

# The U.S. Navy's Pivot to **Secure Remote Work During COVID-19**



## THE CHALLENGE:

Facing a rapid transition to remote work in the face of a global pandemic

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps supported about 12,000 teleworkers on any given day pre-pandemic — a number that jumped to in excess of 200,000 the day that COVID forced the agency to adopt a remote work policy.

Addressing the daunting task of rolling out a secure remote work solution at rapid speed with no disruption to overall mission support would require simple and user-friendly technology accessible for the entire staff.

## Achieving full remote security using Microsoft Teams

The Navy first partnered with Microsoft to conduct an Office 365 pilot. Based on that successful deployment, the Navy extended the relationship to fully deploy to Microsoft Teams across the remote workforce. Teams provided the Navy with a cloud-based work environment that provided the collaboration tools its staff needed to work from the safety of their homes, on any approved device, while having the strong data security of working in the office.

The Navy worked with Microsoft to accelerate deployment of Teams, a collaborative process that reduced installation time to a matter of weeks. The full Department of Defense (DoD) Teams deployment became the **largest in the world** in this short amount of time and brought secure, department-wide collaboration tools.

Embracing a mature cloud service enabled the Navy to quickly adapt to a new way to work by providing rich collaboration tools, new levels of remote

access, and a secure and resilient remote federal workspace where employees can be productive from anywhere. Through the Microsoft partnership, the Navy has strengthened its comprehensive zero trust architecture to protect identities, networks, devices, applications, and data — regardless if personnel are working from the office, at home or at sea.



## A catalyst for change across the organization

About a third of the Navy's workforce — approximately 300,000 personnel — have embraced Microsoft Teams. The solution has been a game changer and catalyst for change across the department and delivered a better aligned view across all DoD departments on future roll-outs, including plans to extend Office 365 and Teams capabilities to nearly 900,000 Navy and Marine Corps workers using it by the end of FY22. According to Aaron Weis, Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of the Navy,

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"The legacy of our move to Office 365 will be that it was the accelerant to greater change and modernization within our organization. We accomplished in a matter of weeks what would have typically taken years."

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