The mission of the Consumer Protection Branch ("CPB") is to protect consumers through civil and criminal enforcement of federal consumer protection laws.

Servicemembers and Veterans
- Department priority
- Population targeted by fraudsters
- A readiness, welfare and morale issue

Enforcement/Outreach
CONSUMER PROTECTION BRANCH

Selected Enforcement Statutes

- Title 18, United States Code – Crimes and Criminal Procedure
  - e.g., Mail/Wire Fraud, Money Laundering, Identity Theft
    (lying, cheating, or stealing to harm consumers)
- Product Safety
  - e.g., Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Consumer Product Safety Act
    (food, drugs, electronics, home goods – defective, deceptively marketed)
- Civil Consumer Protection Statutes
  - e.g., Fair Credit Reporting Act, Truth in Lending Act, COPPA
    (enforcement in tandem with FTC)

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Cases of Interest

Justice Department and Law Enforcement Partners
Announce Civil and Criminal Actions to Dismantle Global Network of Mass Mailing Fraud Schemes Targeting Elderly and Vulnerable Victims

Goodman Company L.P. Agrees to Pay $43 Million for Debt and Misrepresentation in Republica

Hetzel Attorney Wins
Deny to Publicimation
Forced Mortgage
Modification Scheme
117 individuals and entities sued/charged across US in one-year period through November 2015.

Resources for servicemembers:
- Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences’ Consortium for Health and Military Performance
- United States Anti-Doping Agency

(downloadable apps)

CONSUMER PROTECTION BRANCH
Dietary Supplements

Report Suspected Fraud

Speaking of Scams...

Even in today’s connected world, scams are everywhere. Some are spotted easily, while others sneak up on their victims. A common scam is to pretend to be someone you know, such as a family member, friend, or co-worker. Here are some tips to avoid scams:

- Look out for slick or high-pressure tactics. Scammers often try to rush you into making a decision or say that there’s a limited-time offer.

- Be wary of requests for personal or financial information. Scammers may ask for sensitive information, such as your Social Security number, bank account details, or login credentials.

- Do your research. Before you make a decision, check the company or individual online to see if they have a legitimate history. Be cautious of unsolicited emails, texts, or phone calls.

- Keep your guard up. If something feels too good to be true, it probably is. Scammers often promise big rewards in exchange for a small investment.

For additional tips and resources, visit the Consumer Protection Branch website. Remember, it’s always better to be safe than sorry.