

**VA CENTRAL
OFFICE
Office of Security**

**AWARENESS
BULLETIN #:**

2011-01

Situational

“Veterans Affairs Services” Group

**DATE OF
BULLETIN:**

22 Feb 2011

Advisory from National Guard Bureau (NGB)

The following is an advisory sent out by the National Guard Bureau (NGB) in reference to a group called **“Veterans Affairs Services”**

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. Websites with the name "VA services" immediately after the "www" ARE NOT part of the Department of Veterans Affairs; the real VA website ends in.gov. If approached or called, do not offer them any information concerning yourself or data on other veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not randomly call veterans, nor does it ask veterans for information which it does not already have. If you have not dealt with the VA previously and in person, then you receive a call from someone saying they are with the VA or something similar sounding, hang up the phone. Do not respond to emails which suggest that they are from the VA. The VA never conducts official business nor asks for personal information by email.

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. NGB Legal Counsel has requested that the NGB Provost Marshal Office coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

Sample of group's header

<p>Not Affiliated With The United States Government</p>	<p>Veterans Affairs Services PO Box 1778 La Mirada, CA 90637-1778</p>	
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Source: NGB Weekly Threat Update/Force Protection Advisory

VA Police Services are urged to disseminate this information to in case of inquiries from veterans and to prevent their unwittingly release of Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

UNCLASSIFIED