

TGPS - US003 Personal Financial Planning For Transition

RESOURCES:

DOCUMENTS

- [Key Dimensions and Processes in the U.S. Credit Reporting System.pdf](#)
- [Compensation Comparison handout PFPW.pdf](#)
- [FPW Checklist handout PFPW.pdf](#)
- [Monthly Spending Log.pdf](#)
- [Sources of Help for Military Consumers.pdf](#)
- [Choose a Financial Professional.pdf](#)
- [Credit Report Information.pdf](#)
- [Know your Advisor.pdf](#)
- [Roadmap to Health.pdf](#)
- [Trusted Financial Coaching Services.pdf](#)
- [Retirement Account Comparison.pdf](#)
- [Financial Website Resources.pdf](#)
- [Financial Planning for Transition Participant Guide.pdf](#)
- [12 Month Budget Worksheet.xls](#)

DOD OFFICIAL RESOURCES (via MOU)

- [Air Force Aid Society \(AFAS\)](#)

Read personal finance articles, access lesson plans and play games to build money skills and receive monthly newsletters sponsored by the Military Saves campaign.

- [Consumer Federation of America](#)

Follow financial services news and download PDFs on Credit and Debt, Savings and Investments, and Insurance.

- [Council of Better Business Bureaus \(BBBs\)](#)

A one-stop shop offering education, outreach, information, data collection, and complaint and dispute resolution. Read Kiplinger's *Personal Finance Guide for Military Families*, *A Salute to Smart Investing*, and *Where Do I Go From Here? Civilian Transition*.

- [InCharge Institute of America](#)

Proven debt-relief solutions for those struggling with credit card or unsecured debt, credit/bankruptcy counseling, and an extensive library of educational resources to support debt-free living

- [Jump\\$tart Coalition for Financial Literacy](#)

With a focus on improving the financial literacy of pre-kindergarten through college-age youth, this site offers the latest edition of the *National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education* as well as a wall calendar featuring its 12 Principles of Financial Literacy for young people

- [Freddie Mac](#)

Freddie Mac provides a constant source of mortgage funding for the nation's housing markets – helping to make homeownership and rental housing more affordable for America's families.

- [Financial Industry Regulatory Authority \(FINRA\) Investor Education Foundation](#)

[A variety of programs and public awareness initiatives for Servicemembers, their spouses, and on-base financial educators that includes the \[www.SaveAndInvest.org\]\(#\) web site and Moneytopia, a serious e-](#)

learning financial simulation game.

- [National Endowment for Financial Education \(NEFE\)](#)

Financial training and workshops for individuals and families through every stage of life—from high school to college and beyond

- [National Military Family Association \(NMFA\)](#)

Learn about tax assistance and relief for military families

- [Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society \(NMCRS\)](#)

Department of the Navy personnel and their eligible family members can learn how to apply for interest-free loans or grants to help with emergency needs and gain financial self-sufficiency through budget reviews.

- [Institute of Consumer Financial Education](#)

An online college course that allows you to learn the fundamentals of personal financial management and earn three credit hours at the same time, students can enroll at any time throughout the year, tuition assistance is available for Active-Duty personnel.

- [North American Securities Administrators Association \(NASAA\)](#)

Education for investors, including investor tips regarding saving and investing as well as top investor threats

- [Women's Institute for Financial Education \(WIFE\)](#)

Money/relationship articles, blogs, calculators (Savings Calculator, Cost of Living Calculator, and Financial Calculator) and quizzes highlight this site dedicated to women's financial independence.

- [USAA Educational Foundation \(not USAA bank\)](#)

Fill out financial worksheets to complete a budget and identify your financial goals, assets and liabilities, and gaps between your financial goals and resources.

- [TurboTap.org](#)

TurboTAP.org is Department of Defense's official web site providing information for Service members on transitioning from military service.

