

CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA

AND

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

I. Purpose and Basis for Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a partnership between the Consumer Federation of America and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy). The partnership allows, under conditions outlined in this MOU, major military installations throughout the Department of Defense (DoD) to use the Consumer Federation of America's America Saves program and materials as part of the DoD campaign to improve the financial literacy of Service members and their families.

The purpose of the DoD financial education initiative is to assist Service men and women and their immediate family members in their efforts to build personal wealth through reducing debt and establishing savings goals. Building wealth affords Service members and their families an opportunity to achieve goals such as maintaining an emergency cash reserve, buying a house, or paying for college.

II. Consumer Federation of America (CFA)

The Consumer Federation of America, a nonprofit association of nearly 300 pro-consumer groups that, since 1968, has sought to advance interests of the consumer through education and advocacy.

III. Description of the America Saves Program

The America Saves program is a financial education/assistance program that uses a social marketing approach similar to health and safety campaigns that have been used to persuade people to buckle their seat belts and not to drink before driving. It combines an information campaign with individual and small group education and personalized assistance to persuade individuals to select savings goals, develop simple plans, and stay motivated to achieve them. America Saves began as collaboration between the Consumer Federation of America Foundation (CFA) and The Ford Foundation.

IV. Department of Defense

The DoD represents over 2 million active duty and reserve Service members in three military departments - Army, Navy and Air Force. As part of its Social Compact with Service members and their families to care for their quality of life, DoD provides personal financial management education and training to prepare them for their changing financial needs. Enlisted Service members receive the bulk of their basic financial education during the first 18 months of service. Follow-on programs that include family members are provided at military installations to fulfill local educational requirements.

Personal financial management is also seen as an integral part of personal readiness to accomplish the DoD mission. Poor money management skills may cause a Service member more than financial problems, and may also interfere with his or her ability to focus on the mission of defending the nation's interests.

V. Responsibilities

The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy) and the Consumer Federation of America agree to the following actions for the **America Saves** Campaign within the DoD:

Responsibilities of the CFA

- A. CFA will provide DoD support materials as needed for selected military installations to implement the **America Saves** Campaign.
- B. CFA will print the name of the Service as part of its **America Saves** materials at no cost.
- C. CFA will inform or invite the DoD to **America Saves** events, training opportunities, programs, etc., which would benefit the partnership.
- D. CFA will provide coaching assistance, wherever possible, to train installation-level personal financial management specialists.
- E. CFA will provide, where possible, speakers for financial literacy events hosted at military installations.

Responsibilities of the DoD

- A. DoD, through the military Services, will select installations to use CFA's **America Saves** program that will assist Service members and their family members in setting and achieving financial goals to eliminate debt and establish savings.
- B. DoD, through the military Services, will provide Personal Financial Managers as installation PoCs to develop and deliver the local program and organize installation-level resources to deliver the program.

VI. Amendment

The MOU will be reviewed annually, and may be amended as agreed to in writing by both parties.

VII. Effective Date and Termination

The MOU shall become effective upon the signature of the authorized officials of the respective parties. It shall remain in effect until terminated by mutual agreement or 60 days advance written notice by either party.

VIII. Limitation

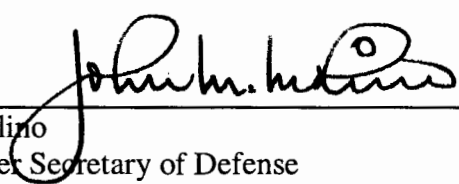
This document is a Memorandum of Understanding only. It is entered into only as a declaration of present intent. Nothing herein shall be construed as a legally binding commitment of any part or parties hereto either individually or collectively. This MOU does not create any rights either on the part of any party hereto or any third party. Any provision of this MOU that conflicts with federal law will be null and void.

IX. Points of Contact (POC)

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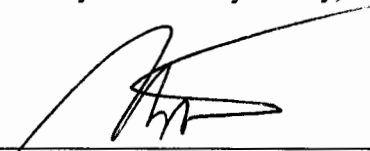
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X. Signatures:



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Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
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