



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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Department of Defense
OFFICE OF REPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Enterprise Architecture Requirements for the Department of Defense Emergency Mass Warning and Notification System

References: (a) DoDD 5144.02, "DoD Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO)," November 21, 2014, as amended
(b) DoDI 6055.17, "DoD Emergency Management (EM) Program," February 13, 2017, as amended
(c) DoDD 8422.01E, "DoD Public Safety Communications Capability," June 8, 2022

This memorandum establishes enterprise-wide architecture requirements for the Department of Defense (DoD) Emergency Mass Warning and Notification (EMWN) system, as authorized under Reference (a) to develop and promulgate enterprise-wide architecture requirements and technical standards. The EMWN system enhances critical capabilities in delivering timely, accurate, and unified threat notifications to DoD personnel worldwide, ensuring force readiness and personnel safety in alignment with References (b) and (c).

Implementing a single DoD-wide EMWN system avoids potential risk of delayed or inconsistent information to personnel and promotes efficient coordination and response during emergencies to improve outcomes and maintain operational continuity. The EMWN system must deliver rapid, multi-modal (telephone, text message, email, desktop popup, and mobile app) notifications to all DoD personnel—military and civilian—as well as contractor personnel and, as necessary, other registered users, when threats arise, regardless of organizational affiliation, geographic location, or duty status. The attachment outlines the enterprise architecture requirements to ensure interoperability and compliance with all applicable laws, Presidential Policy Directives, Federal Communications Commission rules, and DoD policies.

These requirements take effect on October 1, 2025, and will be codified into the reissuance of Reference (b). The point of contact for this memorandum is Mr. Deondray Wesley, (571) 372-4939, deondray.t.wesley.civ@mail.mil.

Katherine Arrington
Performing the Duties of the
Chief Information Officer of the
Department of Defense

Attachment
As Stated:

SUBJECT: DoD Emergency Mass Warning and Notification System Enterprise Architecture Requirements

Nov 20, 2025

Operational Context:

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

The DoD has identified a need to seamlessly notify and warn all DoD personnel—military and civilian—as well as contractor personnel (collectively referred to as the “primary population”), and as necessary, dependents of primary population, state/local emergency services personnel, or other registered users (collectively referred to as the “secondary population”) across local, regional, national, and global levels of emergency events. DoD installations and personnel face an array of disruptive incidents ranging from inclement weather and natural disasters to chemical attacks, missile strikes, and acts of terrorism that, taken together, are not merely frequent but unavoidable risks both in the homeland and abroad. Rapid, unified communication reinforces the DoD’s ability to safeguard its personnel, who are necessary to ensuring a lethal and ready force.

During an emergency, seconds can determine survival; fragmented communication systems have left some installations informed while others remained unaware. Such breakdowns have hindered operational activity, degraded force readiness, and placed personnel at unnecessary risk.

As the Secretary of Defense has emphasized, “We will rebuild our military by matching threats to capabilities.” For homeland defense and global mission success, both necessitate a robust notification system to preserve warfighter capability and ensure personnel are primed for action rather than sidelined by communication lags. Implementing such a notification system mitigates vulnerabilities to conventional and asymmetric threats, fosters a resilient and responsive operational environment, and maximizes opportunities to protect the force.

Required Capability:

The DoD requires a single DoD-wide emergency mass warning and notification system (hereinafter referred to as the EMWN system) to rapidly notify or warn primary and secondary population, regardless of organizational affiliation, geographic location, or duty status, of emerging threats or incidents that endanger DoD resources. This capability must ensure timely threat awareness, enabling personnel to implement protective actions and maintain maximum force readiness across the DoD spectrum of operations. The EMWN system will be a flexible, enterprise-wide system capable of delivering critical alerts within stringent timeframes to primary and secondary population on installations, at stand-alone facilities, in transit (e.g., temporary duty locations), or off-duty, worldwide. The need for this capability is enduring, as threats to primary and secondary population and operations persist as an unavoidable reality.

