Build Your Financial Portfolio

The Nuts and Bolts of Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

Do you know the components of a balanced investment portfolio? Learn about stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

 Stocks, bonds and mutual funds — what’s the difference?

**Stock:**
A share of ownership in a company that typically comes with investor or shareholder privileges

*Risk level:* An investment in stocks is generally higher risk for the individual investor, because it lacks diversification.

**Average rate of return:** 10%

**Bond:**
Money borrowed by an organization, with the original amount to be paid back in the future with interest

*Risk level:* A bond investment is typically more stable than a stock and can stabilize investment returns in a portfolio by offsetting stock market volatility.

**Average rate of return:** 6%

**Mutual fund:**
A diversified collection of investments, which may include stocks, bonds or other securities

*Risk level:* A mutual fund investment provides cost-effective professional management of a portfolio based on changing market conditions.

**Average rate of return:** Varies with the underlying investment mix

Design your investment mix.
You work hard for your money in the military. Invest in yourself by comparing your options.

Build a solid foundation.
- Start early in your military career and have compounding work for you.
- Diversify your investments to lower risk.
- Match risk and return over your military career and beyond.

You have accredited personal financial managers and counselors at your fingertips. Set up a no-cost appointment at your nearest Family Center to learn more about your investment options.

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10% Varies with the underlying investment mix

*Figures are average, estimated rates of return and can vary.*