



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

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CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
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UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
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Subject: Adoption of the National Information Exchange Model within the Department of Defense

In order to comply with White House guidance on the adoption of reference information exchanges, DoD will adopt the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) as the best suited option for standards-based data exchanges. This adoption will involve a series of phased implementations by Components/Programs using NIEM content, guidance, and tools in an integrated effort to transition current DoD data exchange standards, specifications, and policies to a NIEM-based approach. In addition, the DoD will work with the NIEM Program Management Office to create a Military Operations (MilOps) Domain as part of NIEM.

Given the Clinger-Cohen Act mandates and today's fiscal pressures, DoD must adopt a DoD-wide sustainable business model for information sharing that supports the DoD data strategy, the Joint Information Environment, the DoD Information Enterprise Architecture, and emerging government data sharing guidance. Adoption of NIEM offers potential efficiencies, long-term development cost savings, streamlined governance, and most importantly, improved information sharing across the DoD and with our mission partners.

To facilitate the transition to NIEM, the Office of the DoD Chief Information Officer will lead the development of a DoD Data Framework to include targeted guidance on governance and technical direction regarding NIEM adoption. Specifically, the DoD Data Framework will build upon the existing DoD data strategy and will provide principles, rules and additional guidance for managing data artifacts to improve information sharing. This framework will provide a foundation for how DoD views, manages, and shares its data. As part of the framework effort and to assist in shaping the DoD involvement in NIEM, Combatant Commands, Services and Agencies are encouraged to identify and conduct pilots and demonstrations.

DoD organizations shall first consider NIEM for their information sharing solutions when deciding which data exchange standards or specifications meet their mission and operational needs. Every effort shall be made to ensure that a rigorous analysis of NIEM be conducted as a part of this consideration.

The adoption of NIEM as a common standards-based data exchange may present challenges to some DoD stakeholders, particularly when viewed from the perspective of an individual program. In those situations where an organization's design goals and requirements are not fulfilled by NIEM, the organization shall provide justification why the use of NIEM is not feasible; exceptions may be granted by the DoD CIO. In such cases, an organization shall use an alternative or complementary data standard that is interoperable with NIEM.

This DoD transition to NIEM will incorporate the ongoing efforts of DoD Universal Core (UCore) and Command and Control (C2) Core. As of the date of this memo, the DoD CIO will no longer support the development of further enhancements to UCore and C2 Core as unique DoD data exchange models. The applicable data components in UCore and C2 Core will form the initial content in the NIEM Core and the NIEM MilOps Domain, respectively.

When published, the DoD implementing instruction, DoDI 8320.xx "Implementing the Sharing of Data, Information, and Information Technology (IT) Services in the Department of Defense" will incorporate policy and guidance on DoD adoption of NIEM. The point of contact for this matter is Mr. Bill Barlow at email: [William.Barlow@osd.mil](mailto:William.Barlow@osd.mil), 571-372-4646.



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