



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
107 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0107

Office, Chief Information Officer / G-6

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Policy Requiring the Use of Next-Generation (NexGen) Department of Defense (DoD) Handheld Wireless Enterprise Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) to Identify and Eliminate Devices Based on Usage

1. References:

a. Secretary of the Army memorandum, subject: Mobile Computing Devices, 3 April 2012.

b. Army Regulation (AR) 25-1, subject: Army Knowledge Management and Information Technology, 4 December 2008.

c. Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG) Next Generation Wireless (NGW) BPAs Cellular and Paging Solutions Ordering Guide, 26 June 2012.

2. Background. In August 2011, ACC-APG, in conjunction with Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM), the Air Force's Information Technology Commodity Council, 754th Electronic Systems Group and Integrated Infrastructure and Telecommunications Services, awarded four major vendors and five regional vendors DoD enterprise Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) for external wireless services and devices. A third-party contractor is tracking a variety of metrics by gathering data directly from wireless vendors' databases. A Wireless Expense Management (WEM) portal, projected to go live November 2012, will give each customer/activity/command access to its respective data directly via the portal. After activities are registered in the WEM, they will be able to manipulate the data and generate reports.

3. Purpose. This memorandum provides policy and guidance for using NexGen DoD handheld wireless enterprise BPAs to reduce costs and to address no-use devices either by transitioning them to the correct plan or eliminating them. Wireless enterprise BPAs are available to all DoD agencies until August 2016. Further detailed guidance and instructions will be disseminated.

4. Policy. In accordance with reference b (AR 25-1, paragraph 6-4c(4)), all Army organizations and agencies will procure handheld wireless devices, services and accessories through the use of the enterprise BPAs. Services on existing contracts

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must transition to the enterprise BPAs upon expiration of the contract or at the end of the current option period, whichever occurs first.

a. All agencies are required to assess current wireless device inventories and usage, and to establish controls to ensure that they are not paying for unused or underutilized devices. In addition, agencies must validate their wireless bills monthly, bringing any discrepancies or errors to the attention of their contracting office and NETCOM for adjudication with the wireless carrier.

b. All active devices not under BPA suspension or a flat-rate service plan that are not used (voice, data or text) for a period of 60+ days must be discontinued immediately. Devices with no usage that are part of a continuity of operations package or an emergency deployment package must be identified and moved to a flat-rate service that converts to a full-use capability when activated for contingency response.

c. All Army agencies are required to utilize the ordering procedures established in the ordering guide located at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/606723>.

d. Agencies will coordinate directly with and submit all procurement actions for wireless services to NETCOM and, when available for enterprise-wide use, via the WEM portal located at <https://www.dodwem.com>.

5. Waiver. Commands may request a waiver to this policy in order to meet compelling, mission-essential operational requirements or when the capability can be provided through more cost effective means. Requests for waivers must be consolidated by the initiating command, receive concurrence of the first General Officer Commander or civilian equivalent, and be approved by the Army Command, Army Service Command Component or Direct Reporting Unit Commanders. CIO/G-6 retains oversight of the waiver process. The waiver process should not exceed 30 days after the initiating organization properly submits a completed waiver request. Requests for exceptions to this policy must be submitted via the Goal 1 waiver process specified in AR 25-1, located at: <https://adminapps.hqda.pentagon.mil/akmg1w/index.html> . Goal 1 waiver instructions are located at: <https://adminapps1.hqda.pentagon.mil/akmg1w/help/webHelp.action>.

6. Policy compliance. No later than the last business day in April and October of each fiscal year, NETCOM will report the number of noncompliant devices, by Command, to Chief Information Officer/G-6 Policy & Resources Directorate for evaluation by the Enterprise Governance Board.

7. Policy expiration. This policy will remain in effect until incorporated into the relevant Army regulation or 30 July 2017, whichever occurs first.

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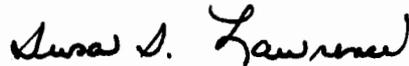
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8. The points of contact for this message are:

a. For memorandum questions, CIO/G-6 POC Ms. Tammy Ventura-Reyes: (703) 545-1506 or tammy.t.ventura-reyes.civ@mail.mil.

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