

## AVOIDING HOUSING RENTAL SCAMS

Military personnel should use the Department of Defense(DoD) sponsored Automated Housing Referral Network ([www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com)) to look for rental homes.

Housing rental scams are increasing nationwide. Scammers will often take a photo from the Internet to create a fake rental listing. Be aware of websites with military sounding names that are not affiliated with the Department of Defense.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) investigates rental scam complaints. Personnel should report suspected rental scams to the FTC and The FBI using their on-line complaint forms:

Federal Trade Commission <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>

FBI IC3 (Internet Crime Complaint Center) <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>

### **How to avoid being victimized:**

- Only deal with landlords or renters who are local;
- Be suspicious if you're asked to only use a wire transfer service;
- Beware of e-mail correspondence from the "landlord" that's written in poor or broken English;
- Research the average rental rates in that area and be suspicious if the rate is significantly lower;
- Don't give out personal information, like social security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

([http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/july/housingscam\\_072909](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/july/housingscam_072909))

### **FBI info**

[http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/july/housingscam\\_072909](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/july/housingscam_072909)

### **File a scam alert with the FTC**

<http://apartments.about.com/od/apartmenthunting/a/How-To-File-An-Apartment-Rental-Scam-Complaint-With-The-FTC.htm>

### **Rental Listing Scams**

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt002.shtm>

### **7 things to do if you are a victim of a rental scam**

<http://apartments.about.com/od/apartmenthunting/a/7-Things-You-Can-Do-If-You-Become-The-Victim-Of-An-Apartment-Rental-Scam.htm>

### **5 worst rental scam to watch out for**

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2012/04/02/The-5-Worst-Rental-Scams-to-Watch-Out-For.aspx#page1>

### **Renter Beware: Be Careful when Choosing a Rental Property**

<http://www.usa.gov/topics/consumer/scams-fraud/family-home-community/rental-fraud.shtml>