

REMOVAL OF MAGNETIC STRIPE FROM DOD COMMON ACCESS CARDS

Since its inception, the DoD Common Access Card (CAC) has contained magnetic stripe technology to support the use of the CAC within DoD's physical access control. Magnetic stripe technology is currently one of the least secure card technologies in use in the world. Based on Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 standards, DoD physical access control systems must recognize and use other technologies on the CAC to authenticate cardholders. This planned change is designed to reduce the risk of identity theft to the DoD ID card populations while maintaining continuity of DoD business processes.

These changes are expected to begin by the first quarter of calendar year 2018. Implementation will be phased in across the DoD enterprise as the current card stock inventory is replaced. ID card sites are required to exhaust their existing magnetic striped card stock prior to using the new card stock without the magnetic stripe. All cardholders are asked to wait until their CAC expires before replacing it.

For more information, see the Defense Manpower Data Center website at www.dmdc.osd.mil.