



Better Business Bureau®

Trusted Scout

Better Business Bureau® Military Line® Consumer News and Alerts



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WHO WE SERVE



Happy Holidays!

- From The BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust-

MILITARY FRAUD & SCAMS

Season's Cheatings: 7 Scams to Watch Out for This Holiday Season

By AARP

Don't let scammers ruin your holiday. It's bad enough that the sprint to buy holiday gifts this month can exhaust you as much as running a marathon. What's even worse is the heartache that can result if you fall for the seasonal shopping ho-ho hoaxes.

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Skip the Holiday Scams: How to Protect Yourself

By Navy Federal Credit Union

Some things make an appearance every holiday season: bustling shopping malls, rows of homes strung with lights, office parties -- and scams aimed at exploiting holiday shoppers and year-end philanthropists. We've highlighted five common scams waiting to grab your money like it's the last slice of pie at the dinner table.

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MILITARY & VETERAN FINANCES

Christmas 2017

By MilitaryBenefits.info

The holiday season can be particularly difficult for military personnel and their families who are separated by deployment or simply struggling financially. The stress and hardship of deployment can create an incredibly lonesome holiday setting for both personnel abroad and their families holding down the fort at home. In addition, many families who are blessed and able to spend the holiday together can experience hardships with the added financial burden that Christmas brings to many each year.

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How to Help Veterans During the Holidays

By *MilitaryBenefits.info*

During the holiday season there are many ways to help veterans through what may be challenging times. You can assist veterans who serve, honor, and protect by volunteering your time donating, or simply by making a cash contribution to a worthy cause. Here are some of the many ways you can reach out and make a difference to a veteran during this holiday season.

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BBB INSTITUTE SPOTLIGHT



Happy Birthday to the National Guard!

The BBB Institute would like to wish the National Guard a very Happy Birthday. Thank you for 381 years of service!

RESOURCES



5 Holiday Savings Tips

By *Military.com*

Retailers know the year has been tough on your wallet, so they're doing everything they can to get back into your good graces. Over the past few weeks, you've probably seen dozens of ads announcing: Black Friday deals extended! One store has layaway! Another free shipping!

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Key Deadlines for Holiday Care Packages

By *USAA*

Even if you don't jump on the holiday bandwagon early, it is time to start preparing the holiday care packages for your deployed loved ones for them to arrive on time and stay on budget.

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Together While Apart, Military Families Connect for the Holidays

By *Military OneSource*

You can make this holiday meaningful even if you are thousands of miles apart. Get creative by connecting with your family and creating new traditions. Think outside the box to create special moments that can be just as nice as if your service member was home decorating the tree with you. Holidays are not about how much you give, but about celebrating each other.

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BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Hello out there in BBB Land! BBB Institute is still working on rebooting *Trusted Scout* to better serve our readers. We invite you to submit a guest blog, article, photograph or topic you wish to share. To submit your ideas, content, photos, or a guest blog entry contact Shawna Artis at sartis@council.bbb.org.

BBB Trusted Scout is back! For more information on how BBB and BBB Services assist our Military and Veterans Community, go to [BBB Military and Veterans Initiative](#).

Like what you see in this newsletter? Have any feedback? [Please get in touch with us!](#)



[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.