



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

13 JAN 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2021-02 (Access to Army Installations by Foreign Nationals and Section 621-Eligible Veterans and Caregivers)

1. References.

- a. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, section 621; Title 10 U.S. Code, section 1065
- b. Department of Defense (DoD) Manual 5200.08 Volume 3 (Physical Security Program: Access to DoD Installations), 2 January 2019, incorporating Change 1, 18 September 2020
- c. Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (Clarifying Guidance on Installation Access Credentials), 8 April 2020
- d. Army Regulation (AR) 190–13 (The Army Physical Security Program), 27 June 2019
- e. AR 600–78 (Army Suitability Program), 25 October 2018

2. Purpose. This directive revises policies for physical access to Army installations (with or without electronic physical access control systems, or (ePACS)) by foreign military personnel and dependents, as well as visitors accompanying Section 621-eligible veterans and caregivers with eligibility to use commissary; exchange; and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities.

3. Applicability. The provisions of this directive apply to the Regular Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve unless otherwise noted.

4. Background. The DoD Vetting and Security Review conducted after the 6 December 2019 shooting in Pensacola, Florida, recommended limiting access granted to foreign international military students (IMs). The Secretary of Defense directed DoD to restrict installation access for IMs, requiring them to seek approval by a security official at each installation they access. Under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 and its implementation standards, foreign nationals shall be issued a Common Access Card (CAC) clearly identified by a blue stripe behind the name on the front of the card along with an affiliation color code "B," for blue. It is not

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currently possible to distinguish between a blue-stripe CAC issued to an IMS and a blue-stripe CAC issued to other foreign nationals. Army commands with foreign national personnel must take appropriate steps to notify those individuals of the changes in this directive so they are prepared to meet new installation access control requirements.

5. Policy.

a. Until further notice, automatic registration is disabled for individuals with blue-stripe CACs and Uniformed Services Identification cards. These individuals will no longer be able to automatically register at their first visit to installations that had supported automatic registration.

b. Effective immediately, an access credential that typically is verified and enrolled by scanning, but does not properly scan because of defect, destruction, wear, or any other reason, cannot be used to enroll in an installation's ePACS and cannot be used to establish identity or fitness. If the individual seeking access presents another acceptable credential that is verified in accordance with reference 1b, table 2, and that individual is therefore able to establish identity and fitness, installation commanders may choose to accept the credential that fails to scan as establishing purpose for 1-day unescorted access only.

c. Common Access Cards Issued to Foreign Nationals.

(1) Effective immediately, all individuals holding blue-stripe CACs are limited to accessing only the installations or facilities to which they are assigned or otherwise have an official reason to access. Army installations that do not have an ePACS will prevent access by holders of blue-stripe CACs who are not assigned to, or otherwise have official duty at, the installation.

(2) Blue-stripe CACs establish only identity and fitness. Individuals holding blue-stripe CACs must establish purpose by means of appropriate documentation pursuant to reference 1b.

(3) Blue-stripe CACs must always be scanned at the installation access control point and never verified visually at these installations, even during periods when other types of CACs are primarily verified visually due to throughput, traffic, or other circumstances.

(4) Holders of blue-stripe CACs cannot escort or sponsor persons seeking access to Army installations.

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(5) All foreign nationals on official business will carry their invitational travel authorization, Visitors International Stay Admission (VISA), applicable international agreement, or other official documentation on their person at all times while on the installation, and will present them to installation/site security forces when requested for determining the purpose for access. Military diplomats, personnel participating in the Personnel Exchange Program (PEP), and Foreign Liaison Office (FLO) personnel on official business will carry their certification issued pursuant to applicable international agreements.

d. Dependent Identification Cards Issued to Foreign Nationals.

(1) Effective immediately, foreign national dependents authorized to accompany a foreign national assigned to DoD duty (accompanying family members) are limited to accessing only the installations or facilities on which they live or those that offer them medical treatment, commissary, exchange, and MWR facilities.

