

New Exemption Available for Deployed Military Members

Recently passed legislation has provided for an additional property tax exemption for members of the military who were deployed in certain operations during 2010.

In announcing the new exemption, Bradford County Property Appraiser Jimmy Alvarez stated, "I am pleased to announce that an additional property tax exemption is now available for certain members of the military. In November 2010, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment known at the time as Amendment 2, which created this exemption. The recent passage of House Bill 1141 defined the exemption language and now makes the exemption available for the upcoming 2011 tax bills."

A service member who currently receives a homestead exemption on their primary residence may receive an additional tax savings with the passage of this new bill. The new exemption is available to service members who were deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn.

Proof of deployment, including dates, from the Veterans Administration or the service member's military branch is required. The new exemption is not a fixed amount like the homestead exemption. Rather, it is based on the number of days the service member was deployed. For example, if the service member was deployed half the year, the exemption would be 50 percent of the home's taxable value.

If you have questions about the exemption, you can contact the Property Appraiser's office at 966-6216. You can also download the application form from the Property Appraiser's website at www.BradfordAppraiser.com.