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Cybersecurity-Online Identity Theft

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Cybersecurity: Identity Theft Case and Questions

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A stylized, teal-colored silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

Professor Amy Ramson, Esq.

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Online Identity theft

Description

- ◆ Identity theft online occurs when a criminal gains access to someone's personally identifiable information (pii) through the computer.
- ◆ Typically, the criminals will send a link or attachment (phishing) which, if opened, will allow spyware to be downloaded to the victim's computer.
- ◆ The spyware will collect pii which is used to defraud the individual.

Personally identifiable information

- ◆ Full name, maiden name, mother's maiden name Social security number (SSN), passport number, driver's license number, taxpayer identification number, patient identification number, financial account number, or credit card number
- ◆ Address: street address, or email address
- ◆ Telephone numbers
- ◆ Personal characteristics: photographic images (particularly of face or other identifying characteristics), fingerprints, or handwriting
- ◆ Biometric data: retina scans, voice signatures, or facial geometry
- ◆ Information identifying personally owned property: VIN number or title number
- ◆ Internet Protocol (IP) or Media Access Control (MAC) addresses that link to a particular person

Defrauding veterans

Case: Criminals stole personally identifiable information of veterans and military members and defrauded them

Resources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/21/us/military-identity-theft-scheme.html>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/five-fraudsters-indicted-million-dollar-scheme-targeting-thousands-us-servicemembers-and>

Questions:

1. How was the personally identifiable information (pii) stolen from the veterans/military people?
2. How was the scheme carried out?
3. Which types of crimes were committed using the pii? Describe three.
4. Describe the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act and why it is relevant to this case.
5. Which crimes were the criminals charged with?
6. Which US Departments worked to investigate the crime?
7. Was the breach revealed to those potentially affected and were steps taken to recompense the defrauded? If so, describe how.