



THIS MONTH'S FOCUS

CDSE Pulse

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CDSE's Continued Evolution and Changing Your Password

By Isaiah Burwell

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE). Since its establishment in March 2010, CDSE continues to be the DOD's premier provider of security training, education, and certification. We achieved this status by evolving to meet the needs of the security community. This Pulse feature article will update you on CDSE's evolution and leave you with a cybersecurity safety tip.

For 15 years, CDSE has adapted to the changing times to maintain a standard of security excellence. For instance, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to pivot our education and training strategy to include more virtual instructor-led training (VILT) options. We provided accessibility while maintaining quality, empowering security professionals to perform their duties during a time of uncertainty. Instead of allowing the



pandemic to set us back, we used it to advance our products, and now we have a plethora of virtual training products available for learners to access. We continued to adapt to change into Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 by making a myriad of changes to our organizational structure.

In FY 2024, Security Training (ST) reorganized CDSE and the National Center for Credibility Assessment (NCCA) and added a third learning center, the DCSA Security Academy. As a result, ST has training, education,

and certification programs within CDSE and NCCA for external security professionals and customers while the DCSA Security Academy provides training to DCSA Gatekeepers. CDSE, NCCA, and the DCSA Security Academy will prepare personnel to support industrial security, personnel security, counterintelligence, and insider threat missions through the development and management of virtual and in-person courses, curricula, conferences, and other products. CDSE is proud to provide more training to DCSA Gatekeepers so they can better protect national security against emerging threats, thus delivering on the DCSA director's priority of anticipating and preparing for the future. Planning for the future does not, however, mean we are ignoring the challenges of the present, such as cybersecurity.

February 1 was National Change Your Password Day. While this is a basic security technique, cybercrimes

are unrelenting, and you should use all available tools to your advantage. On December 8, 2024, a state-sponsored Chinese hacking operation accessed third-party software to tap into desktop computers of U.S. Department of the Treasury employees. You may not be as big of a target as the Treasury, but you could still be a target. If you do any form of banking or shopping online, you are putting your information online for potential bad actors to access. That is why you should regularly change your passwords.

For the month of February and beyond, CDSE encourages you to evolve while remembering the lessons learned from the past. Use our training courses and other products to improve yourself as a professional while also remembering the basics. We celebrate our 15 years of history and anticipate many more anniversaries to follow.



INFORMATION SECURITY

Activity Security Manager Course

Don't miss CDSE's upcoming "Activity Security Manager" course. This mid-level, virtual instructor-led course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of how to apply and implement specific DOD Information Security policies and procedures to mitigate and manage risks associated with developing, managing, and evaluating a DOD Information Security Program (ISP). Students are anticipated to invest 40-60 hours over 4 weeks in a primarily asynchronous environment. The course is tailored for DOD civilian, military, and contractor personnel with primary duties as an activity security manager, information security program specialist, or manager within a DOD Component ISP. Students should have a functional working knowledge of the DOD ISP.



After taking this course, students can expect to implement the fundamental policies and requirements of the ISP, implement risk management to protect DOD assets, determine fundamental cybersecurity and information technology principles, and more. The first iteration will take place from February 2 to March 3, 2025. For more dates and information, check out the [CDSE website](#).

PERSONNEL SECURITY

Fundamentals of National Security Adjudications PS001.18

This **7-day course** provides entry to intermediate-level National Security Adjudicators with the essentials needed to assess an individual's loyalty, trustworthiness, and reliability. It also allows them to render trust determinations for an individual to be granted initial or continued eligibility to access classified information or to occupy a sensitive position. Learners will evaluate information obtained through an investigation package, identifying any potential issues in the information for mitigation and resolution. Learners will also identify potential security concerns and risks based upon application of the national security adjudicative guidelines.