OTHER BENEVOLENT ORGANIZATIONS

- [Army Emergency Relief \(AER\)](#)

Donate to the Army's emergency financial assistance organization and learn about eligibility for financial assistance, scholarship programs, and loan repayment.

- [Association of Military Banks of America \(AMBA\)](#)

A not for profit association of banks operating on military installations, banks not located on military installations but serving military customers, and military banking facilities designated by the U. S.

Treasury Web site offers a list of benefits, membership application, news, and information on the employees of AMBA and the community.

- [Defense Credit Union Council](#)

Links to Home and Family Finance Radio, videos on numerous financial issues, consumer news, and savings and payment calculators, sponsored by credit unions operating on military installations worldwide

- [Employee Benefit Research Institute/American Savings Education Council \(EBRI\)](#) Providing data and research regarding employee benefits

- [Choose to Save](#)

A financial education web site with dozens of useful calculators; PSAs; brochures; and articles on topics such as effectively budgeting, talking to your kids about money, and preparing for retirement.

- [National Association of Federal Credit Unions](#)

Providing information on credit unions in regards to different topics, for example, legislation, compliance, and advocacy.

- [National Foundation for Credit Counseling](#)

Bilingual site offering credit counseling, housing counseling, bankruptcy counseling and education, and financial education in addition to numerous consumer tools including videos, podcasts, budget worksheets, and calculators.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(CFPB\)](#)

Providing information consumers need to understand the terms of their agreements with financial institutions. Newly proposed Loan Estimates and Closing Disclosures explain in a simple and understandable manner how all those numbers impact your payments down the road.

- [Department of the Treasury](#)

The web site for this department that manages government revenue has a section specifically for the general public where you can get tax information, find various forms, view government seized property, and more.

- [Federal Citizen Information Center](#)

Offering numerous money publications online in the categories such as Child Support, Credit, Debt, Insurance, Investing and Saving, Loans, Managing Your Money, Money Scams and Frauds, and Taxes.

- [Federal Deposits Insurance Corporation](#)

FDIC brochures inform on FDIC deposit insurance coverage, preventing and managing overdraft fees, and mortgage modification programs for foreclosure prevention, while EDIE—the Electronic Deposit Insurance Estimator—tool reviews your deposit accounts to ensure you are safely within FDIC coverage limits.

- [Federal Reserve Board](#)

This comprehensive web site of the central banking system of the United States offers a credit card repayment calculator, consumer's guide to credit reports and credit scores, mortgage foreclosure resources, and consumer help for those having issues with banks or other financial institutions.

- [Federal Trade Commission](#)

A "Money Matters" section tackles money issues regarding scams, credit cards, housing, employment, managing money, and dealing with debt and offers Public Service Announcements in MP3 format.

- [Military Saves](#)

A campaign providing information and advice to those who take the "Military Saves" pledge; available are a monthly Military Saves e-newsletter and quarterly America Saves e-newsletter for savers and savings-themed resource packets for supporting organizations.

- [Savings Deposit Program](#)

Listing guidelines and resources regarding the Department of Defense's Savings Deposit Program.

- [Securities and Exchange Commission](#)

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) protects investors and works on market regulation. SEC works to ensure that information is made public and securities laws are not violated. The site offers information on enforcement and regulation and seeks to educate the public.

- [Thrift Savings Plan](#)

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a retirement savings and investment plan for Federal employees and members of the uniformed Services, including the Ready Reserve. It offers the same types of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer their employees under 401(k) plans. The site also provides a host of calculators and other financial planning tools.

- [US Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) helps to fund research, education, and extension programs, and provides program leadership. Priority areas for NIFA include food safety, childhood obesity, and sustainable energy.

- [Healthcare.gov](#)

Providing information on health insurance for individuals and families as well as small business, this site contains a detailed description of how the upcoming health marketplace works and what you will need to do to use it.

WEB SITES BY CATEGORY

Pay & Allowances

- [Defense Finance and Accounting Service](#)

Numerous guides and tools help military members understand the information used to process their pay to ensure their Leave and Earning Statements are up to date.

