



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6000

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Deploying Microsoft 365 E5 Licenses to Support Target Level Zero Trust

In November 2022, the Department of Defense (DoD) released the DoD's Zero Trust (ZT) Strategy and Implementation Roadmap which described the Department's cybersecurity requirement to implement Target Level ZT (defined as 91 discrete ZT activities) before the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. Since the release of the ZT Strategy, the DoD has actively implemented tools and solutions to address the continuous cyber threats from our adversaries.

Beginning in FY24, the Department allocated funding to support the implementation of ZT with the deployment of Microsoft 365 E5 licenses at Impact Level (IL) 5. Microsoft 365 E5 is an enterprise-level cloud-based license that combines best-in-class productivity applications with advanced security, compliance, and analytical capabilities.

To accelerate and enhance the Department's cybersecurity posture and ability to reach Target Level ZT before FY27, each Component must implement the full suite of Microsoft 365 E5 licenses across your NIPR enterprise within 12 months. All DoD Components must initiate implementation of the E5 suite no later than June 3, 2024 and must complete full E5 implementation no later than June 2, 2025.

With the future Department-wide implementation of Microsoft E5 on NIPR, the Department will ensure ZT implementation is achieved at the ZT Target Level by FY27, reducing our attack surface, preventing adversaries from moving freely throughout our networks and further protecting our critical Data.

The DoD Chief Information Officer (CIO) Zero Trust Portfolio Management Office (ZT PfMO) will soon publish further guidance on best practices for implementing Microsoft 365 E5 licenses.

The DoD CIO point of contact for this matter is the Director, ZT PfMO, Mr. Les Call, leslie.o.call.civ@mail.mil.