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MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY  
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE  
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JOINT MEDICAL  
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REENGINEERING

SUBJECT: Military Health System (MHS) Portable Computing Devices Minimum  
Configuration Guidance

Reference: (a) DoD Policy Memorandum, "Encryption of Sensitive Unclassified Data at  
Rest on Mobile Computing Devices and Removable Storage Media," July 3,  
2007

This memorandum supersedes "Military Health System (MHS) Portable Computing Devices Minimum Configuration Guidance" dated April 12, 2006. This document establishes Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) guidance for MHS Portable Computing Devices. This policy/guidance is policy for all MHS centrally managed Information Systems (ISs) and networks under the authority of the MHS CIO, and it is guidance for Service specific applications. This guidance was developed, coordinated, and approved by the MHS Technical Integration Working Group and also approved by the MHS Enterprise Architecture Board. Portable Computing Devices can provide some or all of the computing capability of a desktop personal computer (PC), but are designed for easy portability. This document will cover configurations for Desktop Replacement, Travel Notebook, and Tablet Computer (Attachments 1, 2, and 3, respectively). Other Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) such as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), cell phones, audio/video recording devices, bar code scanners, and messaging devices are not addressed by this guidance at this time. All Portable Computing Devices acquired using Defense Health Program (DHP) funding should satisfy the minimum requirements stipulated in the attached tables.

The purpose of presenting these configurations is to simplify procurement decisions at all levels and to promote seamless interoperability both within the MHS and between the MHS and other components of the Department of Defense (DoD) community. While there will always be a need for specialized requirements, the common support solutions presented here should satisfy most users' mobile computing requirements. It is expected that this guidance will:

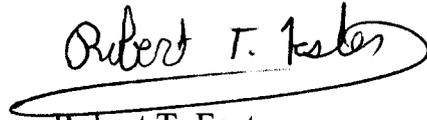
- Achieve economies of scale
- Increase interoperability
- Reduce complexity
- Simplify the management of information systems

The Portable Computing Device platform will consist of hardware and operating system services and should be based on the considerations of the external environment in which the computing platform will be placed. Portable computing solutions can vary widely in processing power, memory, hard drive capacity, screen characteristics, weight, and accessories. Along with the variety of configurations comes a wide range of costs. It is important to clearly assess the planned uses for a device before determining which unit to purchase.

To support this decision process, Attachments 1, 2, and 3 provide a brief description of the following configurations: Desktop Replacement, Travel Notebook, and Tablet Computer. Attachments also provide detailed information on the standard MINIMUM configurations for each class of machine to support the MHS. Specific requirements may dictate the need for additional Random Access Memory (RAM), disk capacity, or additional components. However, all acquisitions for new and/or upgraded equipment using DHP funds must meet the minimum configuration requirements outlined in this document. In addition, all acquisitions must have Trusted Platform Module (TPM) version 1.2 or higher capability, if available.

It is the responsibility of the end user to safeguard Protected Health Information (PHI) and Sensitive Information (SI) on these devices at all times according to existing DoD and Service policy and guidance, including encryption of data at rest in accordance with Reference (a). Please note that in accordance with the *Military Health System (MHS) Information Assurance (IA) Implementation Guide*, the use of Bluetooth wireless technology is prohibited.

The point of contact for this guidance is the Technology Management, Integration and Standards Directorate, which can be reached at (703) 681-6779 or by electronic mail at [tmisweb@tma.osd.mil](mailto:tmisweb@tma.osd.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert T. Foster". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Robert T. Foster  
Acting, Chief Information Officer  
Military Health System

Attachments:  
As stated

## Desktop Replacement

The Desktop Replacement configuration is designed to support all office automation requirements plus the full range of mission applications and graphical presentation tools. It is intended to be the primary personal computer for users whose machines typically remain docked to their monitor and keyboard, but who must occasionally have higher computing power on the road for presentations, complex spreadsheets, or modeling tools.

