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For Immediate Release

Internet Scammers Profit by Posing as Utah National Guard Servicemembers

DRAPER, Utah – In the past year there has been a surge of internet scams with criminals attempting to profit on the public by posing as members of the Utah National Guard.

Scammers prey on the victim's patriotism by claiming to be a deploying Service member needing to sell a vehicle fast; offering a too-good-to-be-true discount on the advertised vehicle.

They are also using online dating sites by forming relationships and ultimately asking for money. They often use actual photos and bios of Service members that are easily pulled off of Social Media sites, making their stories more believable.

"The public inherently trusts the military, and these unscrupulous people abuse that trust to perpetuate their scams," commented Spokesperson Maj. Bruce Roberts.

Suspected scams can be forwarded to ngut-pao@ng.army.mil.

If you have found yourself a victim of a scam, you can file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau, the Federal Trade Commission or the FBI at www.ic3.gov.

Media Notes: For more information, please contact Maj. Bruce Roberts (801) 432-4407.