



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067



Ronald P. Welch
Commissioner
Brigadier General U.S. Army (Ret)

MILITARY CONSUMER MONTH – SCAM ALERT

July 2023

In support of Military Consumer Month, the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs is urging service members, veterans, and their families to remain vigilant against scams which specifically target them.

Service members and veterans are unfortunately appealing targets for scams because scammers know their incomes are predictable and that veterans are often trying to access their hard-earned benefits. According to the organization [Disabled American Veterans](#), around 16 percent of veterans describe losing some money to fraud, while nearly 80 percent have reported scams explicitly designed to exploit their military service.

To protect yourself or a loved one from any of these types of scams, keep in mind the following best practices:

- Applying for benefits through the VA is FREE, as is talking to a Veteran Service Officer who can help navigate the process.
- Verify that anyone assisting with VA benefits claims is accredited. Anyone who assists veterans with VA benefits claims is required by law to be accredited through the VA Office of General Counsel.
- Actively check bank accounts. Report a lost or stolen debit card and any unauthorized transactions. Have your bank notify you of every transaction over a certain amount.
- Do not give out information used to authenticate your identity – including a PIN or verification code – to anyone who calls, emails or texts you.
- Sign up for credit monitoring, which is available free of charge to active-duty service members through Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.
- If you are deploying, put an active-duty alert on all three of your credit reports with Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. These alerts last for one year and require creditors to take steps to verify your identity prior to granting credit in your name.

If you spot a scam, you can report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud) or report it to the Office of the Connecticut Attorney General Complaint Portal at www.dir.ct.gov/AG/Complaint/.

In Connecticut, you may reach a Veterans Service Officer by calling one of our District Offices at:

1st District – Newington Office: (860) 594-6606

2nd District – Norwich Office: (860) 887-9162

3rd District – Milford Office: (203) 874-6711

4th District – Fairfield Office: (203) 418-2005

5th District – Waterbury Office: (203) 805-6343

Further information can be found on the DVA website: [Office of Advocacy and Assistance--Contact](#).

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our DVA VSOs with any questions or concerns you may have. We are here to fulfill our mission of “Serving Those Who Served.”