RESOURCES

BBB Trusted Scout is back! For more information on how BBB and BBB services assist our Military and Veterans Community, go to BBB Military Line.

Like what you see in this newsletter? Have any feedback? Please get in touch with us!

Stay on the lookout for an upcoming Trusted Scout survey!

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CONSUMER

MILITARY FRAUD & SCAMS

Scams and the Military: The Top 10 Most Risky
By Emma Fletcher, Director, Scam and Fraud Initiatives

Military families and veteran have long been recognized as being at increased risk of being targeted by scammers. The steady paychecks and relative youth of active-duty military personnel may make them particularly vulnerable. Our BBB Scam Tracker scam reporting tool gives us up-to-the-minute information on trends in the scam marketplace, including scams that impact those that identify as active duty military, veterans, or military spouses.

MILITARY & VETERAN FINANCES

July: Month of the Military Consumer
By Federal Trade Commission

Month of the Military Consumer

July is Month of the Military Consumer. BBB Institute would like to remind our military community and their families the importance of financial readiness. Knowing how to manage your money and having the ability to spot scams are just a few ways to help you improve your finances overall. Join us as we celebrate the Month of the Military Consumer. We are sharing resources and information to help you better manage and protect your finances.
Military Millennials- A "Bucket List" to Help Manage Credit and Debt  
*By Military OneSource*

Got debt? You're not alone. Many Americans are carrying buckets of debt. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York released a report recently that U.S. household debt—which includes home mortgages and home equity loans, credit card debt, auto loans and student debt stood at $12.73 trillion in the first quarter of 2017. That's a staggering amount, and surpasses the previous record set during the 2008 recession.

Fry Scholarship Awardees to Receive Full Coverage of Tuition, Regardless of Residency  
*By TAPS*

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced, as of July 1st, 2017, all recipients of the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship will be guaranteed in-state tuition at any public university in the country.

What You Can Do to Avoid Investment Fraud  
*By U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission*

Ask questions. Fraudsters are counting on you no to investigate before you invest. Fend them off by doing your own digging. It's not enough to ask for more information or for references-fraudsters have no incentive to set you straight. Take the time to do your own independent research.

6 Scams Service Members Should Watch Out For  
*By USAA*

Scammers frequently target members of the U.S. military because many are young and financially inexperienced. And they're receiving a steady paycheck guaranteed by Uncle Sam.

Don't think you can't become a target.

Guard Against Fraud and Make Better Financial Decisions for Military Consumer Protection Month  
*By Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*

The FINRA Investor Education Foundation's Military Financial Readiness Program delivers free, unbiased financial education tools and training to servicemembers, their spouses and on-base financial educators through a variety of programs and public awareness initiatives. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Defense Financial Readiness campaign, the program's primary goal is to help military families manage their money with confidence.
This year, the national Military Consumer campaign has designated July as Military Consumer Protection Month. This annual event was first launched in 2013 as Military Consumer Protection Day by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) as a way to raise awareness about identity theft crimes impacting service members, but now it’s become a national month-long campaign supported by more than 50 partners.

Read More

BBB Institute Boots on the Ground

As you all may know the BBB Institute is working on rebooting Trusted Scout to serve our readers better. What topics would you like to see covered in the newsletter? We want your ideas! We are working to create a fresh look, fresh content, and a fresh name so that each month we deliver a newsletter that addresses the challenges facing today’s service members, veterans, and their families as well as to leverage and expose our great brand. We want your voices to be heard in the newsletter, too, so we invite you to submit a guest blog, article, photographs or topics you might want covered. To submit your ideas, name suggestions, or a guest blog entry contact Shawna Artis at sartis@council.bbb.org.

BBB Institute Shout-Out

We would like to send a special shout-out to Betsie Chimney; Engagement Specialist and Pat Flanagan, Consumer Relations Specialist of BBB Central Texas. Betsie and Pat recently participated in the East Texas Veteran's Commission Job Fair at the Armed Forces Reserved Center and provided the military and veteran community with helpful resources and information. Betsie and Pat we salute you both for all your hard work and continued dedication to the BBB Military Line Program and our Military community. Thank you!

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