



SMALL NUMBERS, BIG CONSEQUENCES

Whether it's a Social Security number, date of birth, or address—every single piece of personally identifiable information represents one of our nation's Veterans. Unfortunately, when that data is left undefended, it can fall into the hands of identity thieves, causing serious consequences for Veterans' financial wellbeing. That's why you could face stiff penalties if you fail to prevent the theft of Veterans' personally identifiable information.

Big Consequences for Veteran Victims

Information breaches can directly lead to the theft of Veterans' identities, forcing them to:

- ▶ Spend considerable time closing bad accounts and fixing credit records
- ▶ Pay high out-of-pocket expenses related to clearing their names
- ▶ Be denied mortgages, loans, or jobs because of poor credit
- ▶ Face other emotional and financial hardships

Big Consequences for VA Employees

Veterans aren't the only ones affected when their personally identifiable information is compromised. VA also possesses personally identifiable information for all employees, and if you cause a data breach, you may face the following disciplinary consequences from VA:

- ▶ Suspension of access privileges
- ▶ Suspension from work
- ▶ Demotion or termination

TAKE ONE EXTRA MOMENT TO:

- ✓ Double-check mailing addresses
- ✓ Encrypt emails containing sensitive data
- ✓ Properly dispose of documents and media
- ✓ Hit Ctrl+Alt+Delete when leaving a computer
- ✓ Report suspicious emails immediately

Civil and Criminal Penalties

In addition to disciplinary consequences from VA, you can also face serious civil penalties for unknowingly divulging Veterans' information, or criminal penalties for knowingly divulging it:

- ▶ **Civil penalties** may include a fine of up to \$1.5 million.
- ▶ **Criminal penalties** may include up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The More Than a Number Campaign is overseen by the Office of Identity Safety within the Office of Information Security.

Visit bit.ly/morethanonenumber to learn how to prevent identity theft and find an information security officer



MORE
THAN A NUMBER
DEFEND VETERANS' IDENTITIES