



Scambuster Fighting for Military Members

By Alan Greenblatt

People have different reactions when they see service men and women in uniform. Many admire their bravery and thank them for the sacrifices they've made. But some individuals think of them quite differently, as easy marks.

Members of the military are targeted at a high rate for scams perpetrated by landlords or companies selling loans or consumer goods such as faulty cars or computers. There have always been a few shady businesses around the edges of military bases, but now companies run sophisticated campaigns targeting active members of the military on a nationwide basis. According to the Federal Trade Commission, 100,000 cases of fraud were reported by service men and women, their dependents, retirees, or veterans in 2016 alone.

Deanna Nelson is trying to do something about it. Nelson is an assistant attorney general in New York, running the Watertown office. She knew nothing about military consumer practices

before taking on the job twelve years ago, but she quickly got up to speed due to the number of fraud cases coming out of the Army's neighboring Fort Drum. "Companies in the area and nationally have made it their business to separate the military from their income streams," Nelson says.

People in the Army and the other service branches make unusually attractive targets for grifters for several reasons. They typically are young, often living away from home and managing their own finances for the first time. They collect steady paychecks and pay their bills on time, because keeping their credit records clean is a condition of their employment. If they are in any kind of financial trouble, they can lose their security clearances for fear they'd be subject to blackmail or other pressures. So service members pay their bills no matter how blatantly they've been ripped off. "The companies realize that service members are going to pay," Nelson says. "It's not worth it to sacrifice their security clearance or military status not to pay."

When particular types of scams become common, Nelson and her counterparts in other



states are often called in by financial counselors on the bases. As civilians and representatives of the state, there are limits to what they can do. They aren't going to represent individual men or women, but they can act as mediators.

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED M/WBE AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR THE

Bay Park Conveyance Project
 NYSDEC and Nassau County Department of Public Works Contract
 Bid Date: September 28, 2020

Description of project:
 This innovative project will divert treated effluent from the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) which currently discharges an average of fifty million gallons per day (50 MGD) of treated effluent into Reynolds Channel. This treated effluent will be conveyed via the construction of a 2-mile-long force main from the Bay Park facility to an existing aqueduct under the Sunrise Highway, whereby rehabilitation of a 7.3-mile stretch of the aqueduct, and construction of an approximately 1.6-mile-long force main will connect to the existing Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) outfall. The project will utilize the existing outfall to diffuse the treated effluent three miles offshore into the Atlantic Ocean. The project will include construction of a new pump station at Bay Park STP, modifications to the Cedar Creek WPCP, 15 microtunnel support shafts, and a series of access pits along Sunrise Highway.

Many bidding opportunities available: microtunnel, slip line, rebar, concrete redmix, concrete pumping, curb and sidewalks, paving, landscaping, parkwork, clear and grubbing, utilities, soil testing, concrete demolition, miscellaneous metals, CMU, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, mechanical, jet grout, piles, secants, painting, skylight, insulation, structural steel, roofing, doors, steel tank, geotech monitoring, vibration monitoring, trucking, containers, cleaning, trailers, security guard, dewatering, MPT, excavation, support of excavation, instrumentation and controls, testing and commissioning, fire protection, precast, castings, pipe, valves, ground improvement, and ladders.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW JERSEY STATE CERTIFIED DBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR:

NJ Transitgrid Distributed Generation Program Project
 New Jersey Transit Contract
 Bid Date: August 20, 2020

Description of Project:
 The Distributed Generation Program will ensure that all participating locations can provide their own electrical power in the event of a utility grid disruption. This will include: automatic transfer switches, natural gas generators and enclosures with required foundations, connections to existing electrical services (both the utility side and facility side), remote access to the Distributed Generation equipment at all seven (7) participating locations, development and implementation of prescribed cyber security protocols, installation of a flywheel energy storage system at the Wayne Bus Maintenance Facility, installation of solar carport canopies, at the Wayne Bus Maintenance Facility, complete remediation and repurposing of the Newark Penn Station Old Boiler House, and modifications to the Newark Penn Station electrical system.

Many bidding opportunities are available: demolition, dumpsters, rebar, masonry, structural steel, miscellaneous metals, HVAC, plumbing, fire protection, painting.