- [myPay](#)

myPay enables online viewing and printing of military members' Leave and Earning Statements and W-2s.

- [Military Compensation](#)

A Regular Military Compensation calculator computes regular military compensation based on the user's inputs.

- [Financial Management Regulation](#)

Volume 7A of DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R addresses active duty and reserve pay, including recently published changes.

- [Defense Travel Management Office – Basic Allowance for Housing](#)

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) quick links and resources, including a BAH calculator, BAH rates for all locations, videos and a fact sheet.

- [Defense Travel Management Office](#)

The Defense Travel Management Office is responsible for commercial travel within DoD. The web site includes information on travel regulations and allowance, travel programs, the defense travel system, and training resources. The site also provides a list of travel tools including state tax exemption forms and Travel Explorer (TraX).

- [Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance Program](#)

Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) program is a voluntary financial benefits program for military families. FSSA increases a Service member's income to remove their household from eligibility for SNAP benefits. The web site is used to determine whether or not you are eligible for FSSA benefits.

- [Payscale.com](#)

- [Salary.com](#)

Insurance

- [Department of Veterans Affairs - Life Insurance](#)

This web site offers information on Veterans Affairs (VA) life insurance policies with details on benefits, eligibility, and applications. The site also provides a way to view and update your policy or beneficiary and an interactive calculator to determine if the life insurance you have is sufficient.

- [Humana-Military.com](#)

Humana-Military.com contains a portal to the Continued Healthcare Benefit Program (CHCBP), which acts as a bridge between military health benefits and civilian health plans during transition.

Investment

- [Thrift Savings Plan](#)

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a retirement savings and investment plan for Federal employees and members of the uniformed services, including the Ready Reserve. It offers the same types of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer their employees under 401(k) plans. The site also provides a host of calculators and other financial planning tools.

- [DoD Savings Deposit Program](#)

The Savings Deposit Program (SDP) offers deployed Service members the chance to build their financial savings. The web site features information on the program and program eligibility and contact information for further questions.

- [FINRA Investor Education Foundation – Tools](#)

The resource section of this web site provides tools to look up the backgrounds of financial professionals or firms, analyze investments, map savings goals, and learn more about money management.

Resources also include tips on using social media, ways to minimize your risk, and information specifically for investors.

- [NASDAQ](#)

Provides daily stock market news on individual stocks as well as headlines, market activity, news and commentary, and a “My NASDAQ” feature that allows you to create an account where you can view your own stock portfolio.

- [New York Stock Exchange](#)

A New York City based stock exchange that is considered the largest equities-based exchange in the world. The web site offers relevant news stories and market information.

- [Morningstar Investment Research Center](#)

Screen for stocks, funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs); get return information; and access tools such as the retirement cost calculator and the college savings calculator.

Taxes

- [Internal Revenue Service](#)

On the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) web site you can file your tax return, download any necessary forms, access your refund status, and use tools such as the interactive tax assistant.

- [Servicemembers Civil Relief Act](#)

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) protects Active Duty Servicemembers from certain civil actions in the areas of financial management. On the SCRA web site users can submit single or multiple record requests, download the user’s guide, and search FAQs for answers to questions.

- [Bankruptcy Basics – Servicemembers Civil Relief Act](#)

Details the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) as it relates to Servicemembers and bankruptcy.

- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau – Ask CFPB](#)

Containing frequently asked financial questions broken up into various categories, including auto loans, credit cards, mortgages, prepaid cards, and student loans, it also has a means of searching for a question and filtering the results.

- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#)

Providing information consumers need to understand the terms of their agreements with financial institutions. Newly proposed Loan Estimates and Closing Disclosures explain in a simple and understandable manner how all those numbers impact your payments down the road.

- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau – Information for Servicemembers](#)

Financial information specific to Servicemembers, which focuses on planning for the future and protecting finances.

