

# Non Expiring ID Cards Need to be Replaced by 2026

Retirees and military family members who have identification cards with no expiration date can choose to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it's convenient - - as long as it's done within the next four years.

There is no looming deadline for use of those old non-active duty cards without expiration dates, but the department expects to completely phase out and replace them with the next- generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by 2026.

In the meantime, cards with expiration dates are required to be replaced within 90 days of elapsing. The Defense Department began the effort to update those IDs to the new format in July 2020, but the changeover hit de lays caused by the pandemic.

DoD plans to phase out and cancel the existing card forms in 2026 when all cards with an expiration date will have expired. After then, only the USID card will be accepted for installation and benefits access.

The USID format for military retirees and dependents represents the first change to those identification cards in nearly 30 years; the last update was in 1993. The new design closely resembles the Common Access Card, or CAC, format issued to active-duty troops and department civilians.

But there was uncertainty among those with cards that list the expiration as indefinite. The IDs are needed to access military facilities and to confirm eligibility for various military benefits, so missing a deadline or losing the identification could disrupt cardholders' lives. Expired cards can be confiscated at base gates.

Those with cards with no expiration dates "may have the card replaced at their convenience." The department recommends they go to ID Card online website at

<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator>

and use the office locator to find a site that issues the new cards and book an appointment.

Retirees and their dependents, dependents of active-duty troops, reserve members and Medal of Honor recipients are among those who will receive the USID cards.

*Jose M. Garcia*  
*National Service Director*  
*Polish Legion of American Veterans*  
*Phone: C 512-560-6091*

