SCANSTargeting Servicemembers!



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BANK/INVESTMENT FRAUD

Criminals try to convince you that you're missing out on "aid and attendance" benefits. This "investment" could result in losing eligibility for Medicaid services.



CHARITY FRAUD

Solicitation for bogus military charities may be made by dishonest fundraising firms or PACs. They make call from groups with names similar to reputable charities. Contact the Secretary of State to verify a charity at 410-974-5521.



IMPOSTER SCAMS

Crooks often pretend to be from TRICARE and contact beneficiaries offering services in attempts to steal personal and/or financial data.



ONLINE SALES

Scammers claim to be a deploying service member, or the spouse of a deceased service member, and post non-existent items online at discounts. They demand up-front payment (wire transfer, payment app or gift cards) and never deliver.



PENSION ADVANCES

Scammers exploit veterans in financial duress by offering cash upfront in exchange for much higher future disability or pension payments. Lump sum "advances" could be high interest loans that exceed state limits.



PHISHING

Phony emails or text messages may claim to be from "Veteran Affairs," your bank, a local business or the government and asks you to update your account in order to steal your personal information or money.



REAL ESTATE RIPOFFS

Scammers post fake rental properties online, offering military discounts, and ask for deposits to be made by wire transfer or payment app. Check out MilitaryByOwner.com to research legitimate properties.

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!



RECORDS FEE SCAMS

Do NOT pay for copies of your military records You can get them FREE through your local VA.



SECRET PROGRAMS

Veterans are contacted and told they qualify for money from a "secret government program," but must first pay a fee or provide personal information.



Office of Consumer Protection website. Use your smart phone to access via the QR code.



For more information, or to request this information in an alternate format, contact us via email at consumer@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-6420 (voice/relay).