



## 2015 – Present Reports from All Military

Source: FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network | [ftc.gov/exploredata](https://ftc.gov/exploredata)  
Published July 13, 2020 (data as of June 30, 2020)

**680,094**  
ALL REPORTS

**292,942**  
FRAUD REPORTS

**45,240**  
REPORTING \$ LOSS  
**\$379.6M**  
TOTAL LOSSES  
**\$700**  
MEDIAN LOSS

# of Fraud Reports	% Reporting \$ Loss	Total \$ Loss	Median \$ Loss
Imposter: Government 112,987	4.7%	\$46.5M	\$1,000
Telemarketing Practices 40,946	3.4%	\$19.7M	\$807
Imposter: Business 31,334	15.8%	\$36.6M	\$775
Tech Support Scams 23,040	24.7%	\$16.6M	\$450
Online Shopping 13,935	65.5%	\$11.3M	\$166

## FTC Launches New Online Tool for Exploring Military Consumer Data

BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

The Federal Trade Commission launched a new tool that explores data about problems military consumers may experience in the marketplace. For the first time, data about reports the FTC has received from active duty service members and veterans will be available online in an interactive dashboard at [ftc.gov/explore data](https://ftc.gov/explore data).

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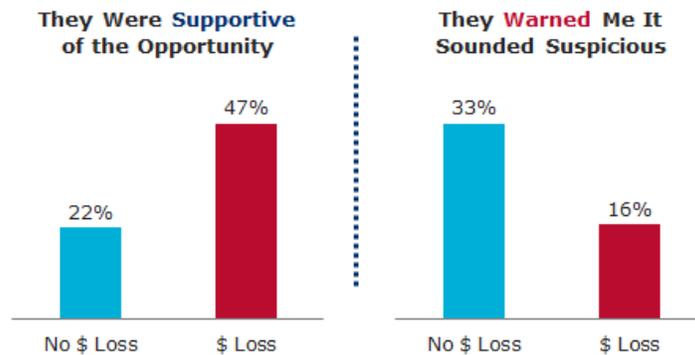
## New Report Shows How Young Service Members Build Credit Histories

BY SUSAN CARTER, ANDY COHEN, AND JAMES MARRONE, CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau released a new [report exploring the credit records of young service members](#). The findings showed that young service members and civilians tended to use different types of credit products. Between ages 18 and 24, service members were more likely than civilians to have had an auto loan or a credit card, and less likely to have had a student loan or debts being collected by a third-party agency, including non-credit debt such as medical or utility bills. Service members were also more likely to have had personal installment loans.

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## Influence of Family/Friends in Employment Scams



### Who You Consult During an Employment Scam Impacts Chances of Money Loss

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Whether or not you lose money to an employment scam may have a lot to do with who you ask for advice, according to an April 2020 Better Business Bureau (BBB) [study of employment scam victims](#). When those targeted by job scams discussed the offer with their friends or family who were supportive of the opportunity, 47% of them lost money. If the friend or family member warned them it might be a scam, only 16% lost money.

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### The SCRA Can Save Military Families Thousands. Why Don't More People Know About It?

BY REBEKAH SANDERLIN, MILITARY FAMILY ADVISORY NETWORK (MFAN)

MFAN asked respondents to the [2019 Military Family Support Programming Survey](#) about the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). The survey found that SCRA benefits are not being used by all the people who need it. Just over 38% of currently serving military family survey respondents said they were unaware of the provisions in the SCRA and only 28.8% of respondents said they had used SCRA protections.

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### BBB Study: Government Impostor Scams Prey on



### BBB Tip: Back to School During a Pandemic

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

## Fear During Pandemic

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

One of the most common scams in the U.S. and Canada today involves callers pretending to be government officials. Some claim to be tax officials and representatives from the Social Security Administration or Service Canada; others claim to be law enforcement officers and threaten legal consequences. All of them use fear and intimidation to trick victims into turning over personal information or money, often in the form of gift cards.

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Back-to-school season is coming up, and in some areas, it's unclear how it will play out. As families prepare for the upcoming school year and the possibility of homeschooling from the kitchen table or an announcement from their school district to switch to an online format, studies by the [National Retail Federation](#) indicate back-to-school spending may reach a new record with anticipated spending on laptops and computer accessories driving the costs.

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## Back-to-School Planning During COVID-19

BY MILITARY ONESOURCE

As back-to-school season approaches and the COVID-19 pandemic continues, parents and students may be facing new uncertainties. Conditions across the world differ widely and continue to change rapidly. In addition, school reopening policies vary and often include instruction and scheduling options. With so many unknowns, making decisions as a parent can be difficult.

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## Video Shows How Scammers Tell You To Pay

BY SACHIT GALI, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC)

Scammers make up all kinds of stories to get your money, from telling you that [you've won a prize](#), [you owe a debt](#), or your [family member is in an emergency](#). But some things stay the same: scammers want your money, they want it fast, and don't want you to be able to get it back. They'll ask you to pay in ways that make it hard to track them down — and once you know what these are, you'll have one more clue to tell if you're dealing with a scammer.

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## Empowering Military Consumers All Year Long

BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD), FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC), AND CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB)

Now that we've concluded Military Consumer Protection Month, it's time to think about how we can support service members all year long. Seven years ago, the FTC launched Military Consumer Protection Day to highlight fraud affecting service members. Since then, the observance has grown into a national, year-round campaign.

[Militaryconsumer.gov](#) provides service members and their families with resources from partner agencies like the Department of Defense (DoD), the FTC and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to boost their financial readiness.

[Read More](#)

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## BBB RESOURCES

Check out BBB Institute's blog for tips to improve your financial fitness and avoid fraud.

[Visit Our Blog](#)



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