(2) Dependent identification cards issued to foreign nationals establish only identity. Purpose for installation access by foreign nationals holding dependent identification cards will be established pursuant to references 1b, 1c, and 1d.

(3) Once the holders of a foreign national dependent identification card establish purpose at a particular installation, they may be enrolled to facilitate future access to that installation.

(4) Foreign national dependent identification cards must always be scanned at installation access control points. Visual verification is not authorized.

e. Multiple Base Access for Foreign Nationals.

(1) Purpose for installation access for foreign nationals requiring access for official business or medical treatment to more than one Army installation will be established pursuant to references 1b, 1c, and 1d. Once purpose is established, foreign nationals may only be afforded access during the time periods identified in the member's documentation for each individual location.

(2) Foreign Liaison Office and Personnel Exchange Program personnel. Pursuant to an international agreement, FLO and PEP personnel may receive explicit access to multiple installations, which allows them to travel with their host units in the performance of their official duties, as determined by the responsible contact officer or commanding officer. Military diplomats and FLO and PEP personnel visiting installations where not assigned will be required to report to the installation Visitor Control Center (VCC) with official documentation identifying their purpose for access.

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(3) International Military Students and Country Liaison Officers (CLOs). VCCs will verify that unofficial/leisure travel for foreign national students to other Army installations is included in their invitational travel orders or approved in writing by the responsible International Military Student Office or commanding officer. Foreign nationals must have the signed letter in their possession and request access at the VCC. CLOs are assigned to select installations to perform support services for IMSs from their country. CLO fitness and purpose are established by means of an invitational travel order and follow all the rules that apply to IMSs.

(4) Military attachés. As diplomats, military attachés have an inherent purpose by virtue of their accreditation by the Department of State (DoS) and the Military Departments. Their DoS-issued diplomatic credentials, presented together with a blue-stripe CAC, represent their purpose, fitness, and identity for access as credentialed by the U.S. Government.

f. Visitors Accompanying Veterans and Caregivers Eligible Under Section 621 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

(1) Veterans and caregivers eligible solely under Section 621 are not DoD-affiliated and are not permitted to serve as escorts for their accompanying visitors or to sponsor persons seeking access to Army installations.

(2) Section 621-eligible veterans and caregivers, and Section 621-accompanying visitors, will be granted unescorted access only to installations where eligible benefits exist and are made available to them. Section 621-accompanying visitors may access the installation only when accompanied by a Section 621-eligible veteran or caregiver who has been granted unescorted access in accordance with reference 1b, and must remain within reasonable visual contact of that individual at all times.

(3) Veterans and caregivers eligible to use the commissary, exchange, and MWR facilities solely under Section 621 may bring accompanying visitors with them as they use these facilities, provided each accompanying visitor meets the requirements for access in reference 1b.

(4) Once accompanying visitors successfully establish identity and fitness, they may be enrolled as described in Section 4.5 of reference 1b to facilitate future visits to the installation with the Section 621-eligible veteran or caregiver.

(5) Conveyed Purpose. Accompanying visitors may access the installation only when accompanied by a Section 621-eligible veteran or caregiver who has been granted unescorted access in accordance with reference 1b. Effective immediately, a Veterans Administration-issued caregiver letter establishes fitness as described in

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Section 3.3 of reference 1b for Section 621-eligible caregivers accompanying a Section 621-eligible veteran. For veterans with a service-connected disability rating of zero percent who have income in excess of VA-established limits (and are therefore ineligible for a Veterans Health Identification Card), a VA-issued Health Eligibility Center Form 623A identifying their placement into priority group 8E establishes fitness.

6. Proponent. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs has oversight responsibility for this policy. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 will incorporate the provisions of this directive into Army Regulation 600–78, and the Provost Marshal General will incorporate the provisions into Army Regulation 190–13 within 2 years of the date of this directive.

7. Duration. This directive is rescinded on publication of the revised regulations.



Ryan D. McCarthy

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