

## **File Your Return Electronically**

This tax season military taxpayers can get speedier refunds through a free electronic filing program conducted by the Staff Judge Advocate's Office in cooperation with Unit Tax Advisors. Taxpayers who either have their returns prepared by a Unit Tax Advisor or who prepare their returns themselves may make an appointment with the Legal Assistance Office, Building 275, Plummer Street (phone 242-5083/5084) for filing their returns electronically.

Electronic filing simply involves the transmission of data on your return from a Legal Assistance computer to an IRS computer. The IRS acknowledges receipt of the return within two work days. You must fill out and sign IRS Form 8453, U.S. Individual Income Tax Declaration for Electronic Filing, to authorize the transmission. When filing jointly, both spouses must sign the form.

Electronic filing generates the mailing of an IRS refund check within three weeks or a direct deposit to your bank account within three weeks. You authorize a direct deposit by writing your savings or checking account number and the "routing transit number" of your bank on Form 8453. The routing transit number is the electronic mailing address of your bank and directs the refund to the right account. The number is on your checks or other account statements. Before naming a bank, ensure that it accepts direct deposits and what if any conditions must be met for it to receive a deposit.