

# *Identification Cards*

## **Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS)**

If you haven't heard it already, DEERS will become an important part of your life during a deployment. Basically, DEERS is the acronym for the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System. It is a large automated information system that lists all military members and their family members and dependents who are eligible for military benefits, including TRICARE. All service members are listed automatically, but their eligible family members must be added when they apply for an Identification card. The important thing to remember is that if you go to acquire medical assistance your information will be entered into a computer that will provide the health-care provider with your current status in DEERS; if your name comes up as on Active Duty, you will be able to receive the services you need; if your name does not come up on the database as Active Duty, you may be turned away.

To change your mailing address with DEERS:

Visit a local military personnel office with an ID card facility.

Send a fax to the DSO, Attention COA, at **1-501-212-5052**.

Online, go to [www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS).

To update information other than change of address, convey the appropriate documentation to a military personnel office or send it via mail or fax to the DSO numbers and address given above.

**NOTE: Many medical facilities and other health care providers will accept you if you present a copy of the DD Form 1172 (DEERS Enrollment Form), and your Guard Member's Active Duty orders. Always - keep these two documents with you!!**

## **The Importance of a Family Member ID Card**

- ◆ You and your family need to have ID cards in order to get all the benefits you are entitled to during peacetime or a mobilization. In peacetime, your ID card entitles you to:
  - ✓ Base/Post Exchange privileges
  - ✓ Limited commissary privileges (24 visits a year)
  - ✓ Recreational facilities on military installations
  - ✓ Military discounts
  
- ◆ If you are called to active duty for 30 days or more, an ID card is necessary for you and your family to use expanded active duty services and programs, such as:
  - ✓ Military health insurance (TRICARE)
  - ✓ Unlimited commissary privileges
  
- ◆ All Guard members and their family member "dependents" are eligible for ID Cards. This includes the soldier/airman's:
  - ✓ Spouse
  - ✓ Widow or widower
  - ✓ Children between the ages of 10 and 21 (all children under 21 must be unmarried), except during deployment, all children will receive an ID.
  - ✓ Children under 10, if they are not living with the Guard member
  - ✓ Unmarried children over 21 who are mentally or physically disabled and unable to support themselves
  - ✓ Unmarried children between the ages of 21 and 23 who are full-time college students.
  - ✓ Parents or in-laws for who the Guard member provides more than half of their income.
  
- ◆ You will need to prove eligibility. This may include providing:
  - ✓ Clear photocopies of marriage certificates and birth certificates
  - ✓ Certified copies of adoption papers, paternity papers, divorce papers, and death certificates (you can get certified copies by contacting the state or county where the event took place).
  - ✓ A licensed physician's or medical officer's statement of physical handicaps of dependent children over the age of 21.
  - ✓ A certificate of full-time enrollment from the school registrar for children between 21 and 23.