



Holiday Spending and Savings Resolutions

At Military Saves, our goal is to promote the importance of savings and encourage servicemembers and their families to take financial action. To help the people you serve save more successfully and to promote the importance of savings at a national level, we have put together this resource packet entitled “Holiday Spending and Savings Resolutions” with you in mind.

This resource packet contains:

- A sample article
- Social media content
- Tools and resources

Use these resources to **communicate with the public, your audience, and with other organizations to help promote the importance of savings.** Look for new packets from Military Saves every six weeks.

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;
- Position your organization as "in front" of the savings message and the need to save, particularly in uncertain economic times;

We want to hear from you. Please take a moment to [complete this one-question survey](#) on the usefulness of this material.

Our next resource kit is on “The Basics of Saving.” If you have materials you would like us to include please send them to [Andia Dinesen](#).

Our next resource kit will be about Military Saves Week, 25 February - 2 March 2013. If your organization has not yet signed up to participate visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MSW2013signup> to sign-up today.

This resource packet includes:

1. [Sample Article](#)
2. [Facebook and Twitter Posts](#)
3. [Tools and Resources](#)
4. [One-question survey](#)

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. (If you would like to this post, we ask that you please link back to [Military Saves](#))

5 Resolutions to Get You Saving in the New Year

By Andia Dinesen, [Military Saves](#) Coordinator

As the end of 2012 quickly approaches, make sure to give your finances a checkup and discover if you need to make saving your New Year's resolution. You may discover that you have debt you need to pay down or that you are ready to take the next step in savings. Helping yourself and your family save successfully for the future should be near the top of your resolution list – and it's one resolution you *can't afford* to break! Remember, you don't have to make a lot of money to save successfully. Start Small. Think Big.

5 Resolutions to Get You Saving in the New Year

1. Save for Emergencies

Having an emergency savings fund may be the most important difference between those who manage to stay afloat and those who are sinking financially. In a [recent survey](#), only 49% of families said they had extra funds (not including lines of credit) available to pay for an unexpected expense of \$1,000. [Don't find yourself unprepared in 2013](#). **How to do it:** Save a Portion of Your Tax Refund.

2. Get Out of Debt

The best investment most borrowers can make is to pay off consumer debt with double-digit interest rates. **How to do it:** Find places to cut your spending so that you can [pay down your debts faster](#).

3. Save for Retirement – Participate in the Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a retirement savings and investment plan for Federal employees and members of the uniformed services, including the Ready Reserve. It offers the same types of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer their employees under 401(k) plans. Plus the TSP now has a [ROTH option](#). **How to do it:** Start with as little as 1% of your pay. Don't forget to have your spouse or family member save for their [retirement](#) as well.

4. Make Savings Automatic- set-up a discretionary allotment using [myPay](#)

These savings will provide funds for emergencies, future consumer purchases, home purchase, school tuition, or even retirement (also see Tip #3). **How to do it:** You can use an allotment to automatically transfer funds from your pay into a savings account. Saving automatically is the **easiest and most successful** way to save.

5. Deploying? Take advantage of the [Savings Deposit Program](#)

A total of \$10,000 may be deposited during each deployment and will earn 10% interest annually. **How to do it:** Visit the finance office at your deployed location (or home base for information) to begin saving.

Savings Strategy: Save a Portion of Your Tax Refund

Tax Time is a great time to kickstart or grow your savings for the future! Use the 30 – 40 – 30 plan. Designate 30% of your refund to pay off debt and catch up on outstanding bills. Earmark 40% for current use. Use 30% to jump start an emergency fund or long term savings. You can use Form 8888 to buy a U.S. Savings Bonds. Bonds are a safe and easy way to save for the future.

Are you ready to set your goal?

[Military Saves](#), operated by the non-profit Consumer Federation of America, and a partner in the Defense Department's Financial Readiness Campaign, encourages servicemembers and their families to save money, pay down debt, and build personal wealth. Military Saves promotes positive changes in personal financial behavior and encourages everyone to take the [Military Saves pledge](#).

Sample Tweets/Facebook

Share the following messages with your Facebook and Twitter Followers:

#SavingsTipTuesday

Nov. 27 – Let this be the year that you put an end to bringing in the New Year with financial guilt and stress.
<http://ow.ly/fC5yv> #SavingsTipTuesday

Dec. 11 – Tips For Keeping Holiday Debt Under Control: Study Finds Holiday Spending This Year Will Likely Rise
<http://ow.ly/fzU86> #SavingsTipTuesday

Dec. 18 – The best investment for most borrowers is to pay off #debt with double-digit interest rates.
<http://ow.ly/fC5IW> #SavingsTipTuesday

Dec. 25 – Military Saves wishes you peace, joy, and happiness this holiday season.

Jan. 1 – Anyone can afford to own a home w/ proper preparation. Develop a savings plan to build up \$.
<http://ow.ly/fC5WR> #SavingsTipTuesday

Jan. 8 – Dealing with Post-Holiday Credit Card Debt
<http://ow.ly/fzYQc> Via @wisebread #SavingsTipTuesday

#SavingsFactFriday

Nov. 30 – Participate in Thrift Saving Plan or open a Roth IRA in 2013. Or Increase savings amount by 1%.
#SavingsFactFriday @MilitarySaves

Dec. 14 – Tax Time is a great time to kickstart or grow your savings for the future! #SavingsFactFriday Via @BondsMakeitEasy <http://ow.ly/fzSEw>

Dec. 21 – 401(k) retirement plans can make for a financially secure retirement. <http://ow.ly/fzXJL>
#SavingsFactFriday Via @FINRAFoundation

Dec. 28 – Putting aside fifty cents a day will allow you to #save nearly \$500. #SavingsFactFriday Via @MilitarySaves

Jan. 4 – Find places to cut your spending so that you can pay down your debts faster in 2013 <http://ow.ly/fC6r0>
#SavingsFactFriday

Jan. 11 – Transferring money from checking to savings is the fastest way to #save \$500 to \$1,000
<http://ow.ly/fC6DI> #SavingsFactFriday

Tools and Resources

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

Military Saves

- [Get Out of Debt](#)
- [Save for Emergencies](#)
- [Save on a Budget](#)
- [Save for Retirement](#)
- [Homeownership for Military Families](#)

Saving at Tax Time from Bonds Make it Easy

- [Great Reasons to Buy Tax Time Savings Bonds](#)

Saving for Retirement

- [Smart 401\(k\) Investing](#) –from saveandinvest.org
- [Ballpark Estimate](#) – from Choose to Save
- [TSP Roth Option](#) – from saveandinvest.org

America/Military Saves Blogs (Holiday Spending)

- [Avoid Post Holiday Headaches](#)
- [5 Tips to Saving before the Holidays](#)
- [Should I Layaway for the Holidays?](#)
- [Tips For Keeping Holiday Debt Under Control: Study Finds Holiday Spending This Year Will Likely Rise](#)
- [Saving Money During the Holidays](#)

More on Holiday Savings and Spending from @Wisebread

- [How to Deal With Post-Holiday Credit Card Debt](#)
- [Why People Go Crazy Over Holiday Sales](#)
- [11 Ways to Save on Holiday Travel](#)

Visit the [Military Saves blog](#) over the next six weeks for more articles on holiday spending and savings resolutions.