



United States Army Garrison – Miami Common Access Card (CAC) Fact Sheet

What will a CAC do?

The CAC will have several functions – literally combining several cards into one. In addition to replacing the existing DoD identification card, it will be the:

- Principal card used to enable physical access to buildings and controlled spaces;
- Principal card used to enable computer network and system access; and
- Primary platform for the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) token.

Benefits of the CAC

Positive impact on readiness – With a CAC application, many paper-based processes will become automated, therefore, what may have taken days to do, may take just hours. Service members may use the CAC to enter their post/camp base/station, log onto their computers, or verify their eligibility for medical benefits or dining facility privileges. As the technology matures, the CAC will perform even more functions – thereby enhancing readiness and saving time and money for all personnel.

Increased protection for personal and national security through the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) – PKI is a component of the CAC, and is an enabling technology that provides for data protection through authentication and data integrity. PKI performs specific functions such as single sign-on access control, signing electronic documents, and encrypting e-mail. Eventually, all DoD computers will have a device where the user swipes or inserts their CAC to access the network. PKI adds an extra layer of security, because without the CAC, no one can log onto your computer even if they have your name and password. PKI also gives DoD another weapon to foil the attacks of computer "hackers" on DoD computer systems. With PKI, personal privacy is better protected and national security is also strengthened.

Who will receive a CAC?

Active-duty military personnel, National Guard, Reserve, DoD civilian employees, and eligible contractor personnel will receive a CAC. Retirees and military dependents will not receive the CAC at this time, but will continue receiving the current identification card.

How and where will the CACs be issued?

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System/Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System (DEERS/RAPIDS) workstations will issue the CACs. Military personnel will obtain their identification cards through DEERS/RAPIDS, as will civilian employees and eligible contractor personnel. There are currently over 1500 DEERS/RAPIDS workstations in the world, and as a result of the CAC, that number will increase as the number of users grow. Your local Commander will notify you as DEERS/RAPIDS workstations are upgraded with the capability to issue the CAC.