



Better Business Bureau®

Trusted Scout

Better Business Bureau® Military Line® Consumer News and Alerts



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WHO WE SERVE



**MILITARY FRAUD
&
SCAMS**

TAKE THE PLEDGE

Start the New Year By Taking the Military Saves Pledge

**BBB Tip: Credit
Freezes, Credit**

We are happy to announce that the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust will show our support to Military Saves Week, February 26-March 2, 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.

[Read More](#)

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.

Military Saves Week, February 26-March 5, 2018. The Institute and Military Saves want to encourage service members, veterans and their families to save and make better financial decisions. Join us as BBBI takes the Military Saves Pledge to save money, reduce debt and build wealth.

[Take the pledge](#)



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.

[Read More](#)

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.

[Read More](#)

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.

[Read More](#)

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](#)

KIDS CORNER

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.

[Read More](#)

VETERANS CORNER

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.

[Read More](#)

Search for Scams

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Date Reported
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Scams in the News



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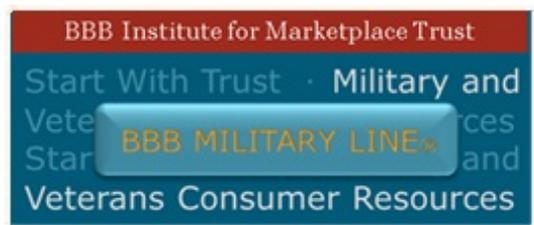
MILITARY SAVES WEEK



BOOTS ON THE GROUND

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 Shawna Artis at sartis@council.bbb.org.

RESOURCES



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.