Phony telephone number scam targets veterans
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by
Carol Kando-Pineda
Attorney, FTC’s Consumer & Business Education
There’s a new scam out there, preying on veterans who are making
decisions about their medical care. The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) is
an initiative of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The program
allows certain eligible vets to use approved health care providers who are
outside of the VA system. Veterans or families can call the VCP’s toll-free
number to verify their eligibility for the program.
Here’s the problem: Scammers have set up a phony telephone line that very
closely resembles the VCP’s real telephone number. Con artists often use
names, seals, and logos that look or sound like those of respected,
legitimate organizations. This time they’re using a phone number that’s
almost identical to the real thing, counting on creating confusion. You call
and think you’ve reached the VCP. The fake line’s message says you’re
entitled to a rebate if you provide a credit card number. But if you give up
your account information, they’ll debit your account and you’ll get nothing in
return. There is no rebate and you’ll need to cancel your credit card.
If you’re a veteran — or you’re helping one with health care — remember
these tips to avoid a scammer’s tricks.

• Be sure you’re calling the real number for the Veterans Choice Program:
  866-606-8198. If you’re not sure you’ve reached the VCP, hang up. Check
  the VCP’s site for the real number and try again.
• The VA — or any government agency — will not ask for your financial
  account information.

Visit VCP’s site to learn more about the Veterans Choice Program — or call
866-606-8198. Check out the VA’s Identity theft prevention program, More
Than a Number. Report identity theft to the FTC — and get a personalized
recovery plan — at 🌐 IdentityTheft.gov.