**DoD Educates Military Spouses on BRS**

National News Release

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FINANCIAL READINESS VIDEOS EDUCATE MILITARY SPOUSES ON NEW RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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WASHINGTON ‒ The Department of Defense (DoD) continues to educate Uniformed Services spouses on the new Blended Retirement System (BRS). For those eligible to opt into BRS, the decision may not be easy to make, and Service members are encouraged to discuss factors for consideration with their spouse or partner before making this irrevocable decision. For Service members who decide to opt into BRS or enter the Uniformed Services after January 1, 2018 and are automatically enrolled into BRS, understanding the components of the BRS is important to maximizing the benefits to help meet personal financial goals.

“The DoD is committed to educating Service members and their families on the Blended Retirement system in order to make the best financial decisions for their future.” said Fred Drummond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Education and Training). “It’s important for families to consider multiple factors such as how long the Service member plans to stay in the military, what the family’s overall retirement goal may be and what lifestyle choices may need to change to meet these goals.”

To increase awareness and understanding of the BRS components along with available resources, the DoD created a series of three videos to provide spouses an understanding of the components of BRS, “Your Retirement System”, “TSP: What’s It All About”, and “Navigating Your Way to a Secure Financial Future”. The educational series can be found [online](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUSALdt2fx8Sq0PPudJezfLnugl2TV9A1) from the Office of Financial Readiness.

Service members and families are encouraged to watch the video series, take the [BRS training](http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/) and meet with an accredited Personal Financial Manager or Counselor for free financial counseling at their [local installation’s](http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil/MOS/f?p=MI:ENTRY:0) Military and Family Support Center or through [Military OneSource](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/).

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