

February 2010

Aviano A&FRC Newsletter



**Airman & Family
Readiness Center**
0434-30-5407

The Air Force recruits Airmen and retains families. The intent of this newsletter is to keep the military community abreast of the ever-changing issues and build a sense of community; comments are welcome.

Save the Date Events and Classes

- Feb 2nd: Bundles for Babies from 9:00 AM to 12:00PM at the Community Center (Area 1)
- Feb 3rd: Spouse Start from 8:00 to 12:30 PM at the Buon Appetito Dining Facility (Area 2)
- Feb 5th & 26th: S.O.C.K.S. Orientation from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- Feb 9th-11th: Transition Assistance Program Workshop from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Feb 12th: Volunteer Orientation from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM
- Feb 16th: Employment Class from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Feb 22nd: Building Your Financial Foundation from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Feb 23rd: Improving Your Credit Score from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Feb 23rd: Spouse It Up from 10:30 to 1:00 PM at the Community Center (Area 1)
- Feb 24th: Identity Theft from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Feb 25th: U. S. Home Buyers Seminar from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM
- Feb 26th: Basic Investing from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Do you use credit cards???



The Federal Reserve Board has announced new rules to protect consumers who use credit cards from a number of costly practices. Credit card issuers must comply with most aspects of the rules beginning on February 22. Among other things, the rule will:

- Protect consumers from unexpected increases in credit card interest rates by generally prohibiting increases in a rate during the first year after an account is opened and increases in a rate that applies to an existing credit card balance.
 - Prohibit creditors from issuing a credit card to a consumer who is younger than the age of 21 unless the consumer has the ability to make the required payments or obtains the signature of a parent or other cosigner with the ability to do so.
 - Require creditors to obtain a consumer's consent before charging fees for transactions that exceed the credit limit.
 - Limit the high fees associated with subprime credit cards.
 - Ban creditors from using the "two-cycle" billing method to impose interest charges.
 - Prohibit creditors from allocating payments in ways that maximize interest charges.
- For more information about the new rules, including the official press release, visit <http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/press/bcreg/20100112a.htm>.

Buying a Home in the U.S.?



The Airman & Family Readiness Center is pleased to announce the next U.S. Home Buyers Seminar. This seminar will cover a variety of issues dealing with buying a home in the U.S. including renting versus buying, loan types, choosing a realtor, home inspections, liabilities and much more! Call the A&FRC for more information.



Military Saves Campaign

The 2010 Military Saves Week Campaign will take place from 21-28 February. Financial stability is about a lot more than knowledge -- it takes consistent action over time. The Campaign theme is "Start Small. Think Big." Starting small can produce BIG results...saving money, reducing debt, building a saving community. So whether you're a military member, family member, U.S. civil servant or contractor, you are invited to become a Military Saver. The A&FRC has collaborated with the military banking facilities, AFN and PA to get the word out and provide assistance in the areas of personal finance. As Military Saves Week approaches, look for details from these sources, as well as the Key Spouse network, for various events that have been planned. For more information on the campaign, to learn how to enroll or to make a pledge and become a "Military Saver" go to <http://www.militarysaves.org>.

Year of the Air Force
Family



SOCKS

(Spouse On-line Computer, Knowledge, and Skills)



The Airman & Family Readiness Center is now offering spouses of active duty military, spouses of DoD civilians, and spouses of DoDDS personnel virtual computerized training that will

allow them to acquire basic through advanced skills to enhance their career opportunities at no cost!! There are currently 250+ courses to choose from, but a limited number of slots are available. Please call the A&FRC for more information.

Free Tax Filing Services



Military One Source is again offering H&R TaxCut (basic version) for all military members. Additionally, Military OneSource tax consultants are available by

phone by calling **1-800-730-3802** to schedule an appointment or by e-mail to help you with personal tax-related questions and financial planning. To access this tax filing software you will need to have an account through Military One Source www.militaryonesource.com.