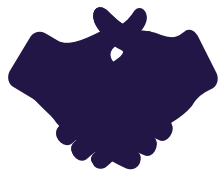


# COMMON MILITARY SCAMS

## AFFINITY FRAUD

Watch for people trying to exploit your military connection. Scammers might pretend to be military servicemembers or veterans to establish a relationship, and then ask for money or offer certain investment opportunities. They'll claim they are doing so because of your shared military connection. These scammers try to take advantage of the trust that exists among members of the military and veteran communities.



## BENEFIT SCAMS

Watch for private entities that charge fees for assisting you in applying for, obtaining, or coordinating military or veterans benefits.



## UNNECESSARY FEES

Some companies might try to sell you services that are available to you for free or for a much lower fee, or charge fees to help you obtain military records or documents. Be sure to investigate available options for obtaining forms and records. Many can be obtained through your military resources.



## UNFAIR LENDING AND SALES PRACTICES

You may be offered easy access to loans through advanced fee loan scams, which require you to pay for a broker's help before you get the loan. In North Carolina, these scams are illegal.



You may also be targeted by entities offering financing or credit at high interest rates, such as risky car sales, and financial schemes that promise to give you upfront cash. Take the time to do your research before making financial decisions, and don't be pressured into making these decisions. If something feels too good to be true, it probably is.

## IMPOSTOR SCAMS

Scammers may also target military family members with an imposter scam. Impostors call you and claim that your relative serving in the military is in need of immediate financial assistance. They'll pretend that your relative is in serious legal or financial trouble or physical danger and needs money immediately to ensure their safety or release. Because this is an understandably stressful situation, people will often panic and share their financial information. If you find yourself in such a situation, stop, take a deep breath, hang up, and attempt to verify the information with someone you trust.



Report scams to [ncdoj.gov/complaint](https://ncdoj.gov/complaint) or call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

For more information and to download a copy of the NC DOJ's Military Consumer Guide, visit [ncdoj.gov/military-personnel](https://ncdoj.gov/military-personnel).