### Desktop Replacement Minimum Configuration

Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo or compatible
Processor Speed	1.66 GHz
Operating System	IAW Current MHS Operating System Guidance
RAM	1GB
Hard Drive	40GB ATA
CD ROM	24X CD-RW/DVD
I/O Slots	1 Type I or II
I/O Ports Video USB	15-pin connector - one USB-compliant connector – four
Display	15 inch TFT Active Matrix (capable of 1024 x 768 resolution)
Video RAM	64MB or dynamically allocated
Modem	56K V.924
Network	10/100 Mb/s Ethernet capable
Power	Lithium-Ion Battery and Universal AC adapter with at least 2 ½ hour battery life
Bus Type/Architecture	PCI
Common Access Card (CAC) Reader	Contact Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) or local network administrator for CAC Reader requirements
User authentication and data protection capability	Trusted Platform Module Version 1.2 or greater, if available
Docking Station	Optional (as required)
IPv6	Must be IPv6 capable in accordance with DoD Memorandum “Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) Policy Update” dated August 16, 2005

## Travel Notebook

The Travel Notebook configuration will support all office automation requirements and most other applications. This category is intended for those whose computers typically are on the road rather than docked. The light weight and extended battery life make it a more practical machine to carry.

### Travel Notebook Minimum Configuration

Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo or compatible
Processor Speed	1.66 GHz
Operating System	IAW Current MHS Operating System Guidance
RAM	1GB
Hard Drive	40GB
CD ROM	24X CD-RW/DVD
I/O Slots	1 Type I or II
I/O Ports Video USB	15-pin connector – one USB-compliant connector – four
Display	TFT Active Matrix (capable of 1024 x 768 resolution)
Video RAM	64MB or dynamically allocated
Modem	56K V.924
Network	10/100 Mb/s Ethernet capable
Power	Lithium-Ion Battery and Universal AC adapter with at least 4 hour battery life
Bus Type/Architecture	PCI
Common Access Card (CAC) Reader	Contact Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) or local network administrator for CAC Reader requirements
User authentication and data protection capability	Trusted Platform Module Version 1.2 or greater, if available
Docking Station	Optional (As required)
IPv6	Must be IPv6 capable in accordance with DoD Memorandum “Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) Policy Update” dated August 16, 2005

## Tablet Computer

The Tablet Computer provides all the performance and features of notebook PCs. Special features of the Tablet Computer open up new options for mobile computing such as advanced handwriting and speech recognition capabilities, a natural interface for entering data using a digital pen in addition to keyboard, and the ability to run full versions of standard Windows-based applications. The Tablet PC allows a user to take notes using natural handwriting on a touch screen that is stylus- or digital pen-sensitive. It is similar in size and thickness to a yellow paper notepad. It can function both as the user's primary personal computer and as a note-taking device. The Tablet Computer can be run in a wireless network environment, but for the purposes of this document, the configuration will be considered a stand-alone device.

### Tablet Computer Minimum Configuration

Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo or compatible
Processor Speed	1.66 GHz
Operating System	IAW Current MHS Operating System Guidance
RAM	1GB
Hard Drive	40GB ATA
CD ROM	Optional (PC Card CD-ROM, PC Card DVD-ROM, or DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
I/O Slots	1 Type I or II
I/O Ports	USB-compliant connectors
Display	TFT Color LCD (capable of 1024 x 768 resolution)
Video RAM	Dynamic video memory
Modem	56K V.92
Network	10/100 Mb/s Ethernet capable
Power	Lithium-Ion Battery and Universal AC adapter with at least 4 ½ hour battery life
Common Access Card (CAC) Reader	Contact Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) or local network administrator for CAC Reader requirements
User authentication and data protection capability	Trusted Platform Module Version 1.2 or greater, if available
Docking Station	Optional (as required)
IPv6	Must be IPv6 capable in accordance with DoD Memorandum "Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) Policy Update" dated August 16, 2005