

Scam Allegedly From Defense Finance and Accounting Services

By Jane M. Winand, Chief, Legal Assistance Division

The Internal Revenue Service has now warned of an emerging scam involving fraudulent emails. The emails are being sent to military personnel as well as military retirees and civilian employees informing them that persons receiving disability compensation from the VA may be entitled to obtain additional monies from the IRS. The email appears to originate from the Defense Finance and Accounting Services and also has a .mil domain but it is not coming from a legitimate government mail address. The email advises the recipient to forward copies of income tax returns, 1099-Rs, VA award letters, DD 214s, and Retiree Account Statements to a colonel at an address in Florida so that additional funds may be obtained from the IRS.

This is an attempt to obtain Social Security numbers and other personal information to be used to steal your identity. You should not respond to any emails from unfamiliar senders asking for personal information. Nor should you respond to internet solicitations that direct you to a toll-free number and then request your Social Security number, bank account and credit card information, and other personal and financial data.

The IRS has advised that if you receive such a suspicious e-mail, you can relay that e-mail to a new IRS mailbox, phishing@irs.gov. Follow instructions at the following link to ensure that the bogus email will be forwarded while retaining critical elements found in the original e-mail. <http://www.irs.gov/privacy/article/0,,id=179820,00.html> The IRS can use the information, URLs and links in the suspicious e-mails you send to trace the hosting Web site and alert authorities to help shut down the fraudulent sites. Unfortunately, due to the expected volume, the IRS will not be able to acknowledge receipt or respond to you.

Should you have any additional questions regarding consumer scams, you may call the Fort Meade Legal Assistance Office and make an appointment to speak with an attorney. The number is (301) 677-9504/9536.