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*Captain's Call*

Some Sailors Qualify For Automated Tax Deadline Extension

According to the IRS, filing a tax extension form can help service members receive more time to prepare their federal tax return and avoid paying penalties for filing late.

The IRS said tax filers are allowed two tax extensions each year. The first request extends the deadline to Aug. 15 and is approved automatically. To receive the second extension, the filer must undergo review and approval by the IRS, which can extend the deadline to Oct 15.

The IRS does not expect service members to complete their taxes by April 17 if they served in combat zones or received hostile fire or imminent danger pay during the tax year. Those service members are granted automatic tax filing extensions.

From the day a service member leaves a combat zone, that member has 180 days plus the number of days spent in the combat zone during the regular tax season before they are required to file their taxes. Under these conditions, service members will not be charged interest on their tax return.

However, for service members filing for tax extensions outside these conditions, interest must be paid on any tax liability.

TurboTax, an online tax assistance program free to service members and available until June 17, is downloadable at www.militaryonesource.com.

Tax extension forms can be downloaded online at IRS.gov by typing form 4868 in the keyword box, or contacting your local base legal office.

