

# Troops can delay tax returns

The designation of the Persian Gulf as a combat zone triggers a number of federal and state tax relief provisions for taxpayers serving in Operation Desert Storm.

According to John Hummel, IRS district director in Detroit, members of the armed forces and support personnel in the Persian Gulf assigned

to Desert Storm will not have to file their 1990 federal income tax returns until at least 180 days after they depart from the Persian Gulf. No penalty or interest will be charged during this period on any tax due for 1990.

The Michigan Income Tax Act specifically states that military pay

is exempt. In addition, Gov. John Engler has announced that Michigan will follow the federal government's filing extensions.

However, if a Michigan military family is entitled to a state income tax refund, and a power of attorney was signed by the soldier, the spouse may file a joint return at any time.

IRS ALSO WILL suspend all tax return examinations and actions to collect any back taxes owed by these taxpayers for years prior to 1990 until at least 180 days after the taxpayers leave the combat zone. During this time no penalty or interest will be added to any tax due.

"These relief provisions not only apply to armed forces and support personnel serving in the Operation Desert Storm combat zone but also to their spouses," Hummel said.

Military pay received by enlisted personnel while serving in the combat zone is exempt from income tax. For commissioned officers, up to \$500 a month can be excluded from income. The exclusion generally includes amount received during periods of hospitalization resulting from injury or sickness suffered while serving in the combat zone.

In the event a member of the armed forces dies while serving in the combat zone, no tax is due for the year of death or any prior year in which the person served in the combat zone. In addition, any unpaid tax for years prior to service in the combat zone is forgiven.

The combat zone designation is effective Jan. 17, 1991, and covers Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, certain parts of the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

**TAXPAYERS, INCLUDING** spouses and others acting on behalf of a taxpayer in the Operation Desert Storm combat zone, should call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040 for additional information on federal tax matters. If they receive correspondence about any collection or audit matter covered by these relief provisions, they should contact IRS immediately so that the action may be suspended.

Military personnel who want more information about state taxes should call 1-800-487-7000.

# Look for full moon in Feb. 28th skies

New Moon is 12:32 p.m. on the 14th. The moon is located between the earth and the sun and is not visible. (If the moon were aligned exactly between the earth and the sun, we would see an eclipse of the sun.)

Look for the waxing (growing) crescent moon in the west on the evening of the 15th. The bright "star" 11 degrees above and to the south (left) of the moon is Venus. On the following night, the moon is six degrees above and to the west (right) of Venus. On the 17th the moon is 14 degrees directly above Venus.

Regulus (the star that was visible in the west before sunrise in early February) is at opposition on the 18th. It is opposite the sun as seen from the earth, will rise in the east northeast as the sun sets in the west southwest, be visible all night, and set as the sun rises in the morning.

Mars, Aldebaran, and the Pleiades form a large triangle, high in the south, on the evening of the 19th. Mars is eight degrees above Aldebaran. Watch as the moon joins this group in two days.

First Quarter moon is at 5:58 p.m. on Feb. 21. It has completed the first quarter of its orbit around the earth. The moon will be located between Mars and the Pleiades later in the evening. By the 22nd the moon has moved past Mars.

**WATCH THE MOON** move through the constellations of Gemini, Cancer, and Leo starting on the 24th. The moon forms a triangle with the stars Castor and Pollux in



skywatch  
**Raymond E. Bullock**

the constellation of Gemini. Castor is the star above Pollux. Each star represents a "hand" of one of the twins. On the 25th the moon is in Cancer, about three degrees above and to the right of Jupiter. (Good luck seeing the Beehive with the bright moon so close!) On the evening of the 26th the moon moves from Cancer into Leo. The moon is three degrees below and to the right of Regulus the lion's "heart" on the 27th.

Full Moon is at 1:25 p.m. on Feb. 28. The moon, still in Leo, is opposite the sun. It will rise in the east and be visible all night. Note Regulus, due east, 14 degrees above the moon.

An excellent aid for learning constellations and keeping up to date with the sky is the monthly "Sky Calendar." A one year subscription is \$6 and is available from Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 48824.

Raymond Bullock is former coordinator of the planetarium, and observatory at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills. He now works for a Troy firm which specializes in laser displays and effects.

## If you think they did a lot for your country, wait til you see what they can do for your living room.

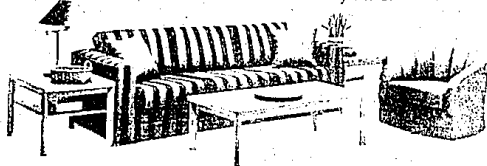
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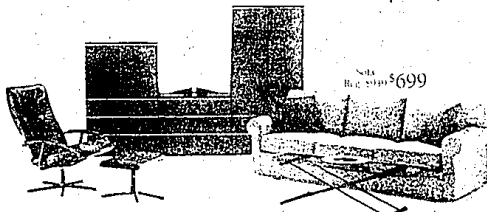
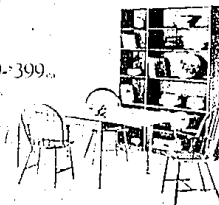
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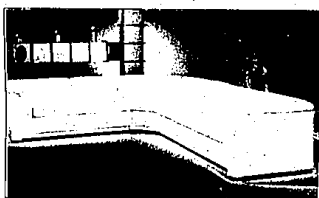
## County offers health classes

The Oakland County Health Division will offer a series of six blood pressure control classes on consecutive Wednesdays beginning Feb. 20. The classes will be 2-4 p.m. at the health division's south office at

27725 Greenfield Road in Southfield. The fee is \$10, with preregistration required by Friday, Feb. 15.

Additional information is available at 424-7090.

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MARK SCOTT 9am-12 noon  
RUSH LIMBAUGH 12 noon-3pm  
DAVID NEWMAN 3pm-5pm  
TOMMY McINTYRE 5pm-7pm  
BRUCE WILLIAMS 7pm-10pm  
NEIL MYERS 10pm-11pm  
LARRY KING 11pm-2am

### SATURDAY

On The GardenLine JERRY BAKER 6am-8am  
Ask The Handyman GLENN HAEGE 8am-12 noon  
Travel Talk KEN LAWRENCE 12 noon-3pm  
Health & Fitness DR. DEAN EDLII 3pm-7pm  
Money Matters THE DOLANS 7pm-10pm  
Personal Advice DR. HARVEY RUBIN 10pm-11pm  
JIM BOHANNON 11pm-5am

### SUNDAY

Ask The Handyman GLENN HAEGE 9am-12 noon  
Ask The Lawyer LARRY KORN 12 noon-3pm  
Money Talk RICK BOON 3pm-6pm  
Open Line Detroit MARIE KAHLER 6pm-9pm

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