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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
 CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
 UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
 ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
 GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
 DIRECTOR, COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
 EVALUATION
 INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
 DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
 DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
 DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
 DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Publishing Links to Previously Released Information on Data.gov

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to improving transparency, participation and collaboration having achieved all of the milestones contained in the Office of Management and Budget's Open Government Directive, dated December 8, 2009. Following publication of DoD's Open Government Plan, which provided our strategic roadmap for this White House initiative, we are now focused on its implementation throughout the Department.

A critical element in our effort to increase openness is inclusion of publically available DoD datasets on Data.gov. As a central catalog of raw data available throughout the Executive Branch, Data.gov increases the ability of the public to easily find, download, and use Federal data in creative and innovative ways.

We established a Community of Interest (COI) with representatives from throughout the Department in order to facilitate identification and linkage of candidate DoD datasets to Data.gov. COI participants have started to build an inventory of datasets that have been previously released to the public and initiated modifications, as needed, to comply with Data.gov format requirements.

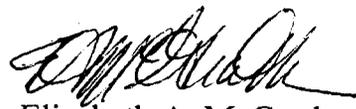


Data that has been previously publicly released in accordance with established DoD policies shall not require additional Component review in order to be included on Data.gov, in either its original format or as the underlying raw dataset. This memorandum authorizes DoD Components to publish links on Data.gov to this previously cleared and released data. Examples may include:

- Data published on public-facing DoD Web sites
- Almanacs, fact-books and similar sets of statistics
- Data that has been released under the FOIA process
- Data reflecting the same information issued in DoD press releases
- Aggregated versions of material that has been released incrementally through DoD press releases or other DoD sources

Components shall begin publishing links to such datasets as soon as practical. In parallel, the efforts of the COI will also be expanded to include the identification and release of new datasets. To provide a framework for releasing previously unpublished data, I will issue more extensive guidance describing processes and procedures to be followed, including steps to address concerns regarding data aggregation.

The overall point of contact for this effort is Mr. Thomas Cowley, 703-692-8170 or thomas.cowley@osd.mil, and he can provide contact information for individual Component COI participants as needed. Additional information regarding the Department's efforts to promote Open Government may be obtained by visiting www.defense.gov/open or sending an e-mail to opendod@osd.mil.



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