

Crimes Committed Against Veterans

This section focuses exclusively on **modern crimes targeting veterans**, including exploitation, fraud, harassment, political targeting, and foreign subjugation efforts. It is designed to help policymakers, law enforcement, and veteran advocates identify, prevent, and respond to crimes **perpetrated against veterans**.

1. Financial and Economic Exploitation

1.1 Benefits Theft and VA Fraud

- Unauthorized diversion or theft of VA disability, pension, or education benefits.
- Fraudulent representatives charging illegal fees for benefit assistance.
- Family or caregivers misusing veteran accounts or power of attorney to access funds.

1.2 Predatory Lending and Housing Scams

- Deceptive home loan refinancing schemes targeting VA-backed mortgages.
- Rent-to-own or foreclosure scams exploiting veterans' credit or housing insecurity.
- Payday loan and cash advance operations charging illegal interest rates.

1.3 Fake Charities and Investment Scams

- False "veteran support" charities that pocket donations.
- Pyramid or cryptocurrency scams aimed at veteran networks.
- Bogus "business opportunity" schemes using patriotic imagery or military affiliation.

1.4 Identity Theft and Impersonation

- Theft of service documents (DD-214), Social Security numbers, or VA login credentials.
 - Criminal impersonation of veterans to gain access to benefits or public sympathy.
 - Phishing campaigns using VA or military branding.
-

2. Cyber and Online Harassment

2.1 Doxxing and Online Threats

- Public posting of veterans' personal data to intimidate or silence them.
- Coordinated online attacks, including identity exposure and harassment.

2.2 Misinformation and Exploitation Networks

- Online groups manipulating veterans through misinformation, political extremism, or false claims of camaraderie.
- Targeted psychological operations exploiting trauma or patriotism for recruitment or disinformation.

2.3 Romance and Social Media Scams (Expanded)

- Scammers impersonating military personnel or veterans to gain emotional trust, often through social media or dating platforms.
 - False declarations of love or companionship used to extract money, personal data, or immigration benefits.
 - Extortion threats following private communication or image sharing.
 - "Military romance scams" using stolen photos and service histories of real veterans to defraud victims or create false identities.
 - Cyber manipulation campaigns by organized groups or foreign intelligence fronts using emotional relationships as entry points for financial or political influence.
-

3. Physical, Psychological, and Social Crimes

3.1 Elder Abuse and Neglect

- Physical, emotional, or financial abuse of elderly veterans by caregivers or institutions.
- Neglect or inadequate care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- Withholding medication or medical access for financial or coercive reasons.

3.2 Homelessness Exploitation

- Theft, violence, or manipulation targeting homeless veterans.
- Exploiting vulnerable veterans for labor or criminal activities.

- Displacement through fraudulent rental or shelter programs.
- Harming or tricking veterans, causing them to fall into homelessness.

3.3 Hate Crimes and Retaliation

- Targeted violence or intimidation based on veteran identity, race, religion, gender, or disability.
- Hostility against veterans due to political or national service affiliations.

3.4 Medical and Mental Health Negligence

- Delay or denial of necessary medical care by healthcare providers or institutions.
 - Loss or mishandling of medical records leading to denial of treatment.
 - Exploitation by unlicensed “treatment” providers offering fake PTSD cures or medication sales.
-

4. Political Targeting and Manipulation

- Cyber or psychological campaigns designed to harass, silence, or discredit veterans involved in advocacy or political speech.
 - Selective enforcement, social media censorship, or coordinated disinformation targeting veteran communities.
 - Political exploitation of veterans’ images or service records for partisan propaganda.
 - Entrapment or coercion through digital surveillance, smear operations, or infiltration by foreign or domestic political interests.
 - Attempts to fracture veteran unity through online influence operations tied to foreign powers or extremist factions.
-

5. Foreign Subjugation and Modern Slavery

5.1 Labor and Trafficking Schemes

- Exploitation of veterans through false overseas employment offers or “security contract” fraud.

- Coercion into labor or surveillance roles under threat, debt bondage, or manipulation.
- Trafficking networks that target veterans for their skills or physical vulnerability.

5.2 Psychological and Political Subjugation

- Foreign intelligence efforts to convert or control veterans through ideological indoctrination, blackmail, or bribery.
- Online grooming and targeting campaigns encouraging veterans to undermine U.S. institutions or engage in illegal activities abroad.
- Economic or digital warfare tactics designed to destabilize veteran networks and erode public trust in American governance.

5.3 Digital Colonization and Hybrid Operations

- State or non-state actors using cyber tools to monitor, manipulate, or exploit veteran populations.
 - AI-driven targeting of veterans for recruitment, surveillance, or influence.
 - Digital slavery, including forced data labor or coerced online activity as part of hybrid warfare campaigns.
-

6. Reporting and Remedies

- **Law Enforcement:** Contact local police or the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) for suspected crimes.
 - **Financial Crimes:** Report to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).
 - **Cybercrimes:** File through the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).
 - **Abuse or Neglect:** Contact Adult Protective Services or VA social work departments.
 - **Human Trafficking:** Report to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888).
-

7. Prevention and Awareness Measures

- Expand community education on scams, trafficking, and political manipulation targeting veterans.

- Strengthen coordination between law enforcement, the VA, cybersecurity agencies, and social service networks.
 - Create interagency monitoring of foreign influence campaigns directed at veterans.
 - Implement rapid response and victim protection systems for those targeted in hybrid or online warfare contexts.
-

Purpose: This expanded section emphasizes crimes of coercion, exploitation, and subjugation directed against veterans in modern digital and geopolitical environments. It promotes vigilance, transparency, and protection from foreign and domestic threats that compromise the dignity and safety of those who have served.
