



# CDSE

LEARN. PERFORM. PROTECT.

# PULSE

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#### CDSE Pulse

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## THIS MONTH'S FOCUS

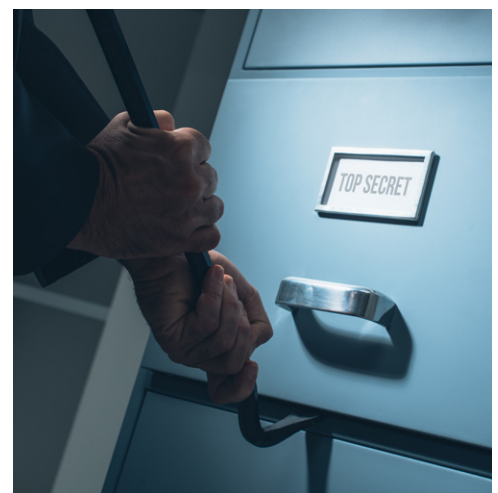
# Over a Decade of Antiterrorism with “If You See Something, Say Something”

By Isaiah Burwell

August is Antiterrorism Awareness Month, and more than a decade ago, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched its “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign to raise awareness about recognizing the signs of suspicious activity and how to report it. The campaign partners with state and local governments, major sports leagues, transit stations, entertainment venues, private businesses, places of worship, nonprofits, and many other types of organizations, like CDSE.

To increase awareness, CDSE offers the **Antiterrorism Officer (ATO) Level II** course, designed as a refresher to meet training requirements outlined in DODI O-2000.16 “Department of Defense (DOD) Antiterrorism (AT) Program Implementation.” The course details the duties and responsibilities of ATOs at DOD facilities or installations, discusses AT awareness, terrorist group operations, hostage-taking and survival, weapons of mass destruction, active shooter threat

and insider threat. The course further explores the antiterrorism by examining physical security considerations, proactive planning, and resource management. The bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia and the attack on the USS Cole are also studied in the course. The course culminates with an interactive exercise where students apply the knowledge gained.



CDSE also provides antiterrorism resources in the **Physical Security Toolkit**. Tools include the Army ATO Ready Reference document, a Planning and Response to an Active Shooter document, and the FBI-DHS Suspicious Behavior Awareness card. Templates for active shooter response and continuity of operations plans are available to help agencies and organizations proactively educate staff and support emergency preparedness. CDSE's Security Professional Education Development (SPeD) Certification Program offers an **Antiterrorism Credential (ATC)**. The ATC indicates a security practitioner's understanding of AT planning, risk management, AT standards and training, reporting, and reviewing.

The **DHS website** provides links to current threats, the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative, the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, and school safety resources. The public can report suspicious activity by state.

The Army's **Antiterrorism Individual Protective Measures Pocket Card** is another valuable tool to combat terrorism. The one-page PDF is packed with antiterrorism tips ranging from general security issues to transit security, addressing both personal and professional security measures to consider. Other tips cover topics of insider threat, travel security, OPSEC, residential security, and suspicious packages.



Antiterrorism awareness is critically important to foster a secure environment through recognizing potential indicators of terrorist activity and reacting to protect life and property. The "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign is a vital piece of educating the public to prevent and deter attacks. CDSE's toolkit and training resources also identify ways every organization can help protect our nation and thwart terrorism.

## CDSE NEWS

### DCSA Security Conference for DOD

Registration is now open for the virtual **DCSA Security Conference for DOD** held Aug. 26-28. This year's theme is "Mission and Security Integration: Safeguarding the Future." The three-day conference gathers thousands of DOD security professionals across personnel security, acquisitions, insider threat, policy, counterintelligence and compliance. The conference is only open to federal employees with .mil or .gov email addresses. Act fast and secure your spot today!

DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

**REGISTER NOW!**

**VIRTUAL DCSA  
SECURITY CONFERENCE  
FOR DOD**

*MISSION AND SECURITY INTEGRATION:  
SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE*

**AUGUST 26-28, 2025**



## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### Registration Open for Fall 2025 Education Courses

Advance your education by enrolling in tuition-free courses today! Enrollment is now open for CDSE Fall 2025 semester. Graduate-level courses have been evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE), allowing credits to be transferred toward the completion of a degree program. Government civilian employees and military service members are eligible to enroll. Learn more about course options [here](#). To register, log into STEPP [here](#).

