

The article below is from the February 2010 Issue of "*The Afterburner*", the USAF retiree site. See --- www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner/

New Base Entry System for Retirees, Survivors & Their Family Members

Retirees, survivors and their family members have begun registering their identification cards at Air Force installations worldwide as the service implements a new base-entry system that uses scanning devices to manage access.

The Defense Biometric Identification System, or DBIDS, is already operational at some bases overseas and in the continental United States.

Open registrations for DBIDS are under way at installations gearing up for this Air Force-wide initiative. Particular dates, times and locations vary by base so people should stay tuned to local media outlets, or contact their local Retiree Activities Office, for specific details.

Actual registration takes only a few minutes, according to Air Force Security Forces officials.

DBIDS uses an automated process to ensure only those people with authorized access are allowed to enter the installation. Other benefits include giving guards visual and audible crosschecks to verify identities of those requesting access.

Guards scanning ID cards will see a red or green display at the bottom of their scanner screens. A red display will say "stop" and indicate why base entry is not authorized, giving up to 26 different messages. Besides showing if access is authorized or denied, the scanner allows a gate guard to see a detailed view that provides more information about the card holder. The photo of the card holder will be the image taken when the card was registered in the system.

Although the actual scanning of the cards by guards only takes a few seconds, there may be some delays at gates as everyone gets used to the process.

People should stay tuned to local information outlets for details on the registration process taking place at their nearest Air Force installation. (Robert Goetz contributed to this article.)