



**MILITARY SAVES PARTNER RESOURCE PACKET**  
VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8

**TAX TIME SAVING**  
NOVEMBER 23RD - JANUARY 3RD

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.

This resource packet includes:

1. [Sample Article](#)
2. [Facebook and Twitter Posts](#)
3. [Twitter Chats](#)
4. [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.

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## Getting Ahead With Your Tax Refund

Are you looking for an easy way to get ahead next year? Most of us would love to pay off some bills, or replenish our bank account after the last unexpected expense, but even with a strong budget, it can sometimes be difficult to find enough extra money to make us feel like we are making progress. One of the easiest ways [nearly 8 in 10 taxpayers](#) can improve their financial situation is with their tax refund.

[The average tax refund is nearly \\$3000](#). While not the large lottery jackpot most of us would like to collect, \$3000 is a substantial "extra" outside of our paychecks. There are always more things to buy, and \$3000 can buy a lot - but then it's gone. Using it for long-term goals rather than short-term splurges is what will enable you to get ahead and secure your future.

[Save for emergencies](#). An emergency fund provides a buffer to costly surprises such as a major car repair, a leaky roof, or travel to visit an ill family member. It preserves your ability to pay your regular budgeted expenses, and to maintain and improve your credit. Most financial experts recommend saving at least three months of essential living expenses in an emergency fund. \$3000 is a great start!

[Save for retirement](#). Divert all or part of your refund to your IRA, 401K, or myRA and [watch it grow](#). You can also [purchase savings bonds with your refund](#), which will provide low-risk growth for up to thirty years.

[Get out of debt](#). By paying off credit card or other debt, you may not be saving, but you are reducing the amount that you owe, and the amount on which you are charged interest. Once that bill is paid, you'll have that money to put toward your other financial goals - whether those are saving or spending.

Do you have other savings goals? How could \$3000 help you save for a car or a house, your child's education, or another financial goal? If you are saving for multiple goals, let the IRS do the work of splitting and depositing your refund with [Form 8888, Allocation of Refund](#). This allows you to direct deposit part of your refund in up to three different accounts and financial institutions. And if you need a little more incentive to save, visit [SaveYourRefund](#) to learn how saving at least \$50 of your tax refund could win you \$25,000.

Set a goal. Make a plan. Save automatically - with your tax refund!

*Laura Roler 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](http://militarysaves.org).*

**SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:** Share the following messages with your Facebook & Twitter followers.

## #SavingsTipTuesday

Use your #tax refund wisely; plan ahead for emergencies, retirement, the holidays.  
<http://ow.ly/UVaqc> @MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Take advantage of the top five #tax breaks for #military members & families. <http://ow.ly/UVqd7>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Save automatically w/ direct deposit or savings bonds - using your #tax return! <http://ow.ly/UVqKQ>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Secure your finances - use your #tax refund as a springboard to become #debt free. <http://ow.ly/UXKfu>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

Boost your #refund with special #tax rules for #military combat pay. <http://ow.ly/UXN2L> @MilitarySaves  
#SavingsTipTuesday

Direct deposit your #tax refund or use it to buy #savings bonds with Form 8888. <http://ow.ly/UYlpL>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsTipTuesday

## Additional Posts

Get FREE tax advice, preparation, & filing services at your military installation's VITA program site <http://ow.ly/UVrKx>  
@MilitarySaves

Don't overlook the EITC at #tax time - maximize your refund and your #savings! <http://ow.ly/Fj12q> @MilitarySaves

National Guard & Reservists qualify for #tax deductions on certain expenses related to #military duty  
<http://ow.ly/UXRZO> @MilitarySaves

The Military Spouse Residency Relief Act allows #milspouses to maintain state residency & #tax benefits after a PCS.  
<http://ow.ly/UXOeO>

Deployment to a combat zone qualifies for an automatic extension to file #tax returns, pay taxes, & claim refunds  
<http://ow.ly/UXQmr>

You could win \$25,000 for saving \$50 of your #tax #refund with @SaveYourRefund <http://ow.ly/UJ8hO> @MilitarySaves

After splitting your #tax #refund w/Form 8888, all you need is 93 seconds to enter @SaveYourRefund!  
<http://ow.ly/UJ01Z> @MilitarySaves

## #SavingsFactFriday

A #tax refund can provide an opportunity to improve your #financial situation. <http://ow.ly/FiWqk>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Each year, about 75% of Americans who file #tax returns receive a refund. <http://ow.ly/FiXcU>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

The avg. Earned Income #Tax Credit is \$2000 - a great start to a rainy day fund! <http://ow.ly/FiWqk>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

Your #tax refund will continue to grow if you put it into #savings or #retirement. <http://ow.ly/FiWqk>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

#Tax time #savings bonds are guaranteed, making saving safe, simple & secure. <http://ow.ly/FiYgg>  
@MilitarySaves #SavingsFactFriday

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Beware #taxtime scams. <http://ow.ly/FiWVr> @MilitarySaves  
#SavingsFactFriday



## **TWITTER CHATS:** An hour-long Twitter chat on current savings themes.

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### **AMERICA SAVES TWITTER CHAT:**

Join [America Saves](#) on **Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 3:00 pm ET** for an hour-long discussion on the topic and resources discussed throughout this partner packet.

