



Securing Your Financial Future

Even in uncertain economic times, you can take steps to prepare for what's to come. Take charge of your financial future by following principles that are sound in good times and bad.

KNOW WHERE YOU STAND FINANCIALLY

It's easy to say you can never have too much money, but how do you know you have enough? There are various ways to measure whether you're managing your finances properly. Here are a few signs of success:

- » You're saving for your retirement, including making contributions to accounts such as 401Ks
- » You have money in the bank for emergencies
- » You're covering your monthly expenses instead of falling behind on payments or going deeper into debt
- » Your net worth increases annually
- » You have enough insurance to cover catastrophic events, such as major damage to your home or serious illness or injury to you or a family member

HERE'S HOW TO GET ON SOLID GROUND

What if you're not as successful financially as you'd like to be? What if your finances are even a bit shaky? These steps will improve things:

- » Develop a spending plan, and stick to it
- » Use credit wisely, and pay off debt as quickly as possible
- » Take advantage of savings and investment programs
- » Protect your assets; don't put your money into "sure things" that seem too good to be true
- » If your financial problems are more than you can handle, get help!

My Financial Security Checklist

- Appoint a financial caretaker with power of attorney
- Create a spending and savings plan before deployment
- Complete your taxes or file for an extension
- Use Savings Deposit Plan and TSP to maximize opportunity
- Review all insurance coverage
- Update your will and beneficiaries
- Plan for the care of home, vehicle and personal property
- Know your rights and benefits under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

For help or more information, or to make an appointment with a Personal Financial Counselor, call **(800) 342-9647** or visit **www.militaryonesource.com**.

Online Resources

These websites have tax information for service members:

- » www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=97273,00.html
- » www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html
- » www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf
- » www.militaryonesource.com

