

**UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE®**
U.S. Postal Inspection Service
Rm 3521
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-0004

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 73026 WASHINGTON DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Attn: Operation Protect Veterans
U.S. Postal Inspection Service
P.O. Box 12890
Seattle WA 98111-2890

**DELIVERING TRUST.
DELIVERING JUSTICE.**



877-908-3360



[AARP.org/fraudwatchnetwork](https://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork)



AARP®
Fraud Watch
Network

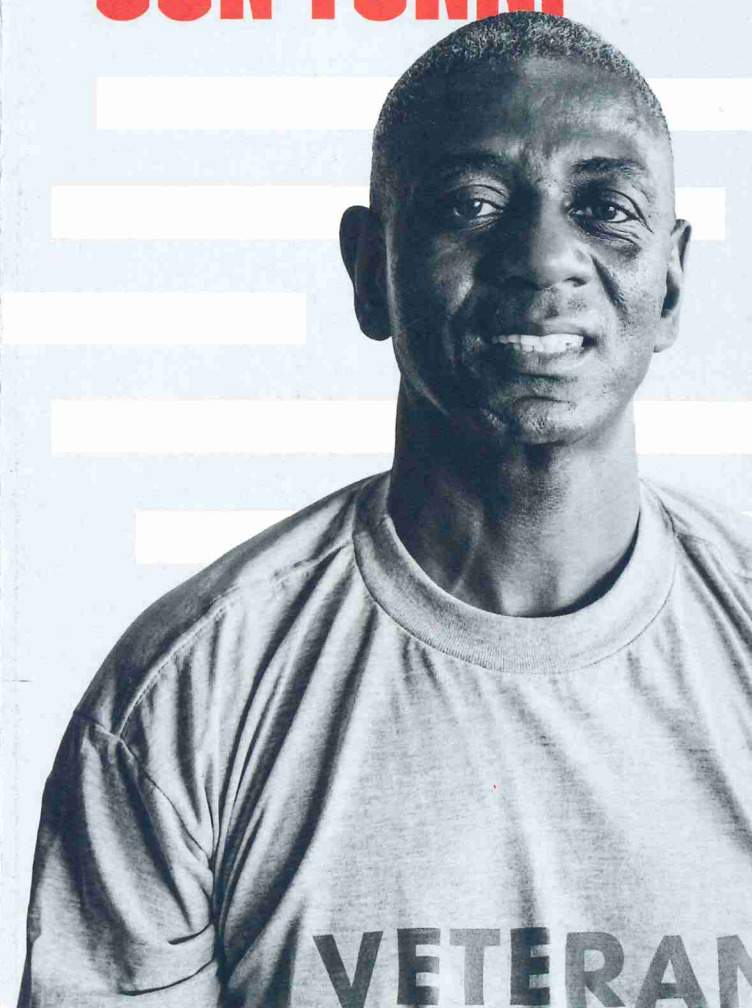


This certification ensures that products made from paper pass from a certified, well managed forest, to a certified paper manufacturer, merchant, and printer. Includes Post Consumer Waste products that have been recycled to reduce environmental impact.

UP
3/5/18

DOWN
5/4/18

**THEY
PROTECTED
US. NOW IT'S
OUR TURN.**



THEIR TIME ON THE
BATTLEFIELD IS OVER.

**NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO
PROTECT OUR VETERANS
FROM SCAMS.**

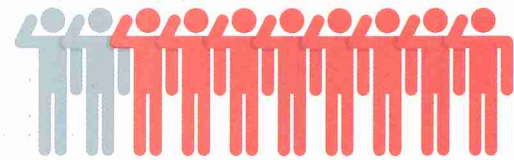
Our veterans deserve a lot of things.
Praise. Honor. Security. Respect.

Here's what they don't deserve: attempts to take advantage of their service. Yet every day, scammers attempt to defraud our veterans of their hard-earned benefits, steal their identity, or take their savings.

