



FINANCIAL WARNING SIGNS AND MILITARY RISK FACTORS

★ FINANCIAL PROBLEMS?

Military members tend to have increased financial management issues for a number of reasons including age and military lifestyle. Sailors tend to move away from home and their support system at a younger age than the general population. Deployments, frequent moves, the high cost of living at many military locations, and difficulties maintaining spouse employment can increase financial challenges for Sailors and their families. Easy access to credit at a young age — without an understanding of how to manage it — can also factor into financial problems.

★ WARNING SIGNS

There may be a risk for financial problems if you or your Sailors are experiencing any of the issues below. A meeting with a Command Financial Specialist (CFS) or Personal Financial Manager (PFM) can help create a plan to address issues before things get out of hand. Here are possible warning signs to watch for and their potential consequences:

- Unable to pay bills
- Unable to afford car
- Bounced checks
- Spouse lost job
- Divorce/separation
- Not enough money
- No emergency fund
- Over your head in debt
- Facing foreclosure
- Can't sell your home
- Need to start saving and investing

CONSEQUENCES

MILITARY

- Negative evaluations
- Loss of promotion
- Loss of overseas transfer
- Loss of security clearance
- Reduction in rank
- Nonjudicial Punishment (NJP)
- Administrative discharge

FINANCIAL

- Overdraft fees
- Denied credit
- Bad credit report
- Low credit score
- Repossession
- Foreclosure
- Bankruptcy

★ WHERE TO TURN

There's good news! The top three resources available to help improve personal financial management and overcome financial challenges are:

1. **Command Financial Specialist (CFS)** — A first-line-of-defense peer who's trained to meet you where you are and provide guidance to help you overcome financial issues.
2. **Personal Financial Manager (PFM)** — A professional counselor/educator on your installation (Fleet and Family Support Center) who provides FREE, confidential financial counseling, education, and information and referral. They assist with a number of issues including setting financial goals, creating a spending plan, major purchases, and dealing with debt or credit concerns.
3. **Military Relief Societies** — These nonprofit organizations help to provide interest-free loans and educational assistance to members of the service, eligible family members, and survivors in need. Visit the following links for more information:

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: www.nmcrs.org
Air Force Aid Society: www.afas.org

Army Emergency Relief: www.aerhq.org
Coast Guard Mutual Assistance: www.cgmahq.org