Removal of the Social Security Number (SSN) From DoD ID Cards

In response to an increasing awareness of the growing need to protect the safety of Service members and their families' identity information, the Department of Defense (DoD) has begun to eliminate the Social Security Numbers (SSN) from DoD identification (ID) cards. In support of this initiative, a three-phased plan for the removal of the SSN on all DoD ID cards was announced. The plan is based on DoD ID card expiration dates, as follows:

- Common Access Cards (CACs) are issued to eligible individuals for a maximum period of 3 years, with the exception of Academy students who are issued a CAC for a maximum period of 4 years.

- Uniformed Services ID (USID) cards are issued to eligible individuals for a maximum of 4 years, with the exception of uniformed service retirees' dependents aged 65-75 who are issued a 5 year USID card, and uniformed service retirees, permanently incapacitated dependents, and spouses aged 75 years and older, who are issued an indefinite (INDEF) USID card.

The three phases are:

Phase I: Removal of the Dependent's Printed SSN from the USID Card
Phase I is the removal of the dependent's SSN from the front of the dependent's USID card. Phase I began in December 2008 and was completed at the end of December 2012.

Phase II: Removal of the Sponsor's Printed SSN from the DoD ID Card
Phase II is the replacement of the Sponsor's SSN with the cardholder's DoD ID Number on the front of the USID card and on the back of the CAC. Phase II began in June 2011 and will be completed by June 2015, with the exception of those USID cardholders identified above. Individuals with an INDEF USID card that displays a printed SSN may request reissuance at any time.

Phase III: Removal of the Cardholder's SSN from all Barcodes
Phase III is the removal of the SSN from the Code 39 and PDF 417 barcodes on all DoD ID cards. Removal of the SSN from the Code 39 barcode began in December 2012 and will be completed by December 2016, with the exception of those USID cardholders identified above. DoD anticipates initiating the removal of the SSN from the PDF 417 barcode in 2017.

Questions about the plan should be emailed to cacsupport@mail.mil.