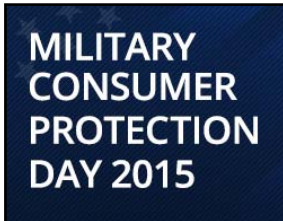


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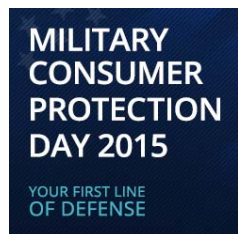


[Dealing with Debt Collectors](#)



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Military Consumer Protection Day is July 15, 2015



Interested in protecting yourself from fraud, identity theft, and scams? Are you wondering about the best way to use credit, shop for a used car, or maximize your online security? The Colorado Attorney General's Office is joining other government agencies, advocacy organizations, and private sector groups to celebrate the third annual Military Consumer Protection Day on July 15, 2015. This broad coalition is sharing tips and information about managing money, dealing with credit and debt, building savings, protecting personal information, recognizing identity theft and avoiding fraud. Our office has several resources available for military members, their families, and veterans:

www.stopfraudcolorado.gov/military. [About Military Consumer Protection Day.](#)

Rental Scams Target Military Personnel

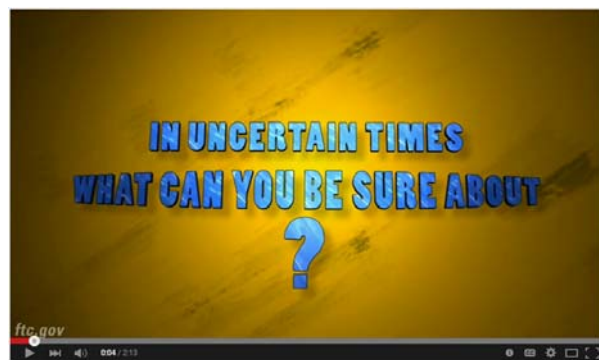


Scammers often take advantage of the transient nature of military personnel and the constant relocation many soldiers and their families endure on a regular basis, particularly targeting personnel seeking off-base housing. Rental scams usually begin when a scammer advertises a property for rent at a great price through free internet sites such as Craigslist. The advertisements appear to be legitimate, often containing what appears to be property details along with a variety of photos to entice victims. Once the soldier shows interest in the property, the scammer pressures that soldier to send a deposit immediately. After the money is sent, the soldier never hears from the scammer again as the property doesn't exist or isn't really available for rent.

[Click here for consumer protection tips on avoiding rental scams.](#)

Dealing with Debt Collectors - Are they fraudulent?

Scammers are twisting traditional debt collection schemes in an effort to extort money from soldiers. The scam begins with an urgent phone call to the soldier's home, informing the soldier or spouse of a delinquent loan. In most cases, the thieves are attempting to collect a paid loan or an entirely non-existent loan by insisting money be sent immediately through a money transfer services like Western Union. [Learn More About Debt Collection Scams.](#) [Watch the FTC video: Dealing with Debt Collectors](#)



Family Emergency Scams



Family emergency scams, often referred to as the 'grandparent scam' are perpetrated when an older adult is called by someone pretending to be a relative of the potential victim. Callers have made many claims including being arrested in a foreign country for drunk driving or being involved in a car accident. They ask the potential victim to send money so they can return home safely and not to tell anyone so they don't get into more trouble. Recent reports indicate callers are now demanding money to be sent immediately in order to free a kidnapped relative. These callers are also threatening physical harm to the relative if funds are not delivered. [Learn more about Family Emergency Scams.](#)