

# AARP Launches Online Resource Center to Help Protect Veterans Against Rising Fraud

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## FULL TEXT

*Free Resources Identify Top Scams Facing Mississippi's Military Community and Ways to Fight Back*

JACKSON, Miss., April 28, 2022 /PRNewswire/ – Mississippi's more than 200,000 military veterans and active-duty service members are at risk of being targeted by scammers. AARP recently launched the AARP Veterans Fraud Center, a new online education and resource center to help protect veterans, service members and their families against fraud.

According to an AARP survey, one in three military/veteran adults reported losing money to scams that are specifically trying to take advantage of the trust they have in the military community. Veterans, active-duty service members and their families are 40% more likely to lose money to scams and fraud than the civilian population. These individuals lost more than \$267 million in 2021, up from \$102 million in 2020 (a 162% increase), according to the Federal Trade Commission.

"Targeting scams at members of the military community is unconscionable," said AARP Mississippi State Director Kimberly L. Campbell, Esq. "AARP has launched this effort to alert veterans and their families of the latest scams and how to avoid them."

Top scams aimed at veterans include:

- Benefit Buyouts: Turning over U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pension and/or disability benefits for a supposed lump-sum payment that never materializes (47%).
- Fraudulent records scam: Paying for updated personal military records (32%).
- The fake charitable giving request: Donating to fake veteran charities (32%).

Free resources in the AARP Veterans Fraud Center include:

- A new AARP Watchdog Alert Handbook: Veterans' Edition, highlighting tips to detect the most common ways con artists target veterans and military families;
- The AARP Fraud Watch Network and Scam-Tracking Map; and
- Operation Protect Veterans—a joint program of the AARP Fraud Watch Network and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Some top tips from AARP's Fraud Watch Network recommendations include: signing up for the National Do Not Call Registry and using a call-blocking service; using strong and unique passwords for each online account; using two-factor authentication when available; and placing a free security freeze on credit reports at each of the three major credit bureaus. Also, veterans never have to pay for their service records or earned benefits—if told otherwise, it's a scam.

To learn more about the AARP Veterans Fraud Center and to download a free copy of the new Watchdog Alert

Handbook: Veterans' Edition, visit [www.aarp.org/vetsfraudcenter](http://www.aarp.org/vetsfraudcenter). For additional resources and information on AARP's support for veterans and military families, including caregiving, competing in today's job market, and connecting with earned service benefits, visit [www.aarp.org/veterans](http://www.aarp.org/veterans).

### **About AARP**

*AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org), [www.aarp.org/espanol](http://www.aarp.org/espanol) or follow @AARP, @AARPenEspanol and @AARPadvocates, @AliadosAdelante on social media.*

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