



A financial roadmap for veterans entering civilian life

The transition from military to civilian life brings countless adjustments. It also marks a good time to review how you're taking charge of your financial future. Veteran Saves Week is Nov. 4-7 and an opportunity to focus on building financial confidence and creating a solid foundation for your new chapter.

Now in its second year, Veteran Saves Week centers around one core message: No matter where you are on your financial journey, small steps can lead to lasting change. Here are a few tips to help:

Understand the financial shift. If you've recently re-entered civilian life, it's important to identify any gaps between your income and expenses. A key part of this gap often comes from the loss of military allowances, such as the Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Subsistence. You may also lose commissary and exchange privileges where groceries and goods were purchased tax-free.

Health benefits represent another shift. While you received health care through TRICARE on active duty, you might be eligible for TRICARE for Life and Veterans Administration benefits, but you may still need to supplement this coverage with a group health care plan from your employer or purchase it independently.

Build a budget. Getting a clear picture of your finances helps you make informed decisions. Look at your monthly income, expenses and savings to understand your starting point.

One strategy you may find useful is the 50/30/20 rule. With this, you divide your monthly take-home pay into three parts: 50% for needs