



Better Business Bureau®

# Trusted Scout

Better Business Bureau® Military Line® Consumer News and Alerts



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## WHO WE SERVE



### Free Tax Help Available for the Military

*By IRS.gov*

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides free tax help to military members and their families. On or off base, VITA is easy to find--even overseas. Learn five tips to keep in mind about free tax help for the military.

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## MILITARY FRAUD & SCAMS

### Scam Alert: Online Cons Fool Bitcoin Investors

*By Better Business Bureaus, Inc.*

With all the buzz about bitcoin, more people are considering it as an investment opportunity. But with anything new and complex, con artists are there to take advantage. [BBB Scam Tracker](#) has received numerous complaints from consumers fooled by phony bitcoin investments, often losing thousands of dollars.

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## MILITARY & VETERAN FINANCES

### Saving at Tax Time

*By Military Saves*

Do you spend weeks eagerly anticipating your tax refund? When the money finally comes in, is it gone tomorrow? Many people view tax refunds as unplanned bonuses. They see the money as a gift from the government, to use for splurges or treats. A

## Scam Alert: Emergency Scam Twist Targets Military Families

By Better Business Bureau, Inc.

A relative, usually a grandparent or aunt or uncle, receives a call from their "niece," "nephew" or "grandchild." There has been an emergency, and the "grandchild" needs money quickly. The stories vary, but they often involve an arrest or car accident.

One version of this scam is specifically targeting the relatives of servicemen and women. "People called my grandparents with knowledge of me being in the military and told them I was in a car wreck on the way to an Army buddies' funeral," said one Scam Tracker report. The scammer then asked for \$2,500 to pay for car repairs. Typically, the scammer will tell the "grandparent" not to tell the rest of the family about the emergency. Instead, they should send money by wire or prepaid debit cards.

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tax refund provides the opportunity to improve your financial situation.

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## Tips for Surviving Life's Financial Curveballs

By USAA

It's possible to rebound from financial setbacks, and by making informed moves now, you may be able to get back into the swing of things sooner than you think. Follow the tips in this article to help you get out of four common types of money trouble.

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## Tax Breaks for the Military

By IRS.gov

If you are in the U.S. Armed Forces, there are special tax breaks for you. For example, some types of pay are not taxable. Certain rules apply to deductions or credits that you may be able to claim that can lower your tax. In some cases, you may get more time to file your tax return. You may also get more time to pay your income tax. Click below to read tips for the military:

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## REPORT A SCAM

### BBB Scam Tracker

Spot a business or offer that sounds like an illegal scheme or fraud? Tell us about it. Help us investigate and warn others by reporting what you know.

Report a Scam

Search for Scams

Search using any or all of the fields below.

Keyword

Scam Type

Country

Date Reported  to

6,921 Scams Reported

Scams in the News

[Click here to report a scam](#)

## VETERANS CORNER

### The Importance of Financial Literacy for Veterans

By Military.com

According to a recent survey by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC), veterans are almost twice as likely to have debt carried over from month to month (58%) than civilians (just 34%). Nearly the same percentage of veterans (55%) believe they are ill-prepared for a financial emergency. Is this because veterans are poor and/or uneducated? No.

When comparing civilian pay to military pay, there isn't a clear winner in all comparisons. And veterans are actually more likely to have completed high school and are more likely to have completed some college or obtained an associate's degree than civilians.

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## BOOTS ON THE GROUND

The BBB Institute invites you to submit a guest blog, article, photograph or topic you wish to share. To submit your ideas,

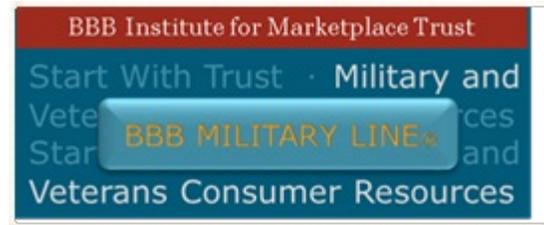
## MILITARY SAVES WEEK





content, photos, or a guest blog entry  
contact Shawna Artis  
at [sartis@council.bbb.org](mailto:sartis@council.bbb.org).

## RESOURCES



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brings BBB consumer education and services to military personnel (including Reservists and National Guard), retirees, veterans, DoD civilians, and their families.