### Fall CDSE Education Division

Secure your spot today in the fall 8-week tuition-free virtual instructor-led courses **Writing and Communication Skills in the Security Environment** (ED202.10) and **The Security Triangle: Security, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence** (ED402.10). Courses begin on Aug. 18.

For more information and to register for these courses, visit [CDSE Education](#).



## PERSONNEL VETTING

### New Resource Available: Customer Service Request and Incident Report Management

CDSE, in coordination with DCSA Adjudication and Vetting Services (AVS), posted an information resource on [cdse.edu](#). The **Customer Service Request (CSR) and Incident Report (IR) Management resource** provides clarification and guidance on submissions of CSRs and IRs to DCSA AVS.

The new resource will answer customer requests for specific information on CSR and IR submission and incorporate customer feedback and assist in submitting timely, accurate CSR and IR information for adjudication.

### Overview of Federal Personnel Vetting E-Learning

Calling all adjudication professionals! The “**Overview of Federal Personnel Vetting**” eLearning course is geared towards those with Adjudicator Professional Certification (APC), Due Process (DP) APC, and National Security, Suitability, or Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) credentialing adjudicators.

This course details Trusted Workforce (TW) 2.0 transformational changes to the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing (SSC) enterprise. Registration is available to students with a .gov or .mil email address. Taking this course satisfies gap training requirements for those who previously took PS001.18 and PS101.01 or PS101.10 prior to April 2025.

## INSIDER THREAT

### DCSA's National Insider Threat Awareness Month (NITAM) Forum

Join DCSA for the National Insider Threat Awareness Month (NITAM) Forum on Aug. 18 and 19 at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in Alexandria, Va. The forum is hosted by DOD Insider Threat Management & Analysis Center (DITMAC) and themed "Partnering for Progress & Innovation".

The conference is open to federal employees and insider threat professionals working in academia. If you are unable to attend in person, join virtually! Register [here](#).



## PHYSICAL SECURITY

### Enhance Your Security Expertise: New Intro to Physical Security Training (PY011.16) Launching Fall 2025

Coming this fall, enhance your security expertise with the "[Introduction to Physical Security \(PY011.16\)](#)" course. The updated course provides tools and knowledge to apply security in-depth principles and contribute to a stronger security posture. This eLearning course, geared to DOD civilians, military personnel, and defense contractors, covers physical security planning, implementation, and countermeasures to deter, delay, detect, deny, and defend against attacks.

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### Physical Security and Asset Protection Course

Want to better protect DOD assets? "Physical Security and Asset Protection" (PY201.01) provides the tools and knowledge you need. This instructor-led course will be held Aug. 18 to 22 in Linthicum, Md., and covers regulatory guidance, methodologies, and concepts for protecting DOD assets. Learn how to examine physical security plan requirements, conduct problem solving and justify physical security measures through cost benefit analysis. Certain prerequisites apply. Visit the [course page](#) to learn more and register.





## SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS

### Introduction to Special Access Programs (SAP) Courses (SA101.01)

**The Introduction to SAP course** focuses on the Department of Defense (DOD) SAP fundamentals and is designed to prepare students to become SAP Security Professionals. The lessons address security enhancements across all security disciplines, compliance inspections and their requirements, annual reviews, and audits.

The course is administered through eLearning prerequisites and synchronous elements in STEPP. Class activities include group and individual practical exercises, quizzes, a team capstone, and a final course exam. The prerequisite eLearning courses/exams that provide a comprehensive introduction to SAP must be successfully completed prior to requesting enrollment into the instructor-led course. The course is offered Sept. 9-12 in Rolling Meadows, Ill.



## INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

### Industrial Security New Summer Security Posters

The Industrial Security team has released four new security posters, including two with a summer theme. Refresh your work area by printing the new **posters** to hang up today!



**FY 2025 UPCOMING COURSES**

## Registration Now Open

CDSE courses are a great way to gain security knowledge, awareness and expand skill sets. Secure your spot now as classes fill quickly! Available Instructor-Led Training (ITL) and Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) courses are listed below.

**Cybersecurity****Assessing Risk and Applying Security Controls to NISP Systems (CS301.01)**

- September 22 - 26, 2025 (Linthicum, Md.)

