



Captain's Call

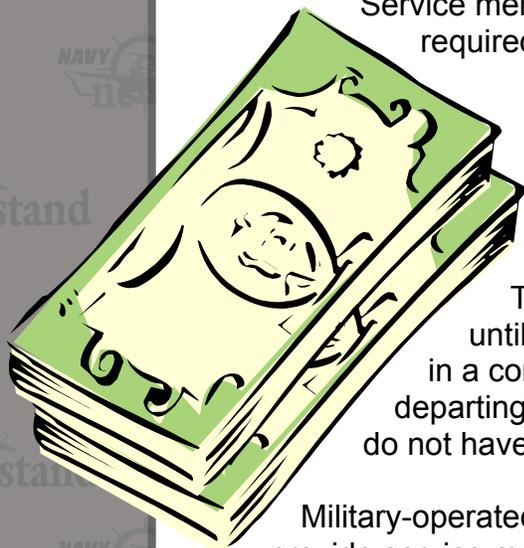


Troops Deployed In Combat Areas Get Tax Credit Options

Service members receiving federal tax exemptions for some or all of their military pay may now elect to apply for certain tax credit options.

Troops deployed to combat zones can now apply for tax refunds based on earned income tax credits, as well as additional child-tax credits. The earned income credit primarily involves lower-income filers with children, and the additional child tax credit may provide refunds for children under age 17.

Service members who want to apply for the credit refunds are required to fill out and file a federal tax return.



Enlisted troops serving in combat areas already have all of their military pay excluded from federal taxes.

Officers in combat zones can exclude up to \$6,529 of their monthly pay.

Troops deployed to non-combat overseas areas have until June 15 to file their income taxes, while troops serving in a combat zone have up to 180 days to file their taxes after departing the area. For example, those currently deployed in Iraq do not have to file their 2004 tax return until they depart Iraq.

Military-operated tax centers at stateside and overseas locales can provide service members with tax filing assistance.

Additionally, married service members deployed to combat and non-combat overseas locales can opt to have spouses file tax returns provided they have an applicable power of attorney.

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