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VeriChip wants to chip every US soldier

Posted Aug 24th 2006 5:43AM by [Donald Melanson](#)

Filed under: [Wireless](#)

Despite some [pretty significant security concerns](#), everyone's favorite futuristic company [VeriChip](#) is looking to get its chips under the skin of the largest group of people yet: the entire US military. According to the DC Examiner, the company is lobbying the Pentagon to choose its [RFID](#) tags as a replacement for the famous metal dog tags, making information like a person's name and complete medical record instantly available with the swipe of an RFID reader. Needless to say, not everyone's sold on the idea, with veterans' groups and some members of Congress already raising concerns. There doesn't seem to be any indication as to when a decision might be made, although given VeriChip's [political connections](#), we wouldn't be so quick to bet against it.



[Via [Newsmax](#)]

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This is going to sound morbid but has anyone considered other implications of this tech?

Can you say automatic targeting systems? With what the military spends on devices it's not hard to come up with a position locator. The soldiers won't stand a chance.

Then in 20 years we'll have the gun from the 5th element working (the yellow one with smart bullets that auto-targeted)

Posted at [6:04AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Gil []

Surely, they'd need to implant 2 or 3 around the body, to ensure that it didn't get blown off with any limbs

Posted at [6:33AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Taz []

Lesse... ID tagged soliers. Next, ID tegged weapons...

Hideo Kojima does it again! (Watch the MGS4 trailer if I appear to be rambling even less coherantly than usual).

Posted at [6:35AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by EdZ []

As a member of the Armed Forces they can go fuck themselves!

Posted at [6:41AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Galang []

Fact attempting to follow fiction. Manchurian Candidate anyone?

Posted at [6:48AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by ASH []

can anyone say ELF? these guys would turn into big giant homing beacons, and don't let some slimey salesman convince you otherwise, its a stupid idea, 0's and 1's can be cracked it just takes time and patience. "oh sorry your son died, but we really needed to make a few bucks off of those RFID tags" what a joke. The sad part is this will probably take off eventually, its moments like these i'm glad i'm Canadian and not in the military

Posted at [7:02AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Seanux []

A precursor to the Mark of the Beast approaches its official debut, ladies and gentlemen.

VeriChip is undoubtedly just the beginning phase of the technology, designed to warm people up to the idea of implants so that when the time comes for them to receive the Mark of the Beast, many won't think twice. Or maybe at that point you'll have to. The Mark of the Beast may actually go by another moniker altogether other than "VeriChip" when it finally arrives. Who knows for sure at this point.

Start off slow... use it for the military first to get people used to the idea that it's goooood, then move to civilians.

What?!? Did you think this whole thread could last without at least one mention of that? Get real!!!

Posted at [7:05AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Z []

the mark of the beast huh??? didn't you know that the world already ended on august 22???

Posted at [7:12AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by jayson []

US troop here. Over my dead body.

I wrote VeriChip the following message:

I just got finished reading that your company is lobbying the US Government for a contract to stick your

chip into 1.4 million troops, myself included. Let me just start by saying that I am outraged that VeriChip is lobbying to make lots of money by sticking a permanent piece of circuitry into my body without my consent. This makes you a potential intruder into my life. I will NEVER allow anyone to place an RFID chip into my body. On top of the fact that it's an intrusion into my body, it's just not necessary. The military already uses smart cards for its ID cards which contain encrypted information and PKI certificates. This is sufficient for all identification and access control purposes. You might argue that your RFID chip would provide an advantage for identifying casualties. The military already has DNA on file for that purpose, and if it's a situation that would require DNA identification, there's little chance that the RFID chip would be intact. Bottom line: you are lobbying for a lucrative contract to push a unnecessary product on a lot of people that don't want you to come near them. And I, for one, will never let that happen.

Posted at [8:05AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Groundrush []

I know there are privacy concerns, and liberals and tinfoil hat merchants will pour from the holes, but I think there's a real positive side to this. If I'm lying in a ditch with IED holes in my, it strikes me as rather helpful when a medic can run a reader over me and get my full medical history, previous treatments, allergies etc, immediately ? Sounds like a lifesaver to me.

Posted at [8:11AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Danb []

The last time something was implanted in me... I was abducted.

Posted at [8:18AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by [Carl Trimble](#) []

It's alot easier and cheaper to use infrared to spot a human than to attempt to blast an area with radio waves and pick out the miniscule reply of a few imbeded chips designed to be read from inches away.

