



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Remain Vigilant in Today's Information Environment

In today's increasingly interconnected and digital world, your vigilance is our best defense against attack or exploitation of personally identifiable information and other sensitive data.

The complex security environment in which we operate demands a clear-eyed understanding of our competitors' capabilities, access, and intent across the cyber domain. The potential consequences of compromised data could be serious, not just for you and your families, but for the readiness and resiliency of this Department. As we strive to protect our information from falling into the wrong hands, there can be no complacency.

You must be your own sentinel in safeguarding your personal information. Remain mindful of what information you choose to share, online or otherwise, and where you invest your money. Protect your health, biometrics, and financial information, along with your social security number. Educate yourself on company policies, so you know how your information will be used before you provide it, always remembering that information, once shared, is no longer under your control.

Thank you for your continued attentiveness to this critical issue. Your vigilance and dedication to data security helps our Department maintain the most lethal and ready fighting force in the world.

BE ALERT!

John Mattis



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