



Learn Tips and Tricks for Managing Your Money

SPEND, BORROW, SAVE AND INVEST WISELY

Financial security and mission readiness go hand in hand, so take advantage of available financial resources and services. Set up a meeting with an accredited [personal financial manager](#) or [counselor](#) at your Military and Family Support Center for no-cost guidance on spending, borrowing, saving and investing.



Spend

Protect your money through wise use of cards.

- ✔ Before getting a credit card, read the fine print to understand fees, interest rates and finance charges.
- ✔ Credit card purchases incur interest fees unless you pay your balance in full each month, so only charge what you know you can pay off.
- ✔ Debit cards connect directly to your bank account. Record each purchase and keep careful tabs on your balance.
- ✔ If a card is lost or stolen, report it to your card issuer as soon as possible.



Borrow

Protect your money from credit and loan missteps.

- ✔ Proceed with caution when considering a payday or cash advance loan. This type of loan often has high interest and fees.
- ✔ Be a smart student. Research all of your options, including benefits and loans, for financing your education.
- ✔ Monitor your credit. Review your credit report for accuracy each year. Request a free copy from AnnualCreditReport.com.
- ✔ Know your rights as a service member under the Military Lending Act and Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.



Save and Invest

Protect future income and reduce risk. Research when investing.

- ✔ Research investments – and the advisors who recommend them – using independent sources. Make sure you know what you are buying and what you are paying, now and in the future, before making a commitment.
- ✔ Know classic signs of fraud. Beware of investments if you receive pressure to invest or promises that you'll receive a high rate of return with low risk, "get rich quick" or "make money fast."



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