

Savings Program Assists Deployed Service Members

Uniformed service members now have the chance to earn a guaranteed 10 percent interest on their savings annually while deployed to or in support of a combat zone.

Service members may participate in the program if they are assigned outside the United States or its possessions and they serve at least 30 consecutive days in an area designated as a combat zone or in direct support of a combat zone. A service member can contribute up to \$10,000, but interest of 10 percent will not accrue after that amount.

To make a deposit into the fund, troops are asked to contact their financial office. Withdrawing the money before leaving the combat zone is not authorized, unless there is an emergency. The last day to make a deposit into the fund is the date of departure from the assignment. However, interest will accrue for up to 90 days after return from deployment.

"This is a great opportunity for service members to accrue at a higher interest rate than at an average interest rate of 2 or 3 percent," said Patrick T. Shine, acting director of DFAS. "We are always taking the extra step to assist our troops and their families in any way possible, especially while members are deployed."

For more about DFAS visit www.dfas.mil.

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