



# Reserve Action Bulletin



## Common Access Card (CAC) Update

### Immediate Action may be required!

This spring, the Coast Guard (CG) will transition to a new authentication method for your Common Access Card (CAC), to align with the rest of the federal government. To prepare for this transition, all CG personnel must have the new “Authentication” certificate on their CAC. To ensure you do not have a disruption in connectivity please follow the instructions below.

There are two phases to this transition.

**Phase 1 (Action required from some CG members):** Approximately 20% of CG personnel will need to add the new Authentication certificate to their CAC prior to 31 March 2020. If you are in the 20% you should have received detailed instructions via CG email that describes how to add new authentication certificate to their CACs. Visit <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/CAC/> and update your CAC by selecting "How to add the certificate to your CAC." CAC updates should be performed on a CG Workstation. Attempting the update from a home computer is not recommended and will likely not gain compliance.

Note: It is NOT necessary to replace your CAC or visit a RAPIDS/DEERS (ID office).

It’s easy to determine if your CAC needs to be updated with new authentication certificate. Simply look at the backside of the CAC for the black solid magnetic strip as indicated in the image below. If the black magnetic strip exists then Phase 1 action needs to be taken. Questions should be directed to the point of contact listed in the ALCOAST.

Solid Black Magnetic Strip



The image here requires the individual to follow the detailed instructions to update their CAC. The email will be sent from CGFIXIT/CGCYBER.

No Solid Black Magnetic Strip



The image does NOT require action from an individual.



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**Phase 2:** In mid-March, another ALCOAST will be released to provide guidance and directions for logging into CG workstations, systems, and applications using the new authentication method.

The CAC is the Coast Guard's primary means of authentication. If your CAC is not up-to-date following the release of the ALCOAST, you will likely encounter trouble when attempting to access workstations, systems and applications. Modernizing our CAC certificates helps protect our workforce and Coast Guard information systems against cyber threats.

For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) pertaining this effort please visit:  
<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/CAC/>