

Secure Networking for the Tactical Warfighter

Resilient, Zero Trust Connectivity from the Base to the Battlefield

Executive Summary

Warfighters and mission teams depend on reliable, high-performance connectivity to operate effectively. They also operate in environments where transport options are constrained, conditions change rapidly, and hardware must fit within strict size, weight, and power limits. Versa’s VersaONE platform addresses connectivity, performance, and security together in a single, software-defined architecture. SD-WAN manages transport resilience and application performance across satellite, cellular, radio, and wired links. Zero Trust Network Access enforces identity-driven security controls at the same edge appliance, without a separate security stack. The same platform scales from backpack-sized tactical deployments to 100 Gbps enterprise gateways, and is the same platform used at fixed installations, supporting consistent operations across both environments.

Backpack
to
100G

One platform across all deployment sizes

- ✔ **\$300M Saved:** Documented government savings through platform consolidation in DISA’s Thunderdome program
- ✔ **152/152 DoD Zero Trust Goals:** Achieved two years ahead of the 2027 target-level maturity deadline

Tactical Networking Challenges

Extending secure networking to warfighters and mission teams involves constraints that differ from enterprise deployments.

Connectivity and Performance Across Constrained Transport	Hardware Constraints at the Tactical Edge	Consistent Operations Across Fixed and Field Environmentss
 <p>Tactical deployments rely on satellite, cellular, radio, and wired links that vary in bandwidth, latency, and reliability. Mission-critical applications need consistent performance across these conditions, and connectivity must be maintained when individual links degrade or fail.</p>	 <p>Forward-deployed networking equipment must operate within strict size, weight, and power limits. Deploying separate hardware for connectivity and security multiplies the footprint and logistical burden at each edge location.</p>	 <p>Warfighters and mission teams need the same networking capabilities and security controls whether at a fixed installation or a forward position. Separate platforms for each environment increase training requirements and complicate policy management.</p>

The Versa Solution

VersaONE: One Platform from the Base to the Battlefield

VersaONE delivers SD-WAN connectivity and performance management alongside Zero Trust security controls in a single, software-defined platform. At the tactical edge, one appliance handles transport selection, application performance, and access policy enforcement. The same platform operates at fixed installations, so policies, configurations, and management tools are consistent across both environments.

Connectivity and Application Performance Across Transport Types

VersaONE's SD-WAN capabilities manage connectivity across multiple transport types simultaneously. Policy-based traffic steering directs application traffic over the best available link, and automatic failover maintains connectivity when links degrade. Supported transport types include:

- Satellite links
- Cellular and LTE connections
- Wired broadband
- Radio and other available links

Application-aware traffic management prioritizes mission-critical traffic and maintains performance under constrained bandwidth conditions, without requiring manual reconfiguration when transport conditions change.

Compact Hardware for Austere Environments

VersaONE runs on hardware that scales from backpack-sized tactical appliances to 100 Gbps enterprise gateways. Compact edge appliances handle both SD-WAN connectivity management and Zero Trust access enforcement from a single device, reducing the hardware footprint and logistical burden at forward positions compared to deploying separate networking and security products.

Zero Trust Access for Warfighters and Mission Partners

Zero Trust Network Access controls run natively on the same edge appliance as the SD-WAN functions. Warfighters, remote workers, and mission partners are authenticated and granted least-privilege access based on identity and policy, regardless of which transport link is active. Mission partner and allied force connectivity is subject to the same policy framework, with controls governing cross-boundary access.

Unified deployment

The same platform, configurations, and management interface used at fixed installations are used at forward positions. Personnel work with the same tools in garrison that they use in the field.

Key Capabilities

SD-WAN with Multi-Transport Management

Policy-based traffic steering and automatic failover across satellite, cellular, wired, and radio links. Application-aware routing maintains performance under constrained bandwidth conditions.

Backpack to 100G Hardware Scale

Compact edge appliances for tactical and forward deployments scale up to 100 Gbps enterprise gateways, all on the same platform.

Application Performance Management

Traffic prioritization ensures mission-critical applications receive bandwidth and low-latency routing under congested or degraded link conditions.

Zero Trust Network Access

Identity-driven, least-privilege access controls for warfighters, remote workers, and mission partners, enforced at the edge appliance regardless of transport or location.

Mission Partner Connectivity

Secure networking across mission partners and allied forces, with policy controls governing cross-boundary access.

Unified Management

A single management interface covers fixed installations and tactical deployments, with consistent visibility across both.

Why Versa

Versa's platform addresses connectivity, performance, and security together. The same platform deployed across DISA's Thunderdome program at 60 or more sites operates at the tactical edge, scaling from compact forward-deployed appliances to high-capacity gateways at fixed installations.

- ✔ **SD-WAN and security on one appliance.** VersaONE handles transport management and Zero Trust access enforcement from the same hardware. There is no separate security product to deploy at each edge location.
- ✔ **Application performance under degraded conditions.** Application-aware traffic steering and automatic failover maintain performance for mission-critical applications when transport links change or degrade, without manual reconfiguration.
- ✔ **Hardware that fits forward deployment requirements.** Compact edge appliances support the size, weight, and power constraints of tactical environments while running the same software as enterprise-scale gateways.
- ✔ Consistent operations across fixed and tactical environments. The same platform, configurations, and management interface apply at fixed installations and forward positions, reducing the gap between garrison and deployed operations.
- ✔ **Deployed in production across federal programs.** Versa's SD-WAN and Zero Trust Network Access capabilities are in active production across DISA's Thunderdome program at 60 or more sites and 7 federal agencies.

To learn more, visit versa-networks.com/solutions/industries/federal-government or contact Versa's Federal team at versa-networks.com/demo.

Customer Spotlight

DISA Thunderdome

DISA selected Versa to provide SD-WAN and Zero Trust Network Access for Thunderdome. The program is deployed across 60 or more DISA sites and 7 federal agencies in partnership with Booz Allen Hamilton, achieved all 152 Department of Defense Zero Trust goals two years ahead of the 2027 deadline, and delivered \$300 million in documented government savings through platform consolidation.

Third-Party Validation

- ✔ Gartner Magic Quadrant for SASE Platforms, three consecutive years
- ✔ 2024 GOVIES Government Security Award: Zero Trust Everywhere
- ✔ FedRAMP High Ready and FedRAMP Moderate Authorized for VersaONE



About Versa

Versa, a global leader in SASE, enables organizations to create self-protecting networks that radically simplify and automate their network and security infrastructure. Powered by AI, the VersaONE Universal SASE platform delivers converged SSE, SD-WAN, and SD-LAN solutions that protect data and defend against cyberthreats while delivering a superior digital experience. Thousands of customers globally, with hundreds of thousands of sites and millions of users trust Versa with their mission critical networks and security.

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