provide helpful information and connect affected callers to appropriate resources, which include HUD.

In addition, there are numerous tools and existing authorities available to the Services and commanders to help limit the effects of the foreclosure crisis on our troops and families who either own and rent:

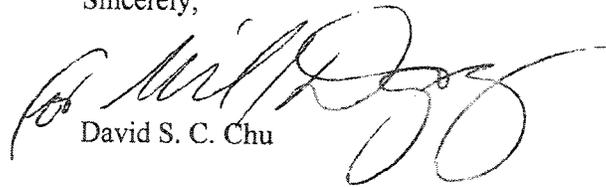
- Local move payments when rented homes are foreclosed (a recent JFTR change)
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) determination based on location of dependents
- Consideration of requests for tour extensions/homesteading on a case-by-case basis
- Temporarily housing affected families in base housing/berthing
- Opening installation dining facilities up to affected families to identify concerns

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, signed into law on July 30, 2008, provided additional reliefs (including local move payment authorization), many of which extended provisions of the Service member's Civil Relief Act (SCRA).

Finally, DoD is sponsoring road shows to address today's "Financial Readiness Challenge". Commanders may request these road show events to raise awareness of financial assistance resources for Service members and families from DoD and from qualifying non-profits near installations. These events will feature presentations from recognized financial personalities and experts, educational clinics and workshops, information booths and displays, and private face-to-face financial counseling, all tailored to the need, and all provided at no-cost. Attached is a summary of events and sample schedule, and road shows can be requested at 1-888-256-9920. Please provide widest dissemination to your installation commanders and other appropriate leadership to take advantage of this unique and beneficial opportunity.

DoD will continue to monitor the impact of foreclosures on military personnel while emphasizing the importance of financial readiness by providing tools and resources to help manage today's complex financial environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. C. Chu", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

David S. C. Chu

Enclosures:
Installation Financial Readiness Challenge Roadshow Events

Installation Financial Readiness Challenge Roadshow Events

Targeted to reach and educate troops and families of all Military Services and components at installations throughout the country, Roadshow events are designed to augment the efforts of commanders to equip servicemembers with the necessary tools and skills to reduce debt, build wealth, and attain financial success. DoD will facilitate a customized plan based on each installation commanders' request, providing DoD financial experts on site, as well as trusted governmental and non-governmental organizations on the national, state, and local levels to provide a significant event for educational and counseling services with solution-based referrals. After events, "leave behind" teams of financial counselors can remain to continue to provide face-to-face counseling as needed.

Roadshow events are envisioned to be single, day-long programs (a nominal schedule is attached), but they can be tailored according to the needs of the installation and tenant unit leadership. Workshops and clinics include, but are not limited to, such topics as:

- *Preventing and managing foreclosure*
- *Making your money go farther*
- *Managing and using credit wisely*
- *Reducing and eliminating debt*
- *Financial planning for deployment*
- *Home and car buying essentials*
- *Thrift Savings Plan and Savings Deposit Program*
- *Retirement planning*
- *Financial basics for youths and teens*

Installation Personal Financial Managers, Legal Services Offices, Family Support/Service Centers, Child and Youth Centers, MWR Offices, Exchanges and Commissaries, and installation banks and credit unions can be key organizers to meet installation needs.

Roadshows can be requested at 1-888-256-9920.

Installation Financial Readiness Challenge Roadshow Events

Session	Leader(s)	Time
Breakfast / Registration <i>(Optional)</i>		0830
Introductions and Kickoff	Commander; Sr. Enlisted; OSD rep	0900
<u>Workshop 1 Simultaneous Offerings (core + tailored)</u> Preventing Foreclosure Making Your Money Go Farther Developing Your Spending Plan Military Pay Financial Planning For Deployment	Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) or Appropriate Agency	1000 - 1115
Financial Headliner / Keynote	Various	1130 - 1230
Lunch / Entertainment for All Ages		1230 - 1330
<u>Workshop 2 Simultaneous Offerings (core + tailored)</u> Preventing Foreclosure Making Your Money Go Farther Developing Your Spending Plan Military Pay Financial Planning For Deployment	Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) or Appropriate Agency	1330 - 1500
Youth Financial Readiness/Additional supplemental offerings	Personal Financial Counselors or Appropriate Agency	1500 - 1600
<u>Workshop 3 Simultaneous Offerings (core + tailored)</u> Preventing Foreclosure Paying for College	Personal Financial Counselors	1530 - 1645
One-on-One Private Counseling	Personal Financial Counselors	All Day
Mortgage/Foreclosure Counseling	Personal Financial Counselors of Appropriate Agency	All Day
DoD Financial Program Partners Booth Display	Military & Civilian Community Support Resources	All Day
Close	Sr. Enlisted or TBD	1700