



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY  
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JUN 7 4 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
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UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
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DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Removal of the Magnetic Stripe from the Department of Defense Common Access Card

Since its inception in 1999, the Department of Defense (DoD) Common Access Card (CAC) has contained magnetic stripe technology to support the use of the CAC within DoD's physical access control community and the DoD Physical Security Enterprise & Analysis Group's Security Equipment Integration Working Group (SEIWG) 012 standard. Magnetic stripe technology is currently one of the least secure card technologies in use in the world. The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-116 (A Recommendation for the Use of the Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Credentials in Physical Access Control Systems) identifies it as a media that can be easily copied and providing little or no confidence in authenticating cardholders.

Based on Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 standards, DoD physical access control systems must recognize and use other artifacts and technologies on the CAC/PIV to authenticate cardholders. This memorandum is to notify the Department of emerging changes to the configuration of the CAC to expedite the Department's transition to more secure processes and sunset support for magnetic stripe technology. Starting in October 2017, the Department will begin issuing CACs that will not contain magnetic stripes. Any organizations that may be using the magnetic stripe on the CAC are strongly encouraged to migrate to other processes/technologies over the next 18 months. My point of contact for this effort is Mr. Michael Butler, Principal Deputy Director for Enterprise Business Operations, [michael.p.butler8.civ@mail.mil](mailto:michael.p.butler8.civ@mail.mil), (571) 372-1047.

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