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U.S. Department of Defense

Chief Information Officer

Public Law 115-336, "21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act"

December 2020 Report

Prepared for the Office of Management and Budget and the public per the requirements of section 3(d) of Public Law 115-336.

The Department of Defense Chief Information Officer's Progress to Implement the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act 2020 Annual Report

Background

Section 3(d) of Public Law 115-336, the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (21st Century IDEA)¹ requires the head of each Federal executive agency to report annually (through 2023) to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the public on the agency's progress towards implementing the requirements of the Act and modernizing their websites and digital services. This report details the 2020 efforts of the U.S. Department of Defense Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO) to modernize the Department's websites and digital services.

DoD CIO Efforts to Date

Website Modernization (Sec. 3)

As required by section 3(b)(2) of Public Law 115-336, the 21st Century IDEA, DoD CIO submitted the "Modernizing Agency Websites and Digital Services - March 2020" report to Congress, which included a list of existing policies aligned to 21st Century IDEA and a list of key DoD websites and digital services that are most used by the public. DoD CIO evaluated the Department's highest traffic websites and determined that each website is in compliance with most standards required by law. The most prevalent need for improvement is compliance with accessibility standards, DoD CIO prioritized the list of websites targeted for modernization and in their March 2020 report to Congress included a funding profile, developed by the Defense Media Activity (DMA), which enables the Department to reach and maintain full section 508 compliance within five years.

As required by law, this report is available on the DoD CIO public website – <https://dodcio.defense.gov/home/website-modernization-report>

Implementation Activities –

- In accordance with the authorities outlined in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5122.05, "Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (ATSD(PA))," August 7, 2017; DoDD 5105.74, "Defense Media Activity (DMA)," December 18, 2007, as amended; and the Deputy Secretary of Defense Action Memorandum, "Defense Wide Review Task 34 Resubmission (OSD005672-20)," June 24, 2020, the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (OATSD(PA)) and DMA initiated efforts to establish a consolidated DoD Public Web Program for compliance with Public Law 115-336.

¹ Public Law 115-336, 132 Stat. 5025-5028.

- DoD Instruction (DoDI) 8170.01, "Online Information Management and Electronic Messaging," January 2, 2019, provides specific policies, responsibilities, and procedures critical to successful online information management and electronic messaging. This instruction is currently in alignment with section 3(a) of the law in the areas of accessibility, search, and mobile optimization. DoD CIO is currently finalizing an update to the DoDI directing compliance with the 21st Century IDEA and requiring the adoption of the United States Web Design System as the website standard published by GSA per section 3e – <https://designsystem.digital.gov/>.

Digitization of Government Services and Forms (Sec. 4)

As required in Section 4, the Department conducted an initial review of 139 DoD forms serving the public and determined that they are all digitally accessible. The Department identified 61 forms which are electronic and available online that require a digital signature enabled for improved functionality. Forms are published on the DoD Forms Management Program, Official DoD Website for DoD Forms – <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/>.

Implementation Activities –

- The Department is updating DoD Instruction (DoDI) 7750.07, "DoD Forms Management Program," October 10, 2014, Change 1, Effective July 13, 2020, to align with the 21st Century IDEA guidance.
- Current policy states that Information Technology must be used to the maximum extent possible for the creation, distribution, and use of forms – and to record, store, and disseminate information entered on those forms. Further, the creation of electronic (vice paper) records should be the default. The Department is drafting a policy memo to DoD Components on compliance with OMB M-19-21, Transition to Electronic Records. Implementation guidance will be provided to DoD Components on how-to modernize forms.

Standardization (Sec. 7)

Per section 7(b) of the IDEA, and the H.R. 6395 HASC Report – *National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2021*, the DoD CIO is working to ensure each department or command selected a 21st Century IDEA designee responsible for coordinating the implementation of IDEA requirements. Further, the DoD CIO is collaborating with designees to identify estimations of costs and schedules which would impact implementation across the defense enterprise.



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