



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
 NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECURITY  
 ASSISTANCE FIELD ACTIVITY  
 125 WEST ROMANA ST SUITE 600  
 PENSACOLA FLORIDA 32502-5849



## IMSO BULLETIN

**BULLETIN No.:** 04 – 001

**DATE:** JUNE 25, 2004

**SUBJECT:** International Military Students (IMS) and Social Security Numbers (SSNs)

**REFERENCES:** (a) Social Security Number Requirements for International Students to Obtain a Drivers License (DSCA Policy Memo 04-05) of 28 Jan 04  
 (b) International Military Students and Social Security Numbers  
[\(DSCA Policy Memo 04-19\)](#) of 07 May 04

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 7, 2004

bulletin type:	x	<b>ACTION</b>		<b>POLICY</b>		<b>INFORMATION</b>
		<b>New</b>		<b>Modification</b>		<b>Cancellation</b>

**SUMMARY:** Reference (a) explained procedures for IMS to obtain SSNs to acquire driver’s licenses. **Reference (b) cancels reference (a)** and states that the Social Security Administration (SSA) has revised its policy, and no longer assigns SSNs for the sole purpose of obtaining a driver’s license. The reason for this change is to address SSN fraud issues arising from individuals using SSNs obtained for non-work purposes (to acquire driver’s licenses) to gain employment. Most states now allow a person who is legally in the U.S. but ineligible for an SSN to obtain a driver’s license with alternative documentation.

**ACTION:** IMSOs should contact their state driver-licensing agency to determine what documentation the IMS will need to obtain a driver’s license. In accordance with SSA’s statutes, the Department of State’s visa rules, and the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) immigration classification rules incident to status, principal A-2 Visa holders are eligible for SSNs and can be issued a card with the legend “Valid for Work Only With DHS Authorization.” A-2 family members may only be assigned SSNs if they apply for and are granted authorization to work by DHS. Per guidance from the SSA, principal A-2 Visa holders who are seeking a SSN must present the required evidence of age, identify, and lawful alien status at any Social Security office.

The contents of this Bulletin will be incorporated into a future change in the IMSO Guide.

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