



DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

VOICE OF INDUSTRY DCSA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Dear FSO (sent on behalf of your ISR),

Industrial Security publishes this monthly newsletter to provide recent information, policy guidance, and security education and training updates for Facility Security Officers (FSOs) in the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). Please let us know if you have any questions or recommendations.

Voice of Industry (VOI) Newsletters are posted in the National Industrial Security System (NISS) Knowledge Base. Look for a monthly announcement on your NISS dashboard for each new VOI. VOI Newsletters are also posted on the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) website on the [NISP Tools & Resources](#) page under the Voice of Industry Newsletters tab. For more information on personnel vetting, industrial security, training, and other topics from the VOI, visit www.dcsa.mil.

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SECURITY RATING SCORE PILOT

In May 2023, DCSA embarked on an initiative to refine its current security rating process. In collaboration with the NISPPAC Industry Security Rating Score (SRS) Working Group and our Government stakeholders, DCSA zeroed in on two key refinements: incorporating a numeric score and clarifying criteria requirements. The SRS project is currently in the Pilot and Refine Phase, during which DCSA will use data from 41 security reviews conducted in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024 to independently calculate a security rating score under the provisional design. DCSA pilot activities do not impact security review activities and no action is required on the part of cleared industry. The consolidated data will help DCSA and the NISPPAC Industry SRS Working Group validate if the scoring design works as expected and assess if further refinements are needed prior to finalizing the model. Looking forward, the project schedule is highly dependent on pilot results. Our goal is to begin issuing security ratings based on a numeric score beginning on October 1, 2024. We will confirm the final deployment schedule in coordination with our Industry partners and Government stakeholders.

We appreciate Industry's continued partnership and assistance in helping us refine the security rating process. If you have any questions related to the pilot, please reach out to dcsa.quantico.dcsa.mbx.isd-operations@mail.mil.

OPEN STORAGE AREA APPROVAL PROCESS

The implementation of 32 CFR Part 117 (aka the NISPOM Rule) introduced the term "open storage area," and retired the term "closed area." The NISPOM Rule further delineated that open storage areas must meet requirements in 32 CFR Part 2001.53. The following is provided as information on our process:

- Classified storage areas must meet 32 CFR Part 2001.53 open storage area requirements and be approved by DCSA.
- A completed DCSA Form 147 (DCSA 147) is needed to approve a new open storage area.
- A completed DCSA 147 is needed for a closed area that has been modified (e.g., structural changes such as perimeter walls) to be approved as an open storage area.
- Any approved closed areas will remain approved until approved as an open storage area with a completed DCSA 147.
- Large contractor facilities with multiple closed areas may develop and submit a plan of action to their ISR when it will take significant time to complete structural changes and DCSA 147s.
- The ISR will proactively communicate with the GCA to avoid impact to classified contract performance.

Please refer to the [Open Storage Approval Checklist Guide](#), [DCSA Form 147 Process Overview Guide](#), and [DCSA Form 147, Open Storage Approval Checklist](#) for more information.



ENTERPRISE SECURITY OPERATIONS

ASSISTANCE, NOT ASSESSMENTS: DCSA'S ROLE IN CUI CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

In 2020, DoD Instruction 5200.48 "Controlled Unclassified Information" was published and DCSA was assigned eight responsibilities ranging from administration of the DoD CUI Program for contractually established CUI requirements for contractors in classified contracts, to conducting NIST 800-171 compliance assessments for CUI contractual requirements within DoD classified contracts, to clarifying responsibilities in conjunction with Unauthorized Disclosure. Almost 4 years later, DCSA continues to evolve and embrace an identity as a contributor to CUI oversight in the changing mission landscape.

In fall 2023, DCSA conducted the CUI Contractual Requirements Review Pilot which tested engagement and review methodologies in a minimally intrusive way. The objective was to increase awareness of CUI contractual requirements in the NISP community and clarify DCSA's role in supporting any formalized DoD CUI assessment process and methodology. The pilot demonstrated the positive effects of targeted engagements and assistance in lieu of a scored assessment of CUI compliance. Rather than replicating efforts of other DoD entities to verify NIST 800-171 compliance, DCSA provided education, information, tools, and guidance to improve the overall health of CUI programs at participating cleared facilities.