Posted at [8:20AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by [Tom Dietrich](#) []

ASH; That's exactly what i thought when i read the article. Sounds like Bush and Rumsfeld like the movie so much that they're ready to get an army full of sleepers.

Jayson; if it ended on the 22nd according to you, why are YOU still here? Try to keep up with intelligent posts instead of pretending to be a smart ass. Replying with sarcasm makes you look more stupid that what you already are.

It will be a cool day in hell before anyone stick that little bugger inside me. i like my freedom the way it was meant to be; free of any chip or RFID.

I have a far better idea-let's bring back or men and women from that fake war and let Bush and his merry band of criminals to fight alone in the front line to protect the nation's right of "democracy" and not

some multi-trillion dollar oil line...

Posted at [8:55AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Perrey Z. []

They can't even get our smartchip ID cards to work. All my computer does all day is waste cycles verifying who I am through USB and I still have paper medical and dental records that I hold on to so they don't get lost by DA civilians, or worse, contractors, who mostly suck. The rfid tablet is just more fodder for the military-industrial complex that we've heard so much about. How about tax free pay all the time, not just in combat, and a records database tied to your silly common access card instead of wasting more money?

Posted at [8:55AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by sfuller []

Besides all the tin foil hat stuff there's security problems for each military member also. The current ID tag system has each person's SSN on the tag. If this were the continued practice each of these soldiers would have the possibility of having their SSN revealed by just walking through a doorway with a reader installed. I don't foresee any branch going to the trouble of making a whole new ID number system, so I'd bet they'd still rely on the old SSN. They can throw a fit about a contractor losing a CDROM in a laptop with the same info, but if they sanction this big of a security hole they won't say a peep.

Posted at [8:58AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by RWD fan []

Great,

First:

I worry someone hacking my WEP wireless, unsecure

Then:

I change to WAP, still unsecure

Later:

I find out Bluetooth, unsecure

And now:

RFID....to be continued!

Posted at [9:05AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Jayskie []

Despite the negatives (or should I say, "rash hyper-delusional surmisations from world fearing change haters") stated above, most of which can be thwarted, I feel it's a good idea. Time is precious in the case of medical care. Knowing everything about a patient, instantly, would save countless lives.

Posted at [9:07AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Dan []

Tom... yes you can use infrared to pick out human shapes, but in crowded towns where guerrilla warfare is the style of choice how can you tell if they're soldiers, or criminals, or your next door neighbor? Spreading radio frequencies that can amplify the signal from the RFID tag will not alert you to a neighbor, but will pick out our soldiers easily.

Crappy idea. Dog tags work just fine, and Verichip's father apparently never told him the adage of "if it ain't broke..."

Posted at [9:07AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Wonderboy []

First, isn't there some purpose to the dog tag being removable? I can't recall exactly but aren't they supposed to grab them when someone passes away in duty or something of that nature?

Second, RFID has a range, a very short range if done right, don't be so retarded about it. They aren't going to be scoping out soldiers RFID tags from accross a battlefield, hell not even across a room.

Third someone made mention of tagged weapons, and you know what, that's a really good way to make smart weapons no? Just tag the weapon to only work when held by us soldiers with the tag.

RFID still hasn't proven itself to be secure though and although I see advantages to the concept eventually, I don't think it's ready yet.

In regards to the privacy issue and that whole anything is crackable, can't they just use a sufficiently large rsa key or something of that nature? Who honestly cares if they figure out the name of the soldier they walked past 8 years ago by the time they'd crack it. Encryption is all about making things reasonably secure. Of course given infinite time and infinite resources anything is crackable (except quantum encryption so i hears) but no one has either.

When stories like these break the stupid companies should really be making an effort to explain why they want to do this and what the advantages are rather than just coming off as money hungry.... unless Engadget left out some deets.

Posted at [9:08AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Jonathan Sundy []

Dan... what kind of info are you talking about that are needed instantly to save a person's life? Allergies? Medical conditions? In other words short-list items that can be included on a medical tag...

So really you're not saving any time. Either you flip the medical tag over and read the allergies or conditions, or you scan the RFID tag, look at the computer, and read the allergies or conditions.

Posted at [9:10AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Wonderboy []

um so even if its only can be used you can bet your ass that once someone cracks it its going to be used as a trigger in a doorway for bombs and IEDs.

Maybe not this year, or next, but eventually it will happen.

Posted at [9:21AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by noobs []

Jonathan Sundy said:

"First, isn't there some purpose to the dog tag being removable? I can't recall exactly but aren't they supposed to grab them when someone passes away in duty or something of that nature?"

Yes. I understand is that they take one of the tags when the man dies as proof of death.

