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The Navy is Making Big Plans for Military Saves Week 2009

Washington, DC—The Navy is taking the lead with the Department of Defense planning efforts for Military Saves Week, February 22 to March 1, 2009. Events are scheduled at Navy facilities throughout the United States and around the world.

“One of the Navy’s major goals,” according to David DuBois, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Deputy, Navy Fleet and Family Support Programs and Military Saves Campaign Leader, “Is to encourage the Navy community as a whole to take action for their personal financial readiness, make a commitment to build wealth and reduce debt, create a culture that promotes individual financial fitness, and learn more about financial tools and resources promoted in the Military Saves Campaign.”

The Navy hopes to increase participation by at least 20% over last year. An impressive 45,000 sailors and their family members participated in the 2008 week-long event, including the Navy Youth Centers. CNIC continues to demonstrate its commitment to the program and is offering Liberty Centers a \$500 grant to create a Military Saves awareness/recreation program in partnership with Fleet and Family Support Centers.

A Combined Navy and Marine Corps event during Military Saves Week is being planned through Base Consortiums in the San Diego Region, California. The kick-off for Military Saves Week 2009 will be a "Home Clinic" - a community service coalition of city, county, state government, and non-profit agencies in the San Diego region, in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society of San Diego's pro-bono program. The high point of metro-San Diego Military Saves Week 2009 will be a seminar with 1,500 sailors and marines that includes distinguished guest speakers.

Hampton Roads, Virginia will conduct Personal Financial Management Leadership forums throughout the region, Financial Fairs held in conjunction with the forums, Information Tables at the MWR Fun Runs and host a DoD Financial Readiness Challenge Roadshow during the week of Military Saves. Financial Seminars for spouses and Financial Youth Fairs will also be offered.

Meanwhile, many Navy bases around the world will offer classes and workshops on saving and investing, basic money management, wise use of credit, retirement planning and many other

financial topics. Installations will host kick-off events, financial fairs, fun runs, fun days, financial carnivals and scavenger hunts. Much of the Fleet will join the fun with ship-board 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 families boost their savings and diminish their debt, and many military-affiliated organizations including the Better Business Bureau, MWR, Children and Youth, Boys and Girls Clubs, the American Society of Military Comptrollers, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Navy Exchange and Defense Commissary Agency will help reinforce the message to save: Build Wealth. Not Debt.

“The Navy is taking the lead in turning the world's best fighting force into the country's best savings team,” said Sarah Shirley, director of Military Saves. “Military banks and defense credit unions have partnered with Navy at the global and local level in ways that show how to promote financial stability and asset development, and at the same time improve your business model. We hope that other organizations follow this lead.”

For those interested in learning more about Military Saves see www.militarysaves.org.