In accordance with our CUI oversight role of assistance, not assessments, we would like to remind Industry of a few key concepts vital for the successful implementation of contractual CUI requirements:

- First, the baseline requirement for CUI protection found in every DoD contract is DFARS Clause 252.204-7012, "Safeguarding Covered Defense Information and Cyber Incident Reporting" (read it [here](#)). In addition to requiring that contractors provide adequate security (the protective measures commensurate with the consequences and probability of loss, misuse, or unauthorized access to, or modification of secured information) for systems processing Covered Defense Information (CDI), this clause obligates the contractor to report cyber incidents to DoD at the [Defense Industrial Base \(DIB\) Cybersecurity Portal](#) and to make provisions to submit malicious software to the DoD Cyber Crime Center (DC3). DCSA appreciates all reporting from cleared industry and encourages Industry to continue to fulfill all contractual reporting requirements to the required entities.
- Second, under the current construct, the ability of a contractor to fully implement its contractual CUI safeguarding requirements has not impacted a NISP contractor's Security Review or Assessment score.
- Lastly, you are not alone in this endeavor to protect CUI, we here with you, so we can hear from you, and so we can be here to support you. We have published several resources that can be found at [DCSA Industrial Security Controlled Unclassified Information \(CUI\)](#).

If you have any events you would like the CUI Branch to attend, or if you have any questions pertaining to CUI Program implementation at your facility please contact us at dcsa.quantico.ctp.mbx.eso-cui@mail.mil.



ADJUDICATION AND VETTING SERVICES (AVS)

RENAMING OF CAS AND VRO TO AVS

DCSA Consolidated Adjudications Services (CAS) and Vetting Risk Operations (VRO) have united to form Adjudication and Vetting Services (AVS). AVS promises to deliver enhanced service offerings, improved response times, and optimized case management for our customers. Leadership is carefully managing the transition to ensure service continues without interruption.

NEW SF-312 JOB AID

NISP contractor personnel may now sign SF-312s using a DoD Sponsored/Approved External Certificate Authority (ECA) Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

- The use of digital signatures on the SF-312 is optional. Manual or wet signatures will still be accepted by AVS.
- If the Subject digitally signs the SF-312, the witness block does not require a signature.
- Digital signatures must be from the list of DoD Sponsored/Approved ECA PKI located [here](#).

The [Job Aid](#) and [OUSD I&S memorandum](#) are available on the DCSA Website.

USE OF CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2024

In February 2024, DCSA Adjudications began granting Conditional National Security Eligibility Determinations for NISP contractors. Conditionals provide increased mission resiliency to our customers by diverting national security cases from due process to monitoring provided by the DCSA Continuous Vetting (CV) Program. Leveraging the DCSA CV Program in this manner maximizes mission readiness and collaborative risk management.

NEW AVS CALL CENTER NUMBER

The AVS Call Center has a new phone number. The new number is 667-424-3850. The old number is still active but will be deactivated in the near future.

As a reminder, the AVS Call Center will continue to provide direct support and timely adjudicative updates to Senior Management Officials (SMOs) and FSOs worldwide. The AVS Call Center is available to answer phone and email inquiries from SMOs/FSOs, provide instant resolution on issues identified by Security Offices whenever possible, and serves as the POC for HSPD12/Suitability Inquiries.

The AVS Call Center is available from Monday through Friday between 6:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET to answer phone and email inquiries from FSOs only. Contact the AVS Call Center by phone at 667-424-3850 (SMOs and FSOs ONLY; no subject callers), or via email at dcsa.meade.cas.mbx.call-center@mail.mil.

For Industry PIN Resets, contact the Applicant Knowledge Center at 878-274-5091 or via email at DCSAAKC@mail.mil.



REMINDER ON TIMING OF ELECTRONIC FINGERPRINT TRANSMISSION

As we move closer to full implementation of Trusted Workforce 2.0, AVS continues to work diligently to partner with Industry to get cleared people to work faster and more efficiently all while effectively managing risk. To maintain our interim determination timeliness goals, we ask that electronic fingerprints be submitted at the same time or just before an investigation request is released to DCSA in DISS.

