

DESKTOP INFORMATION ON THE PRIVACY ACT

What is the Privacy Act of 1974?

The Privacy Act is a Federal law that establishes and safeguards the protection of records that the Federal Government collects and maintains on U.S. citizens and aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

The purpose of the Privacy Act is to balance the Government's need to maintain information about individuals with the rights of individuals to be protected from unwarranted invasion of privacy through the collection, maintenance, use, and disclosure of personal information by Federal agencies. One critical aspect of the Privacy Act is to protect personally identifiable information.

What is Personally Identifiable Information?

Personally identifiable information (PII) is information that can be used to determine an individual's identity. One element of PII may be enough to identify an individual. In other cases, more than one element of PII can be combined to establish an individual's identity. The following are examples for PII:

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| ▶ Biometrics | ▶ Marital status |
| ▶ Child information | ▶ Medical data |
| ▶ Citizenship | ▶ Military records |
| ▶ Date and place of birth | ▶ Mother's maiden name |
| ▶ Disability information | ▶ Mother's middle name |
| ▶ Drivers-license number | ▶ Name (including other names) |
| ▶ Education information | ▶ Other identification numbers |
| ▶ Emergency contact information | ▶ Personal cellphone number |
| ▶ Employment information | ▶ Personal e-mail address |
| ▶ Financial information | ▶ Race/ethnicity |
| ▶ Gender | ▶ Religious preference |
| ▶ Home telephone number | ▶ Security-clearance information |
| ▶ Law-enforcement data | ▶ Social Security number (full or last four) |
| ▶ Legal status | ▶ Spouse information |
| ▶ Mailing or home address | ▶ Vehicle identifiers |

What Governs the Protection of Private Information in USAREUR?

- ▶ Privacy Act of 1974
- ▶ DOD Privacy Program (DOD Directive 5400.11, and DOD 5400.11-R)
- ▶ AR 340-21, The Army Privacy Program

How to Respond to Requests for PII?

Do not give out personal information about anyone to an unauthorized individual without first receiving written consent from the individual whose personal information is being requested. In some cases you may contact the person whose information is requested and inform him or her of the request. Written requests for personal information, including e-mail messages, should be forwarded to the servicing Privacy Act officer.

For more information, contact the USAREUR Privacy Act Officer at military 337-3600.