

Our mission is to deliver informed and timely adjudicative decisions, supporting a trusted workforce to enable operational readiness and risk management.

# RECIPROcity PROGRAM

## DCSA ADJUDICATIONS

### WHAT IS RECIPROcity?

As defined in Security Executive Agent Directive (SEAD) 7, Reciprocity of Background Investigations and National Security Adjudications, is the acknowledgement and acceptance of an existing background investigation conducted by an authorized investigative agency; the acceptance of a national security eligibility adjudication determined by an authorized adjudicative agency; and the acceptance of an active national security eligibility determination granted by an executive branch agency. SEAD 7 establishes requirements for reciprocal acceptance of background investigations and national security adjudications for initial or continued eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position.

### SECURITY EXECUTIVE AGENT DIRECTIVE (SEAD) 7

SEAD 7 directs reciprocity determinations for national security background investigations and adjudications to be made within five business days of receipt by the agency's personnel security program. Processing for employment, suitability, or fitness requirements is considered outside the scope of national security reciprocity determinations and will not be counted or reported as part of the security processing to make a national security reciprocity determination.

Prior to January 2020, reciprocity determination timeliness averaged 65 days end-to-end, well above the Director of National Intelligence SEAD 7 requirement of five days.

A Lean Six Sigma study conducted from January 14 to May 30, 2020, examined the reciprocity process in two mission areas – Vetting Risk Operations and Adjudications. The study identified opportunities for improvement to eliminate bottlenecks and ultimately reduce timelines to achieve SEAD 7 compliance.

### ADJUDICATIONS

DCSA Adjudications fully implemented Lean Six Sigma process improvement opportunities in June 2021. It is consistently exceeding SEAD 7 timeliness for end-to-end reciprocity request processing.

DCSA Adjudications processed and concluded reciprocity actions in an average of two days end-to-end – a 97% improvement over January 2020 performance.

For more information, go to: [www.dcsa.mil/mc/pv/dod\\_caf/](http://www.dcsa.mil/mc/pv/dod_caf/)

**DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY**

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