1.) Save Lives & Careers: "Give the Gift of A DD" Campaign Going On Now / 26 NOV 18
21st Century Sailor Office Public Affairs
https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=107905

Navy Alcohol Abuse Prevention (NAAP) promotes responsible alcohol use year-round for Sailors who are of age and choose to drink, but no time is more important than the holidays.

2.) Blended Retirement System Enrollment Period Ends Dec. 31 / 20 NOV 18
Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Navy issued a reminder to Sailors eligible to opt-in to the Blended Retirement System (BRS) that the BRS enrollment period ends Dec. 31, in NAVADMIN 280/18, released Nov. 20.

3.) New Options to Complete 'Million Dollar Sailor' Course: Financial Health for Life / 21 NOV 18
Fleet and Family Support Programs Public Affairs
https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=107855

The Million Dollar Sailor (MDS) program now offers three ways to complete the course. The first way is the two-day in house training at a Fleet and Family Support Center (FSSC). The second is the new online course.

4.) Servicemembers, arm yourself with basic car buying skills—How to shop for auto financing / 27 NOV 18
Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, Patrick Campbell
https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/servicemembers-arm-yourself-basic-car-buying-skills-how-to-shop-auto-financing/

Many servicemembers buy or lease a car shortly after joining the military. Before you rush off to the nearest car dealer advertising “Military – low payments, no interest, or zero down,” let us arm you with some basic car buying and car financing skills.

5.) Supplemental Articles bi-weekly roll-up:
Every other week, we roll up the latest supplemental articles from around the Fleet. Below are the latest:
(Urls on Last Page)

- Registered Dietitian Brings Nutrition Education to USS John Finn Crew
- Why the Navy is helping out 400 senior chiefs
- A More Lethal Surface Force: ABESG Warships Complete First East Coast CRUDES SWATT
- What’s New with your TRICARE Coverage in 2019

To sign up for the @USNPeople Weekly Wire, email usnpeople.fct@navy.mil, or find it online at www.navy.mil/cnp
MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Navy Alcohol Abuse Prevention (NAAP) promotes responsible alcohol use year-round for Sailors who are of age and choose to drink, but no time is more important than the holidays.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Commission, the holiday season sees a significant increase in traffic fatalities that involve impaired drivers. With that sobering information in mind, NAAP’s Keep What You’ve Earned campaign’s Give the Gift of a Designated Driver (DD) pledge is up and running.

“Pledging to serve as a designated driver can be the perfect one-size-fits-all present to keep friends and loved ones safe,” said Ms. Dorice Favorite, NAAP director. “It only takes a minute to complete the pledge online and make a real difference this holiday season.”

Sailors, their friends and family can go to https://go.usa.gov/xnj86 to make the quick and anonymous pledge to serve as a DD. After taking the pledge, participants are encouraged to visit the KWYE webpage at https://go.usa.gov/xPWPH to print a gift card that can be given to a shipmate, friend, or family member to be used in exchange for a safe ride home. The pledge runs through Dec. 31.

“The consequences of impaired driving can be devastating,” Favorite said. A Driving Under the Influence (DUI) conviction can wreck not just a vehicle, but also a career and a bank account. In the first six months after a DUI, fees like bail, fines, court costs, DUI class, and attorney's fees can total nearly $10,000 or more. Long-term, increased insurance rates and lost income due to reduction in rank can have a significant impact on financial stability. “It’s not worth the risk,” she added. “If you or your friends choose to drink, make sure you have a DD and a plan.”

For more information or links to other resources, including tips on how to have a stress-free DD experience, check out the KWYE website. Download Pier Pressure, the campaign’s free mobile application, for tools to help you plan ahead, find a safe ride home and keep what you’ve earned. Available on the App Store and Google Play.

If you think you may be struggling with alcohol use, or if drinking interferes with your work and/or relationships, visit the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program located at your base’s clinic or military treatment facility. For more information, contact your base Alcohol and Drug Control Officer.

