

# Scams that Target the Military

## Active Service Members and Veterans



### Additional Scams to Watch Out For

#### **“Paying for Free Services” Scams:**

Scammers posing as government officials or financial advisors contact veterans, informing them that they can assist in “maximizing a veteran’s benefits.” They then charge excessive fees without providing any actual assistance or charge a veteran for free services, such as information on actual benefits, benefits forms, or military records. These scammers may pose as veterans or even government officials responsible for military benefits.

**Tip:** Search for Veterans Affairs accredited representatives at: [www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp)

**Discount Scams:** Fraudsters are posting online various discounts available to either active duty service members or veterans on a variety of items, ranging from loans to vehicles. These scams may offer very low interest rates or significant discounts

from market prices. However, the fraudsters require a significant upfront payment or significant fees to take advantage of such deals, which in actuality, do not actually exist.

**Tip:** Beware of discounts that appear to be “too good to be true.” Often, these discounts are not real. Make sure you are dealing with a reputable business or dealer before sending money.

**Fake Jobs Scams:** Trying to take advantage of military service veterans looking for employment, scammers posing as government contractors or employment agencies have sent emails or made phone calls in order to “recruit” these former service members. These scammers may send official looking correspondence or emails or direct the victim to a website that appears to be professional, in order to dupe their victim. These scammers will often then ask for an upfront fee or try to obtain personal information from the victim.

**Tip:** Be careful of unsolicited emails or phone calls offering unusual or lucrative opportunities. Beware of the danger of identity theft. Do not provide your personal information.



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