



Filing While Deployed or Overseas

When you're **deployed or stationed overseas**, you generally **must still file a U.S. tax return** each year if your income exceeds the filing threshold. But good news: You may qualify for **automatic filing extensions** or special provisions under the tax code.

Automatic Extension for Combat Zones

If you're serving in a **combat zone**, you automatically get:

- **180 days** after leaving the combat zone to file and pay your taxes.
 - **Additional time** equal to any days you had left on your filing deadline when you entered the combat zone.
 - This extension applies to both tax filing and payment without penalties or interest.
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Stationed Abroad (But Not in Combat)

If you're stationed **outside the U.S. but not in a combat zone**, you get an **automatic 2-month extension** to file your return:

- No need to file a form — it's automatic.
 - Taxes are still **due by April 15**, and interest may accrue on unpaid balances.
 - To request an extension beyond June 15, you can file [IRS Form 4868](#).
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Can I Use the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion (FEIE)?

It depends on your situation:

- **Military pay earned in a combat zone is already excluded** from income.
 - If you're stationed abroad as a **civilian spouse or contractor**, you may qualify for the **FEIE** — see [our guide](#) on that topic.
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Electronic Filing & Access

- Use [IRS Free File](#) (if eligible) or commercial tax software.
 - Many military families qualify for **free tax support** through **MilTax** or **VITA** programs on base.
 - For personalized guidance or more complex returns, you can also e-file securely with a private tax preparer (**like us!**)
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Need Help?

Whether you're filing from a forward operating base or a foreign country, we can help you:

- Claim your **combat zone extension**
- File with **state and federal accuracy**
- Navigate **multi-country tax questions**

 [Book a Discovery Call](#) or  [Send a Message](#)

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