MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Strategic Plan for Improving Management of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794d), as amended in 1998, and hereafter referred to as Section 508, requires Federal Agencies to ensure employees and members of the public with disabilities have access to information and data comparable to that of persons without disabilities when developing, procuring, maintaining, or using Electronic and Information Technology (E&IT).

On January 24, 2013, OMB released the Section 508 implementation plan, which mandates that Heads of Federal Agencies ensure acquisition planning and requirements generation address E&IT accessibility. As part of the implementation, all Federal Agency Chief Information Officers (CIOs) are to establish a Section 508 program, provide subsequent guidance, and ensure Section 508 accessibility considerations are incorporated into planning, operations, and management of E&IT. Furthermore, Federal Agency Chief Acquisition Officers (CAOs) are to ensure Section 508 implementation plans are taken into consideration during E&IT procurements.

The OMB Guidance includes the requirement for an accessibility statement to be present on all Internet and intranet websites. Before August 7, 2013, please ensure your public and private websites include the standard “Accessibility/Section 508” label and the following statement:

“The U.S. Department of Defense is committed to making its electronic and information technologies accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d), as amended in 1999. Send feedback or concerns related to the accessibility of this website to: DoDSection508@osd.mil. For more information about Section 508, please visit the DoD Section 508 website. Last Updated: MM/DD/YYYY”
For intranet websites not connected to the Internet, please ensure this statement is apparent on your sites’ designs and functions are consistent with the OMB Guidance. As codified above, statements must include hyperlinks to references pertaining to “Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d), as amended in 1999” and the “DoD Section 508 website” using the respective links below.

Section 508 (Rehabilitation Act) - http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/act.htm

DoD Section 508 - http://dodcio.defense.gov/DoDSection508.aspx

OMB has directed continued coordination between my office and CIO organizations across the Department. Component CIOs are asked to provide the name and contact information of their Section 508 Coordinator via e-mail to DoDSection508@osd.mil by July 31, 2013.

My point of contact for this action is Mr. Ned Kieloch, who will serve as the DoD Section 508 Coordinator. He can be reached at (571) 372-4513 or via e-mail at ned.kieloch@osd.mil. Thank you for your assistance with this effort.

Teresa M. Takai