

# DOD TAKES AN ENTERPRISE APPROACH TO IT

JIE delivers stronger security, cost savings, and culture change.

**T**he Defense Department's ambitious initiative to deliver common enterprise services and better security offers great promise. It will, however, require a significant cultural change as the military services adapt to this new way of operating.

Through the Joint Information Environment (JIE) initiative, DoD plans to build a shared platform that any service can access from any device. It hopes these efforts will save money, strengthen network security and more quickly incorporate new technology.

This enterprise approach to IT is a significant departure from the way the independent branches of the military have always operated. This higher level approach will require close collaboration among each branch, according to government and industry speakers at a recent conference.

"I think the common theme you're hearing is we're transitioning from a service-specific way of tackling a problem to a more enterprise, agnostic way," says Danielle Metz, Deputy Director for Strategy and Integration, Office of DoD CIO for Information and Enterprise.

Working together will result in a better outcome than if the services continue to go at it alone, says Metz, speaking Nov. 1, at the Defense Systems Summit on JIE and the New Military Landscape. "JIE has allowed us to have that conversation."

## Fortify Security

Improved security is a primary driver behind the move to implement JIE. This new initiative will offer added security and layered defenses to help relieve some of the burden from the individual services, says Daniel Corbin, Chief Technology Advisor Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps is already testing Joint Regional Security Stacks (JRSS), which centralize network security into regional architectures. This approach to security and the move to cloud services will help also save money, says Corbin. There will be challenges, however, such as how to adjust to having less control over IT and how to meet evolving employee training needs. "Change creates uncertainty," he says.

Others agree it won't be the technology as much as cultural change that will be the struggle when it comes to working within the JIE construct. In fact, changing the culture will be the biggest challenge of all, says Janice Haith, Director, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Navy.

JIE is worth the growing pains, though, says Haith. Besides improving operational effectiveness, consolidating systems, and reducing the IT budget, JIE helps the Navy provide a

level of security to 25 legacy networks it can't migrate into the NMCI environment. "It gives us the security we didn't have, but it allows us to plan for the future of how we can bring those into more of an enterprise (form)," she says.

## Improved Communication

The JIE framework also calls for better communication, which has a direct impact on security. It means the service branches must communicate more frequently. It also means they're learning more than they have before, says Frank Konieczny, Chief Technology Officer, Office of Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer, Office of the Secretary Air Force.

Each branch of the service approaches security differently, says Konieczny, but JIE presents a way to standardize and improve on that. "We can't keep our own security separate," he says. "We have to take the best of breed and use that."

The Air Force plans to outsource its base capability, including all network services. This will help sharpen the focus on cybersecurity, beyond simple network maintenance. It also plans to use commercial cloud services and support mobility wherever possible. The goal is eventually, "anybody at any base can log into the system and get something out of it, which we can't do currently," says Konieczny.

It's important for all the service branches to get on board with JIE. The industry can help by integrating and securing commercial off the shelf products, customizing application interfaces and working closely with each branch to give them what they need, says Patrick Lorge, Rear Admiral, USN, retired, and now president of Viceroy Enterprises, LLC.

A significant benefit of JIE, says Lorge, is the data each branch can share with the others. He points to the success of the Navy's Smart Shore initiative, which is designed to prevent people from taking over of industrial control and security systems. It takes data from industrial controls on bases, feeds that into an ops center, and presents the information as a single view.

"As you bring [data] up into that metadata level ... then you start to have real information. Whether you are pushing data across a different device or just realizing what that data is, [the important thing is the data has value, which helps services make good decisions,]" he says. "As we get more into big data ... we will find there is much more commonality across all the services. It's critical to the success of JIE that we get into the big data discussion."