Get more information about the Navy from US Navy Facebook or twitter.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.
2. Blended Retirement System Enrollment Period Ends Dec. 31 / 20 NOV 18
Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Navy issued a reminder to Sailors eligible to opt-in to the Blended Retirement System (BRS) that the BRS enrollment period ends Dec. 31, in NAVADMIN 280/18, released Nov. 20.

Sailors can enroll in BRS via MyPay at https://mypay.dfas.mil/. Opt-in eligible Sailors who decide not to enroll in BRS will remain in the current "legacy" retirement system.

Command leaders are responsible for ensuring opt-in eligible service members are prepared to make an informed financial decision prior to the closure of the opt-in window. Once a Sailor elects to enroll in BRS that decision is permanent.

NAVADMIN 280/18 provides instructions for command career counselors or command pay and personnel administrators to generate a BRS Eligibility report from Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) for their command. This report can help commands in reaching out to their eligible Sailors, to ensure they have the information they need to make their decision.

According to the NAVADMIN, not all Sailors who have opted into BRS are making contributions to their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account, so they are not receiving government matching funds. Sailors are encouraged to talk with their command financial specialist or a financial counselor to review their budget options to maximize their TSP contributions.

Sailors can find complete BRS information on the Department of Defense BRS web page at https://militarypay.defense.gov/blendedretirement/.

Get more information about the Navy from US Navy Facebook or twitter.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

3. New Options to Complete 'Million Dollar Sailor' Course: Financial Health for Life / 21 NOV 18
Fleet and Family Support Programs Public Affairs
https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=107855

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Almost a decade ago Fleet and Family Support Program started a wealth building course called the Million Dollar Sailor. The course was designed to give Sailors and their families the tools and knowledge they needed to create solid financial health that will enable them to live the life of their dreams.

The Million Dollar Sailor (MDS) program now offers three ways to complete the course. The first way is the two-day in house training at a Fleet and Family Support Center (FSSC). The second is the new online course.

"An hour here, 20 minutes there, and before you know it you fit solid financial training into your crazy schedule," said Dana Carlyle, Personal Financial Management Analyst at Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC).

The third is a combination of both, but for now this must be done sequentially. Students can do the first half of the course online and can complete the second half in person. After the new year, the online portion should be accessible by individual modules and provide even more flexibility for completion.
Although, the options to complete course have changed the goal of the course is still simple.

“The goal is to make Million Dollar Sailors, of course,” said Carlyle. “This course equips Sailors and their families with the tools and knowledge needed to set themselves on that path.”

The course teaches that individuals who make small financial adjustments and start good financial habits in their career can be a millionaire by the time they reach retirement age, or sooner.

The topics covered are spending plans, credit, car buying, house buying, saving, and investing in an easy to understand format. Completing the course helps Sailors financial readiness, but it also helps with the Navy’s overall readiness.

“If you deploy and are worried about hiding your car so the repo guy won’t find it, your mind is not on the mission,” said Carlyle. “We want to equip Sailors with the tools they need for financial security so they can stay lethal and focused.”

Carlyle also stated that using the skills learned in the MDS course reduces stress, security clearance issues, divorce, and suicide. It increases retention and family support of staying in the military.

“It’s difficult to find any aspect of life that finances do not somehow affect,” she said.

The Million Dollar Sailor is an integral piece of the PFM (Personal Financial Management) program and many who go through the program often fine tune their plans with other PFM offerings, like the no cost, confidential, one-on-one financial counseling session at our Fleet and Family Support Centers.

The MDS course was originally designed for E4 and E5 ranks, it is extremely valuable and available to all Sailors, their families, and anyone who can log into Joint Knowledge Online. Also, most installations allow government civilians to attend PFM classes that are not full. Active duty personnel have priority. Interested parties can find the on-line course at https://jkodirect.jten.mil/. Once logged in, go to the courses tab and type in “Million Dollar Sailor” to find the course.

The Fleet and Family Support Program promotes self-reliance and resiliency to strengthen the military and its family members, support mission readiness, assist commanders in planning for and responding to family readiness needs, and facilitate building a strong community network of services through community outreach and partnerships.

