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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

AUG 26 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Policy for Military Health Services System Operating Systems

This memorandum establishes Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) [OASD(HA)] policy for Military Health Services System (MHSS) client and server operating systems. This policy was approved by the MHSS Proponent Committee on 19 June 1996. By limiting the number and diversity of operating systems, the MHSS will achieve economies of scale, increase interoperability, and reduce complexity in network configuration. Moreover, decreasing diversity in operating systems within the MHSS furthers business process reengineering by simplifying the integration of common functions and allowing a single, integrated information management approach.

The MHSS standard client operating system will be Microsoft Windows NT Workstation, which should be utilized throughout the MHSS enterprise. This operating environment will further information management capabilities by offering consistent presentation, ease of use, and a familiar interface to users. This operating system provides for a high performance, secure desktop environment that is C2-certified, broad industry application support, portability to diverse hardware platforms, and Common Operating Environment (COE) compliance.

The MHSS standard application and database server operating system will be Microsoft Windows NT Server. It is anticipated that Microsoft Windows NT Server will satisfy nearly 95 percent of all application and database server OS requirements. However, in cases where Windows NT Server is not appropriate or fails to meet requirements, UNIX will be allowed on a case-by-case basis with a waiver. The use of Windows NT Server as the primary application and database server will provide a clear pathway to COE and Distributed Computing Environment (DCE) compliance. Further, Windows NT Server is a low risk choice for application and database, file and print sharing server providing low maintenance and reliable performance. UNIX is the application and/or database server OS of choice for those specialized high-end processing requirements where Microsoft Windows NT Server, at the present time, does not meet requirements.

The MHSS standard for network services will be to get those services from the application/database server operating system. It is understood that many facilities are about to implement network operating systems where the server operating systems do not provide needed services. For those instances, the chosen product should be standards-based (TCP/IP, SNMP, C2, X.500-compatible).

This operating system standard is intended to apply to new or existing systems where the selection of an operating system for workstations, servers or the local area network will not require extensive system redesign. Existing systems which can implement a portion of the policy (i.e. conversion from non-intelligent terminals to Windows NT workstations) should implement that portion of the policy as soon as possible and plan for system migration to accomplish the remainder of the policy.

Should you require additional information, my point of contact for this policy directive is Mr. Gary Jewell, Defense Medical Information Management (DMIM), who may be reached at (703) 681-7731.



Edward D. Martin, M.D.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

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