

# Pre-Deployment Online Safety Checklist



As any military family knows, when a loved one is deployed, normal communication and connectivity can be disrupted or delayed. Amid the anxiety of being separated from your family for a long period, you have enough to worry about — identity theft, fraud or other misuse of your information or finances shouldn't be on that list.

Serving our country is among the greatest sacrifices a family could make — and your online safety should not be a part of that. But unfortunately, active-duty service members, Veterans and their families are at higher-than-average risk of identity theft, fraud and other digital threats.<sup>1</sup>

Online safety experts at Aura recommend taking the following steps to help protect you and your family from online crime during deployment.

## Financial Safety

- 1 Set an [active duty alert](#), which requires creditors to verify your identity before issuing new credit in your name.
- 2 Notify your financial institutions that you will be deployed.
- 3 Set up a power of attorney for a trusted family member or advisor (your “agent”).
- 4 Ensure you are using unique, hard-to-guess passwords or passphrases. Consider using a password manager.
- 5 Create an up-to-date record of your financial accounts and important passwords, store them in a secure place and leave a copy with your agent. Even better, use Aura’s app to designate access to your accounts, passwords and manage any alerts that may arise when you’re deployed.

# Social Media Safety

1

Set strong social media privacy settings to limit who can view your posts, especially anything about your deployment. Ideally, you wouldn't post about your deployment at all, to prevent scammers from impersonating you while you're away.

2

Remove personal information like your birthday, address, email or anything that could help people guess your passwords or security questions from social media accounts.

3

Deactivate or designate account access to a trusted family member who can monitor it so it doesn't fall into the wrong hands. Set up 2FA to go to a trusted family members' phone.

4

Talk to your children about what information is OK to share online. Explain why it is not safe to share details about your deployment, your/their location, their school, their age, or the family's address, their birthday, etc.

## All-In-One Protection

Consider using an online safety software like Aura to keep yourself and your family safe while you are deployed. Available for a 14-day free trial and up to 68% off for the military, Aura proactively protects you.

**Financial Fraud & Credit Protection** Aura monitors your SSN and bank accounts and provides near real time alerts on suspicious transactions and credit inquiries.

**Identity Theft Protection** Aura alerts you if it detects threats to your identity and breaches to your accounts and passwords.

**Password Manager & Vault** Our Password Manager makes it easy to secure your accounts with strong passwords and safely store your digital assets.

**Online & Device Security** Every Aura plan comes with a VPN, antivirus software and a password manager to protect your privacy and data. Aura's password manager can even auto-update your credentials on select sites, and Aura automatically stops you from entering malicious sites that might steal your information.

**Family Protection** With the Aura family plan, you can protect up to 5 of your loved ones, including your spouse, parents and kids.

Learn more at [aura.com/military](http://aura.com/military)