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and reserve military and their families are eligible for special tax benefits that can ease the filing process.

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As the July 15 tax filing season deadline approaches, members of the active duty and reserve military and their families are eligible for special tax benefits that can ease the filing process.

Most military bases offer [free tax preparation](#) and filing assistance during the tax filing season. Some also offer free tax help after the July tax filing deadline. Some of these programs may be impacted by the current COVID-19 so it's best to check first.

Service members who prepare their own tax return qualify to e-file their federal

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payment and return filing deadlines for military personnel and their families. We encourage them to visit our website. We are also very proud of the many veterans employed by and part of the IRS team.”

IRS [Publication 3](#), Armed Forces Tax Guide, is a free booklet filled with valuable information and tips designed to help service members and their families take advantage of all the [tax benefits](#) allowed by law. Several key benefits are outlined below.

- [Combat pay](#) is partially or fully tax-free. Service members serving in support of a combat zone or in a qualified hazardous duty area may also qualify for this exclusion. In addition, U.S. citizens or resident aliens, such as spouses, that worked as contractors or employees of contractors supporting the U.S. Armed Forces in designated combat zones, may now qualify for the [foreign earned income exclusion](#).
- Members of the military who serve or have served in a combat zone or in contingency operations outside the United States, [may qualify for an extension of at least 180 days](#) to file and pay their taxes.
- The [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) is worth up to \$6,660. Low- and moderate-income service members who receive nontaxable combat pay can use a [special computation method](#) that may boost the EITC, meaning they may owe less tax or get a larger refund.

A service member and their spouse **can each choose** to have their nontaxable combat pay included in their earned income for purposes of the EITC. Service members are encouraged to select the option that best benefits them.

- Those who served in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt may qualify for combat zone tax benefits [retroactive](#) to June 2015. Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) members

of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard who

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Both spouses normally must sign a joint income tax return, but if one spouse is absent due to certain military duty or conditions, the other spouse may be able to sign for him or her. A [power of attorney](#) is required in other instances. A military installation's legal office may be able to help.

The IRS has a special page on [IRS.gov](#) with [Tax Information for Members of the U.S. Armed Forces](#)

Benefits

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