

NUMBER REMOVAL FROM ID CARDS CONTINUES

In response to an increasing need to protect identity information of service members, retirees, and their family members, the Department of Defense is removing Social Security numbers (SSN) from its identification cards.

The removal is being done in phases as computer software is modified. Phase One is underway and involves removing the family members' number and replacing it with "XXX-XX-XXXX" on the card. The sponsor's SSN will remain visible for now. Phase Two will begin later this year and involve removing all printed Social Security numbers from the ID cards. Phase Three, scheduled to begin in 2012, will involve removing Social Security numbers that are currently embedded in barcodes.

In January 2010, retirees with an indefinite expiration date on their card can begin requesting a new card without a printed SSN. Family member ID cards will change when the cardholders renew expired cards.

To find the nearest ID card center go to www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home. People must present two forms of identification and one must be an unexpired federal- or state-issued photo ID.