

Important Tax Information



If you either received a big refund or owed tax this year, call me, so I can help you adjust your payroll withholding.

Special Tax Benefits for Members of the Military



Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families may be eligible for special tax benefits. For federal tax purposes, this includes enlisted personnel in all regular and reserve units controlled by the Secretaries of Defense—the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy.

Armed Forces members can deduct unreimbursed travel expenses that are incurred while traveling away from home. If you are on a permanent duty assignment, your duty station is considered home. To be deductible, your travel expenses, including meals and lodging, must be work related. If you are a part of the Reserves, unreimbursed travel expenses for traveling more than 100 miles away from home to perform your reserve duties are eligible for a deduction. The standard mileage rate for 2013 is 56.5 cents.

Uniform purchase costs and future upkeep may also be deductible, but it depends on whether or not you can wear the uniform when off duty. If you are allowed to wear the uniform off duty, you cannot deduct any cost. However, if the uniform is prohibited from being worn off duty, you can deduct the cost associated with that particular uniform. The cost of articles not replacing regular clothing, including insignia of rank, corps devices, epaulets, aiguillettes and swords are also deductible.

Moving expenses have special rules that apply to active duty or their surviving spouses who move because of a permanent change of station. Armed Forces members don't have to meet the 50-mile distance and 39-week/79-week time requirements that other taxpayers have to meet. Deductible expenses include unreimbursed costs of moving, travel, storing and insuring household goods and personal items.

Non-military taxpayers can also be eligible for these tax deductions—unreimbursed travel expenses, uniform costs and moving expenses. However, taxpayers could have additional or different requirements to meet before being eligible to deduct the expenses on their tax return. Please let me know if you accumulate any of these expenses when we meet.

Did You Know?

The Sixteenth Amendment was ratified on February 3, 1913, and states: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration".

Quote Corner

No age or time of life, no position or circumstances, has a monopoly on success.
Any age is the right age to start doing!

~ Gerard