



**AmericaSaves®**  
*You Can Build Wealth*



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### The Department of the Army Supports Military Saves Week 2009

Washington, DC—The Department of the Army has big plans to participate in the Military Saves Week, February 22 to March 1, 2009. Events are scheduled at Army facilities worldwide.

Installations will offer classes and workshops on saving and investing, basic money management, wise use of credit, retirement planning and many other financial topics. Financial Managers will host forums, financial road shows, and in March the Army will release a new version of Financial Literacy Computer-based Training.

Look for press releases by celebrities and/or senior Army leaders, kick-off events, financial fairs, fun runs, financial carnivals and lots more. Much of the military community will join the fun with these events, contests, and other financial literacy activities.

Local Commanders will make proclamations supporting the week, defense credit unions and military banks will offer incentives and special products to help military single Soldiers and Families boost their savings and diminish their debt. Many military-affiliated organizations including the BOSS, Better Business Bureau, MWR, Children and Youth, Boys and Girls Clubs, Army Emergency Relief Society, Army Air Force Exchange and Defense Commissary Agency will help reinforce the Military Saves message to save: Build Wealth. Not Debt.

The Army hopes to increase participation by at least 20% over last year. Almost 5000 Soldiers enrolled as Military Savers during Military Saves Week 2008. Another 2000 Soldiers signed up through the year.

Military Saves is a command initiative in which leadership can work to create a culture that encourages savings and financial readiness. Changing our financial culture is a formidable task and requires everyone to take personal responsibility for adopting a “Military Saver” lifestyle.

Every commander and civilian director is encouraged to sponsor a Saver Drive during Military Saves Week and promote financial readiness throughout the Military Saves campaign year.

The Department of Defense encourages Service members to use their resources wisely to protect their families and maintain their personal readiness. Establishing savings represents the basis for maintaining personal financial readiness, by having an emergency fund to preclude short term borrowing and by encouraging Service members to consider their long term investment needs, particularly through the Thrift Savings Program.

“Military Saves Week is a great way to draw attention to the need to save,” said Julie Kyrakis, assistant director of Military Saves. “The current economic situation is supporting our social marketing efforts—helping to move the military from a consumer society to a saver society. We also think that this message needs to be reinforced year round so we have developed quarterly themes to emphasize different savings initiatives and those are saving and investing, youth, debt reduction and retirement. So, look for more Military Saves events throughout the year.”

According to Michael Wood, Director of Transition Support Services for the Army, “The Army's focus and participation will be around debt freedom and financial fitness all year long. We also want to increase the customer base of local financial counselors, decrease the shame or guilt associated with financial illiteracy, and create a financially fit Family that supports an improves readiness.

For those interested in learning more about Military Saves see [www.militarysaves.org](http://www.militarysaves.org).

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