Fingerprint results are valid for 120 days, the same amount of time for which eApp signature pages are valid. Therefore, submitting electronic fingerprint at the same time or just before you complete your review for adequacy and completeness, should prevent an investigation request from being rejected for missing fingerprints.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SVTC

DCSA invites cleared industry and academia personnel to participate in a Secure Video Teleconference (SVTC) entitled, "Conferences, Conventions and Tradeshows (CCTs)." On Thursday, March 14, 2024, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service will discuss the upcoming Sea Air Space 2024, and Modern Day Marine 2024 CCTs. This event is intended for cleared personnel including, but not limited to FSOs, executive officers, key management personnel, engineers, business development personnel, industrial security personnel, and cyber security professionals. The SVTC is an in-person event and will be held March 14 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET at most DCSA field office locations. Please register [here](#).

DCSA invites cleared industry and academia personnel to participate in an unclassified webinar entitled "The Espionage Investigation of Ana Belen Montes." On Thursday, March 21, 2024, the case agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigation will provide an unclassified presentation about the investigation. During the webinar, the aspects of the investigation will be discussed followed by an open Q&A session. This event is intended for all personnel including, but not limited to FSOs, executive officers, key management personnel, engineers, business development personnel, industrial security personnel, and cyber security professionals. The webinar will be held March 21 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET. Please register [here](#).

NATIONAL ACCESS ELSEWHERE SECURITY OVERSIGHT CENTER (NAESOC)

YOUR NISS INFORMATION

All NAESOC facilities are subject to Security Reviews. Your facility may receive NISS notifications supporting the proper identification of the local DCSA Oversight Team and temporarily be reassigned to the local DCSA field office. This is done to support the communication and task workflows within NISS during Security Review activities. NISS users should review their NISS profile to identify their current DCSA Oversight Team. If you have any questions about your Oversight Team or notifications you have received in NISS, please feel free to contact us directly at the NAESOC Help Desk.



IS YOUR NISS PROFILE ACCURATE?

The Facility Profile Update (FPU) task-flow in NISS allows Industry to update information formerly collected using the paper Requests for Information. The job aid for completing the FPU can be found in the NISS Knowledge Base under "Facility Profile Update Request." The FPU is the best way to keep your NISS profile current with active contracts and their expirations dates. Log into NISS [here](#) today!

ADMINISTRATIVE TERMINATIONS

If you do not have a current classified contract, or as other reasons arise, you may want to terminate your Facility Clearance. This does not reflect negatively on your facility and can be an important tool in keeping the NISP secure! Just send an email to the NAESOC requesting Administrative Termination of Facility Clearance. Once your company wins a new contract, submit a new sponsorship package. Keep your NISS Facility Profile current to stay updated with NAESOC and DCSA news.

CONTACT US

- Phone (888) 282-7682, Option 7
Monday through Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET
Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET
- NISS Messaging
- Or email dcsa.naesoc.generalmailbox@mail.mil

NATIONAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION SERVICES (NBIS)

NBIS SUPPORT TEAM EMAIL ADDRESS

The NBIS Federal Agency Support Team (FAST) and Industry team will begin using a combined email inbox effective March 4, 2024. The new email address is: dcsa.meade.dcsa.mbx.nbispmo@mail.mil. The previous industry inbox will be closing and a redirect message will be posted.

Please refer to the [NBIS eApp & NBIS Agency](#) page on DCSA's website for help desk support contact information.

NBIS NEWS PAGE

Continue to check the [NBIS News](#) page to stay up to date. DCSA will be posting updates for future releases on the news page and will begin posting a recurring newsletter which will now include updates from FAST, Training, Industry, and Release Management.



PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT VISIT REQUESTS IN NBIS

As a reminder, NBIS functionality is currently limited to Initiation, Review and Authorization (IRA) of Background Investigation and Continuous Vetting Requests only. Subject Management functions, including Visit Requests should continue to be submitted through DISS until this function is transitioned over to NBIS. There have been several reports of users submitting Visit Requests in NBIS which is causing confusion and additional work to the recipients.

