

# Scams that Target the Military

## Active Service Members and Veterans



### “Military” Scams Targeting the General Public

#### **Funds for Service Members Scams:**

Potential victims have been getting contacted by email from supposed members of the military or members of military families who need money for a variety of things, ranging from funds for a “secure phone line” to travel expenses for a service member arriving home after a deployment. Sometimes these fraudsters may provide a fake copy of a military identification card or make claims to be a member of a Special Forces team who needs to keep personal information secret.

**Tip:** *Do not give personal information or send money to someone who contacts you by phone or email that you do not personally know.*

**Online Dating Scams:** On online dating sites, there have been an increasing amount of fraudsters posing as members of the military deployed overseas, specifically in Afghanistan and other locations relating to terrorism, seeking to enter online relationships with unsuspecting victims. After entering an online relationship, these scammers then begin asking for money for various things, ranging from the purchase of items to funds for transportation to visit while on leave or post-deployment.

**Tip:** *Be suspicious of anyone who you interact with online who starts asking for money. Be aware that photographs or descriptions on online dating sites may not be real.*

**Charities Scams:** Many fraudsters are

attempting to take advantage of the good will of individuals seeking to help veterans and active service members and their families. These fraudsters are posing as representatives of charities, at times impersonating legitimate charities by slightly modifying the charity name or using a similar logo.

**Tip:** *Verify the legitimacy of a charity before you give by contacting the Division of Consumer Affairs at the website or phone number listed below.*

**Saddam Hussein/Osama Bin Laden Hidden Fortune Scam:** This variation of the “Nigerian Prince” advance-fee scam involves fraudsters posing as service members fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan, or other locations in the Middle East, who have supposedly located a fortune hidden away by Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden. These fraudsters then ask for money that they need to either arrange for transport of the fortune or to bribe corrupt government officials, in exchange for a portion of this supposed fortune.

**Tip:** *Use your common sense to think through whether fantastic claims about lost and recovered fortunes are actually true.*



**800-242-5846**  
**[NJConsumerAffairs.gov/military](http://NJConsumerAffairs.gov/military)**