

## **Common Access Card**

Congratulations! You are about to receive your Department of the Defense (DoD) Common Access Card, frequently referred to as the "CAC". This unique card is your DoD passport into the 21st Century. In other words, it has the capability to get you into your computer and into your workplace, while providing you with benefits and privileges equivalent to those provided by your previous ID card. This new DoD identification (ID) card, or CAC, is being issued to all active duty military, Selected Reserves, National Guard, DoD civilians and eligible DoD contractors who need access to DoD facilities or DoD computer network systems.

### **Specific Features**

Your CAC is a very unique ID card because it not only has your photo and other information printed on the card for visual identification, but also four other technologies that provide information required to give you access to your workplace or your computer. These technologies include a magnetic stripe similar to that on a credit card and a long thin bar code (code 39) on the back of the card. On the front of the card are two more technologies: an integrated circuit chip (a very mini-computer) at the bottom center of your card and short fat bar code (PDF 417) underneath your photo.

### ***Data on the Card:***

The Department has made every effort to put the minimum amount of information about you on this card. Since you cannot see what is stored in the front bar code or the integrated circuit chip (or chip), you will find a list of that information at the end of this paper. Social Security Number (SSN) is the primary data element stored on the long bar code on the back. You will also find a comparison between what is stored in the technologies on your CAC and your former ID card.

### ***Security of the Data on the Card:***

As with any security system, some are easy to break into and some are difficult to break into. The same is true with the different technologies on this card. The bar codes and the magnetic stripe are relatively easy to read. The bar codes cannot be changed after issuance. The chip is extremely secure. The Department has chosen to buy a more expensive smart card with very high chip security. It has gone through many tests to ensure its security. It would take very expensive equipment and very specialized people a long time to figure out how to break into a chip. Even then, these experts have to repeat that process for each individual card. Even if they could gain access to the chip, they would find that the information on the chip is encrypted or encoded and stored in different places on the chip, making it even more difficult to figure out the information.

### ***PIN Protection:***

Any information that is added to the chip after it is issued to you requires you to provide your personal identification number (PIN). This is why you should never tell anyone your PIN or write it down where it can be easily found. This is just one more protection for you. Only authorized personnel, who are granted access to the applications and secret keys, can modify or delete the data added on the chip and then only with your PIN. You should treat it like your VISA or MasterCard.

### ***Access to Network Systems:***

Today, if someone wanted to gain access to the same systems that you have access to, they would have to force you to give them the computer address and your user log-on identification and password. The same is true with the CAC. They would have to force you to give them your PIN and the computer address of the system that they want to get into. There is a big difference with the CAC. If you were discovered to be missing in action or captured, the permissions you have to various systems can all be revoked at the same time. This is a big security advantage.

### ***Magnetic Stripe:***

Your CAC magnetic stripe contains no information when it is given to you. Some military installations may use this stripe to enable you to get into your workplace. Your local physical security office would have to encode the magnetic stripe.

### **Geneva Conventions ID Card**

If you are a uniformed service member, civilian, or contractor authorized a Geneva Conventions ID card, your CAC is recognized as a Geneva Conventions ID card.

### **CAC Protection and Security**

The only way to access information on your chip is if someone has your card, your PIN, a smart card reader, and the computer programs that allow the data on your chip to be read and interpreted. No additional information can be placed on your chip without your knowledge. Remember, your PIN would have to be used to read your chip. Therefore, your card should always be in your personal possession and your PIN should never be given to anyone in case your card is ever lost or stolen. Your CAC is a United States Federal Government issued DoD ID, in which you take great pride in ownership, treat it accordingly, and not deface it any

way. Again, welcome to the largest Uniformed Services community in the world with this very unique 21st Century DoD ID card. You are now a CAC carrying member!

### **CAC Summary**

The following is a summary table for your review to compare your new CAC ID technology data elements with your previous Uniformed Services ID card that contained bar codes: BC = bar code on the front; ICC = integrated circuit chip.

<b><u>Data Elements</u></b>	<b><u>ID Card</u></b>	<b><u>CAC</u></b>
(1) Social Security Number, name, date of birth, branch, Service, rank/grade, card issue and expiration dates	BC	BC/ICC
(2) Blood type	BC	ICC
(3) Photo, Geneva Conventions code	BC	ICC
(4) Begin and end dates of your eligibility for medical, commissary, and exchange benefits	BC	ICC
(5) Electronic data interchange person identifier (EDIPI)*	None	BC/ICC
(6) PKI certificates & keys gender, meal entitlement code	None	ICC
(7) Organ donor election	None	ICC
(8) Height, weight, hair & eye color	BC	None
(9) Signature	BC	None

\* - Electronic Data Interchange Person Identifier (EDIPI) is defined as a unique DoD assigned control number for the purpose of avoiding SSN duplications.

## DoD Common Access Card Quick Reference Sheet



**U.S. Armed Forces Geneva Conventions ID Card**



### Recipients

- Active Duty Armed Forces
- Selected Reserves
- National Guard members
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Public Health Service

### Status

- Active Duty (w/ green font)
- Reserve (w/ green font) – Commissary card still required



**Geneva Conventions Civilian Accompanying ID Card**



### Recipients

- Emergency-Essential Employees
- Contingency Contractor Employees
- Deployed Overseas Civilian Non-Combatant Personnel

### Status

- Civilian
- Contractor



**U.S. ID and Privilege Card**



### Recipients

- DoD/Uniformed Service Civilians residing on military installation in CONUS, HI, AK, Puerto Rico, or Guam
- DoD/Uniformed Service Civilians or Contracted Civilian residing in a foreign country for at least 365 days
- Presidential Appointees approve by Senate

### Status

- Executive
- Civilian
- Contractor (w/ green color band)
- Foreign National (w/ red color band)



**U.S. ID Card**



### Recipients

- DoD Civilian Employees
- Eligible Contractor Employees
- Presidential Appointees approve by Senate

### Status

- SES (Senior Executive Service)
- Civilian
- Contractor (w/ green color band)
- Foreign National (w/ red color band)