The course teaches students how to identify security concerns by utilizing national security adjudicative guidelines to make a personnel security determination. Students will be introduced to the whole person concept, different types of background investigations, designated sensitive positions, and personnel security policies and regulations. In addition, students will also learn how to evaluate a portion of a person's life to reasonably determine if their future behavior would be consistent with national security.

This course is intended for Department of Defense (DOD) and federal civilians (GS/GG 5-7 level) who

adjudicate eligibility for assignment to sensitive positions and/or access to collateral and Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) program information or DOD/DOD IC Government Civilian/Military personnel (non-adjudicators) who perform duties in support of national security adjudications. Nominations for attendance must be approved and made through a training coordinator or designee. Check [cdse.edu](#) for more information on dates and location.

Requirements:

- Clearance Requirements: N/A
- Attendance Requirement: Full-time attendance and participation in all sessions.
- Exam Requirements: Students must earn 162 points out of 215, a 75 percent grade average on course exams and performance exercises.

Credits Recommended/Earned:

- ACE Credit Recommendation: (**What's this?**): three semester hours, upper division baccalaureate degree category.
- Professional Development Units per SP&D: PDUs are determined by length of course and IAW with current Certification Maintenance Guidelines.

INSIDER THREAT

CDSE Releases Updated “Insider Threat Records Checks” Short

On December 2, the CDSE Insider Threat team released the updated “**Insider Threat Records Checks**” short. This 80-minute, externally-developed eLearn was designed to equip insider threat program operational personnel with the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to conduct their duties under the data collection requirement of DoD Directive 5205.16, “Insider Threat Program.” The maintenance and update covered updated policy, addressed 508 concerns, and upgraded the exam. The target audience was the U.S. Government Insider Threat Practitioner’s workforce, particularly insider threat hub workers.

Insider Threat Detection and Analysis Course

The January virtual instructor-led “Insider Threat Detection Analysis Course” (ITDAC) training was canceled; however, you can secure your spot now for the next session on February 10-14, 2025.

This 5-day course enables attendees to apply critical thinking skills and applicable structured analytic techniques to potential insider threat indicators. Participants will work with CDSE experts and obtain and use holistic data in conjunction with the application of critical pathway theory. Additionally, learners will be taught how to apply Executive Orders, DOD, and Intelligence Community (IC) authorities in data gathering, receive instruction on constitutional and privacy rights, and will learn the processes for conducting and reporting response actions from intake of an initial potential threat to mitigation of the threat.

Prerequisites for the ITDAC have been updated to make the course more accessible. Effective immediately, candidates are no longer required to complete the Insider Threat Program Operations Personnel Curriculum INT311.CU or the Insider Threat Program Management Personnel Curriculum INT312.CU.

The 2025 course schedule is as follows:

March 17-21, 2025 (Virtual)
 April 7-11, 2025 (Virtual)
 May 12-16, 2025 (Virtual)
 June 23-27, 2025 (Virtual)
 July 21-25, 2025 (Virtual)
 Aug. 18-22, 2025 (Virtual)
 Sept. 22-26, 2025 (Virtual)

Register for the ITDAC course and view the full list of prerequisites.



PERSONNEL VETTING

The Personnel Vetting Process Webcast Series

Check out CDSE's highly anticipated and newly released Personnel Vetting (PV) Webcast Series! This three-episode series introduces the process that a newly hired federal civilian, military member, or contractor will experience as part of the PV process. This series targets all federal and contractor employees who seek eligibility to access classified information or who are assigned to a sensitive position and need to understand their PV requirements and processes.

