



Consumer Affairs Tabloid



Keeping you in the “KNOW”

287- CITY

Army Community Service Financial Readiness Branch

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Excerpt From American Red Cross Press Room: New Scam Targeting Military Spouses
www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0_314_6732,00.html

The American Red Cross has learned about a new scam targeting military families. This scam takes the form of false information to military families as described below: The caller (young-sounding, American accent) calls a military spouse and identifies herself as a representative from the Red Cross. The caller states that the spouse's husband (not identified by name) was hurt while on duty in Iraq and was med-evacuated to a hospital in Germany. The caller stated they couldn't start treatment until paperwork was accomplished, and that in order to start the paperwork they needed the spouse to verify her husband's social security number and date of birth.

The Red Cross does not report any type of casualty information to family members. The Department of Defense will contact families directly if their military member has been injured. Should any military family member receive such a call, they are urged to contact their Rear Detachment or Family Readiness Group for more information.

National Consumers League – National Fraud Information Center



Top Ten Telemarketing Scams 2006 <http://fraud.org/stats/2006/telemarketing.pdf>

1. **Fake Check Scams.** Consumers paid with phony checks for work or items sold, instructed to wire money back
2. **Prizes/Sweepstakes.** Requests for payment to claim prizes that never materialize
3. **Magazine Sales.** Misrepresent cost of subscriptions or pretend to be publisher offering renewals
4. **Scholarships/Grants.** Falsely promise to help get scholarships or government educational grants, for a fee
5. **Advance Fee Loans.** False promises of business or personal loans, even if credit is bad, for a fee upfront
6. **Lotteries/Lottery Clubs.** Requests for payment to claim lottery winnings or get help to win, often foreign lotteries
7. **Credit Card Offers.** False promises of credit cards, for a fee, even if credit is bad
8. **Phishing.** Calls pretending to be from a well-known source, asking to confirm personal information
9. **Work-at-Home Plans.** Materials sold on false promises of big profits working at home
10. **Travel/Vacation.** Offers of free or discount travel that never materialize



From the Files of Fort Hood's Consumer Affairs Office

If someone calls stating they are from the military or have a good deal for family members of deployed Soldiers, remind your family not to give out confidential information. They may be “Phishing” for you or your spouse's identity.

Do not give out personal information such as a social security number, driver's license number, date of birth, account information, or mother's maiden name unless you initiated the call and have verified the business. Ask how the information will be used. With this information unscrupulous individuals can steal your identity, open fraudulent credit card accounts, use current credit accounts, secure loans, and even obtain employment.

For more information on how you can limit your chance of becoming a statistic click on the below link from the FTC ID Theft: What's it all about? <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/credit/idtheftmini.htm>

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