On June 9, 2023, the Secretary of Defense approved a set of findings and recommendations to improve the Department of Defense (DoD) policies and procedures related to the protection of classified national security information (CNSI). These findings and recommendations were informed by a 45-day review of DoD security programs, policies, and procedures that was directed by the Secretary of Defense on April 14, 2023, following recent unauthorized disclosures.

The review resulted in the finding that the overwhelming majority of DoD personnel with access to CNSI comply with security policies, processes, and procedures, and recognize the importance of information security to fulfill DoD missions and maintain our national security. At the same time, the review identified areas where the Department should improve its security posture and accountability measures.

The review was facilitated by a 50-question survey that DoD Components completed to self-assess the current state of their personnel security, information safeguarding and accountability, physical security, and education and training posture. In addition, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (OUSD(I&S)) established a cross-DoD security review assessment team that analyzed survey responses, reviewed existing policies and guidance documents, and identified areas for improvement and best practices across DoD.

Based on the findings from this security review, DoD will align resources and act in the near-and medium-term to:

- Reinforce existing security policies and practices to ensure compliance and accountability down to the lowest levels of the Department;
- Review and update security processes and procedures to reduce any ambiguity and ensure consistency and clarity across the Department;
- Develop and implement new security policies, processes, and procedures to address any identified gaps;
- Introduce or expand the use of existing technical tools and systems to improve security clearance processes and the safeguarding of CNSI;
- Examine opportunities to tailor training, education, and policies to better address current and evolving security needs;
- Pursue modifications to security training policies and material to measure their effectiveness and tailor the training to unit needs rather than simply comply with requirements on an annual basis;
- Institute immediate improvements to personnel and physical security data management and information sharing practices and;
- Assess and review policies, processes, and procedures for the accreditation, administration and management of facilities used to process and store classified information.

The Department is mindful of the need to balance information security with requirement to get the right information to the right people at the right time to enhance our national security. As DoD implements the recommendations and associated actions from this review, careful consideration will be given to guard against any "overcorrection" which may impede progress on information sharing and operating models that better enable DoD to execute the National Defense Strategy and its overall mission.