Army Moves to Enterprise Email

What is it?

Enterprise Email enables users to access their Army email from any computer equipped with a Common Access Card, and to collaborate with any Army user worldwide via a global address list and enterprise calendar sharing.

Today, the Army utilizes hundreds of heterogeneous email networks managed by individual installations and functional organizations. Among the many effects, most Army users cannot easily access their email when not at home station, and they often cannot find contact information for Army personnel at other locations or share calendars. This disjointed approach also forces personnel, primarily Soldiers, to change email addresses nearly every time they change assignments or duty stations. Enterprise Email will address these shortcomings, providing users a true global address list, enterprise calendar sharing and a single email address for their entire Army careers.

The Army is executing Enterprise Email through a partnership with the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). Under this arrangement, the Army will use the DISA-managed Microsoft Exchange 2010 cloud and nine Defense Enterprise Computing Centers to provision email for 1.4 million unclassified network users and more than 200,000 secret network users across the Army, Transportation Command, European Command and Africa Command.

Enterprise Email is one of several major Army IT efficiency initiatives that support efforts to free up resources for other Defense Department priorities.

Why is it important to the Army and to individual Soldiers?

Enhanced communication and collaboration will improve Army daily operations and raise mission effectiveness. With fewer servers and administrators, and the elimination of unnecessary seams between heterogeneous local networks, security will increase. Enterprise Email also will provide much greater email storage and eradicate spam-filtering redundancies.

From a financial perspective, enterprise email will significantly reduce hardware, storage and personnel expenses. Overall, the Army expects that its partnership with DISA will lower costs by 60 percent, producing a cost savings of approximately $500 million between fiscal years 2012 and 2017.

What has the Army done?

In February 2011, the Army began migrating Microsoft Exchange email users to the DISA Exchange 2010 service. As of June, more than 80,000 personnel were on Enterprise Email.

What does the Army have planned for the future?

The Army expects to complete the transition to Enterprise Email in 2012. The identity discovery and standardization inherent in Enterprise Email implementation are laying the path for another very important reform: moving directory services and authentication to the Defense Department level.

The individual warfighter and the collective Army rely more heavily than ever before on information technology to execute the mission. The data and capabilities Soldiers need – among them intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, communications and command and control – are all obtained through the Network.

Today’s versatile mix of tailor able, linked organizations operates on a rotational cycle and conducts wide-ranging, full-spectrum operations. For the Network to fulfill the requirements of this dynamic force – securely, on demand and as far as the tactical edge reaches – it must become a unified, global system.

The Army is laying the foundation for this global Network by standardizing the underlying architecture; consolidating and centralizing Network operation, defense and services; and reforming development, acquisition and fielding processes. Ultimately, these changes will produce a seamless, technologically modern Network that is always available and always trusted, regardless of location or environment.

Where Are We Now?

Over the past year, the Army has adopted standards and protocols, based on those of the commercial sector, for the Network’s architecture and transmission means. The goal is to accelerate software development and increase network security. The Army also began to centralize Network management and services through initiatives such as enterprise email, collaboration, directory services and authentication, and data center consolidation. Additionally, the new Army Cyber Command assumed responsibility for operation and defense of the Network. With fiscal reality and the always adapting enemy in mind, the Army will continue to define and refine Network doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures, and to incorporate technological advances, customer demands, national strategic objectives and process improvements.

Top Strategic Initiatives and Implementation Timeline

Why is LandWarNet important to the warfighter?

The ability to fight upon arrival is critical to enabling the predominantly CONUS-based Army to respond effectively to any threat in any environment. The Army’s current networks, information systems and resources are not sufficient to support a true fight-upon-arrival capacity. Access to the Network and information technology resources is inconsistent; units must deal with numerous IT-related changes as they move from one physical location to another and one phase of the Army Force Generation cycle to another. However, by providing all warfighters universal access to their applications, data and collaboration and training resources, as well as one email address and telephone number, the Army will achieve this essential fight-upon-arrival capability.