

FINANCIAL FIELD MANUAL FOR U.S. SERVICEMEMBERS & FAMILIES AVAILABLE FROM INVESTOR PROTECTION TRUST/INVESTOR PROTECTION INSTITUTE

The free, up-to-date Kiplinger Guide includes critical information for those who joined the military between 2006 and 2017.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – February 26, 2018 – The latest edition of *Kiplinger's Financial Field Manual: A Personal Finance Guide For Military Families* is now available. It includes valuable information for those who joined the military in the dozen years leading up to 2018 and who face the challenge of choosing between two retirement systems. The free guide, which is also designed to serve any current or former member of the U.S. military, is made possible by the Investor Protection Trust (IPT) and the Investor Protection Institute (IPI) and a number of state securities agencies.

This important resource for military families is available online at: www.investorprotection.org/learn-about-investing/?fa=military. Also available is a complementary PowerPoint presentation for financial educators who would like to use the *Financial Field Manual* as a teaching tool and as part of Military Saves Week, February 26-March 3, 2018. For print copies, contact your [State Securities Administrator's Office](#) or IPT.

What's new in the latest edition of the guide? Men and women who join the armed forces beginning in 2006 through the end of 2017 face a new challenge: Whether to stick with the retirement system that's been in place for decades or choose a new, blended plan that includes both a pension and matching contributions to the government's Thrift Savings Plan. Those who join the military in 2018 or later will automatically go into the blended retirement system.

To help those who must make the choice, the guide includes a special section about the new retirement plan. Other sections help military members and their families make the most of the special financial benefits open to them, including tax breaks, low-cost investments, legal protections, education opportunities and insurance programs.

"The latest edition of the *Financial Field Manual* is a powerful weapon in the fight for financial security for the men and women who serve in the military," said Knight A. Kiplinger, editor in chief, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine and Kiplinger.com. **"We know they confront unique, often complex financial challenges. We want to help take advantage of the valuable benefits and investing opportunities available to them."**

Don Blandin, president and CEO of Investor Protection Trust and the Investor Protection Institute, called attention to the *Field Manual's* warnings about financial fraud. **"While members of the military have access to some very valuable benefits, they also find themselves singled out by unscrupulous swindlers who target and then prey on active and retired military personnel. Our step-by-step guide makes it very clear what military families should do...and what they should avoid."**

The *Financial Field Manual* is authored by long-time *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* columnist and Contributing Editor Kim Lankford, who has years of pertinent first-hand experience as a military spouse. **"As a military family for 21 years, we had access to special programs and benefits that financial publications rarely write about. I'm happy to share the strategies and resources that helped us make the most of these opportunities to build financial security, prepare for three deployments, and make the transition to civilian life. And it's especially timely now that servicemembers have to make important decisions about the new retirement program."**

The following topics are covered in-depth by the manual:

- *Investing In Your Future: Make the Most of Special Savings Plans and New Rules*
- *Your Military Benefits: Discover all the Advantages and Protections to Which You're Entitled*
- *Before and After Deployment: Take Smart Steps to Protect Your Family and Your Finances*
- *Buying and Selling a Home: Benefit From Special Perks and Resources to Ease Military Moves*
- *Financial Fraud Watch: Protect Yourself From Scams That Target Service members*
- *Leaving the Military: Plan A Smooth Return to Civilian Life With This Checklist*
- *Financial Resources for Military Families*

ABOUT THE GROUPS

The Investor Protection Trust is a nonprofit organization devoted to investor education. More than half of all Americans are now invested in the securities markets, making investor education and protection vitally important. Since 1993 the Investor Protection Trust has worked with the states and at the national level to provide the independent, objective

investor education needed by all Americans to make informed investment decisions. The Investor Protection Trust strives to keep all Americans on the right money track. Become a fan of IPT on [Facebook](#) or investorprotection.org and follow IPT on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

The Investor Protection Institute is an independent nonprofit organization that advances investor protection by conducting and supporting unbiased research and groundbreaking education programs. IPI carries out its mission through investor education, protection and research programs delivered at both the national and grassroots level in collaboration with state securities regulators and other strategic partners. IPI is dedicated to providing innovative investor-protection programs that will make a meaningful difference in the financial lives of Americans in all walks of life and at all levels of sophistication about financial matters. Become a fan of IPI on [Facebook](#) or invest.org and follow IPI on [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

For nearly a century, the Kiplinger organization has led the way in personal finance and business forecasting. Founded in 1920 by W.M. Kiplinger, the company developed one of the nation's first successful newsletters in modern times. *The Kiplinger Letter*, launched in 1923, remains the longest continuously published newsletter in the United States. In 1947, Kiplinger created the nation's first personal finance magazine. Kiplinger.com is the fastest growing Web site in the personal finance space. Located in the heart of our nation's capital, the Kiplinger editors remain dedicated to delivering sound, unbiased advice for your family and your business in clear, concise language. Become a fan of Kiplinger on [Facebook](#) or Kiplinger.com and follow Kiplinger on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Tumblr](#).

MEDIA CONTACTS: Don Blandin, for IPT/IPI, 202-775-2113 or blandin@investorprotection.org; and Kailey McGarvey for Kiplinger, 646-695-7046 or kailey@rosengrouppr.com.