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KEEPING IT LEGAL

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The 2022 tax season kicked off on January 23, 2023, and the deadline this year will be **April 18, 2023.** Members of the military can prepare and efile their taxes for free through MilTax. Here are some helpful tips in case you are still in the category of people who need to file your individual income tax returns.

1. Have the right information before you file. Ensuring you have proper social security numbers for children and

TAX SEASON IS IN Full Swing

spouses is important when claiming them on your taxes. Most income is taxable and you should make sure you are reporting the correct amount on your tax return to avoid processing delays or the need to file an amended return.

2. Electronically filing and choosing direct deposit is the most efficient way to receive your refund. The IRS website encourages people to avoid filing paper returns wherever possible. If you need to check the status of a tax return, you can visit the IRS.gov website to do so.

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3. There are extensions for filing tax returns if you are serving in a combat zone. In general, the deadline extension is 180 days after the service members last day in a combat zone. During the extension, assessment and collection deadlines are extended and no interest is charged or penalties accrued during the extension period.

As always, call our office if you have any questions concerning this topic.

Your Local JA office is here to help.

Legal Assistance Hours Monday—Thursday 0900-1530 (910)394-2341.

We provide notaries, powers of attorney, and attorney consultation.

For after-house emergencies, call the Command (910)394-9000 to reach the on-call JAG.

Ethics Corner

You may be exempt from paying state income tax due to your status as a service member. However, if you hold an off-duty job, that income is still taxable under NC law. Similarly, income received from an NC source attributable to the ownership of any real property in NC is also subject to NC income tax. An example of this would be a rental property in NC, even if you are stationed elsewhere. It is important to ensure you are properly filing both federal and states taxes as it could negatively affect your security clearance and ultimately your career.

This paper is for general legal education and should not be substituted for legal advice.