

Commander's Call Topics



February 27, 2014

"The hardest thing to understand in the world is the income tax."

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Theoretical physicist, Nobel Laureate

It isn't just about
accruing wealth.
Military Saves helps you
[maximize](#)
[the value of your tax refund, too.](#)

Imagining a Better Future Becomes a Reality with Military Saves

"In your dreams."

How many times has that phrase or one quite similar come to mind when the idea of spending money on a car, a home, or an education for one's children meets with the reality of one's buying power?

Ben Franklin told us that "A penny saved is a penny earned," but he neglected to tell us two things: how many pennies it would take to make a major purchase, and just exactly the best way to go about saving/earning that money.

This is Military Saves week, and it not only draws our attention to the importance of saving, it reminds us that saving for specific goals is not just about the "what" to save for, it's very much about the "how" to save. More importantly, for one week, it spotlights the [Military Saves](#) website where one can learn how to employ effective financial habits to last a lifetime.

Too often, the idea of saving sounds like going on a diet after the holidays, which is usually stressful and without much definition. There are just too many variables and no clear path to success. At the very best, a diet sounds like drudgery, and at its worst, a diet sounds like making up for every cookie and candy cane that was consumed.

By contrast, the Military Saves website, which runs year-round, coaches people through the process of reviewing one's finances, setting a goal and employing a system that allows one to save automatically. While it's not exactly a no-pain-no-gain situation, it's fairly painless, quite simple, and the ultimate pay-off is quantifiable. Moreover, there is an opportunity to seamlessly incorporate this savings plan into one's everyday life.

What one saves for is as important as the process. Actually, it's the first step in the process. At the Military Saves website, one can actually [Take the Pledge](#) to save. A self-guided activity, the Pledge helps the user identify the savings goal and provides an explanation of the tools and resources to achieve it. It's all personal choice. In the end, the saver makes a pledge to himself or herself, based on procedural preferences and ultimate goal. Unlike Mr. Franklin's "penny saved," Military Saves actually provides the road map to achieve a specific amount.

Military Saves. It's the stuff that dreams are made of.

► TRENDING...

"Taking care of people means to me recruiting, retaining and reshaping our force, so that we have the right people in the right jobs for the immediate future, as well as thinking ahead to the longer term," said [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James](#), Feb. 21, in a "state of the Air Force" address at the [30th annual Air Force Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition](#) in Orlando, Fla.

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Hagel outlines budget reducing troop strength, force structure](#)

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel explains the impact of spending cuts that prioritize the strategic interests of the U.S. in the face of reduced resources after more than a decade of war.

[CSAF: Taking care of Airmen, future roadmap key to AF success](#)

A forward-looking assessment of what it will take to streamline enlisted and officer professional educational programs, and the structural and systemic changes needed to provide top-performing Airmen with more expedient promotions were just a few of the topics discussed by [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) when he spoke in Orlando at the 30th annual Air Force Association Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition Feb. 19.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Academy officer takes the LEAD](#)

The Leaders Encouraging Airman Development is the commissioning program that takes Airmen from the ranks of the enlisted to being an officer. Second Lt. Abdulrazaq's story will inspire others to apply to LEAD.

► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

[Shelton announces new space situational awareness satellite program](#)

The importance of the relationship between space and cyberspace is at the heart of the Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program (GSSP).

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Feb. 27, 1971 - The Air Force launched Operation Haylift in response to blizzards in Kansas. Aircrews dropped 35,000 bales of hay for 275,000 cattle stranded in deep snow. The American Humane Society provided the Hay.

Feb. 28, 1946 - The XP-84 Thunderjet first flew at Edwards AFB. This was the last subsonic, straightwing fighter-bomber to see operational service.

March 1, 1963 - The Air Force achieved its first Advanced Ballistic Missile Reentry System launch from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla.

March 2, 1910 - Lt. Benjamin D. Foulois began solo flying at Fort Sam Houston. Foulois was the only pilot and only one with flying duty assigned to the Signal Corps at that time.

March 3, 1986 - TAC's first OT-37 Tweet replaced the Cessna O-2 aircraft at Shaw AFB.

March 4, 2002 - During Operation Anaconda, the Air Force experienced its first combat deaths since the 1991 Gulf War. Two airmen died in helicopter assaults near Gardez, Afghanistan.

March 5, 1985 - Through March 9, airlift crews flew 123 tons of food and medicine as part of four famine relief missions to Sudan, Niger, and Mali.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

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