

Military Saves Month Commander's Guide



Thank you for your interest in Military Saves Month.

This participation guide will help explain why you should participate in Military Saves Month, which aligns with Financial Capability Month and occurs annually during the month of April.

Why You Should Participate

- Financial readiness contributes to unit readiness:
 - If servicemembers and their families are feeling financially stressed, it can affect every aspect of their lives.
 - Poor credit/high debt can lead to loss of security clearances.
- To help promote the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) and Savings Deposit Program (SDP) for those who are eligible.
- To inspire military families, veterans, DoD civilian employees, and the entire military community to build wealth and reduce debt.

Did You Know?

- 62 percent of military families experienced stress due to their financial situation.*
- Unexpected expenses are a top savings challenge for Military Savers (57%). **
- 60 percent of military families don't have enough in savings to cover three months of living expenses.***

*2018 Blue Star Family Survey ** 2019 Military Saves Saver Survey *** 2017 MFAN Survey

About Military Saves Month

Who We Are

Military Saves, a component of America Saves, is an initiative of the nonprofit Consumer Federation of America that seeks to motivate, support, and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth year-round.

Our Goal

The goal of Military Saves Month is to encourage the entire military community to [take the Military Saves Pledge](#), a commitment to begin the journey toward financial freedom and the first step in creating a personal spending plan. We promote positive changes in personal financial behavior through the notion that everyone can “**Start Small, Think Big.**” *Since 2007, more than 330,000 individuals have taken the Military Saves Pledge.*

80% of respondents say that taking the Military Saves Pledge has helped them save – 2019 Military Saves Saver Survey

Our Theme

Set a Goal. Make a Plan. Save Automatically.

Military Saves Month can be used as an opportunity to encourage service members to save automatically through direct deposit and to save towards a goal like an emergency fund, a home, or retirement.

- After taking the Military Saves pledge, individuals reported that they feel more hopeful about their financial life, they are saving more, and they are managing their debt better.*
- Military savers tell us that on average they have set a goal of saving \$977 per month.
- Fifty-eight percent of Military Savers are saving regularly since taking the Military Saves Pledge.*

*2017 Military Saves survey of individuals who took the pledge

Ready to Help Service Members Save?

Sign Up

- *Even if you have signed up in the past, please visit [MilitarySaves.org](https://militarysaves.org) and sign up to participate in Military Saves Month.*
- By [signing up](#), your organization will be listed alphabetically as a participant on the Military Saves website and in our post-month report.

Provide Support

- Promote installation-wide and unit-based financial workshops and activities with a focus on savings.
- Support the Financial Readiness team at your installation's Family Service Center.
- Request additional resources like Personal Financial Counselors.

Be Recognized for Your Contributions

Tell us about your outreach and activities and be recognized for the important work that you and your organization do to help military families build wealth. Installations and organizations can be awarded the Savings Champion designation for their efforts.

Need Help Planning?

If you have any questions about how your organization can participate in Military Saves Month, feel free to contact us at info@militarysaves.org

