While all Americans need to take proactive measures against identity theft, deployed military personnel are at a higher risk because they are often unavailable to monitor fraudulent account activity.

According to the FTC, identity theft complaints among active U.S. military and veterans are made at twice the number reported by the general public. Thirty percent of active military and veterans list identity theft as their number one complaint.

According to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, since 2005, almost 700 government and military data breaches have occurred. From that, 45 million records of veterans and active-duty personnel have been compromised.

In 2012, Veteran Affairs reported one in 20 Americans fell victim to identity theft. The FTC has designated July 17 as “Military Consumer Protection Day.”

The alarming identity theft rates may be connected to the 2006 Veterans Affairs data breach, where 26.5 million names, Social Security numbers, and birth dates were compromised.

Reports show veterans living near military bases in Alaska, New York, Colorado, Ohio and Kentucky have a higher risk of experiencing identity theft than non-veterans in the same areas. According to a 2012 report by ID Analytics.

There are nearly 2.2 million Americans currently on active duty. (US Department of Defense 2011) Just over 21 million veterans, spouses, and children use military identification.

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