

Internet Safety Month

According to the US Department of Justice, “One in five children is subject to unwanted sexual solicitations online.” Many of these occur in internet chat rooms, where predators assume a false identity and work for weeks, months, or years to make contact in the real world with their victim. Nineteen percent of young internet users received an unwanted sexual solicitation in the past year. Five percent of the youth surveyed received a distressing sexual solicitation. Three percent received an aggressive solicitation involving offline contact or attempts or requests for offline contact and seventy-seven percent of the victims were between 14 and 17 years old.

The Picatinny Arsenal Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU) would like to remind everyone that June is Internet Safety Month. With the beginning of the summer season and start of the summer vacation for our children, more time will be spent on the internet. Much of this time may be spent when parents/guardians are at work or unavailable to directly supervise. Parents need to be engaged in their child’s online activity and ask about sites they are visiting, who they are interacting with online, and what personal information they are sharing. Now is the perfect time for parents to talk with our kids about online habits and behaviors.

The Family Online Safety Institute suggests:

- Talk with your child about internet safety.
- Use age appropriate filtering.
- Set limits on “screen time”.
- Signing an internet safety contract with family members.
- Explain to your child never to give out personal information online.
- Make sure your child knows never to meet face to face with someone they met online without first talking with you.
- Tell your child never to share passwords with anyone, including friends.
- Explain the consequences of posting inappropriate material online.
- Monitor your child’s mobile phone usage and review text messages sent and received.
- Educate yourself on the latest threats facing kids online (e.g. sexting, cyber bullying.)



For more information, contact CIU at 973.724.5887/2160 or visit us on the web at www.pica.army.mil/des. You can also make anonymous tips about suspicious activity by calling 973.724.TIPS (8477).