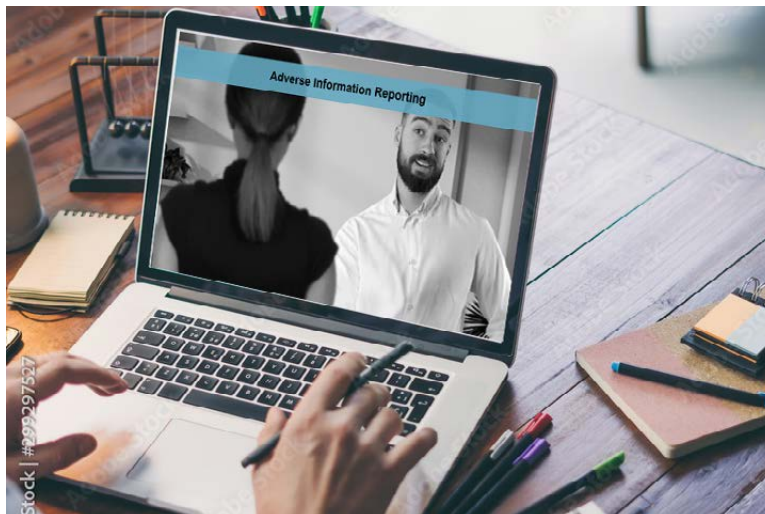
Tune in [here](#) for episodes one and two as we explore the Pre-investigation and Investigation stages of the PV process.

Security Professional Trusted Workforce 2.0 Gap Training Recording

In case you missed it, Trusted Workforce (TW) 2.0 training is in demand! CDSE Personnel Vetting is pleased to announce the Security Professional TW 2.0 Gap Training Recording. This training helps security practitioners understand TW 2.0 framework and policy, the TW 2.0 implementation process, and how TW 2.0 affects your professional responsibilities. This 90-minute training targets DOD security practitioners, facility security officers (FSOs), security staff members, and senior management officials. A downloadable CDSE Certificate of Training is included. Visit [here](#) to learn more and watch today!

Adverse Information Reporting Security Short

CDSE Personnel Vetting released a new security short, "[Adverse Information Reporting](#)." This short provides security practitioners the opportunity to evaluate information and behaviors to determine if an incident report is appropriate and identify when and how adverse information should be reported. Click [here](#) to learn more and view the short today!



CDSE WEBINARS

Behind the Threat: Unraveling Violence Theories, Legal Shifts, Defensible Tactics, and Real-World Lessons

March 13, 2025
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm ET
[Click here to register](#)

Strengthening the DIB through the DC3 Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP): an Information and Enrollment Session

March 20, 2025
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET
[Click here to register](#)

ABOUT DCSA

The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) provides industrial security engagement and counterintelligence support to secure the trustworthiness of the U.S. government's workforce, contract support, technologies, services, and supply chains.

Our Role

We protect America's trusted workforce, trusted workspaces, and classified information. To do so, we have two fundamental missions: personnel security and industrial security. Supporting these two core missions are counterintelligence and insider threat and security training. For over 50 years, our agency has used each of these missions to meet the threats of our nation's adversaries.

How We Serve

DCSA is the largest investigative service provider in the federal government, supporting over 100 federal entities. We oversee 12,500 cleared facilities under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). We rely on the following directorates to ensure the security of our nation's technologies and information.

Personnel Security

We deliver efficient and effective background investigations, continuous vetting, and adjudications. In doing so, we safeguard the integrity and trustworthiness of the federal and contractor workforce. We conduct background investigations for 95% of the federal government, including 105 departments and agencies. We also adjudicate 70% of the federal government's adjudicative determinations.

Industrial Security

At DCSA, we oversee 12,500 cleared facilities under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). We make sure companies are protecting their facilities, personnel, and associated IT systems from attacks and vulnerabilities.

Counterintelligence and Insider Threat

Counterintelligence and insider threat supports both our personnel security and industrial security missions. Counterintelligence focuses on foreign insider threat while insider threat is focused on internal threat. In this mission center, we identify and stop attempts by our nation's adversaries to steal sensitive national security information and technologies.

Security Training

Our agency is comprised of nationally accredited training centers. These centers provide security training, education, and certifications for security professionals across the federal government and industry.

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STEPP (Learning Management System) Help Desk
Submit an online support request ticket or call the Help Desk at 202-753-0845 within the Washington, DC area or toll free at 833-200-0035 on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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