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Soldiers Beware

If a product or service is too good to be true, it usually is, especially on the Internet. Websites offering service members big discounts, along with other “special deals”, on anything from mortgages to laptops, are popping-up all over.

Recently, a Fort Stewart Soldier alerted his education counselor that a Website seemed to imply that it is an official military agency. The look-alike site was offering laptop computers to Soldiers and Veterans, if they used that site to take computer classes. The true Army Education site is www.armyeducation.army.mil. The Soldier said the civilian site “encourages Soldiers to fill-in an application form and send in a copy of their Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) and a copy of the allotment start form.” This Soldier wanted to alert his fellow service members about this private business site because with so much personal information on the LES, it could lead to the possibility of identity theft.

Ms Ruth Foster, Headquarters, Army Continuing Education System (ACES), agreed that the site was much too similar to the official Army Education site and other sites for post education centers. “We are concerned that this civilian Website may seem to have similar offerings, but it is not a military program. We had an eArmyU program that used to offer Soldiers a laptop.” Ms Foster felt someone might easily think this private site is Army related because lots of military agencies use .com in their addresses, including ACES’ own www.GoArmyEd.com. Soldiers should be aware that even Websites with official looking logos may not belong to the military. “Soldiers need to know that to take full advantage of their educational benefits, they should always consult with their education counselor and use the official GoArmyEd portal.”

