

Talking to Service Members About Filing Taxes

Help service members navigate the complexities of filing taxes as a member of the military community – and the resources available to assist them.

Filing taxes in the military often comes with added complications, like frequent moves, deployments and special pays. From filing in multiple states to tax extensions or amended returns, it's important for service members to know how their tax responsibility may shift with their changing career.

By making sure service members understand the tax benefits and resources available to members of the military community, you can help reduce tax season stressors. Consider sharing how your last promotion, deployment or major life event affected your taxes and where you sought assistance. If you have experience working with MilTax consultants, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program or using the e-filing software from Military OneSource, share tips about what you found helpful.

In addition to resources, you can also point to tax rights and protections military families may qualify for under the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act.

Personal financial managers and counselors can help continue the conversation. Share this contact information for your local PFM or PFC:



How to Start the Conversation

- “Who normally handles your tax preparation and filing?”
- “Did you know the Department of Defense provides free tax services accessible through Military OneSource?”
- “Are you familiar with the VITA program?”
- “Do you know how your recent change in pay will impact your taxes?”
- “Are you familiar with why and how service members can file tax extensions?”
- “Did you know that being deployed to a combat zone qualifies you for an automatic extension on filing and paying your taxes?”
- “Congratulations on your marriage/new child/recent home purchase! Have you considered how this new milestone may affect your taxes?”
- “Do you know when you may need to file an amended return and how to do so?”

Resources

- The Office of Financial Readiness: <https://finred.usalearning.gov>
- MilTax services and consultants are available through Military OneSource and can be contacted via phone at 800-342-9647 or online: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/miltax-military-tax-services>.
- VITA program: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/preparing-filing-and-refunds/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-program>
- Tax information for members of the military: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/military>
- Military Spouses Residency Relief Act: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/legal/family-legal-issues/military-spouses-residency-relief-act>

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