Will the Waiver for your Non-Compliant PDS Survive Growing Network Security Concerns?

The demand for access to secure network connections on military bases and at government agencies around the globe is creating challenges for those responsible for delivering that access. Operational requirements to expand secure connections – as well as increased focus on information assurance and network security – have caused many Designated Approval Authorities (DAA) to re-evaluate existing waivers for secure network infrastructure being protected by a non-compliant PDS. Many units are finding themselves struggling to come up with a cost-effective, easy-to-implement solution to bring their PDS into compliance and maintain their Authority to Operate (ATO).

While C4 networks are a critical asset and enabler for U.S. military and government operations, they are becoming more and more of a target for our enemies as well. Due to the increased reliance and dependence of military personnel on C4 networks to conduct operations, maintaining the security and availability of these networks is essential – which is why many historical waivers for PDS systems are being rescinded or scheduled to expire. As a result, many network security managers are facing the question of how to meet stringent new requirements with limited budgets and short timelines.

In many cases, the options for bringing network security up to standard present a choice between the use of encryption or making significant changes to the cable infrastructure and pathways. These approaches can be completely disruptive to existing operations and/or can cost a significant amount of money.

Fortunately, there's an easy and cost effective way to bring classified networks such as SIPRNet and JWICS into compliance – the Interceptor alarmed carrier PDS.

Interceptor is the solution

The Interceptor is the only commercially available alarmed carrier PDS developed with Department of Defense guidance and financing specifically for information assurance and IT security applications.

The Interceptor is ideal for both outside plant and indoor applications. When monitoring building-to-building links, it provides persistent network security and eliminates the need for daily, mandatory manhole inspections and in locations where required, the need to encase the duct banks in concrete.

Interceptor is a proven and deployed solution

In addition to new PDS deployments and building construction projects, Interceptor is being increasingly leveraged as a fully-approved means to solve non-compliant PDS challenges.

For example, a large naval base on the East Coast was recently faced with an expiring PDS waiver. With approval from the Naval Network Warfare Command, Interceptor was installed across the entire installation – including the outside plant manhole system (consisting of 30 facilities and more than 100 manholes) and the in-building trunk connections for all 30 buildings. The base recognized more than a $2 million savings when compared to using in-line network encryptors.

Inside the building, Interceptor can be added to existing cables carried in legacy hardened PDS and mitigates most issues of non-compliance due to its persistent monitoring for intrusions into

the PDS. An added benefit is that the need for daily visual inspections is eliminated because the system is now considered an Alarmed Carrier Hardened Distribution System (Reference NSTISSI 7003).

How does this help with waivers that will not be renewed? With plug-and-play capability, Interceptor can be rapidly added to new or existing network infrastructure – making migration from a waivered PDS system to a fully compliant PDS system quick and cost effective.

For any PDS deployment, it is critical to have close interaction with your respective CTTA to ensure that any proposed system – hardened or alarmed – provides the necessary protection for unencrypted, classified national security information based upon your specific deployment.

Resources:
Learn more about Interceptor and the Interceptor + Interlocking Armored Cable solution.
Visit the Making SIPRNet Easy blog to find out what's new in alarmed carrier PDS technology.
Contact a Network Integrity Systems representative.