



Building awareness within communities of the concerns, needs, and everyday demands of Military life on Service Members and their Families

Impact on the Our Military's Operational Readiness

- **More than half** of all enlisted Service Members experience some type of financial difficulty
- Financial problems cost the Service a whopping **\$172 million annually** in lost productivity
- Financial difficulties of Service Members have a **greater impact on operational readiness** than housing, child care, or health care

Financial Challenges Faced by Service Members and Their Families

Financial impact of deployment includes...

- Loss of income
- Family moves
- Leave of absence from job
- Changes in lifestyle
- Shift of financial responsibilities
- Increased use of credit cards

Of 6,200 Service Members surveyed...

- 27% reported trouble paying bills
- 21% had received pressure from bill collectors
- 19% had trouble making ends meet
- 9% had pawned valuables
- 4% were delinquent on rent or mortgage
- 4% reported "serious" difficulties, such as repossession or bankruptcy

"[The Defense Department] is looking for opportunities [to] support our Service Members. Anything that will help a Service Member to do their job better and feel more prepared for their duty in taking care of their finances is certainly beneficial. The most important thing we can do is to educate Service Members and their Families, make them aware of things that may be a problem, [and] make them aware of how to deal with transactions."

Marcus Beauregard

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