

The Defense Biometric Identification System



If you are a military retiree or a family member of one you are required to register for access to the military base. Have you ever noticed when you pull up to the entrance gate that the MP on duty scans your ID card? There is a specific reason for this. By using the Defense Biometric Identification System, or DBIDS to scan your military ID the system will access a considerable amount of information about you. DBIDS begins by verifying your access privileges through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

As the security guards scan your ID card, they will see either a red or green display at the bottom of their scanner screen. A red display will say "stop" to indicate why base entry is not authorized, giving up to 26 different messages. Besides showing if access is authorized or denied, the scanner allows a gate guard to see a detailed view that provides

more information about the card holder. The photo of the card holder will be the image taken when the card was registered in the system.

The system also crosschecks information with the National Crime Information Center every 24 hours to determine whether or not Department of Defense cardholders have any active wants or warrants. Finally, DBIDS also displays installation debarment and law enforcement alerts.

Updates have been made which allow the majority of people -- active-duty and civilian personnel, retirees, dependents, etc. -- to register in the lane of traffic without adding to wait times, according to Air Force Security Forces officials. The system has been used to successfully enroll more than 5 million people, provide installation security forces with over 4,000 wants/warrants, 9,000-plus suspended driving privileges and more than 500 debarments to date, said officials.

One issue with DBIDS specific to retirees is the expiration of the Department of Defense Form 2 (Retired). Although the expiration date on the front of the retiree ID reads "INDEF", there is an expiration date printed on the back of the card which coincides with the retiree's 65th birthday. Retirees will be required to obtain a new ID card after their 65th birthday.

And you thought your information was private!