



Better Business Bureau®

# Trusted Scout

Better Business Bureau® Military Line® Consumer News and Alerts



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## Happy Holidays and Warm Wishes for 2018!



FROM THE BBB INSTITUTE FOR MARKETPLACE TRUST



# Happy Holidays!



Happy Holidays from all of us at the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust. This month we're sharing tips on holiday spending and how to steer clear of seasonal scams. We hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

### VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES

### BBB ADTRUTH

#### Employment Scams #1 Riskiest Scam Type for Military Spouses & Veterans

By Better Business Bureau

We received thousands of reports per year from active-duty service members, military families and veterans through our crowd-sourced scam reporting tool, BBB Scam Tracker, and we look to these reports to spot trends and educate military consumers on what's happening in communities across North America. Of those that shared their story on BBB Scam Tracker, 15 percent of those reporting an employment scam lost money. **The median loss was \$1,715** -- nearly double that reported across all consumers.

[Read More](#)

#### Veterans: Watch Out for Government

#### See a Shady Ad? Report it to BBB!

By Better Business Bureau

Better Business Bureau today announced the launch of its latest consumer reporting service, BBB AdTruth ([BBB.org/AdTruth](http://BBB.org/AdTruth)): an online tool that empowers everyday shoppers to identify advertisements that appear to contain claims that are questionable or which may lack evidence to support them. Consumers can report them so BBB advertising review specialists can assess their truthfulness.

[Read More](#)

### HOLIDAY FINANCE & SAVINGS

#### 10 Tips for Savvy Holiday Spending

By Military OneSource

Holidays mean spending, but you've got the discipline to keep it reined in this season.

## Imposter Scams

By Better Business Bureau

One of the ways scammers trick you into handing over your hard-earned cash is by saying they're with the government. As a veteran, you may engage with government agencies on a more regular basis about benefits and services, so hearing from them out of the blue might not seem surprising. Scammers rely on this trust, and frequently masquerade as official government representatives to get your attention.

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## Fraud-Fighting Tips from BBB Scam Tracker Heroes: Hear their Stories

By Better Business Bureau

Experiencing a scam can be a frightful and lonely experience. It's natural to feel betrayed, embarrassed and want to keep the experience to ourselves. This is exactly what scammers want -- to isolate you from your loved ones so they can continue to victimize your neighbors, friends and family.

[Read More](#)

...and, when opening, but you get the shipping receipt is removed and return. Celebrating with your family doesn't have to lead to debt. Read more on how to make it a great holiday and maintain financial control.

[Read More](#)

## BBB Tip: Holiday Pop-Up Shops

By Better Business Bureau

Holiday shopping is expected to rise four percent this year, with consumers spending an average of just over \$1,000 on holiday shopping, according to the National Retail Federation.

[Read More](#)

## FRAUD & SCAMS

### 12 Holiday Scams to Watch Out For

By Military.com

As more consumers pick up their smartphone and tablet to go holiday shopping, cyber crooks will try just about anything to dupe them out of their hard-earned money.

[Read More](#)

## Check out the new BBB.org/Military!

We've revamped our website to help connect you with helpful BBB services!

Visit [BBB.org/Military](https://www.bbb.org/military) to learn more.

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

### BBB Military and Veterans Initiative

We help military service members, veterans and their families protect their assets, plan for the future, and prosper in a trusted marketplace.