



MILITARY SAVES PARTNER RESOURCE PACKET
VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5

MILITARY TRANSITIONS
JULY 20TH - AUGUST 30TH

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 on the importance of saving for events that every servicemember will experience: separation or retirement from the military, and planning for retirement in later years.

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.

Supplement Your Retirement by Setting it On Autopilot

By Alecia D. Blair, Military Saves Communications Associate

Let's face it. A military pension and social security will likely not be enough to sustain a comfortable standard of living during retirement. So, enhance your retirement savings for tomorrow by enrolling and saving automatically in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan today.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

The [Thrift Savings Plan](#) is a government-sponsored retirement savings plan for military service members and federal civilian employees. Established by Congress in 1986 as part of the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act, the TSP offers many savings and tax benefits worth exploring.

Depending on whether you choose the Traditional TSP or the Roth TSP, contributions are tax deferred or are tax free when withdrawn under specific circumstances, according to [Military OneSource](#).

Moving on after the military? You can take the TSP with you wherever life takes you. Whether you separate early from the military or earn a military retirement after 20 years, the TSP is yours to keep.

If you are separating from the military, research whether [rolling over your TSP](#) is right for you.

To learn how to sign up for the TSP, make a contribution election and access your account after signing up, read "[Sign Up and Save with the Thrift Savings Plan](#)."

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA)

Another tool to help you supplement your military retirement income and social security is the individual retirement account (IRA)—a savings account that you can set up through your financial institution, advisor or life insurance company. Before doing so, consider the different benefits to the [traditional versus Roth IRA](#).

According to the [Internal Revenue Service](#) (IRS), the maximum you can contribute for 2015 for traditional and Roth IRAs is "\$5,500 if you're under age 50." Learn more about [IRAs](#) today and take advantage of this retirement tool.

Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans

It's possible (and likely) that you'll have a second career after retiring or separating from the military. With time on your side, this provides the perfect opportunity to enroll in an employer-sponsored retirement plan at work if one is offered.

The most common forms of employer-sponsored retirement plans are the [401k](#), and [403b](#) (public schools and certain tax-exempt organizations) and [457b](#) (government employers). Employees make contributions to these accounts from their wages prior to taxation and pay taxes when the money is withdrawn at retirement.

Some employers may even match your contributions, and employees may elect to make contributions automatically from their wages. Take advantage of this opportunity to set your retirement savings on autopilot, and enroll. Learn more about [saving at work](#) through these retirement tools, now!

"Set a goal. Make a plan. Save automatically." [Save now, and retire comfortably](#) later on.

Alecia Blair works for Military Saves, managed by the nonprofit Consumer Federation of America (CFA), which 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

Your #military pension may not be enough for #retirement: invest in the #TSP <http://ow.ly/PSErM>
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Estimate military #retirement benefits, discover the plans available, & more! <http://ow.ly/BfHib>
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Consider the consequences before cashing out a #TSP when leaving the #military. <http://ow.ly/PSG5i>
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Leaving the #military? 1. Have an action plan. 2. Have a lot of #money in the bank. <http://ow.ly/PSBVV>
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

The easiest & most effective way to #save for #retirement is automatically. <http://ow.ly/BfFtx>
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Take advantage of #compoundinterest by saving early & #saving often! <http://ow.ly/BfGeC> @MilitarySaves
#SavingsTipTuesday

Additional Posts

Being financially prepared for #transition to civilian life is a top concern of #milspouses. <http://ow.ly/PTcBZ>
@MilitarySaves @NMFA

Plan for success-take the @MilitarySaves Pledge & get your free #myFICO #credit score from @FINRAFoundation
<http://ow.ly/DP8gU>

#Save for at least 3 - 6 months of basic living expenses prior to your #militarytransition. More tips: <http://ow.ly/PTMbx>
@MilitarySaves

Eliminate surprises: compare civilian pay to your total #military compensation before transitioning. <http://ow.ly/PTMZn>
@MilitarySaves

#Military earns SS benefits too - start a #mySocialSecurity account to see how much you've earned. <http://ow.ly/PTP4x>
@MilitarySaves

#SavingsFactFriday

#Saving in a #Roth #TSP can provide a tax-free stream of income in #retirement. <http://ow.ly/PSIGV>
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Savers w/a plan are 2x more likely to save for #retirement, have #emergency #savings, & stick to a #budget @MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Increasing your #retirement #savings contributions can result in serious tax deductions in any bracket.
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Paying off a mortgage early can result in serious #savings during #retirement. <http://ow.ly/BfKeu>
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Starting your #savings now ensures a more comfortable #retirement later on! <http://ow.ly/BfKL1>
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

28% of workers say they have less than \$1k in #retirement #savings <http://ow.ly/Nz4vX> @EBRI
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday



TOOLS & RESOURCES

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

Military Saves Resources

- [4 Reasons to Contribute to the TSP – Despite Having a Military Pension](#)
- [5 Benefits of Paying Off a Mortgage Before Retirement](#)
- [The Basics of Active Duty Retirement](#)
- [Considering a Thrift Savings Plan Rollover? Consider This.](#)
- [Don't Squander Your "Rollover Moment"](#)
- [Earned Education Benefits: A Part of Your Retirement Plan](#)
- [Leaving the Military: Why a Cash Stash is So Important](#)
- [my Social Security is your Social Security](#)
- [Planting Roots After a Military Retirement: Five Factors to Consider Now](#)
- [Retirement – Getting on Track at Any Age](#)
- [Retirement Dreaming](#)
- [Retirement Options for Reservists](#)
- [Retiring? Consider These Tips for Smart Management of Retirement and Taxation](#)
- [Roth TSP Adds a Tool to Your Savings Kit](#)
- [Save Now, Retire Comfortably](#)
- [Save for Retirement](#)
- [Sign Up and Save with the Thrift Savings Plan \(TSP\)](#)
- [Supplement Your Retirement by Setting It on Autopilot](#)
- [What You Need to Know About the Roth Thrift Savings Plan \(TSP\)](#)
- [Why Saving for Retirement is So Important](#)
- [The Zen of Pondering a Happy Retirement](#)

Other Resources

- [Military.com](#)
 - [6 Financial Tips for Military Transition](#)
 - [Transition Center](#)
- [Military OneSource](#)
 - [Leaving the Military](#)
 - [Transition Assistance](#)
- [Defense.gov](#)
 - [Military Retirement Calculator](#)
- [National Military Family Association](#)
 - [Leaving the Military](#)
 - [Military Spouse Transition Survey 2014](#)
- [SaveandInvest.org](#)
 - [Military Transition Toolkit](#)
 - [Save for the Future Toolkit](#)
- [Social Security Administration](#)
 - [Military Service and Social Security](#)
- [Thrift Savings Plan](#)
- [The USAA Educational Foundation](#)
 - [Financial Planning and Goal Setting](#)
 - [Life After the Military](#)
 - [Planning for Retirement](#)
- [Air Force Retiree Services](#)
- [Army Retirement Services Online](#)
- [Marine Corps Community Service Retiree Life](#)
- [Navy Retired Activities](#)
- [US Coast Guard Retiree Services](#)