



AUGUST 2025


DITMAC

NITAM NOTES


BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

- 
- Legal barriers to obtaining information (e.g., Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), therapist-client confidentiality, privacy laws)
 - Stigma and fear about reporting and potential impact to clearance eligibility
 - Potential job implications, particularly in active-duty personnel, for receiving care (e.g., change in duty status, deployability)
 - Lack of access to mental healthcare/long wait times for appointments
 - Limited real-time information (indirect assessment of risk with partial information)

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE IMPACT

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- Offer insights on human behavior, motivations, and stressors contributing to the critical pathway to insider risk
 - Understand diagnoses, behavioral patterns, isolated behaviors, and their immediate and long term associated risks
 - Develop tailored mitigation recommendations with consideration for current presentation, DoD affiliation, history, and other variables
 - Assess fitness for duty including evaluation of judgment, reliability, and trustworthiness as it relates to safeguarding classified information
 - Provide mitigation strategies from psychoeducation/prevention, immediate crisis intervention, and short- and long-term management of psychological symptoms in a variety of modalities
 - Deliver behavioral health treatment and/or programs, decreasing a Subject's likelihood of moving down the pathway to insider risk, and allowing ongoing assessment of an individual's risk to self, risk to others, and analysis of escalating risk of severe symptoms (e.g., psychosis)
 - Develops and applies structured professional judgment tools (SPJs), systems, and organizational processes to conduct evaluations of insider risk using evidence-based process to improve incident outcomes

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

› Government/DoD Partners:

Ongoing proactive engagement with government agencies (e.g., FBI, DCSA, DHS) that have embedded behavioral science resources, through symposiums, trainings, industry standard products (*BTAC Bulletin*, *CDSE Pulse*) and direct collaborations, can connect insider threat teams with behavioral science Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)


› Using Internal Assets:

While behavioral science SMEs are not always readily available, consider cross-training traditional clinicians that may be present in your organization (e.g., Student Health, EAPs, Embedded Behavioral Health Providers) in insider threat domains and threat assessment to maximize access to and understanding of resources

› Community Resources:

Most communities and regions have fusion cells, and/or professional organizations that include insider threat professionals and behavioral science experts. By cultivating relationships and encouraging interaction, when a crisis or concerning event arises, these relationships can be valuable assets in mitigating risk

DETER

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- Sponsor and support InT awareness campaigns and efforts
 - Provide education, training, and events to bring awareness to InT behaviors and associated risks
 - Conduct research on behavioral science and insider risk

DETECT

- Identify behaviors indicative of psychiatric disorders or that may have origins in psychiatric conditions, that can impact concerning behavior and pose elevated risk
- Following HIPPA legal exceptions, behavioral health providers can report high risk behaviors of clearance holders that impact national security

MITIGATE

- Provide tailored mitigation strategies to stakeholders relating to an individual's psychology and mindset motivating their behavior
- Offer knowledge of available behavioral health resources and appropriate referrals

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS



DITMAC

DoD Insider Threat
Management and
Analysis Center