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE MWBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR:

WP-0112 Replacement of Main Sewage Pump System at Coney Island WWTP Project
 NYC DEP Contract No: CI-119
 Bid Date: August 20, 2020

Description of Project:
 The CI-119 project consists of the replacement of the Main Sewage Pumps and other ancillary equipment and structures at the Coney Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Brooklyn, New York. Work includes demolition of six existing Main Sewage Pumps (MSPs), shafts, motors, drives, and piping, and replacement with vertical centrifugal dry pit pumps, 600 HP motors and eddy current drives, and vertical shaft; demolition and replacement of the MSP seal water system, actuated sluice gates, sump pump system; installation of a new Flood Recovery Pump system; demolition of the decommissioned chemical storage tanks, piping, pumps, and appurtenances in the chemical and dechlorination rooms; also structural, MPT, architectural, electrical, instrumentation and controls, HVAC and plumbing, and fire protection work to support the pump replacement.

Many bidding opportunities are available: demolition, sitework, rebar install, trucking, fill supply, hauling and demolition, paint, masonry, doors, drywall, roof, tile, windows, overhead doors, metals, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and indirect items.

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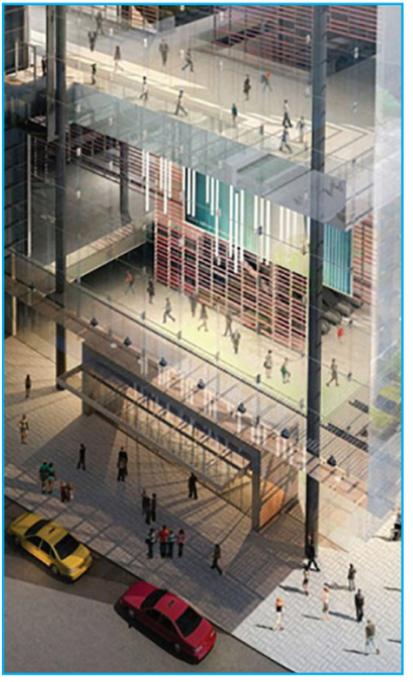
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NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2020

PPP Forgiveness—Latest Changes to Application Procedures Webinar
 Monday, August 24, 2020, 10:00 am–11:00 am
 Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Small Business Development Center
 Contact: Chuck Gilboy, 603-970-1307, chuck.gilboy@unh.edu
 Fee: Free; registration required

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness application has been posted on the websites of the US Small Business Administration and the Department of the Treasury. We're waiting for final forgiveness guidance, but the application itself makes several important changes to how you calculate forgiveness that we'll cover. We'll also discuss the documents you should be tracking and collecting now as we wait for the final SBA rule. This webinar is presented by Chuck Gilboy, New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) business advisor. NH SBDC is the leading resource for business advising and education for small to medium businesses in the Granite State. Each year, three thousand small businesses in approximately two hundred New Hampshire communities benefit from NH SBDC advising and educational programs provided at no charge to New Hampshire enterprises.

How to Access the Woman-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program Repository Webinar
 Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: Patrice Dozier, 404-331-0118, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required

Once you register, you will be sent the link for the webinar. Before you can participate in the women's contracting program, you must either use the SBA FREE online application or be third-party certified. Both methods require you to use the certify.SBA.gov website. Webinar access information will be forwarded via email.

Federal Contracting for Veterans and Service Disabled Veterans Webinar
 Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 11:00 am–12:30 pm
 Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, The Women's Business Center at The Helen Gordon Davis Centre for Women
 Contact: Jessica Vega-Eugene, 813-251-8437, jvega.eugene@thecentre.org
 Fee: Free; registration required

This class provides an overview of the Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOB) Federal Contracting program as well as veteran-owned small business eligibility requirements. All small businesses that are interested in submitting an offer on a solicitation that has been set aside under the SDVOB program must complete this certification prior to submitting the offer. Joining the disabled veterans' business program makes your business eligible to compete for the program's set-aside contracts. You can still compete for contract awards under other socio-economic programs you qualify for. The federal government spent \$20.65 billion on SDVOB contracts in 2018.

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