NBIS TRAINING RESOURCES

All NBIS training resources are now accessible via the Security Training, Education, and Professional Portal ([STEPP](#)). Access to STEPP requires an account, and the site is accessible via a secure Smart Card Login. If you have not done so, please set up your account by following the prompts on the STEPP homepage by selecting Create New Account with DoD CAC or Non-DoD CAC.

Once on the [STEPP NBIS Training Homepage](#), you'll find a comprehensive training library which includes job aids, e-learning, video shorts, micro-learning, learner paths, and registration for live webinars.

NBIS Training Updates in Progress:

- The STEPP NBIS Training Homepage is undergoing an update to the site layout and a reorganization of some content. These changes are being made to better organize the training materials and is largely based on Industry user feedback.
- NBIS Training continues to conduct a review and refresh of materials, ensuring all Job Aids and Knowledge Articles are up-to-date. Many are already available on STEPP, with more to be posted in the coming weeks. Check STEPP often for current versions as this effort continues.

Be on the lookout for the latest edition of the NBIS Training Newsletter, which is sent via email to all NBIS users. Current and previous NBIS Training Newsletters can be found on <https://www.dcsa.mil> under NBIS Training. For questions about NBIS Training or if users require customer support, contact the NBIS Training Program at dcsa.quantico.nbis.mbx.training@mail.mil.

SEARCHING FOR NBIS JOB AIDS ON STEPP

1. Navigate to the NBIS Job Aid page you're seeking on STEPP:
 - a. End User Training Catalog: <https://cdse.usalearning.gov/course/view.php?id=1221>
 - b. Onboarding Job Aids: <https://cdse.usalearning.gov/course/view.php?id=2057>
2. Select "Expand All" on the right side of the screen. (this will open the Job Aid menus and make all job aids & knowledge articles visible)
3. Type CTRL+F on the keyboard (this will activate a search block in the top right)
4. Type the topic (initiate, attachments, user roles, etc.) in the search block and hit enter on keyboard

*There is also a "Search Courses" bar on the NBIS Training landing page that will locate other resources.



QUARTERLY INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT

The DCSA Customer & Stakeholder Engagement (CSE) team will be hosting the next quarterly Industry Stakeholders' Engagement (ISE) meeting on March 28, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET for all Industry FSOs and Security Professionals. The last Engagement, held on December 14, 2023, resulted in information sharing, beneficial presentations, and multiple questions being answered and addressed.

For a copy of past ISE slide decks and meeting notes, please e-mail your request to the DCSA Industry Liaisons at: dcsa.boyers.dcsa.mbx.industry-agency-liaison@mail.mil.

The March ISE will be held virtually via MS Teams Live. The tentative agenda for this ISE meeting will consist of:

- Introduction/Welcome
- DCSA Background Investigation Metrics and Updates
- DCSA Adjudication and Vetting Services (AVS) (formerly known as Vetting Risk Operations/DCSA Consolidated Adjudication Services) Personnel Security Clearance Updates and Conditional Eligibility
- NBIS Program Executive Office - What's next for NBIS and Updates
- NISP Mission Performance Division - Security Review Ratings and Common Non-Compliances
- Conclusion.

Here are some important things to know regarding Teams Live:

- There is NO dial-in for attendees. You must view via MS Teams, web browser, or mobile device by downloading the MS Teams app and then clicking the link below or in your email invite.
 - If joining via computer: On the day of the event, click [Teams Live Event](#) and view via browser (Chrome or Edge) or MS Teams.
 - If joining via mobile device: Select the link from the invite and 'join as a guest' or 'sign in to join' if you have an account.
- If the live event has not started, you will see the message "The live event hasn't started."
- All attendees will be muted. You may use the Q&A function to direct questions to presenters.
- Closed captioning is available by clicking the settings "gear" icon on bottom right of your screen.
- For those that cannot attend live, once the live event is over, you may watch the recording of event using the same link from the invitation.
- If you are experience issues joining the meeting, please attempt to join using your browser.