**Insider Threat****Insider Threat Detection Analysis VILT (INT200.10)**

- August 18 - 22, 2025 (Virtual)
- September 22 - 26, 2025 (Virtual)

**Physical Security****Physical Security and Asset Protection (PY201.01)**

- August 18 - 22, 2025 (Linthicum, Md.)

**Special Access Programs****Introduction to Special Access Programs (SA101.01)**

- August 5 - 8, 2025 (Lexington, Mass.) (MIT)
- September 9 - 12, 2025 (Rolling Meadows, Ill.) (NGC)

**Orientation to SAP Security Compliance Inspections (SA210.0)**

- August 11 - 12, 2025 (Lexington, Mass.)

**Personnel Vetting****Advanced National Security Adjudications (ANSA) (PS301.10)**

- September 8 - 18, 2025 (Virtual)





## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Meet the CDSE Personnel Vetting Team

By Tammi Bush

As threats evolve, so must the tools and minds that safeguard against them. The future of personnel vetting (PV) training equally lies in advanced technology and enhanced training. Meet the CDSE PV team dedicated to sharpening the tools and minds of security practitioners across the security, suitability, and credentialing (SSC) enterprise led by Mr. Edwin (Ed) Kobeski, Chief of the Vetting and Threat Branch and managed by Ms. Diedre Chesley-Bogues, PV curriculum manager. The team is comprised of subject matter experts with many years of field experience in diverse roles. Roles include special security officer (SSO), facility security officer (FSO), background investigator, personnel security specialist, security specialist, supervisory personnel security specialist, adjudicator, continuous vetting (CV) analyst, and training specialists.

- **Mr. Robert LaHart**, former background investigator and personnel security assistant, CDSE security specialist/instructor
- **Mr. Christopher Sanderford**, retired Army and former adjudicator, CDSE training specialist/PV instructor
- **Ms. Princess Joseph**, former investigative case analyst and CV analyst, CDSE training specialist/PV instructor
- **Ms. Aisha Black**, former SSO and FSO, CDSE training specialist/PV instructor
- **Ms. Pamela Johnston**, instructional systems designer
- **Mr. Richard Price**, instructional systems specialist

The CDSE PV team reimagines training to align with Federal Personnel Vetting reform commonly referred to as Trusted Workforce (TW) 2.0. Launched in 2018, TW 2.0 is a government-wide initiative to reform the personnel security process and establish a single vetting system for the U.S. Government. To aid security practitioners with the transition, the CDSE PV team is developing a role-based training pathway for the SSC and the Defense Security Enterprise (DSE). In fiscal year 2026, the team will launch four foundational eLearning courses:

- Introduction to Federal Personnel Vetting Policy for Security Practitioners



The PV Vetting team pictured (left to right): Front row: Princess Joseph, Diedre Chesley-Bogues, Pamela Johnston, Aisha Black. Back row: Robert LaHart, Edwin (Ed) Kobeski, Christopher (Chris) Sanderford. DOD photo credit: Joseph DeLuco.

- Introduction to Suitability and Fitness for Security Practitioners
- Introduction to National Security for Security Practitioners
- Introduction to Credentialing for Security Practitioners

Additionally, in fiscal year 2026, the team will implement intermediate level virtual training, **Personnel Vetting Management Course (PVMC)**, to include vetting management of the DOD national security population. Learners will examine and apply PV concepts, including position designation, vetting questionnaire, screening, preliminary determination, CV alert management, reporting requirements, personnel vetting engagement, information sharing, access requirements, agency specific information, insider threat, and security review proceedings.

Stay tuned for the official announcement with the effective date for implementation of these training products. For more information, email [dcsa.cdsetraining@mail.mil](mailto:dcsa.cdsetraining@mail.mil) and insert CDSE PV Training in the subject line.

## 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

## CDSE CONTACT LIST

training, education, and certifications for security professionals across the federal government and industry.

### Mailing/Postal Address

938 Elkridge Landing Road  
Linthicum, Md 21090

### 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.

### 508 Compliance and Accessibility

[cdseaccessibility@mail.mil](mailto:cdseaccessibility@mail.mil)

### Certification Division/SPeD Project Management Office

[dcsa.spedcert@mail.mil](mailto:dcsa.spedcert@mail.mil)

### Education Division

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### Outreach and Engagement Office

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### Webinars

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### Still not sure whom to contact?

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