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WHO WE SERVE

MILITARY FRAUD & SCAMS

BBB Tip: Credit Freeze, Credit Freeze

TAKE THE PLEDGE

Start the New Year By Taking the Military Saves Pledge

We are happy to announce that the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust will show our support to Military Saves Week, February 26-March 3, 2018. The Institute and Military Saves want to
Freezes, Credit Locks, and Fraud Alerts
By Better Business Bureaus, Inc.

Every few months it seems we hear about another major hack of consumer information from some huge company. None, however, had quite the chilling effect as the data breach at Equifax, one of the "big three" credit bureaus. The Better Business Bureau now warns consumers that it is probably no longer a matter of if your data is available to scammers, but more a matter of when they will use it. If you were a victim of the Equifax data breach (and most American adults were), Identity thieves now have everything they need to steal your identity and open new accounts in your name. Learn how to protect yourself.

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Pension Scams
By Stopfraud.gov

Unfortunately, veterans and their families are targets for some dishonest advisers who claim to offer free help with paperwork for pensions. In short, the scheme can involve attorneys, financial planners, and insurance agents trying to persuade veterans over 65 to make decisions about their pensions without giving them the whole truth about the long-term consequences. The unscrupulous brokers claim to help veterans qualify for Aid and Attendance benefits, but in fact may cause them to lose eligibility for Medicaid services or cut off victims from their money for a long time.

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MILITARY & VETERAN FINANCES

2018 Thrift Savings Plan Contribution Limits
By Military.com

The 2018 Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contribution limits have been announced. These tax-advantaged accounts have limits on the amount of money you can contribute. This is one of the reasons it makes sense to contribute as much as you can even when money is tight, because you can't just contribute an unlimited amount once you're making more.

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Saving Money—Military Edition
By Militarybenefits.info

Saving money in the military is not difficult, but the key is to start saving early. Saving money and getting out of debt to stay out of debt are the two keys to becoming financially stable. It's easy to start saving in the military, and the advise in this article will explain how.

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Budgeting Tips to Successfully Balance Your Budget
By Military One Source

Learning to balance your budget is a necessary life skill. While it sounds like a chore, once you develop some sound budgeting strategies, you can enjoy the security it provides and build wealth. Plus, keeping sound finances is important for your security clearance.

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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
4 Things Military Parents Can Do to Prepare Their Children for Financial Success
By Military Saves

When was the last time you thought about money? Chances are it was today, since most adults deal with money on a daily basis. We pay bills and buy groceries. We consider money when weighing job opportunities, when determining where we'll live, and when (or for some, if) we will retire. We are faced with financial decisions constantly. And yet, the vital skills of money management, budgeting, and saving are often missing from the curriculums at our children's schools.

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Financial Resources and Help for Veterans
By Military.com

You've served your country. Now what? Civilian life can be a challenging transition, especially financially. For veterans easing their way back into civilian life, many resources are available to help them with the financial aspects of life outside the military.

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BBB Institute is still working to reboot 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 Shawnna Artis at sartis@council.bbb.org.

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.