SCAMS Targeting Servicemembers!

**BANK/INVESTMENT FRAUD**
Criminals try to convince you that you’re missing out on “aid and attendance” benefits. This “investment” could result in losing eligibility for Medicaid services.

**CHARITY FRAUD**
Solicitation for bogus military charities may be made by dishonest fundraising firms or PACs. They make call from groups with names similar to reputable charities. Contact the Secretary of State to verify a charity at 410-974-5521.

**IMPOSTER SCAMS**
Crooks often pretend to be from TRICARE and contact beneficiaries offering services in attempts to steal personal and/or financial data.

**ONLINE SALES**
Scammers claim to be a deploying service member, or the spouse of a deceased service member, and post non-existent items online at discounts. They demand up-front payment (wire transfer, payment app or gift cards) and never deliver.

**PENSION ADVANCES**
Scammers exploit veterans in financial duress by offering cash upfront in exchange for much higher future disability or pension payments. Lump sum “advances” could be high interest loans that exceed state limits.

**PHISHING**
Phony emails or text messages may claim to be from “Veteran Affairs,” your bank, a local business or the government and asks you to update your account in order to steal your personal information or money.

**REAL ESTATE RIPOFFS**
Scammers post fake rental properties online, offering military discounts, and ask for deposits to be made by wire transfer or payment app. Check out MilitaryByOwner.com to research legitimate properties.

**RECORDS FEE SCAMS**
Do NOT pay for copies of your military records. You can get them FREE through your local VA.

**SECRET PROGRAMS**
Veterans are contacted and told they qualify for money from a “secret government program,” but must first pay a fee or provide personal information.

For more information, or to request this information in an alternate format, contact us via email at consumer@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-6420 (voice/relay).