

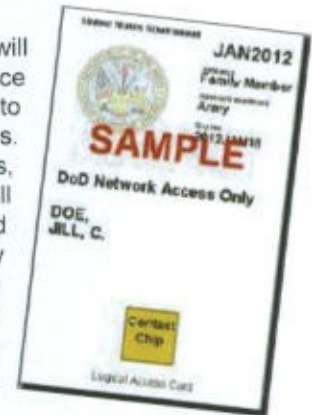


Army Spouse and Retiree Smartcard Pilot

What is it?

The Spouse and Retiree Smartcard Pilot program will evaluate the spouse and retiree community's experience with smartcard identity authentication as an alternative to username/password login to several Army and DoD websites.

The pilot will analyze the card and reader distribution process, the user experience with card reader installation and the overall acceptance of the card as a replacement for username/password login. Smartcards will not change participants' level of access; they will be able to see the same information as before. The pilot is part of a larger initiative to secure sensitive data on Army private web servers, and to provide the spouse and retiree community more secure access to online resources and personally identifiable information.



What has the Army Done?

CIO/G-6 introduced the pilot 21 April 2011 at the Installation Management Symposium in San Antonio, TX. Detailed information about the pilot, participation requirements and the registration process is available at the Smartcard Pilot support portal on AKO: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/650680>.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

A small-scale proof of concept will be executed 18-29 July 2011 at Fort Belvoir, VA, to test processes and procedures. The full-scale pilot, which will include 2,500 participants, will begin in August 2011 and run until 1 February 2012 at Forts Belvoir, Bragg (NC), Gordon (GA), Hood (TX) and Jackson (SC). Participants will be asked to complete three surveys during the pilot to capture their experiences installing the card reader and using the smartcard. AKO and the other pilot hosting portals will collect smartcard utilization metrics, as well. CIO/G-6 will compile pilot results and provide those findings in March 2012 to Army senior leadership and pilot participants.

Pilot Program Qualifications

- Must be a United States citizen.
- Must be an Army retiree or spouse. Spouses and retirees who already possess a Common Access Card (CAC) are NOT eligible to participate.
- Must have an AKO e-mail account.
- Must live within commuting distance to one of the five pilot installations.
- Must have a Windows PC (sorry, Macintosh not supported during pilot program).
- Must have an open USB port on your PC.
- Must have high-speed Internet service (examples: Verizon FIOS, Cox or Comcast high-speed Internet).

Why is this important to the Army?

By replacing usernames and passwords with smartcard authentication, the Army network will become more secure. In addition, spouses and retirees will have a more secure and convenient method for accessing Army online resources and sites that contain personally identifiable information. ■

For further information go to CIOG6.Army.mil

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