Department of Defense (DoD) CIO Appoints New Section 508 Coordinator

Ms. Teri M. Takai, DoD CIO, recently appointed Edmund (Ned) Kieloch as the new DoD Section 508 Coordinator. Having served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) since 2004, Ned is no stranger to the Federal-wide Section 508 community. His prior 508 involvement include leading training for Information Technology (IT) and acquisition professionals for ensuring compliant IT solicitations, leading various Section 508 education initiatives, co-leading the development of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology (USD(AT&L)) and DoD CIO Joint Memorandum, and DoD Manual 8400.01-M, along with developing an agency-wide Section 508 101 briefing for Section 508 Coordinators to use in introducing the Section 508 Law to their respective Component.

Ned's career includes stints as a high school teacher and private management consultant. He has worked for the Office of the Army CIO/G-6, and the Defense Information Systems Agency as an Information Management Specialist, Employment Development Specialist, and Technical Training Program Manager.

Ned holds a bachelor's degree in Education from West Virginia University and a master's degree in Information Resources Management from Syracuse University. Over the course of his Federal career, Ned earned a diploma and CIO certificate from the National Defense University's Advanced Management Program.

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The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) & Component Organizations Learn about Section 508 Compliant Solicitations

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Information Operations (J6) hosted training in creating Section 508 Compliant solicitations for 140 participants from across the agency on-site and via video teleconference (VTC). DLA Contracting, Acquisition, IT, Information Assurance Managers (IAMs), and Program Managers (PMs) got in-depth training on how to make IT solicitations Section 508 compliant. Additionally, the participants were provided a demonstration of the General Service Administration (GSA) BuyAccessible Wizard tool. Helen Chamberlain of the GSA, Ned Kieloch, and James Sutton of the DoD facilitated this event.
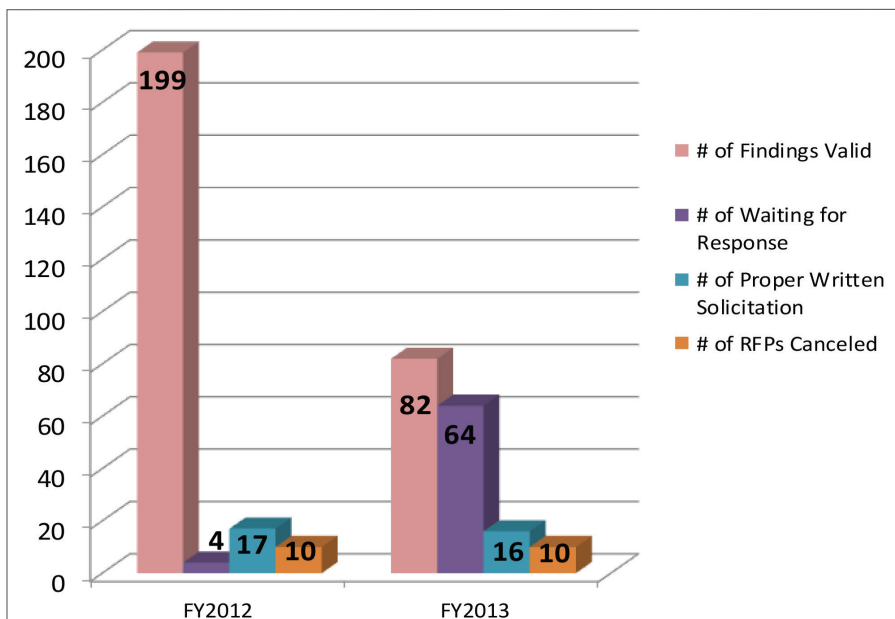
The BuyAccessible Wizard is a web-based application that guides users through a process of gathering data and providing information about Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) and Section 508 compliance. The wizard helps federal government officials who acquire EIT products or services make decisions about: (1) if Section 508 applies to a particular product or service; (2) what specific Section 508 standards apply for particular EIT products and services; (3) and how to document specific EIT accessibility requirements and Section 508 compliance.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) & Component Organizations Learn about Section 508 Compliant Solicitations *(continued)*

