



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JAN 17 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDER, U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND
COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND
COMMANDER, U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR STRATEGY,
PLANS, AND CAPABILITIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Improvements to DoD Unclassified Shared Situational Awareness

DoD must be prepared to support the Nation in times of need, particularly in the event of a domestic complex catastrophe with effects that qualitatively and quantitatively exceed any manmade or natural disaster experienced to date. To this end, I directed the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy to evaluate current DoD shared situational awareness systems to identify which systems are capable of receiving, displaying, and utilizing common critical information and to provide me with recommendations on how to remedy any gaps and shortfalls in shared situational awareness.

I have carefully considered the recommendations and direct the Department to implement the attached recommendations to improve DoD Unclassified Shared Situational Awareness. I direct the head of the DoD Component responsible for each of the recommendations to complete its implementation by the end of calendar year 2017.

Attachment:
As stated



OSD000367-17/CMD000527-17

IMPROVEMENTS TO DOD UNCLASSIFIED SHARED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- 1. Unclassified Concept of Operations (CONOPS).** The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will develop a CONOPS to tie existing systems together into a family of systems and programs to form a DoD Unclassified Common Operational Picture (COP) related to complex catastrophes. This DoD Unclassified COP CONOPS will combine data from existing systems into a synchronized picture to ensure accurate and timely sharing of information.
- 2. Data Standardization.** Commander, U.S. Northern Command, and Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, will use the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) in accordance with DoD Instruction 8320.07, Implementing the Sharing of Data, Information, and Information Technology (IT) Services in the Department of Defense, leveraging existing DoD capabilities, to provide DoD mission partners with a clear and concise DoD central authoritative data source for the sharing of unclassified information related to disasters. NIEM is a proven and existing approach for data and information exchange with a broad functional community of interest.
- 3. Fusion Responsibility.** Commander, U.S. Northern Command, or Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, depending on the incident response area, in cooperation with the Chief, National Guard Bureau, will be the fusion manager responsible for compiling DoD complex catastrophe-related data and information and for creating and disseminating authoritative data for a DoD unclassified shared situational awareness (SSA) COP that can be shared with mission partners. The DoD fusion of this data and information will enable any open source viewer, including mission partners, to obtain data and information for use within their organization. The responsible combatant commander must receive all logistical, force status, operational track, weather, and other mission-specific data from DoD Components and other data providers for consolidation and dissemination.
- 4. Policy Issuance.** The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy will update DoD policy to clarify DoD unclassified information and data sharing and reporting related to complex catastrophes, including with DoD's mission partners. The end state of SSA policy is to enable and direct the heads of all relevant DoD organizations to report and share unclassified information that would be relevant to responding to a complex catastrophe. This DoD policy will enable the Joint Staff to implement a policy on reporting and sharing unclassified data, enable the Department to establish a DoD SSA picture and repository of data and information, enable DoD Components to fuse information for DoD senior leader decisions, and facilitate the sharing of DoD's COP with its mission partners.