



## Navy Urges Sailors to Take Steps to Avoid Identity Theft

The Navy is reminding Sailors to be vigilant in protecting their personal information.

Identity theft, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), occurs when someone uses your personal information, such as your name, Social Security number (SSN), credit card number or other identifying information, without your permission to commit fraud.

The best deterrence is guarding your SSN. The use of a shredder to destroy documents and mail containing personal information is also recommended.

Protections on computers and other electronic equipment are equally important.

Robust passwords, firewall, regular updates to operating systems and anti-virus software are necessary. If conducting business over the Internet, limit interaction only to those sites that have security encryption.

For those that find themselves the victims of identity theft, the FTC recommends contacting any one of the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert. Individuals will then receive credit reports from all three companies - free of charge.

The FTC has established a Web page for Navy personnel at:  
[www.consumer.gov/military/navy.htm](http://www.consumer.gov/military/navy.htm).

To report identity theft to the three major credit bureaus, contact Equifax Fraud (800) 525-6285; Experian Fraud (800) 397-3742; and TransUnion Fraud (800) 680-7289.