Thanks to the capability of VTC, Section 508 Coordinators assigned to DLA Enterprise Solutions (J64) were also in the audience. The Section 508 Coordinators are assigned to J64 sites located across the world in places like Fort Belvoir, VA; Columbus, OH; Dayton, OH; New Cumberland, PA; Richmond, VA; Philadelphia, PA; Ogden, UT; Mechanicsburg, PA; Kaiserslautern, Germany; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The training benefited everyone; not only those who write statements of work (SOW), but also procurement and acquisition personnel. Above all, the training heightened the spirit of Section 508 within DLA. Any component organization interested in training, can contact the DoD Section 508 Coordinator, Ned Kieloch at edmund.c.kieloch.civ@mail.mil.
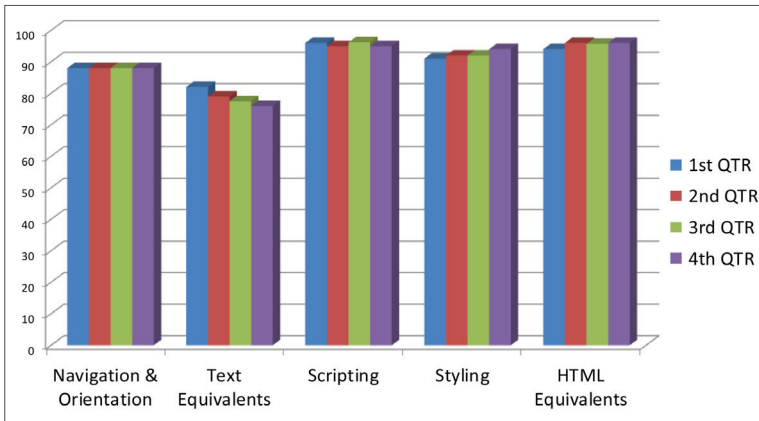
Training for Accessible Solicitations

The Office of the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO) in cooperation with the GSA conducts solicitation training for DoD Components in order to educate procurement, contracting, and requiring officials. To date, nine training sessions have been conducted with six component organizations to include Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), Department of the Air Force (DAF), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), and Department of the Navy (DoN) with 322 individuals trained. Any component organization interested in training, can contact the DoD Section 508 Coordinator, Ned Kieloch at edmund.c.kieloch.civ@mail.mil.

Chart data:

	FY2012	FY2013
# of Findings Valid	199	82
# of Waiting for Response	4	64
# of Proper Written Solicitation	17	16
# of RFPs Canceled	10	10

Note: From the random assessments conducted by GSA, the bar chart shows that DoD have improved overall from FY12 to today by submitting fewer non-compliant solicitations. To ensure that solicitations are properly written, the DoD Components are required to have the appropriate Section 508 standards in the statement of work and the documents posted on FedBizOpps are accessible. Hopefully, from conducting training sessions, DoD Components will submit more compliant solicitations.

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DoD CIO Quarterly Public Website Evaluations

The DoD CIO Section 508 team regularly assesses the accessibility of more than 100 selected DoD public websites. For FY 11, DoD public websites scored an average of 78% overall for website compliance; in FY12, the average improved to 89%. With all quarters in FY 13 completed, DoD Component websites scored an average of 90% compliancy. The DoD CIO encourages all component organizations to strive for 100% compliance in all five website evaluation categories, which include Navigation & Orientation, Text Equivalents, Scripting, Styling, and HTML Standards. Questions regarding the website evaluations can be addressed to osd.mc-alex.dod-cio.mbx.section-508@mail.mil.

DoD Public Website Evaluation Results by Category for 1st – 4th Quarters of FY 13

Questions regarding the quarterly website evaluations can be addressed to: osd.mc-alex.dod-cio.mbx.section-508@mail.mil.

DoD Components with 100% Compliance for 4th Quarter of FY13
Department of the Navy CIO
ASD for Health Affairs (ASD(HA))
Director of Operation Test & Evaluation (DOT&E)
Inspector General of the DoD
Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)
Missile Defense Agency (MDA)
Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA)
TRICARE Management Activity
Special Inspector General Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)
Office of the Actuary
Defense Privacy and Civil Liberties Office (DPCLO)
Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS)
US National Data Center

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Releases Section 508 Strategic Plan

On January 24, 2013, the OMB published a memorandum containing the "Strategic Plan for Improving Management of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act". The plan provides overall guidance directing Federal government agencies to speed the implementation of the Section 508 requirements. The memo largely focuses on two areas of policy: (1) technology development through CIO offices and (2) procurement through agency acquisitions.

The OMB memo also identified key issues that impede the full implementation of Section 508: (1) the standards are not fully understood, and there is a lack of operational awareness of how to implement the standards; (2) there is no specific set of measures for defining what a successful Section 508 program looks like; and (3) the workforce of Federal government agencies – notably in the acquisition and information technology lifecycles – are not consistently trained to address the specific Section 508 requirements.

Ms. Teresa Takai, the DoD CIO, signed a memorandum on July 26, 2013, providing guidance for Component CIOs submittal of contact information for Section 508 Coordinators. In addition, all component website developers or designated points of contact are requested to post the link to the Accessibility/Section 508 statement, provided in the memo, on all intra and internet websites as directed. This active link will then show the most current accessibility statement for DoD. Inquiries made for a specific component, will then be coordinated with the Section 508 Coordinator and website POC for appropriate action. This guidance allows for a unified tracking of the complaints process and feedback for Department-wide baseline metrics to be reported to the Federal CIO Council and OMB per the OMB Strategic Plan. For additional information regarding the DoD Implementation of the OMB Strategic Plan and Tasks, visit https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-117334.