"Second, RFID has a range, a very short range if done right, don't be so retarded about it. They aren't going to be scoping out soldiers RFID tags from accross a battlefield, hell not even across a room." Any RFID can be read from far far away with a good reader. In the end RFID is just a filter for radio energy that it reflects back. The more energy you pump into it the more it sends back (==more range).

Posted at [9:24AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Gil []

What happens when someone standing near you(or you walk by a hidden RFID reader) reads the data in your chip and clones it for nefarious purposes?

It's already being done. Google for it.

Posted at [9:28AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by slick []

Wonderboy, I'm not a practioner, but I am sure there are many examples of useful medical information that requires more than two lines of text on a dog tag to describe.

Regardless, why not give the soldiers RFID dog tags and an implant in the back of the neck that can be easily removed after duty?

I also think it's irrational to say that these people are going to be walking homing becons. Not only is the RFID tech hard to crack, but, at that size, it's not going to be transmitting a signal more than a few feet.

Posted at [9:42AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by [Dan](#) []

Practitioner*

Posted at [9:44AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by [Dan](#) []

Sticking these under your skin seems a bit extreme - why not just embed them in the dogtags? Its easier

and soldiers would be alot more willing to go along with it. However, like other people I am concerned about the possibility of using these thigns to locate and target soldiers.

Posted at [9:59AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by [trev](#) []

Screw RFID -- just give soldiers a USB port for exchanging data; you'd be able to read and update medical data just as easily, and update their firmware at the same time.

Posted at [11:01AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Nullness []

I thought the world was going to end on December 21, 2012???

<http://www.google.com/search?num=100&hl=en&lr=&safe=off&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla%3Aen-US%3Aofficial&q=december+21%2C+2012+mayan+11%3A18&btnG=Search>

Maybe a few peeps would like to read the book SpyChips, sign up for email notifications?

<http://www.spychips.com/>

Anybody see what the NEW US Military/NAZI uniforms look like?

http://www.thepowerhour.com/news2/new_military_uniform.htm

http://www.nonpartisanpundit.com/2006/05/new_air_force_u.html

No doubt about it. Our FREEDOMS are definitely being infringed upon! I guess after this bill passes, all of us military personnel will need to be chip because there will be too many military peeps to track = AKA me and you. Hurray for RFID to the rescue!

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h109-4752>

Yea we definitely need to do something about this sh!t.

Posted at [11:14AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by xzavier []

What a bloody stupid idea. Just from a tactical standpoint, it means putting an RF transponder into every soldier. So, now if the enemy wants to know where a soldier is, all they need is an antenna. Who thought this up, General Custer?

-jcr

Posted at [11:28AM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by John C. Randolph []

Being a medic in the Army, I can tell you right now I would NEVER allow that in my body. Screw that and screw the people who had the idea for it.

Posted at [2:28PM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by Ben Hetrick []

First the Army NEXT THE WORLD! If anyone allows this in their body it's up for a frightening future... :F

Posted at [2:46PM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by [Tiago](#) []

Pathetic: Geeks who have never served do not know the importance of non-detection. What's a soldier gonna do when he goes black or undercover, whip out his swiss army knife and cut this easily detectible device out?

Maybe they didn't read the Jill Carroll story this week:

"Yesterday, the American soldiers came very close, very close to this place where you were. Why did they do that?"

Again, they were accusing me of communicating with the U.S. military. This was bad.

"I am the leader of this little group, and I'm a little more sophisticated than my friends here," he continued. "Do you have something in your body, something to send a signal to your government?" Then he told me a story: He'd had a friend held at the U.S. prison at Abu Ghraib. This friend claimed that Marines had given him medicine that put him to sleep, many times. After he got out, he went to the doctor, had an X-ray, and they'd found an electronic tracking device implanted in his body.

"If you have this in your body, tell me now and we'll go and take it out,"

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/08/16/MNGVJKJAVT1.DTL>

Posted at [2:54PM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by old punz []

What a great way to activate land mines or other traps. Have it scan for RFID with the correct signature and then become active when someone with an implant walks by it. Anything that singles out your soldiers can be used against them it just takes time and some creativity.

Let some other country try it out first and lets see how it works before we start using it.

Posted at [4:03PM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by NotWilling []

I have just joined the Army about a year ago, and I would never have one of these RFID chips in me. They have issued me ID tags and an ID card with a smart chip in it. I keep my ID card in a holder around my neck with my ID tags. If they need my medical history it is right there.

Posted at [9:48PM](#) on Aug 24th 2006 by jamesFF []

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