Together, we can fight back and take one small step to repay our veterans for the service they've given and the sacrifices they've made.

THE BATTLE OUR VETS DIDN'T SEE COMING.

America's veterans are warriors, trained to handle anything a battlefield can throw at them. But there's one foe many veterans struggle to defeat: domestic fraud.



78% of our retired military men and women have been targeted by scams specifically crafted to exploit their military service history.

Sadly, veterans are twice as likely to actually fall for fraudulent schemes. In 2017, AARP research found that **16% of veterans have lost money to scammers**, compared to only 8% of the non-military public.

Why? For starters, veterans implicitly trust fellow members of the military, making them vulnerable to imposters. Veterans also have a PTSD rate more than double the general public's, which can make it more difficult for them to recognize and combat the emotional manipulation used by scam artists.



AARP
Fraud Watch
Network



THE FRONT LINES AGAINST FRAUD.

Now, AARP and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) are joining forces for **Operation Protect Veterans**. We're fighting back against fraudulent scam artists — and we need your help. Good intel is a crucial component of this battle; if you've seen a scam targeting veterans in the past 12 months, please fill out the attached postage-paid survey and drop it in the mail. You can also report a scam aimed at our veterans by calling 877-908-3360.



REPORT VETERAN SCAMMING



877-908-3360



AARP.org/fraudwatchnetwork

KNOW THE ENEMY: HOW SCAMMERS TARGET VETERANS.

VA LOAN SCAMS

Offers to refinance VA loans at extremely low rates.

UPDATE YOUR FILE SCAM

An imposter, claiming to be from a government agency, attempts to get a veteran's personal information to "update their file" so they can maintain their benefits.

SECRET VETERAN BENEFITS SCAM

Veterans are told they qualify for "secret" government programs or benefits that offer thousands of dollars — but first, they attempt to collect personal information or a fee.

PENSION POACHING SCAM

Scammers often offer veterans lump sum payments up front, in exchange for signing over all their future monthly benefit checks.

AID AND ATTENDANCE SCAM

Veterans (or their family members) receive an offer to move their assets into a living trust so that they can qualify for financial assisted-living benefits.

VETERANS MAY ALSO ENCOUNTER GENERAL SCAMS

In addition to scams that specifically target veterans, there are an abundance of scams aimed at the general public to which veterans are more susceptible. These include: phishing (attempts to gain access to financial accounts), fake tech-support calls, fraudulent credit card / loan schemes, attempts to "collect" fictitious tax bills, fraudulent charities, investment scams, pyramid schemes, and more.

If you or a loved one has encountered a financial scam in the past 12 months, please help us keep fighting for our veterans by filling out the survey at the right or calling 877-908-3360.

HELP PROTECT AMERICA'S VETERANS. REPORT FRAUD NOW.

Please put a check by those scams you have personally encountered in the past 12 months. Then, detach this panel and drop it in the mail, so we can track fraud trends and warn our veterans.

☐ VA LOAN SCAM

Someone offers to refinance your VA loan at a lower interest rate.

☐ TECH SUPPORT SCAM

You get a message or email saying that there is a virus on your computer and you need to pay to remove it.

☐ PHISHING SCAM

You receive a call or email about a program for vets that pays thousands in benefits, but they ask for your personal information.

☐ CREDIT CARD SCAM

You get a call from a robocaller saying you can lower your interest rate.

☐ IRS TAX SCAM

Someone calls or leaves a message saying they work for the IRS and that you owe them money.

☐ CHARITY SCAM

You are asked to make a donation to support veterans, but the charity is not a legitimate organization.

☐ OTHER

I AM A:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Veteran | <input type="radio"/> Friend of a veteran |
| <input type="radio"/> Family member of a veteran | <input type="radio"/> Other |

The information you provide is anonymous and will be used by AARP to prepare research on fraudulent activity affecting veterans. This survey is not a method of reporting crimes to law enforcement authorities. If you want to report mail-related crimes, please contact the USPIS at postalinspectors.uspis.gov.