

# Troops Get Some Income Tax Relief for Combat Zone Service

Military members serving in designated combat zones in support of the war against global terrorism will get a tax break.

Depending upon rank, eligible service members can exclude from federal income tax, either all or part of their active-duty pay - and certain other pays - earned while serving in a designated combat zone.

A combat zone is defined as any area the President of the United States designates by Executive Order as an area in which the U.S. Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat.

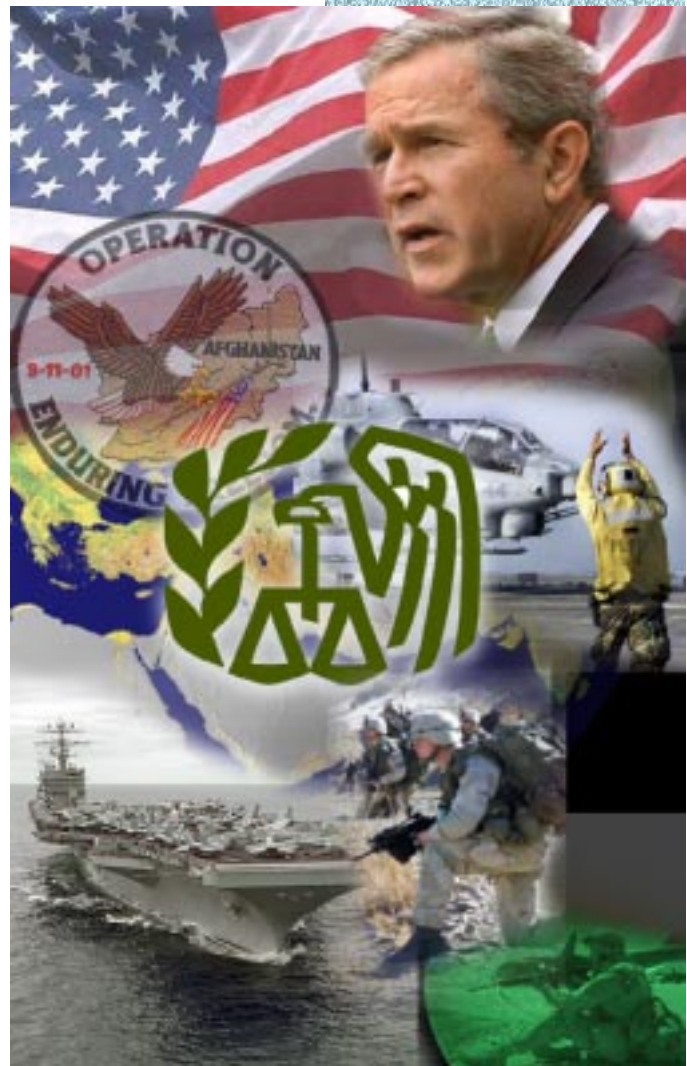
Current combat zones are Afghanistan, specified parts of the Kosovo area and the Arabian Gulf region. The tax guide defines the qualifying areas.

Servicemembers in several other areas specified as "qualified hazardous duty areas" are eligible for the same tax breaks. Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Croatia have been listed since November 1995. Those who serve one or more days in a designated combat zone get federal tax exclusion benefits for that entire month.

Those who have specific questions about designated combat zones should contact their unit personnel or pay officials.

The downloadable Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2002 can be accessed at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf).

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