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Sign over a portion of your VA benefits? Nope, it's a scam

BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Whether you served for four, ten, or twenty years, veterans pension and disability benefits might be an important — often essential — part of your life after the military. That's why scammers call, email, or message to "help" you apply for them. But what they're really after is your money. These "advisors" make promises they can't keep and charge filing fees for services that are always free through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Spot scams during the VA benefits claims process to avoid them.

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2024 BBB Scam TrackerSM **Risk Report**

2024 BBB Scam TrackerSM Risk Report is now available
BY BBB INSTITUTE FOR MARKETPLACE TRUST

BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust released its annual Scam Tracker Risk report this month. The 2024 report looks at the riskiest scam types for consumers, how scams are perpetrated, and the impact on those who have experienced scams. The report also includes information about how scams target and impact military consumers.

Military consumers who self-identified as being active-duty military personnel, military spouses, or veterans submitted 9.8% of all reports to BBB Scam Tracker in 2024. Military consumers reported higher median financial losses (\$165) than non-military consumers (\$126). A slightly higher percentage of non-military consumers (44.5%) than military consumers (43.5%) reported losing money when targeted by a scam.

HIGHLIGHTS

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)



BBB tip: How to choose a tax preparer

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

In the United States, taxpayers must file their income tax forms this year before the April 15, 2025 deadline.

Significant life changes, business ownership, or simply a lack of knowledge about the ever-changing tax laws can make finding a trustworthy tax preparer a good idea. Just like choosing an expert to put a roof on your home is probably a better idea than tackling it yourself, sometimes it just makes sense to hire a professional.

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BBB tip: How to spot and avoid identity theft

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Scams are designed to either steal your money or your identity to steal your money later. Scammers have all kinds of techniques to collect personally identifiable information (PII). Once they have it, they can become you, using your identity to open accounts, file taxes, or obtain medical coverage.

Learn what identity theft is, how to tell if someone's stolen your personal information, and some surprising facts you might not know.

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Financial resources guide for military families in tough times

BY NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR CREDIT COUNSELING

The COVID-19 pandemic was hard on everyone, and inflation has made it difficult for many people to recover. But military families have even more financial difficulties than some other people, and most don't know where to turn for help when times are tough.

Fortunately, there are a variety of programs dedicated specifically to helping service members, veterans, and their families. Here are some of the agencies that can help you navigate difficult times.

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How to get or renew a military ID card for spouses, veterans and retirees

BY MILITARY ONESOURCE

As a veteran, military retiree, or spouse or dependent of a service member, you may be eligible for a Next Generation Uniformed Services ID card. This military ID proves your identity and connection to the Defense Department and gives you access to certain military services and programs.

Here are some frequently asked questions about military IDs for spouses, dependents, veterans and retirees.

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BBB Institute's Military & Veterans Initiative

We help military service members, veterans and their families protect their assets, plan for the future, and prosper in a trusted marketplace.

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