



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC**

02 Dec 24

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SECURITY FORCES COMMANDERS

FROM: HQ AF/A4SO

SUBJECT: Veteran and Caregiver Access to DoD Installations (DoDM5200.08V3_DAFMAN31-101V3_DAFGM2024-01, *Installation Perimeter Access Control*)

1. **Purpose:** Provide guidance and information to Security Forces personnel regarding veteran and Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregiver access to DAF installations using Veterans Health Identification Cards (VHIC) or appropriate REAL ID-compliant identification.

2. **Background:** As part of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, certain veterans and VA caregivers are allowed the use of medical, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR), Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) facilities.

3. **Discussion:**

a. Veterans with "PURPLE HEART," "FORMER POW," "MEDAL OF HONOR," or "SERVICE CONNECTED" printed on their VHIC can establish **Identity** and **Purpose** using their VHIC and have it linked to their access control profile at the Visitor Control Center to allow them base access. Additionally, veterans who have a zero-percent service-connected disability can establish **Purpose** using a VA-issued HEC Form 623A and **Identity** using a REAL ID-compliant identification in the same fashion as a VHIC.

b. VA caregivers can now be electronically loaded into DMDC by the Department of Veterans Affairs, no longer requiring the VA letter from the Office of Community Care to establish **Purpose**. Once they have been found after a search on the DBIDS Registration Workstation, under the Personal Information screen, if the "Non-Credentialed DoD Affiliation" field displays "Disabled American Veteran and Patronage", the VA caregiver is considered to have established **Purpose**. From there, a REAL ID-compliant identification can be linked to their access control profile to be used for establishing **Identity**.

c. In accordance with DoDM5200.08V3_DAFMAN31-101V3_DAFGM2024-01, paragraph 5.1.c.(4), the above **Purpose** for veterans and VA caregivers is only established if the above facilities (medical, MWR, DECA, and AAFES) exist on the installation they are attempting to gain access to. In line with Department of Defense efforts to eliminate gaps in policy that potentially allow an adversary access to the installation, veterans and VA caregivers are no longer allowed to sponsor "5 accompanying individuals" [DoDM5200.08V3_DAFMAN31-101V3_DAFGM2024-01), paragraphs 5.1.c.(4).(c).3. & 5.1.c.(4).(d).4] using their VHIC or VA caregiver status. If these individuals possess some other affiliation (ex. military retiree, dependent, etc) they are still eligible to extend sponsorship under those affiliations. Current and historic **Fitness** must still be determined at the VCC prior to attaching the VHIC or REAL-ID to the profile owned by the veteran or VA caregiver.

d. While the memo in Attachment 1 states "Installations are not to print or issue Local or Regional Credentials for Section 621-eligible personnel", the DAF continues to allow Installation Commanders to determine the need for the issuance of ePACS passes and cards for on-time, intermittent, or recurring access to their installations as outlined by DoDM5200.08V3_DAFMAN31-101V3_DAFGM2024-01, Enclosure 3, paragraph 3.26.

4. **Recommend Action:** DFCs direct all Visitor Control Center personnel review Attachment 1 and coordinate with applicable on-base agencies to make the brochure in Attachment 2 available to the impacted veteran and VA caregiver populations.

5. **Questions:** If you have any questions, please contact the AF/A4S Security Forces Operations Branch via email at AF.A4SO.OpsTrngDiv@us.af.mil. Copies of all A4S GENADMINs, Bulletins, and NOTAMS are located at the [GENADMINs TEAMS Page](#).

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2 Attachments:

1. Electronic Verification of Veteran and Caregiver Eligibility of Department of Defense Installation Access
2. Veteran Expanded Use Brochure