Preparing for retirement



37%

of military families say they are moderately or very insecure about their financial future.1



51%

of families say they don't understand the military's new blended retirement plans.1



Military benefit:

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act established a new Blended Retirement System specifically for service members who serve at least two years but who don't qualify for full military retirement benefits.

Where to start:

• Consider a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP): The government matches 1 percent of your contributions into this before tax account for retirement. After two years of service, the government will match up to 5 percent.²

Saving money



49%

of military families say they have less than \$5,000 in available savings.1



The good news is that the highest line items in American civilian budgets (certain

Military benefit:

housing expenses, food, etc.) are largely taken care of for you as a service member.

Pay yourself first: Instead of treating your salary as disposable cash just because basic

Where to start:

- necessities are covered, for each paycheck you get, save the amount of money you would use for rent and food. Set up an automatic transfer to your savings account to help.
- Also consider opening a savings or checking account that has a higher yield interest rate
- than a traditional deposit account such as a money market account once you save enough to waive the monthly maintenance fees.

31%

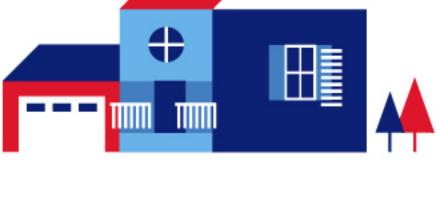
of active service members who

Moving and home buying



moved in 2017 bought a home more

than 500 miles from their previous home. Only 11 percent of moving civilians went that far.3 Military benefit:



station (PCS) moving costs.4 The Veterans Administration offers home loans to

service members who qualify with financing up to \$453,100 - even if you have no money saved for a down payment.5 The VA also offers services that can help with refinancing, reducing interest rates and housing for disabled service members or veterans.6

Moving can easily disrupt your life — thankfully, as a member of the military, the

government will pay up front or reimburse you for many permanent change of

Where to start: Weigh the pros and cons of renting and buying. Everyone's situation is different, so you'll

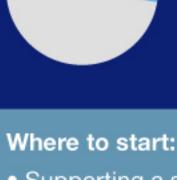
need to look at the positives and negatives of each to determine the best living situation for

you wherever you're stationed.

• If your post changes frequently, consider encouraging your spouse to explore careers that

\$20K or less 28% The amount 51 percent of of military spouses are military spouses earned in unemployed and

Supporting your spouse's career



are geographically transferrable.

during service

seeking work.1

work on (and worry over). According to one expert, you should remain flexible and

open-minded about opportunities that come along.7



earned less than \$10K.1

2016. And 39 percent

• Supporting a spouse's career can be difficult for anyone. We all have our own careers to



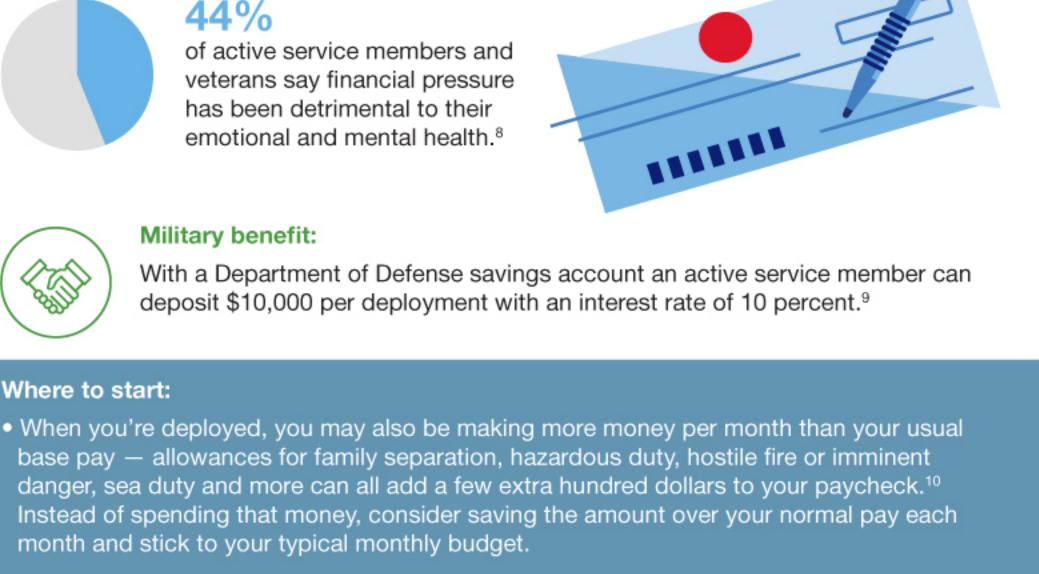
has been detrimental to their emotional and mental health.8

44%

Managing finances

of active service members and

veterans say financial pressure



month and stick to your typical monthly budget.

wnere to start:

- 1 "2017 Military Family Lifestyle Survey," Blue Star Families and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families, November 2017. 2 "The Blended Retirement System Explained," Military.com, 2018.
- 6 "VA Home Loans," U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, accessed August 2018. 7 "How To Plan Successfully With Your Spouse To Achieve Your Biggest Career Dreams," Forbes, March 2018. 8 "Military Family Support Survey 2017 Results," Military Family Advisory Network, 2017.

3 "Veterans & Active Military Home Buyers Profile," National Association of Realtors Research Group, May 2018.

9 "DoD Savings Deposit Program," Defense Finance and Accounting Service, accessed August 2018.

10 "The Base Pay for a Deployed E4 Specialist in the Army," Chron, June 2018.

4 "Military Spouse and Family Moves 101," Military.com, accessed August 2018.

5 "VA LOANS," Miliatry.com, accessed August 2018.

Federal Government Agency

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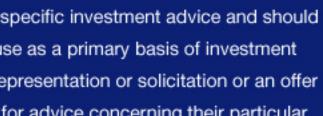
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