



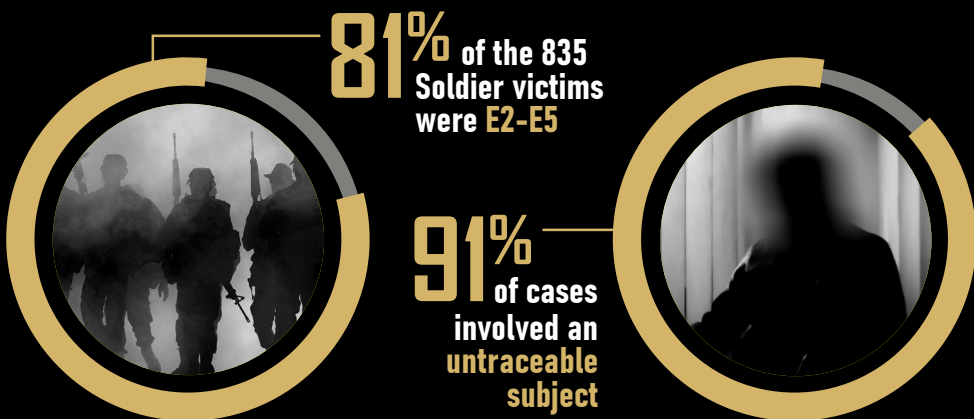
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Sextortion presents a significant and increasing cybercrime threat to United States Army personnel, readiness, and national security. Perpetrators manipulate victims, frequently junior enlisted Soldiers seeking online relationships, into providing sexually explicit images for blackmail. Another extortion method weaponizes the victim's fear of law enforcement. Offenders send unsolicited material that falsely appears as illegal content involving minors. Payment is then demanded, with threats to report the victim to the authorities if they don't comply. The victim, fearing they will become a criminal suspect, is intimidated to report the crime. The outcomes for victims are severe, including damage to their career and reputation, and emotional and financial distress. A comprehensive analysis of Army law enforcement data shows that 992 sextortion reports were initiated from calendar year 2020-2025.



SEXTORTION IN THE ARMY



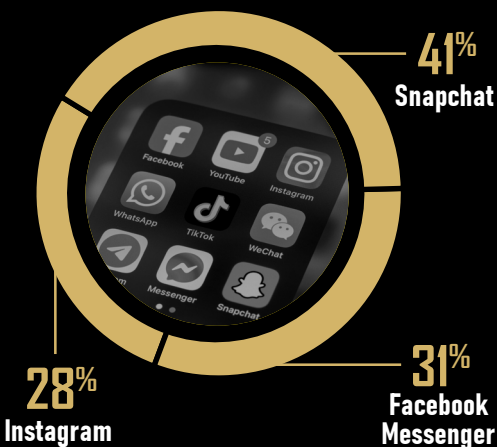
According to the FBI, from October 2021 to March 2023, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security Investigations received over 13,000 reports of financial sextortion. Offenders were primarily located in west African countries like Nigeria and the Ivory Coast, as well as Southeast Asian countries such as the Philippines. The remote location of many of these criminals, combined with their use of sophisticated technology to hide their activities, presents a significant challenge for law enforcement agencies to identify suspects.

Victims paid a subject before contacting Law Enforcement in 43% of cases

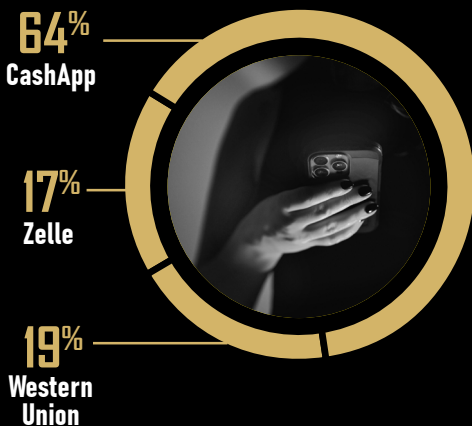
Financial loss incurred by victims of 992 sextortion cases



Known social media platforms used for transmission of explicit images



Three most common methods used to transfer funds



If you are a victim of a sextortion crime, contact your local Military Police station or Army CID here: <https://www.cid.army.mil/contact/>.

SCAN TO SUBMIT A TIP OR VISIT <https://www.cid.army.mil/Tips>