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OMB Section 508 Strategic Plan Action Chart		
Action	**Milestones**	**Owner / Status**
1. **Increase Transparency:** Provide the public with a standard feedback mechanism and statement on agency websites. Include an accessibility statement on all inter- and intranet websites.	Within 180 days of the release of OMB Strategic Plan (Suspense July 24, 2013).	DoD CIO. The DoD accessibility statement should, at a minimum, include contact information for Section 508 program, date of the last update, and the ability for website visitors to provide comments and/or feedback. A memorandum from the DoD CIO to Component CIO's providing the statement to which Component sites will link.
2. **Strengthen Accountability:** Federal agency CIO shall provide to GSA, via Section.508@gsa.gov mailbox, the name and contact information for the agency Section 508 coordinator.	Suspense March 25, 2013.	DoD CIO. Completed March 18, 2013. In addition, per pending memorandum Components will provide to DoD CIO via osd.mc-alex.dod-cio.mbx.section-508@mail.mil mailbox, the name and contact information for the Component Section 508 Coordinator or Point of Contact (POC).
3. **Strengthen Accountability:** CIOC Accessibility Committee's (CIOCAC) will develop a template to conduct a baseline assessment of Federal Agency Section 508 program using a full baseline or a sampling method that represents high-risk or key areas as identified by the agency.	OMB to distribute an assessment template to Federal Agencies by March 1, 2013. Final metrics published July 15, 2013.	DoD CIO, in collaboration with USD(AT&L), will develop a plan for completing the baseline assessment. The CIO will share DoD plans with the Federal CIOC Accessibility Committee.
4. **Strengthen Accountability:** Federal Agencies will complete their planned assessment using the standard template and share the information with the CIOCAC.	By December 30, 2013, agencies will complete their planned assessment using the CIOC standard template.	DoD CIO/USD(AT&L) complete the assessment using the CIOC standard template and share the information with the CIOC Accessibility Committee.
5. **Strengthen Accountability:** Provide updates on progress related to the baseline measures in status meetings with OMB.	Beginning in the 3rd quarter of FY 2014, agencies will share progress in improving baseline assessment measures with OMB.	DoD CIO/USD(AT&L) will share progress in improving baseline assessment measures with OMB.

Federal Section 508 Laws/Guidance

1. **OMB Strategic Plan: Improving Management of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act** - "A Framework for Enhancing and Sustaining Management Improvements to Increase the Accessibility of Electronic and Information Technology"

2. **Workforce Investment Act of 1998** - Public Law 105-220, 29 U.S.C. § 794d; SEC. 508. Electronic and Information Technology

3. **21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act of 2010** - Procedures for Ensuring the Accessibility of Electronic and Information Technology (E&IT) Procured by DoD Organizations

4. **Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)** - 48 CFR Parts 2,7,10,11,12, and 39 Sets forth basic policies and general information about the Federal Acquisition Regulations System

5. **OMB Memorandum: Improving the Accessibility of Government Information** - Increasing Awareness of Responsibilities and Requirements

DoD Section 508 Policies

1. **DoD Directive 8000.01** - "Management of the Department of Defense Information Enterprise," February 10, 2009

2. **DoD Manual 8400.01-M** - "Procedures for Ensuring the Accessibility of Electronic and Information Technology (E&IT) Procured by DoD Organizations," June 3, 2011

3. **USD(AT&L) and DOD CIO Joint Memorandum** - "Improving the Accessibility of Government Information through Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973", March 15, 2012

4. **Defense Acquisition Guidebook (DAG)** - Chapter 7.7 "Accessibility of Electronic and Information Technology", November 5, 2012

5. **Section 508 Policies DoD CIO Memorandum** - "Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Strategic Plan for Improving Management of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973", July 16, 2013

RESOURCE SECTION

DoD Section 508 Resources
DoD Section 508 Coordinator
Ned Kieloch   edmund.c.kieloch.civ@mail.mil / (571) 372-4513
DoD Section 508 Staff
Complaints, Issues & Concerns / Contract Assessments   **Ned Kieloch**   osd.mc-alex.dod-cio.mbx.section-508@mail.mil
Section 508 Website Evaluation   **Darlene Jones**   Darlene.e.jones8.civ@mail.mil / (571) 372-4509
DoD Resources
DoD Section 508   http://dodcio.defense.gov/DoDSection508.aspx
DoD CIO   http://dodcio.defense.gov/
USD (AT&L)   www.acq.osd.mil
USD (P&R) Office of Warrior Care Policy   http://prhome.defense.gov/WCP/
USD (P&R) CAP   http://cap.mil/
Government Resources
www.section508.gov
www.access-board.gov/
email: **osd.mc-alex.dod-cio.mbx.section-508@mail.mil**

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