



**Report a crime to U.S. Army
Criminal Investigation Command**

Major Cybercrime Unit

**27130 Telegraph Road
Quantico, Virginia 22134**

Email

MCU Web Page

CID LOOK OUT
ON POINT FOR THE ARMY

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"DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE"

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Military Romance Frauds

Criminals use factual information and sometimes images taken from a Soldier's personal social media sites to prey on vulnerable people's trusting nature and willingness to help a Soldier.

Without ever meeting their victim, the criminal professes love and quickly moves the conversation to email and messenger. The criminal weaves a well-scripted tale of human tragedy. Some even propose marriage.

But it is not a Soldier with whom they are talking. They are talking with a criminal who has assumed a Soldier's identity.

Often the criminal uses [official looking government forms](#) and official sounding communications.

Knowing a little about how the U.S. military operates can alert potential victims to being the target of a fraud:

- Soldiers, Soldier's families or Soldier's friends are not required to pay money so a Soldier is allowed to take leave.
- Soldiers do not require anyone to request leave in order to be awarded leave.
- Soldiers cannot buy out of enlistment contracts or buy early retirements.
- Soldiers do not need anyone to pay for health benefits. Health benefits for Soldiers and military families are substantial.
- Soldiers do not find bags of diamonds or cash.
- Soldiers do not need permission to marry.
- Soldiers do not need to pay for retirement.
- Soldiers do not need money to buy food or housing.
- Soldiers do not pay to return stateside after being discharged.

Be cautious!

- Do check photos an online love interest sends you for inconsistencies. Oftentimes the images don't add up.
 - The Soldier claims to be an officer but the uniform is that of an enlisted soldier. [Know the difference.](#)
 - The name the Soldier uses is not the name on the Soldier's name tape. Know what [U.S. Army uniforms look like.](#)
 - The uniform rank does not match what the Soldier is claiming to be. [Know the Army's rank insignias.](#)
- Conduct a [reverse image search](#). Try multiple reverse image search sites and different images of the Soldier.
- Before starting an online relationship, and certainly BEFORE sending anything of value to anyone, verify, verify, VERIFY. Is the person really a Soldier? Ask, [am I dating a real Soldier?](#)

**Are You the Victim of a
Military Romance Scam?**

**Report the fraud to the
[Internet Crime Complaint Center](#)**

**Report the theft to the
[Federal Trade Commission](#)**

- Be very suspicious if the person being corresponded with wants something of value mailed to an [African country](#).
- Do NOT send money or anything of value through a forwarder, *special friend*, or third party middleman.
- Do NOT accept anything of value to deposit to any account to send back to the new love interest.

Online Military Romance Scams in the News

[These Social Media Scams Affect the Military](#) – U.S. Department of Defense

[Military Members' Personas Used in Scams](#) – Newsweek

[Military Romance Scams: Are You a Target?](#) – Military.com

[Five Things About Military Romance Scams](#) – Seattle Times

[Romance Scams with a Military Twist](#) – Western Union

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