As the end of the year approaches, we once again find ourselves dreading the paper pushing and number crunching of tax season. But, let's not forget the excitement that comes with getting back some of your own hard-earned money in the form of a tax refund. Saving a portion of your tax refund can be a big step toward meeting your savings goals, so it's no surprise that a [2015 tax season survey](#) found that a majority of those who receive a refund planned to save it.

Hashtag: **#SaveYourRefund**

Topic: **Making the Most of Tax Time Savings**

When: **Tuesday, December 15 at 3:00 pm ET**

Easy ways to follow the chat: [Twubs](#) or [tchat.io](#)

### **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION TWITTER CHAT:** An hour-long Twitter chat on year-end financial planning.

We hope you'll join @moneyeXtension on **Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 3:00 pm ET**.

Join this special Cooperative Extension Twitter chat/Google Hangout to learn end-of-year financial planning tips and suggestions for financial New Year's resolutions. The sponsor, Cooperative Extension, is the largest adult education network in the world, including dozens of educators with expertise in personal finance.

Guests for #eXchat include **Dr. Barbara O'Neill, CFP®**, Rutgers University, **Dr. Erik Anderson**, University of Idaho, **Dr. Erica Tobe**, Michigan State University, **Dr. Elizabeth Kiss**, Kansas State University, **Dr. Susan Shockey**, NIFA-USDA, and **Andrew Zumwalt, MS, CFP®**, University of Missouri. **Bob Bertsch**, Web Technology Specialist for North Dakota State University, will serve as moderator.

Hashtag: **#eXchat**

Topic: **Year-End Financial Planning Tips**

When: **Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 3:00 pm ET**

Easy ways to follow the chat: [Twubs](#) or [tchat.io](#)

**TOOLS & RESOURCES:** Share the following tools and resources with your audience and with other organizations.

## **Military Saves Resources**

- [Be Money Wise at Tax Time: 5 Ways to Spend Your Tax Refund Wisely](#)
- [Beware of These 5 Tax-Season Scams](#)
- [Don't Leave Your Money On the Table This Tax Season](#)
- [Earned Income Tax Credit: What Military Families Should Know](#)
- [Grow Your Tax Refund with Savings Bonds](#)
- [How Can You Save Money at Tax Time?](#)
- [Leaving the Military = Losing Tax Breaks](#)
- [Prepare for Military Life's Surprises...with Your Tax Return](#)
- [Quick Tips for End of Year Tax Savings](#)
- [Saving at Tax Time](#)
- [Savvy Allocation of Your Tax Refund](#)
- [Top Five Tax Breaks to Ease the Burden for Military Members](#)
- [Why You Should Use Your Tax Refund to Pay Off Debt](#)

## **Other Resources**

- ***360 Degrees of Taxes***
- ***America Saves***
  - [4 Things You Didn't Know You Could Do With Your Tax Return](#)
  - [I Want It All and I Want It Now: A Savings Savvy Guide to Filing Taxes Affordably](#)
  - [Improving Saving Behaviors At Tax Time, Online and In Person](#)
  - [Put the Earned Income Tax Credit to Work for You](#)
  - [Recovering from Holiday Spending: 4 Tips to Get Back on the Savings Track](#)
  - [Two Ways Tax Scammers Might Target You](#)
- ***Consumer Financial Protection Bureau***
  - [Tax season is here](#)
- ***D2D Fund***
  - [About Save Your Refund](#)
  - [Become a Partner or Friend](#)

- [Official Rules](#)
- [Tax Time Savings](#)
- ***Feed the Pig***
  - [The No-Grumble Guide to Paying Taxes](#)
- ***EITC Outreach Campaign***
  - [Military Personnel, Returning Veterans, and Their Families](#)
- ***Identity Theft Resource Center***
  - [Tax Time Tips](#)
- ***InCharge Debt Solutions***
  - [Military Money: Taxes](#)
- ***Internal Revenue Service (IRS)***
  - [Tax Information for Members of the Military](#)
- ***Military Families Learning Network (MFLN)***
  - [Income Tax Tips for Military Families](#)
  - [Year-End Tax Planning Strategies](#)
- ***Military OneSource***
  - [Personal Financial Management and Taxes](#)
- ***National Foundation for Credit Counseling***
  - [Tips for Making the Most of Your Tax Refund](#)
- ***National Military Family Association***
  - [Tax Time and Residency](#)
- ***SaveandInvest.org***
  - [Turn Your Tax Refund Into Instant Savings](#)
- ***Smart About Money***
  - [Tax Time](#)

## **Research**

- [Georgetown Institute for Consumer Research: The 2015 Tax Refund Consumer Spending Report](#)
- [Navy Federal Credit Union: 2015 Tax Return Statistics](#)