

5) Former spouses. Former spouses of Retired Soldiers do not receive *Army Echoes* distribution but may read *Army Echoes* at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/echoesissues>, and also obtain information from the Former Spouse section of our homepage, <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/former-spouses>. Former spouses who are eligible for ID card benefits should, however, keep their addresses current within DEERS via any military ID card issuing facility. Locate the nearest facility by going to: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi>.

6) Retired Soldiers and survivors receiving benefits from the VA. Retired Soldiers and survivors receiving benefits from the VA should notify the VA of their address change by calling 1-800-827-1000 or by logging into the VA website at <https://www.va.gov/change-address/>.

2-6. Military Identification and Privilege Cards.

a) General.

Uniformed Services Identification (USID) Cards are issued to Retired Soldiers and eligible family members as a means of identification and as authorization for various benefits and privileges. As of December 2020, the Next Generation USID Card will be issued to all new retirees and their eligible family members. Currently-issued USID cards remain valid through their expiration date to include the DD Form 2 (Retired) (blue) United States Uniformed Services Identification Card issued to Retired Soldiers who are entitled to retired pay and the DD Form 1173, United States Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, issued to eligible family members of living and deceased Retired Soldiers. The DD Form 1173/Next Gen USID Dependent Identification and Privilege Card identifies the family member as being eligible for commissary, Exchange, theater privileges, and medical care. Medical care at military treatment facilities is provided on a space-available basis. Military and civilian health care benefits are coordinated through the TRICARE program, <https://tricare.mil>.

Gray Area Retired Reserve Identification ID cards will be issued at any ID card-issuing facility upon presentation of the Notification of Eligibility (NOE) and transfer orders to the Retired Reserve. Retired Reserve Soldiers and eligible family members will receive the Next Generation USID Card. Currently-issued USID cards remain valid through their expiration date to include the DD Form 2 (Reserve Retired) (Red) ID card, the DD Form 2 (Blue) Retired ID card, the DD Form 1173-1 (family members of Retired Reserve) (Red) ID card and the DD Form 1173 (family members of Retired members receiving pay) (Tan) ID card. Entry into the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is essential for proper eligibility verification and future ID card renewal/status changes.

Military ID cards for Retired Soldiers and eligible family members contain vital personal information, such as the cardholder's date of birth, as well as a photo. ID cards also contain the DOD ID number and DOD Benefits number of the sponsor and cardholder (only family members' ID cards contain both numbers). Retired Soldiers with an indefinite expiration date can request a new ID card without their Social Security number. Family member ID cards will change when the cardholder's expired ID card is renewed.

Retired Soldiers and eligible family members who are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) may apply to any Military Identification Card Issuing Facility for issue of an ID card. Find the nearest facility by visiting: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi>. If not yet enrolled in DEERS (for example, a new spouse or child), you must present supporting documents such as retirement orders, marriage certificates, birth certificates, etc. Family members may apply for an ID card without the retired sponsor being present. However, if not present, the sponsor's signature must be notarized on the completed application presented to the ID card issuing facility.

The Uniformed Services Identification Card is the property of the U.S. Government. It is non-transferable and must be surrendered upon any change in status that affects eligibility; upon expiration of the card; or upon request by military authorities. Cards should be returned to any local Military ID Card Site, or mailed to the Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Dept. 480, AHRC-PDP-P, 1600 Spearhead Division Ave, Ft. Knox, KY 40122.

b) Eligibility.

Generally, the following individuals are eligible for military ID Cards. The final decision is based on Army regulations and policies. Always call ahead before traveling to an ID card issuing office.

- 1) Retired Soldiers in receipt of retired pay, or who would be in receipt of retired pay except for the offset of it due to receipt of VA disability compensation.
- 2) Gray Area Retired Soldiers in the Retired Reserve not yet in receipt of retired pay.
- 3) Spouses of Retired Soldiers and Gray Area Retired Soldiers. At age 65, spouse ID cards will be issued with an "Indefinite" status, never to expire as long as the individual remains eligible. Currently, any eligible dependent, including unremarried and unmarried widows, widowers, and former spouses over the age of 65, can receive an ID card reflecting the "Indefinite" status.
- 4) Certain former spouses of Retired Soldiers.
- 5) Children, including stepchildren and adopted children, under age 21, or under age 23 if full-time, unmarried students, or any age if incapacitated before the age of 21 (or 23, if applicable) and dependent upon the retired sponsor above for more than one-half their support.
- 6) Parents, parents-in-law, and adopted parents, if dependent on the retired sponsor for more than one-half of their support.

Documentation for incapacitated children over 21 and dependent parents must be approved for medical benefits and entitlements by DFAS-Indianapolis Center. If you have an incapacitated child over the age of 21, you can download the DD Form 137-5, Dependency Statement - Incapacitated Child Over Age 21, Incapacitated Child form at https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/dd0001_0499/. DFAS is the approving authority for the packet. If you have any questions regarding the packet, please call toll free: 1-888-332-7411. For more information and submission information, go to the DFAS page at <https://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/SecondaryDependency/SDC.html>. You must submit the completed packet through AskDFAS (see submission information at link provided).

Note: Even if the incapacitated child has a permanent condition the packet must be resubmitted every four years.

2-7. Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

DEERS is a computerized database containing information on military sponsors (Active, Reserve, Guard, Retired) and their beneficiaries who may be eligible for medical care and other military privileges. The database is automatically updated when a new ID card is issued. If you acquire new family members after retirement, contact the nearest military ID card issuing facility for information on DEERS enrollment and ID card issuance. Maintaining your current address in DEERS is important to ensure you receive notification of any changes with your TRICARE coverage. You can update your address in DEERS by calling 1-800-538-9552 or by going to <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>. DEERS/ID Card offices can be located at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/>.