



# COMMANDER'S GUIDE

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This guide will help explain the benefits of Military Saves Month participation. Military Saves Month occurs annually during April and aligns with National Financial Capability Month, an effort by the Financial Literacy Education Commission and the Ready Campaign.

## Why Participate?

### Financial Readiness **IS** Unit Readiness

- If servicemembers and their families are feeling financially stressed, it can affect every aspect of their lives potentially impacting overall unit readiness.
- The compounding effects of poor credit and high debt can lead to loss of security clearances.

#### *Did you know?*

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

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

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



# We Can Help

Our research-based program, coordinated by the non-profit Consumer Federation of America (CFA), uses the principles of behavioral economics and social marketing to change savings behavior and motivate action. We are proud participants in the **Department of Defense's Financial Readiness Network** and the **Military Spouse Employment Partnership**.

The goal of Military Saves Month is to encourage the entire military community to take the **Military Saves Pledge**, the first step in creating a personal spending plan, and the beginning of a journey toward financial freedom.

*Since 2007, more than **340,000** individuals have taken the Military Saves Pledge.*

## ***Are You Ready to Help Your Service Members Save?***

### **1. Sign up as a Military Saves Month participating organization**

- Your organization will be listed on our website
- Receive informational emails, access materials on our website, and download our digital toolkit with all the resources you'll need for the Month.

### **2. Support your installation's financial readiness program**

- Promote installation-wide and unit-based financial workshops and activities with a focus on savings.
- Request additional resources like Personal Financial Counselors

For more information contact [info@militarysaves.org](mailto:info@militarysaves.org)