The EMWN system must issue notifications to the affected population within two minutes of incident verification, regardless of DoD Component affiliation, with initial alerts reaching 90% of the affected population within 10 minutes and 100% within one hour. The EMWN system must also be able to measure receipt of notifications, document notification delivery to individuals, and support configurable retries across multiple modes. Given the unpredictable nature of threats, the EMWN system must feature a graphical interface allowing operators to define notification areas using custom-drawn boundaries on a map, accommodating multi-vector or multi-locality incidents. Figure 1 illustrates the flow of notifications across all modalities (i.e., desktop notification, email, SMS text, mobile application, and voice call) to the DoD population within a defined geographical area, depicting the operational concept of the EMWN

system.

The EMWN system must support notifications via multiple modalities to address both traditional environments (e.g., offices, stand-alone facilities, temporary duty locations, homes) and other operational areas (e.g., installation grounds and industrial facilities supporting DoD initiatives).

Notifications to the population must be delivered through multiple channels to ensure effective communication. These methods include telephone voice calls to work, home, or mobile devices; Short Message Service (SMS) text messaging to government-issued or personal mobile devices; desktop popup alerts on government computer workstations; e-mail messages sent to government or personal accounts; and alert notifications through a mobile application.

Alert notifications originating from stand-alone facilities or other off-installation locations must only be initiated after personnel report a threat to local emergency response centers (911 call centers for threats in the continental United States and designated emergency authorities for threats outside the continental United States).

The EMWN system should be able to directly link to an authoritative Registered User database identifying the primary population.

The EMWN system should also be able to support a primary population and allow primary population members to register their dependents in a secondary population category within the system.

Additionally, DoD personnel whose regular duty location is at a stand-alone facility, i.e., facilities that are generally located beyond the boundaries of a DoD installation, must also be supported. These personnel must receive special training and role-based access control to allow them to initiate warnings or notifications to designated emergency operations centers and nearby DoD personnel within a set radius.

The EMWN system must communicate globally with telephone and SMS systems supporting a minimum of 4 million active subscribers with 99.99% operational availability.

Performance Requirement Table:

Key Attribute	Performance Requirement
Notification Scope	Rapid notification of known or anticipated threats to the primary and secondary population at any DoD location worldwide
Coverage	Notify the primary and secondary population regardless of organizational affiliation, geographic location, or duty station (on/off installations, stand-alone facilities, or affected areas)
Timeliness	Initial notifications must reach 90% of the affected population within 10 minutes and 100% within 1 hour; alerts requiring immediate action must be addressed within 2 minutes of incident verification
Measurability	Measure receipt of notifications, support configurable retries for undelivered messages, and escalate to alternative methods if delivery fails

Geographic Flexibility	Use a graphical interface with geometric shapes for notification areas
Multi-Modality	Support notifications via voice calls, SMS, desktop popup, email, and mobile app alerts across traditional and advanced need spaces
Mobility	Support a capability to interact with mobile devices
Off-Installation Notification Protocol	Notifications from off-installation locations must be initiated only after personnel report threats to local emergency response centers (911 for continental United States, designated emergency authorities for outside the continental United States)
Integration	Link with an authoritative source identifying the primary population
Secondary Population Support	Allow primary population members to register dependents in a secondary population category
Role-Based Access Control	Personnel at stand-alone facilities must have role-based access and training to initiate warnings to emergency operations centers and nearby DoD personnel within a set radius
Capacity	Support a minimum of 4 million active subscribers
Operational Availability	Maintain an operational availability of 99.99% at a minimum

Consolidation Timeline:

Consolidating the DoD into a single DoD-wide mass warning and notification platform is a complex undertaking. The DoD should plan on a 24-month transition timeline to enable Components to plan, implement, and operate the EMWN system, ensuring reliable, real-time notifications across all operations.

Figure 1
OV-1 Emergency Mass Warning and Notification Process Flow Diagram

