



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

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

SUBJECT: Resolving Risk Management Framework and Cybersecurity Reciprocity Issues

We must accelerate and streamline the delivery of capabilities to the warfighter. Maintaining our cybersecurity standards and leveraging reciprocity between system owners and authorizing officials is critical to this objective. Accordingly, the DoD must adopt a risk-informed and mission-aligned culture of collaboration in cybersecurity testing and reciprocity.

The Department implements the Risk Management Framework (RMF), in accordance with DoD Instruction 8510.01, to guide how we build, field, and maintain cyber secure and survivable capabilities. The DoD Chief Information Officer (CIO) is my lead for the cybersecurity program for the Department and is responsible for the policy and governance of RMF. To assist the Department with improving reciprocity and cybersecurity artifact re-use, DoD CIO published a playbook to the RMF Knowledge Service at: [https://rmfks.osd.mil/rmf/HelpandResources/References/Reference Library/\(U\) 2024-01-02 DoD Cybersecurity Reciprocity Playbook.pdf](https://rmfks.osd.mil/rmf/HelpandResources/References/Reference Library/(U) 2024-01-02 DoD Cybersecurity Reciprocity Playbook.pdf).

I expect testing re-use and reciprocity to be implemented except when the cybersecurity risk is too great. When Authorizing Officials cannot reach an agreement to leverage re-use and reciprocity, and cannot find resolution with the respective DoD Component CIOs, I direct that both parties engage directly with the DoD CIO to resolve the impasse.

Furthermore, I direct DoD Components to elevate any RMF policy and implementation issues to the DoD CIO for assistance. DoD Components can request DoD CIO assistance in resolving reciprocity and other RMF policy, guidance, and technical issues by contacting the RMF Technical Advisory Group secretariat, within DoD CIO, at osd.pentagon.dod-cio.mbx.rmftag-secretariat@mail.mil.

I direct the DoD CIO to report to me the assistance requests received and the measures taken to help resolve each issue on a monthly basis.



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