- [Federal Trade Commission](#)

A “Money Matters” section tackles money issues regarding scams, credit cards, housing, employment, managing money, and dealing with debt and offers Public Service Announcements in MP3 format.

- [Federal Trade Commission – Medical Identity Theft](#)

Providing information on protecting yourself from medical identity theft and what to do if you suspect you are a victim of medical identity theft, the web site includes a checklist for correcting errors in medical records.

- [Federal Trade Commission – Identity Theft](#)

Providing links to detailed information on what to do in the event of identity theft, types of identity theft, and how to protect your identity.

- [Federal Tax Withholding Calculator](#)

A calculator to see how much Federal income tax should be withheld from your monthly payment.

- ["What is FICA?" - An article from CNN Money](#)

This article covered basic information about the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax.

Credit Reports

- [AnnualCreditReport.com](#)

Allowing users to request a free credit report once a year from each of the three nationwide consumer credit reporting companies.

- [myFICO.com](#)

myFICO.com provides education regarding credit reports and credit scores, as well as resources such as calculator tools and other products.

Car Buying

- [Consumer Reports – New Car Buying Advice](#)

Offering tips and best practices for new car buyers, topics include loans, dealerships, and trade-in.

- [Edmunds](#)

Providing links to articles about car buying, selling, or leasing; and a variety of related topics.

- [USA.gov – Car Tips](#)

A quick list of general car tips for anyone buying or leasing a vehicle.

- [NADA Guides](#)

Detailed advice on buying a vehicle from a dealer, broken down into seven different steps, takes you from Step 1: Find Your Car to Step 7: Negotiate the Deal.

- [Kelley Blue Book](#)

A tool for determining how much your car is worth or how much you should pay for a new car that breaks down car value by make, model, year, location, style, and options. The web site also has listings of cars that are for sale and car reviews.

- [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles – Used Car Buying Tips](#)

A guide to buying a used car from an individual, including details on what to look for in used cars, the best ways to shop online, and what must be done after the car is purchased.

- [Federal Trade Commission – Buying a Used Car](#)

Consumer information on buying a used car that covers information on what to do before you buy, payment options, dealer sales, warranties, service contracts, pre-purchase independent inspection, private sales, and what to do if you have a problem.

- [Carfax](#)

Enables you to look up reports for used vehicles you may be considering buying, using the vehicle identification number or the license plate. Carfax reports can reveal things such as past accidents, service and repair information, and structural damage.

Mortgages

- [Know Your Options](#)

This housing site offers information on renting, buying, refinancing, and more. The site includes an “options finder” for avoiding foreclosure and multiple financial calculators to aid in your understanding of how different options work.

- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau – Mortgage Help](#)

Providing resources for free foreclosure help.

- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) web site offers information on home buying and avoiding foreclosure as well as featured news articles pertaining to mortgage and HUD housing. This site features information specific to each state and help for homeowners.

- [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Home Loans](#)

This site is part of the VA’s mission to help Service members, Veterans, and eligible surviving spouses become homeowners by providing eligibility information, descriptions of benefits, and applications. Resources such as Benefits A-Z, Fact Sheets, and Educational Videos make learning about VA home loans easy.

- [Making Home Affordable](#)

Providing options available to those who may be struggling to stay in their homes with programs specific to individual needs (e.g., if you have a second mortgage, or if the value of your home has fallen). The web site also contains informational videos and tips to avoid scams.

- [Freddie Mac](#)

Freddie Mac provides a constant source of mortgage funding for the nation’s housing markets – helping to make homeownership and rental housing more affordable for America’s families.

VA Benefits & Educational Benefits

- [GI Bill](#)

Taking advantage of the GI Bill is made easy with this site that allows you to choose a school, apply for benefits, and verify attendance.

- [Federal Student Aid](#)

This comprehensive web site lays out how to apply for aid, who can get aid, and how to prepare for college, making it easy to set prospective students on the road to success.

