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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MILITARY SAVES WEEK IS FEB 23 – FEB 28

Department of Finance Co-Sponsors "Operation: Financial Freedom" at Gowen Field

The Idaho Department of Finance is pleased to participate in "Military Saves Week," which is February 23 through February 28, 2015. Gavin Gee, director of the Idaho Department of Finance said, "We are proud to be part of such an important program for military personnel. Idaho's Service members, Veterans and their families face many of the same financial issues as civilians in addition to the added stress of deployments and frequent changes of duty station."

Operation: Financial Freedom was held at Gowen Field Air Force Base on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, and was very well attended. The featured speaker at the event was Ms. Holly Petraeus, Assistant Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) who heads up the Office of Service Members Affairs. Her presentation focused on the resources available for military personnel and their families from the CFPB and she also participated in an informative question and answer session.

The Idaho Department of Finance joined with other Idaho Military Financial Alliance members to provide free financial education materials and answer questions from military personnel at the Financial Fair.

Gee, quoting a Department of Defense (DOD) study¹ said, "48 percent of enlisted Service members reported experiencing financial problems in the past 12 months, and the Department of Defense estimates that between 12 and 25 percent of enlisted Service members may face emergency financial short-falls." Military Saves Week, together with America Saves Week, encourages all Americans to save money, reduce debt and build wealth. Gee invites Idahoans to visit the America Saves website at www.AmericaSaves.org or the Military Saves website at <http://www.MilitarySaves.org> where you can assess the status of your savings, make a savings commitment and learn additional strategies to save.

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Consumers can obtain information about financial firms, professionals or products, as well as view more Department press releases and other information on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> or by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.

¹ DOD Report Enhancement of Protections on Consumer Credit for Members of the Armed Forces and Their Dependents, pages 16, 17