New BBB report highlights riskiest scams, including those impacting military consumers

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU INSTITUTE FOR MARKETPLACE TRUST

In 2021, military consumers reported a higher median dollar loss to scammers ($204) than non-military consumers ($160), according to the 2021 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report. Read about the riskiest scams facing military consumers.
Veterans benefits banking program (VBBP) 2.0 has officially launched
BY VETERANS BENEFIT BANKING PROGRAM
The new website with new programs is here! Over 135K Veterans have signed up for direct deposit since the VBBP first launched. The new site makes it easier for veterans to find support with banking, financial and credit counseling, and financial education resources, like VetCents - a financial education journey for Veterans.

Program to help military families pay for in-home child care off to a slow start
BY MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
A pilot program that aims to give military families another option for obtaining scarce childcare is slowly getting off the ground. The Defense Department's In-Home Child Care Fee Assistance Pilot, available in five regions of the country since last summer, provides monetary assistance to help military families pay for a childcare provider in their own home. But to date, just five families are actively participating in it.

BBB Scam Alert: Betting on a big game? Don’t fall for a sports betting scam
BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU
Thanks to new legal changes, the popularity of sports betting has exploded. If you think scammers haven’t noticed, think again. BBB Scam Tracker is seeing reports from people who accidentally placed bets with scam sports betting websites or apps.

BBB Tip: New homeowner? Here are 10 things you should know about taking care of your home
BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU
If you recently purchased a new home, you’ve no doubt found that all that extra space requires upkeep and maintenance. BBB recommends the following tips to help you care for your new home, hire contractors, and avoid getting scammed in the process.
Don't get scammed by investor fraud on the internet
BY LORI J. SCHOCK, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INVESTOR EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY, U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION PER MILITARY SAVES
Social media and the Internet have become important tools for investors—both younger and older. Searching for stock research, guidance on investment strategies, and the latest business news are just some of the uses. Discussing and chatting about stock picks are others. Social media and the Internet provide not only a wealth of information for investors but also opportunities for those looking to take advantage of innocent victims

Read more

5 Tips to avoid the financial stress of a PCS move
BY ALECIA D. BLAIRE, MILITARY SAVES COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE PER MILITARY SAVES
If you have ever PCS’d before, then you are very aware of the financial costs of these moves that can stress even the most frugal of military families. While most of your expenses are reimbursed, you may still come out of pocket for upwards of $2,000 per move. Here is more information about figuring out your travel expenses.

BBB RESOURCES

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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. BBB.org/Military