

Military Consumer Shopping Twitter Chat

On Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, FTC Commissioner Terrell McSweeney and Carol Kando-Pineda participated in a Twitter chat on military consumer shopping for the holidays. The chat was hosted by the Department of Defense's Military One Source. They tweeted from @TMcSweeneyFTC and the @FTC Twitter account, respectively. The hashtags for the chat were #MilConsumer and #MyMilFam.

Note: The following tweets are from @FTC and/or @TMcSweeneyFTC. Tweets and retweets in their original order remain publicly available on Twitter for as long as the company allows (posted here in order for ease of reading).

@FTC: HI, this is Carol Kando-Pineda from FTC. Excited to be talking with our #MilConsumer folks today! #MyMilFam

@TMcSweeneyFTC: Hi excited to be here talking to military families and consumers! #milconsumer #mymilfam

RT [REDACTED] Q1. What are some ways to avoid overspending and going into debt during the holidays? #MyMilFam #milconsumer0 replies2 retweets1 favorite

@FTC: A1. Make a shopping list and check it twice. A written budget helps you plan your expenses. <http://go.usa.gov/AYpG> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@TMcSweeneyFTC: A1: Shipping to loved ones serving overseas? Check USPS calendar for shipping deadlines. #MyMilFam #MilConsumer <http://go.usa.gov/AYdC>

RT [REDACTED] Q2. Are there other things we can do to free up money for the holidays? #MyMilFam #milconsumer

@FTC: A2 Layaway can help plan. Pay a deposit & pay over time. U get goods only when paid in full. <http://go.usa.gov/AYdd> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@TMcSweeneyFTC: A2: Stay away from a site makes you load software or give your financial info for a discount. <http://go.usa.gov/AYvT> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: A2 Looking for a deal? Search site/company name & "discount" "coupon" or "free shipping." <http://go.usa.gov/AYv3> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

RT [REDACTED] Q3. How can we be savvy and make the most out of online shopping? #MyMilFam #milconsumer

@FTC: A3 Confirm online seller's physical address & phone# in case you have questions or problems. <http://go.usa.gov/AYwY> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@TMcSweenyFTC: A3: Use shopping apps that tell you what they do with your data, and how they keep it secure. <http://go.usa.gov/AYwB> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

RT [REDACTED] Q4. What makes people more susceptible to identity theft during the holidays? #MyMilFam #milconsumer

@FTC: A4 File a complaint with the FTC-it can help u get a police report & limit the damage. <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@TMcSweenyFTC: A4: If worried about #IDTheft act fast to get credit report & check for unauthorized charges: <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@TMcSweenyFTC: Thanks for having me #milconsumer and #mymilfam - follow @FTC for the rest of the chat and for helpful tips! Thanks for your service.

@FTC: Deploying? Get an active duty alert on your credit file. <http://ftc.gov/idtheft> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: Keep your military ID safe-your personal information is valuable. <http://ftc.gov/idtheft> #MilConsumer #MyMilFam

RT [REDACTED] Q5. How can we keep track of how much we're spending while rushing from store to store? #MyMilFam #milconsumer

@FTC: A5 Before shopping, decide what's important. You'll be less likely to make an impulse buy. <http://go.usa.gov/AYfx> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: A5 Save those receipts! Keep copies of order numbers, refund/return policies, & warranties. <http://go.usa.gov/AYfx> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

RT [REDACTED] Q6. How can we avoid scams as online shoppers? #MyMilFam #milconsumer

@FTC: A6 Here are 10 time-tested ways to avoid fraud. <http://go.usa.gov/AYG4> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: A6 Here are 10 time-tested ways to avoid fraud. <http://go.usa.gov/AYG4> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: A6 Want to support the troops? Donate to charities with a track record and a history. <http://go.usa.gov/AYfh> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

RT [REDACTED] Q7. What should we know about the true cost of ownership for the things we buy this holiday? #MyMilFam #milconsumer

@FTC: A7 Read online reviews and be skeptical, before you buy: <http://go.usa.gov/AYGP> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: A7 Learn more about apps to help you shop. <http://go.usa.gov/AYGk> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

RT [REDACTED] Q8. How do we avoid debt traps during the holidays? #MyMilFam #milconsumer

@FTC: A8 Keep credit card use under control. <http://go.usa.gov/AYGG> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: A8 Money tight? Layaway allows u to pay over time without using a credit card. <http://go.usa.gov/AYdd> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

RT [REDACTED] Q9. Where can we go for help if we get into trouble with online shopping or holiday-related debts? #MyMilFam #milconsumer

@FTC: A9 Here are some options for coping with debt. <http://go.usa.gov/AYGz> #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: A9 Learn more about managing credit & debt & being a savvy consumer at <http://Consumer.ftc.gov>. #MyMilFam #MilConsumer

@FTC: It's been a pleasure. If u think u were scammed, let us know: <http://ftc.gov/complaint>. #MilConsumer #MyMilFam