Get more information about the Navy from US Navy Facebook or Twitter.

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4.) Servicemembers, arm yourself with basic car buying skills—How to shop for auto financing / 27 NOV 18
Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, Patrick Campbell
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It’s not very much fun when you land at your first duty station with no groceries in the fridge, no idea where to get food to eat, and no car to get around. Asking for a ride can be a pain and many bases have limited public transportation options. If that sounds like you, you’re not alone.
Many servicemembers buy or lease a car shortly after joining the military. Unfortunately, we hear from many servicemembers who didn’t fully appreciate the woes of high rates and other unaffordable terms when they signed their auto financing contract.

Before you rush off to the nearest car dealer advertising “Military – low payments, no interest, or zero down,” let us arm you with some basic car buying and car financing skills.

Over the next few weeks the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (BCFP) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) will share information highlighting things you should know when you’re thinking about getting a car.

Shop for the best financing deal
You might think that the first step in buying a car is to go to a dealership. If you plan to finance your purchase, however, you may save money by making your first step to shop for auto financing. If you decide to finance your car, you may obtain better terms by considering several financing sources in addition to dealership financing.

Shop around for financing terms by contacting multiple banks and credit unions and compare these offers to what the dealership offers. Obtaining financing directly through your bank or credit union may get you lower rates, but is not a guarantee. It’s possible you can qualify for an even lower rate if you have automatic payments taken out of your account. Automatic payments can help ensure your payments are made when due but it is still helpful to check statements regularly, when possible, to ensure proper payments (and not extra amounts) have been made. You should also ask about any military specific discounts that may be available.

Take the time to fully understand the terms, conditions, and costs involved in financing a car before you sign a contract. Know that the total amount you’ll pay depends on several factors.

Two important things that you should pay close attention to are:

Annual percentage rate (APR)
Length of the financing

It’s important to consider the APR when comparing auto financing offers. A lower APR will lead to significant savings in the long term. For example, a three-year $15,000 financing contract with a 5 percent APR, and payments of $450 monthly, would save you about $500 overall compared with a three-year, $15,000 contract at 7 percent APR.

To negotiate the best APR, it’s wise to check your credit reports before looking into options. This information lets you assess how lenders are likely to view your creditworthiness. Make sure that your credit reports don’t have any errors, and if they do, you should take steps to correct them. Errors on your credit reports can reduce your credit scores and can mean you get charged a higher rate or even have your financing application denied. Better credit will help you secure a lower rate and reduce the amount of money that you end up paying. Looking up your credit scores in advance allows you to research the average rate for someone with a similar score. You can use that rate as a basis to properly budget for a car you can afford.

Length of financing
When comparing your offers and negotiating financing, it’s important to know if you can afford the monthly payment, but be sure you look at the total cost of the financing. A smaller monthly payment may mean the financing extends over a longer period of time—72 months or more, instead of 36, 48, or 60 months.
Try to keep the length of your financing as short as your budget can afford. The sooner you’re able to pay off the car, the less interest you’ll pay. For example, you can see in the figure below how a lower monthly payment over a longer term increases your total cost. This example assumes $20,000 financing and an interest rate of 4.75 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financing term</th>
<th>Monthly payment</th>
<th>Total interest paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36 months (3 years)</td>
<td>$597</td>
<td>$1,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 months (4 years)</td>
<td>$458</td>
<td>$1,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 months (5 years)</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>$2,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 months (6 years)</td>
<td>$320</td>
<td>$3,024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You should still consider putting cash down when purchasing a car. Cash down helps lower your payment and lenders may provide lower rates depending on how much cash you can put down.

If you’re going to get car financing, start by thinking through what you can afford, check your credit report, then shop around, paying attention to the total amount you will pay.

This blog post was written in collaboration with the FTC. Learn more about auto financing and the car buying process at www.FTC.gov/cars and at www.cfpb.gov/auto-loans.

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