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Isaac M. O'Bannon • Jul. 16, 2014

Most Americans may not think about federal income taxes in the middle of July, but being prepared for tax season while you can still do something about it is good way to be proactive.

For active and reserve members of the U.S. military, the Internal Revenue Service has released a list of tax tips that cover the tax issues and benefits specific to those in uniform.

1. **Deadline Extensions.** Some members of the military, such as those who serve in a combat zone, can postpone some tax deadlines. If this applies to you, you can get automatic extensions of time to file your tax return and to pay your taxes.
2. **Combat Pay Exclusion.** If you serve in a combat zone, certain combat pay you get is not taxable. You won't need to show the pay on your tax return because combat pay isn't included in the wages reported on your Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement. Service in support of a combat zone may qualify for this exclusion.
3. **Earned Income Tax Credit.** If you get nontaxable combat pay, you may choose to include it to figure your EITC. You would make this choice if it increases your credit. Even if you do, the combat pay stays nontaxable.
4. **Moving Expense Deduction.** You might be able to deduct some of your unreimbursed moving costs. This applies if the move is because of a permanent change of station.
5. **Uniform Deduction.** You can deduct the costs of certain uniforms that regulations prohibit you from wearing while off duty. This includes the costs of purchase and upkeep. You must reduce your deduction by any allowance you get for these costs.

6. **Signing Joint Returns.** Both spouses normally must sign a joint income tax return.

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- advanced camp, is considered a service and the payments to ROTC students in advanced training are not taxable. This applies to educational and subsistence allowances.
9. **Civilian Life.** If you leave the military and look for work, you may be able to deduct some job hunting expenses.
0. **Tax Help.** Most military bases offer free tax preparation and filing assistance during the tax filing season. Some also offer free tax help after April 15.

More information is available on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) or by meeting with a tax professional, such as an Enrolled Agent or a CPA.

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