



VETERANS' PRIVACY AT RISK

The Problem: A DoD Website Exposes Sensitive Personal Information About Veterans, Enabling Scams and Identity Theft:

DoD is operating a website that exposes sensitive private information about every servicemember and veteran who has served since 1985. The website allows open access to the following private details about veterans' service:

- *Exact* dates of active duty
- Any future dates of call-up to active service
- The specific component of the military in which a person served

Anyone can obtain these details by visiting the website and simply inputting an individual's name and birthdate (or a name and SSN). Website here: <https://scra.dmdc.osd.mil/>

What you need to know: The DoD Website currently...

- (1) Exposes personal details that put veterans at risk of scams and identity theft.
- (2) Affects millions of veterans, allowing access to records for anyone who has entered or left the armed forces since 1985.
- (3) Is completely unsecured, allowing anyone who visits it to obtain these private details anonymously. DoD does not track who is searching for information or why.
- (4) Violates the federal Privacy Act. The website is meant to be used *only* to verify whether someone is protected by the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, but DoD has not secured the website in any meaningful way.

What to do if you may have been affected:

VVA is considering a variety of legal options that could require the government to comply with federal privacy laws and protect veterans' personal details. VVA is also interested in obtaining compensation, if possible, for veterans who have been harmed because their information was disclosed through this website. The Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic at the University at Buffalo School of Law is providing legal assistance to VVA to pursue these efforts.

We are interested in speaking with veterans who:

1. Live in New York;
2. Left the armed services after 1985; and
3. Have been negatively affected by disclosure of personal info through the DoD website, or who fear that they may have been affected.

For more information see:

<http://bit.ly/VeteransPrivacy>

If you think you may have been affected, please contact the University at Buffalo Civil Liberties & Transparency Clinic at:

Phone: (716) 249-2999

Email: VeteransPrivacy@gmail.com

We also welcome the support of veterans organizations in New York concerned about this issue.