Other Financial Resources (Counseling, Assistance, Education)

- [Navy – Marine Corps Relief Society](#)

Department of the Navy personnel and their eligible family members can learn how to apply for interest- free loans or grants to help with emergency needs and gain financial self-sufficiency through budget reviews.

- [Military OneSource](#)

A military community web site offering chats, discussion boards and webinars focusing on every phase of military life in the “Social Media Hub” and blogs by military spouses in the “Blog Brigade.”

- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau – Ask CFPB](#)

Contains frequently asked financial questions broken up into various categories, including auto loans, credit cards, mortgages, prepaid cards, and student loans. The web page also allows you to search for a specific question and filter the results.

- [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation – Money Smart](#)

The Money Smart curriculum for young adults is a free program intended to teach youth from 12-20 how to handle their finances. The course is made up of eight instructor-led modules, which cover such topics as credit, checking accounts, and mortgages, and is structured so that almost anyone could teach it. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has also developed Money Smart courses for elementary school students, adults, older adults, and small businesses.

- [Jump\\$tart – Activities and Initiatives](#)

Providing a list of key Jump\$tart initiatives as well as external links to endeavors supported by Jump\$tart.

- [MoneyU](#)

MoneyU is an online game-based finance course targeted at teaching young adults ages 17 to 25 how best to handle their finances. The game is interactive and includes calculators and widgets that are useful in real-life financial situations.

- [Military.com](#)

Military.com's free membership connects Service members, military families and veterans to all the benefits of Service, including transitioning, finances and VA benefits.

- [Kiplinger](#)

Kiplinger is a personal finance web site which provides information about all aspects of personal finance and business forecasting, including topics such as investing, taxes and retirement.

- [Sperling's Best Places](#)

Sperling's Best Places web site offers a detailed comparison of cities based upon a variety of factors specified by the user.

- [Retirement Living Information Center](#)

RetirementLiving.com is a convenient, easy-to-use resource designed to assist individuals in planning and making decisions about their retirement. The web site provides access to an array of resource materials, including reports on great places to retire, tax information on each state, monthly reports on new retirement communities, and a guide to state aging agencies.

- [Bankrate.com](#)

Bankrate.com provides free rate information to consumers on more than 300 financial products, including mortgages, credit cards, new and used automobile loans, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, checking and ATM fees, home equity loans and online banking fees. The web site includes online calculators.

Children's Financial Education

- [Kids.gov](#)

This web site offers children the chance to play and learn in a safe environment. It contains multiple categories including art, jobs, science, online safety, and history. The web site is broken into three sections: Kids grades K-5, Teens grades 6-8, and Educators.

- [The United States Mint –H.I.P. Pocket Change](#)

Created by the U.S. Mint, H.I.P. (or history in your pocket) pocket change makes learning about history, specifically coin history, fun and interesting with games; animations; clubs; and news.

Financial Education

- [FINRA Investor Education Foundation – Programs](#)

Programs include military financial readiness to prepare Servicemembers to manage their finances, outsmarting investment fraud, and an online money management game.

- [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation – Money Smart](#)

The Money Smart curriculum is a free program intended to increase financial skills and create positive banking experience. The curriculum is available in four primary formats: An instructor-led course for adults, an instructor led course for young adults, a self-paced computer based instruction for ages 13 and over, and a portable MP3 version.

- [Institute of Consumer Financial Education](#)

An online college course that allows you to learn the fundamentals of personal financial management and earn three credit hours at the same time, students can enroll at any time throughout the year, tuition assistance is available for active duty personnel.

- [Consumer.gov](#)

Offers guides on a variety of money-related topics, especially managing your money; credit, loans and debt; and scams and identity theft. The site allows users to search alphabetically by topic. Each guide is broken up into three tabs: What It Is, What To Know, and What To Do; is printable; and can also be listened to instead of read.

Assistance by Phone

Help Line: Thrift Line (1-TSP-YOU-FRST)

Credit Bureaus

Equifax: 1-877-576-5734

Experian: 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289