[March 2024 Industry Stakeholder Engagement Meeting](#)



CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SECURITY EXCELLENCE (CDSE)

FEBRUARY PULSE NOW AVAILABLE

We recently released the CDSE Pulse, a monthly security awareness newsletter that features topics of interest to the security community. In addition, we share upcoming courses, webinars, and conferences. The February newsletter focused on “Training Evolution.” Check out all the newsletters in [CDSE's Electronic Library](#) or subscribe/update your current subscription to get the newsletter sent directly to your inbox by submitting your email address from [CDSE News](#).

INSTRUCTOR-LED COURSE AT CDSE IN MARCH

CDSE is offering an instructor-led course on Assessing Risk and Applying Security Controls to NISP Systems (CS301.01) in March. This course is tuition free and runs March 18-22 at the CDSE in Linthicum Heights, MD. Students should have completed enrollment (prerequisites and registration) by February 23.

The target audience for this training includes Information System Security Managers (ISSMs), Information System Security Officers, and FSOs involved in the planning, management, and execution of security programs for cleared industry. This 5-day course provides students with guidance on applying policies and standards used throughout the U.S. Government to protect information within computer systems, as delineated by the risk management framework process.

Three prerequisite courses must be completed in STEPP before registration is enabled for course CS301.01. The prerequisite courses are:

- CS150.16 - Introduction to the NISP RMF A&A Process
- CS250.16 - Applying A&A in the NISP
- CS300.06 - Technical Implementation of A&A in the NISP

Go [here](#) to learn more, register, and view the required prerequisites.

If March does not fit a prospective student's schedule, the next scheduled iterations are:

- June 24-28, 2024 (Linthicum, MD)
- July 15-19, 2024 (Huntsville, AL)
- September 09-13, 2024 (Linthicum, MD)

2024 VIRTUAL DCSA SECURITY CONFERENCE FOR INDUSTRY

The 2024 Virtual DCSA Security Conference for Industry was held on February 28 to 29, 2024! This year's conference theme “Investing in Security” reflected the need to provide Industry with the tools and practical application to bolster their security postures. As programs and policies receive revisions and updates, Industry must learn how it affects them.



This idea shaped the conference, which featured such topics as NCCS, Facility Clearance Process, CUI, and Personnel Security, with panel discussions at the end of each day, and more! This event was for Industry Security Professionals: FSOs, Assistant FSOs, Directors of Security, Insider Threat Program Senior Officials, ISSMs, and Senior Management Officials.

If you missed the conference or would like to revisit the content, the recorded presentations will be made available soon. Stay tuned to the VOI, CDSE Pulse, and CDSE Flash for an announcement that conference content is available online. Review the CDSE News article below to learn how to sign up for the Pulse and Flash.

NEW SECURITY AWARENESS GAMES

CDSE has posted updated Industrial Security Word Search Games #1, #2, and #3. These games are a quick and easy way to test your knowledge and encourage security awareness within your organization. Visit our security awareness games webpage today to access the latest games!

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Sign-up is available for the following upcoming live webinars:

Online Behavior in Threat Assessment

March 7, 2024

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

The Espionage Investigation of Ana Belen Montes

March 21, 2024

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET

Overview of SPeD Certifications

March 27, 2024

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET

Visit the [webinar webpage](#) to register for these events and join the discussion!

CDSE NEWS

CDSE offers an email subscriber news service to get the latest CDSE news, updates, and information. You may be receiving the Pulse through a subscription, but if you were forwarded this newsletter from another source and would like to subscribe to the Pulse or one of our other products, visit [CDSE News](#) and sign up or update your account to receive:

- The Pulse
- Insider Threat Bulletins
- The Weekly Flash
- Quarterly Product Report



SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with us on social media!

DCSA X (formerly known as Twitter): [@DCSAGov](https://twitter.com/DCSAGov)

CDSE X (formerly known as Twitter): [@TheCDSE](https://twitter.com/TheCDSE)

DCSA Facebook: [@DCSAGov](https://www.facebook.com/DCSAGov)

CDSE Facebook: [@TheCDSE](https://www.facebook.com/TheCDSE)

DCSA LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/dcsagov/>

CDSE LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/cdse/>