

Stephen Poling
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Regarding: SCR 7 and the February 2023 Federal REAL ID ACT

As a result of the 2023 Federal Real ID Act I find myself placed in a position of being disrespected by my employer of over 34 years, the US Air Force. Prior to this Act being put into law I was authorized to enter DoD facilities as a trusted retiree using my Civilian Retired ID card. Now I, like other civilian retirees, have had this ID confiscated by the security police and no longer have any credentials to show that I am not one of the "bad guys". I consider this an insult and a great disservice. Treating someone who took an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution this way is wrong.

During my career as an engineer with the USAF I held multiple positions. Several of these positions, spanning a period of over 15 years, required me to work alongside active duty military officers and enlisted technicians as a formally trained and certified aircrew member, performing the exact same tasks, wearing the exact same uniform and receiving the exact same training and medical clearances as my military brethren. I trained and evaluated Lieutenants, Captains and Majors. I took the same risks all over the world, flying over broad ocean areas into or near hazard zones in order to gather essential data from critical weapons testing. I slept in the same quarters. I ate the same food both during missions and between missions. I held the same official red US passport that allowed us to operate in foreign countries. I was treated virtually the same as were the career military members.

For the US government to decide to separate me out and consider me untrustworthy after so many years of dedicated service feels like a slap in the face. I join Robert Beach and others in asking that this decision be reversed in order to right this wrong.

Sincerely,
Stephen Poling