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Motor Carrier Installation Access: The Department's Way-Forward

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> **The Department of Defense (DoD) values the role of Motor Carriers in support of our mission, and is committed to improving driver wait times and standard procedures for enabling access to its military installations. The Department continues to enhance and modify procedures and electronic physical access control systems (ePACS) to validate both driver identity and fitness (e.g. active wants/warrants). DoD Manual 5200.08 Volume 3 "Access to DoD Installations" was signed in January 2019, and requires the Services and DoD Agencies to enroll the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) and Driver's License in their ePACS, facilitating continuous screening of register drivers and streamlining access on subsequent visits to installations where drivers are registered. The Department is actively working to enhance its ePACS to comply with this new policy.**

With the January publication of DoDM 5200.08, Vol III, the Services and DoD Agencies have begun to implement the new policy. Due to mission requirements, physical differences between installations, training, and supporting infrastructure, each installation may have slightly different procedures during, and following implementation. During initial roll out, installations using DBIDS (primarily Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps) will be able to enroll the TWIC while Army installations will be able to enroll both the TWIC and REAL ID compliant driver's licenses.

Key Elements of New Policy:

Security of DoD installations remains our number one priority. While the new processes are intended to streamline the vetting of the drivers, physical inspections of vehicles remain part of the installation access process.

- DoD installations will implement ePACS, enabling the enrollment process for recurring access.
- The Services are developing, and will soon publish, standardized disqualification criteria, thus eliminating most base-by-base variations.
- Enrolled visitors will undergo a single initial background check by each service. Continuous vetting for new derogatory information will begin upon initial enrollment.
- Once enrolled at an installation, visitors will proceed directly to the appropriate entry control point and have their credential scanned.
- Installations with sensitive missions may restrict access based on security clearance and citizenship.

Requirements for installation access:

In order to gain access to a military installation (under previous and new policy), the identity, fitness, and purpose of the driver must be verified.   Identity is verified using approved credentials – REAL ID compliant driver's license, Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC), or other specified identification.

Fitness is verified in two ways. First, during the initial enrollment process, the visitor control staff will conduct a background check using United States Government criminal records and terrorism databases to ensure that there are no disqualifying offenses. Once enrolled, visitors will be continuously screened for any new derogatory information. If derogatory information is identified during this continuous screening, they will be flagged for further inquiry the next time they access any DoD installation.

The final step in the process is proving purpose for access. Each time a visitor accesses an installation, they are required to provide proof of need to access the installation. Most commonly, in the case of Motor Vehicle Carriers, this will be accomplished with a bill of lading, either paper or electronic. The new policy provides examples of acceptable means of proving purpose but states that the list is not exhaustive. Whenever possible, industry partners are encouraged to provide definitive documentation (paper or electronic) to employees who need to gain access to the installation.

Disqualification:

Under the new policy, the Services will implement common disqualification criteria across all installations. There may be additional criteria for some installations. This criteria will be posted in the visitor centers as well as on installation websites. Installations will also post a redress or appeals process for situations where a visitor believes they have been inappropriately denied access or requires access despite having a disqualifying offense. Please note that some bases require U.S. citizenship, but this is not considered a fitness criteria and so is not standardized across a Service.

Enrollment:

The first time a driver visits an installation under this policy, he or she will be subject to an electronic background check as described above. Once cleared, the visitor's identification credential will be registered with the ePACS and simultaneously registered for ongoing screening. When a visitor returns to the same installation, their same credential will be scanned at the gate and they will be asked their purpose for visiting the installation.

When visiting additional installations, visitors will need to be granted access to the new installation. If they have previously been enrolled in an installation using the same ePACS, their information will be pre-loaded in the system, streamlining the process.

Current Status:

- All Air Force controlled installations are now enrolling TWICs**.** Additionally, background checks conducted by other Services are recognized for the initial suitability checks provided that the credential is enrolled in ongoing suitability checks.
- The Defense Logistics Agency has also begun enrolling and recognizing TWICs at their installations. Due to current configuration, initial enrollment must occur at the installation visitor control center rather than truck gates. DLA has requested additional equipment to facilitate registration at truck gates.
- The Army expects to publish the update to the appropriate regulations in the coming months. Once published, they will finalize training and publicize the date they will begin enrolling TWICs.
- The Navy is registering TWICs at the majority of installations and is in the process of revising service level publications to address reciprocal registration recognition.
- The Marine Corps is in the process of revising their policy and will provide an update once approved.
- For installation specific process questions or challenges, the installation access staff at the particular facility is best suited to address industry partner issues.

Road Ahead:

- The Department will continue to review policies and procedures to smooth access to installations. As additional installations and services come on-line, this document will be updated.