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AUG 10 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

Subj: IMPROVING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION
THROUGH SECTION 508 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, AS
AMENDED (29 U.S.C. § 794D)

Encl: (1) Acting Under Secretary of Defense (AT&L)/DoD CIO Joint Memo of 15 March 12

Enclosure (1) is forwarded for your information and action, as appropriate. This memorandum provides an update on recent activities regarding compliance with the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. It notes that in June 2011, the Department issued DoD Manual 8400.01-M, "Procedures for Ensuring the Accessibility of Electronic and Information Technology (E&IT) Procured by DoD Organizations," which provides procedures for implementing Section 508. The manual highlights the General Services Administration's (GSA's) Section 508 website, <http://www.section508.gov>, which offers sample solicitation documents, tools to help build compliant requirements and solicitations, and free online training.

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) subpart 39.2 implements applicable accessibility standards of Section 508 and 36 CFR part 1194. FAR 39.203 states that unless an exception at 39.204 applies, acquisitions of E&IT supplies and services must meet the accessibility standards at 36 CFR part 1194.

GSA reviews agency E&IT solicitations for compliance, and provides the Office of Management and Budget a quarterly report on the results of its assessments. Department of the Navy (DON) activities should continue to review procurement and Information Technology policies and procedures to confirm Section 508 standards are appropriately considered and clearly stated when preparing requirements and solicitation documents. Unless an exception in FAR 39.204 applies, FAR subpart 39.2 requires acquisitions of E&IT supplies and services to meet the applicable accessibility standards. Further details are provided within the attached document.

Questions regarding this policy should be directed as follows: the DON CIO POC is Ms. Sherrian Finneran, sherrian.finneran@navy.mil, 703-695-1883 and the ASN (RD&A) POC is Ms. Gabrielle Trickett, gabrielle.trickett@navy.mil, 703-614-9641.


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the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d)

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