



**MILITARY SAVES PARTNER RESOURCE PACKET**  
**VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2**

**DEPLOYMENT SAVINGS**  
**MARCH 16TH - APRIL 26TH**

Military Saves' goal is to promote the importance of savings and encourage servicemembers and families to take financial action. To help the people you serve save more successfully and to promote the importance of savings throughout your footprint, we have put together this resource packet with you in mind.

This resource packet contains a sample article, suggestions for social media content, and tools and resources designed to help you communicate with the public, your audience, and with other organizations about how to maximize savings during deployment. Look for new packets from Military Saves every six weeks.

This resource packet includes:

1. [Sample Article](#)
2. [Facebook and Twitter Posts](#)
3. [Tools and Resources](#)

We encourage you to use this material to:

- Augment the savings information you already provide to others;
- Encourage individuals to [take the Military Saves pledge](#), thereby creating and committing to a basic savings or debt reduction plan and;
- Position your organization as "in front" of the savings message and the need to save, particularly in uncertain economic times.

## SAMPLE ARTICLE

Use this content for your blog, newsletter, email communications, or any other publication.  
You can either rewrite the information or use as a guest post.

### Deployment: More Reasons to Save, and More Options Too!

By Laura Roler, Military Saves Associate, AFC® Candidate, FINRA Military Spouse Fellow

Deployment—before, during, and after—can be a stressful time to say the least! Thankfully, there are some benefits offered during deployments that can help offset the challenges, help you get ahead, and improve your financial readiness. Take a look at the following savings options, and plan to take advantage of them for your next deployment.

#### Special Pays

Hostile Fire Pay, Family Separation Allowance, Hardship Duty Pay. These are among the [special pay and entitlements](#) that may be available to you during your deployment. Make the most of this extra money while you receive it! Instead of spending more because you're making more, stick to your normal, pre-deployment budget as much as possible, and save the rest for future use—you won't be sorry that you saved when you retire, buy a car, or plan a family vacation. Prior to deployment, set up an automatic allotment in [myPay](#) to make deposits to your TSP or savings account. Speaking of savings accounts...

#### Savings Deposit Program

These days it's tough to find an interest rate above one percent for a savings account; the average rate is below one percent, which is less than inflation. The Savings Deposit Program (SDP) allows you to deposit up to \$10,000 and earn a guaranteed 10 percent interest rate during an eligible deployment, beating most savings opportunities out there. By taking full advantage of this, you could earn an extra \$1000 over the course of a 12-month deployment. Learn more about the SDP [here](#).

#### Thrift Savings Plan

Make the most of your tax-exempt pay status while deployed to a combat zone. By maxing out your Roth TSP contribution (\$18,000 in 2015), you can ensure that from deposit to withdrawal, that income is ineligible to be taxed, leaving it all for your retirement needs. For more information, visit [tsp.gov](#); to start a TSP account, visit [myPay](#).

#### Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act

Among its [many servicemember protections](#), the SCRA requires lenders to reduce interest rates to six percent on debts incurred prior to entering active duty. That can be very beneficial to National Guard and Reserve members, or to active duty servicemembers with debts established prior to entering active service. But some lenders will also honor the interest rate reduction for active duty members about to deploy. It doesn't hurt to ask, and it *could* go a long way in maximizing your savings during deployment. To invoke protections under the SCRA, you will typically need to submit a written request and a copy of your military orders to your lender.

#### Savings you can—and should—do yourself

An emergency fund of three month's pay is the rule of thumb, though some financial experts are now recommending six and even nine month's worth of monthly expenses or income be saved in an emergency fund. While it is unlikely that you will experience a loss of military income while deployed, ask any military spouse—Murphy's Law tends to reign during deployment. Car trouble, appliance breakdowns, emergency room trips, and natural disasters can happen anytime. Prepare and *save* so that your family can get through these events smoothly and quickly while you are deployed! If you weren't able to save enough—or any—for emergencies prior to deployment, take advantage of the savings tips above to start or grow your emergency fund.

When you return from deployment, it's common to want some extra rest, relaxation, fun, and family time. However, the post-deployment period is NOT the time to blow your budget and incur unplanned debt and financial stress. By planning and *saving* for what is important to you, you may be able to afford that family vacation, motorcycle or boat, new house, or whatever is on *your* homecoming wish list.

We've provided you with some great avenues for saving that are available while you're deployed. Whatever you're saving for, make it a priority: **Set a Goal. Make a Plan. Save Automatically.**

*Military Saves, managed by the nonprofit Consumer Federation of America (CFA), seeks to motivate, encourage, and support servicemembers and military families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth. Learn more at [militarysaves.org](#).*



## SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Share the following messages with your Facebook & Twitter followers.

### #SavingsTipTuesday

Make the most of #military #deployments: #save in the DoD Savings Deposit Program <http://ow.ly/Kpf4M>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Trim your bills and #save money during a #military #deployment: <http://ow.ly/KrIOu> @MilitarySaves  
#SavingsTipTuesday

Prevent the hassle of unexpected tax collections- email the #IRS before you #deploy <http://ow.ly/KpTnD>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Learn to handle #finances to ensure a smooth #deployment & homecoming <http://ow.ly/KpVeb>  
@MilitarySaves @USAA Ed Fdn #SavingsTipTuesday

Impulse buying after #deployment can wreck budgets- save for special events instead! <http://ow.ly/KqfZO>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Prep for PCS, #deployment, #savings & debt w the #FINRA 2015 Money & Mobility guide  
<http://ow.ly/KpWHW> @MilitarySaves  
#SavingsTipTuesday

### #SavingsFactFriday

The #Servicemembers Civil Relief Act protects active duty, NG, & reserve #military <http://ow.ly/Kv7rL>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Adding an "active duty alert" on a credit report can reduce the risk of identity theft during #deployment  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

The Savings Deposit Program offers a 10% return on up to \$10,000 during #deployment <http://ow.ly/Kq7xR>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Special #deployment pay can be an opportunity to save. What are you #saving for? <http://ow.ly/Kq9MN>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Sometimes #deployment is a surprise! You can always be prepared w your #tax return: <http://ow.ly/KpVWL>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Use your #deployment benefits: contribute up to \$18,000 of tax-exempt combat pay to #Roth #TSP in 2015  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday



## TOOLS & RESOURCES

Share the following tools and resources with your audience and with other organizations.

### Military Saves Resources

- [The TSP vs. The SDP: Don't Let the Letters Confuse You](#)
- [How to Invest in Your Future While on Deployment](#)
- [Saving While on Deployment](#)

### Other Resources

- [After Deployment: Financial Health](#)
- [DoD Savings Deposit Program](#)
- [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#)
  - [Armed Forces Tax Guide](#)
  - [Notifying the IRS by Email about Combat Zone Service](#)
  - [Questions & Answers on Combat Zone Tax Provisions](#)
- [Kiplinger's Financial Field Manual](#)
- [Military OneSource: Deployment](#)
- [SaveAndInvest.org: Deployment and PCS](#)
- [National Military Family Association: Deployment](#)
- [The USAA Educational Foundation: Families Dealing with Deployment](#)
- [Veterans United: A Financial Field Manual for Deploying Service Members](#)

### Research

- Blue Star Families
  - [2014 Military Family Lifestyle Survey](#)
- FINRA Investor Education Foundation
  - [2012 Military Financial Capability Survey](#)
  - [Millennials in the Military - An Examination of Financial Capability](#)