



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6000

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Department of Defense Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Chief Data Officer Transfer to DoD CIO

The FY20 NDAA Section 903 directs that “the Chief Data Officer (CDO) shall report directly to the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.” I view this as an opportunity to strengthen leadership on data governance and ensure our digital systems can fully support joint all-domain operations. As this need is urgent, I have directed my staff to begin transition planning and want to ensure you are aware of the steps I am taking.

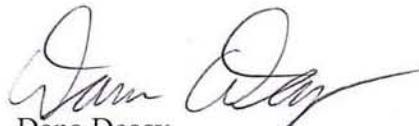
First, I have begun seeking qualified candidates (per the qualifications in the Foundations For Evidence-Based Policy Act) to serve as CDO, whom I plan to interview. I will then provide you and the Secretary with my recommendation for official appointment as CDO.

To support the CDO, I am planning to establish a small (~10 person) CDO Office within CIO, along with the required responsibilities, talent, and resources to be effective. In addition to utilizing existing CIO resources, I am discussing with CMO the billets and funding assigned for these duties that should transition to CIO. I will work with the relevant components to obtain the necessary support including: accelerated hiring, additional funding, office space, and detailees. I will notify you if your involvement is needed.

The DoD CIO organization will assume leadership of current data governance bodies, by having Pete Ranks serve as temporary chair, and will also charter a formal Data Governance Board. To this end, I request a one-month extension of the January 30 SWPR task to report to you on my recommendations for data governance and standardization. I plan on engaging with Gen Hyten to develop a comprehensive approach that addresses the SWPR requirement, the transfer of the CDO, and the related Section 903 Report to Congress, to include a detailed timeline of transition activities. I will also be prepared support a broader DMAG discussion on data governance at that time, if desired.

My first priority for the CDO Office will be ensuring that DoD data policies, standards, and implementation are fully aligned to the needs for all-domain operations against a capable adversary. We will also continue to support the reform activities and data analytics efforts led by CMO.

My objective is to have the CDO Office established within 90 days. Rapidly completing this transition will complement and accelerate our efforts to provide the warfighter with Digital Modernization via cloud, AI, C3 modernization, and cyber investments. Please let me know if you have any questions; I welcome your feedback.


Dana Deasy