



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

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November 21, 2024

Mark S. Patrick
Department of Defense
DOD CIO
4800 Mark Center Dr.
Suite, 11G18
Alexandria, VA 2231

Dear Mark Patrick:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently received information pointing to a potential problem with retention of email accounts maintained in the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET) and Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System (JWICS) environments. According to a report by an organization that uses these systems, a “gap in the implementation of protocols” led to an unauthorized disposal of email accounts of departing employees between 2022 and 2024.

NARA is concerned that the scope of this problem may be wider than this one organization and requests that the DOD investigate this issue to ensure no other organizations who use SIPRNET and JWICS were affected.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14(a), NARA requests that DOD, or the appropriate DOD component or components, respond within 30 calendar days. If it is determined that an unauthorized disposition of records has occurred, the response(s) should include the following information:

- A complete description of the records with volume and dates if known;
- The office maintaining the records;
- A statement of the exact circumstances surrounding the removal, defacing, alteration, or destruction of records;
- A statement of the safeguards established to prevent further loss of documentation; and
- Details of the actions taken to salvage, retrieve, or reconstruct the records.

If it is determined that there has been no unauthorized disposition, please provide sufficient documentation to support that finding. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact the Records Management Oversight and Reporting Program by email at UnauthorizedDisposition@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

William Fischer

WILLIAM FISCHER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government (Acting)