



DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

VOICE OF INDUSTRY DCSA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Dear FSO (sent on behalf of your ISR),

This monthly newsletter contains recent information, policy guidance, and security education and training updates. Please let us know if you have any questions or recommendations for information to be included.

WHERE TO FIND THE “VOICE OF INDUSTRY” (VOI) NEWSLETTER

VOI Newsletters are posted for Facility Security Officers (FSOs) 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 found with important forms and guides on the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) website [Industry Tools Page](#) (VOIs are at the bottom). For more information on personnel vetting, industrial security, and other topics in the VOI, visit [www.dcsa.mil](#).

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NEW INDUSTRIAL SECURITY URLs

Update your bookmarks, please! You will notice revised URLs on the DCSA.mil website relating to Industrial Security (formerly Critical Technology Protection (CTP)). While redirects are currently in place, please update your website bookmarks for future visits. We apologize for any inconvenience these changes might cause and appreciate your patience.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Over 50% of Americans are diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder at some point in their lifetime, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, yet some go without seeking treatment due to the stigma associated with mental health. This is especially true among the cleared population or those seeking government employment, as many believe their ability to obtain or maintain a security clearance would be denied due to their mental illness; however, statistical data refutes this belief.

DCSA Adjudications looked at the 5.4 million adjudicative actions taken between 2012 and 2020, and found that 97,000 cases dealt with psychological-related issues. Of those cases, only 62 were denied or revoked for psychological concerns, which equates to 0.00115% of the total adjudicative actions.

"None of these cases were denied or revoked just for seeking mental health care," said Elisabeth Jean-Jacques, DCSA DoD CAF (Adjudications) Behavioral Science Branch psychologist, during a Background Investigations-hosted webinar, "Mental Health Care and your Security Clearance," on April 5. "Most denials or revocations are for multiple adjudicative findings, such as personal conduct, financial considerations, alcohol consumption, or criminal conduct."

Despite the data, the stigma associated with mental health continues, as studies have shown that security personnel fear that seeking treatment will influence clearances. In 2018, DCSA launched a Mental Health De-Stigmatization Campaign to change the perception of mental health. DCSA also focused on training adjudicators to destigmatize mental health and use a "whole person" approach rather than focusing on a single incident. "The determination requires team collaboration, supervisory reviews and quality assurance reviews to ensure the best informed adjudicative decision has been made," Jean-Jacques said, noting that General Counsel, insider threat experts, and psychologists are available for consultation as needed.

DCSA DoD CAF (Adjudications) psychologists provide training and education regarding destigmatizing efforts, and have posted numerous webinars, presentations, and products on the agency external website found here. For more information, please email the DoD CAF (Adjudications) Call Center.



DCSA SECURITY INCIDENT JOB AID

As you are likely aware, DCSA spent much of the last two years under COVID operations focusing on revising and implementing an updated security review and rating process. You may not be aware, however, that the security incident process was also a major focus of headquarters and field subject matter experts during this time. The effort focused on terminology and process realignment to DOD policy, as well as updated internal and external guidance. DCSA is now proud to release the Security Incident Job Aid to enable Industry to identify, report, and mitigate security infractions and security violations. The new tool may be found at the top of the [CDSE Industrial Security Job Aids](#), along with a number of other resources. All job aids and tools created for Industry are regularly reviewed for their effectiveness and completeness, so please feel free to provide any feedback through your DCSA channels.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PARTNERSHIP WEBINAR

The DCSA Counterintelligence Partnership Branch will host an unclassified webinar, “FBI’s China Program.” Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation will present information about China’s intentions, attempts, and methods to target critical U.S. technologies and information in the hands of cleared industry. The webinar is free and open to personnel from cleared industry, and will be conducted virtually on May 19 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET. Please click [this eInvitation](#) to register.

NBIS INDUSTRY ONBOARDING

JPAS TO DISS: A YEAR TO REMEMBER

March 31, 2022 marked a year since the Joint Personnel Adjudication System’s (JPAS) official sunset.

The move from JPAS to the Defense Information System for Security (DISS) was a critical step toward implementation of the National Background Investigation Services system (NBIS) that required coordination, participation, and dedication from our Industry Partners. *Thank you for your support!*

STREAMLINING NBIS DATA MIGRATION

Accurate and streamlined data migration from legacy systems to NBIS is critical to minimize mission impact. As part of the Industry NBIS transition, DCSA introduced a data clean-up initiative last month.

DCSA asked Industry partners who hold facility clearances to review DISS Security Management Offices and determine if offices needed consolidation into one per CAGE code to align with the cleared facility in NISS. Thanks to the efforts of our Industry partners along with the DCSA DISS team, the number of Security Management Offices has been reduced from 43,377 to 13,597 for migration into NBIS. For more details on Security Management Office consolidation, refer to the [DISS to NBIS Industry Hierarchy Preparation Guidance](#) available on the [NBIS Industry Onboarding](#) website.

DCSA will continue to clean-up DISS data prior to transition to NBIS as Data Quality Initiatives are developed to address hierarchy corrections and deactivated facilities.



NATIONAL ACCESS ELSEWHERE SECURITY OVERSIGHT CENTER (NAESOC)

We've updated the [NAESOC Web Page](#) to keep up with the latest information and resources for our NAESOC FSOs:

Check out the new Webex Resources Tab. There are several recorded informational and training webexes the NAESOC has prepared that now can all be found in one place.

We have updated and re-formatted the NISS and DISS Tab. We heard you, and now you have a single, consolidated area on the web page for NISS and DISS information and resources.

Also, don't miss:

Frequently Asked Questions (Check Here First!) Tab –

- Download NATO, COMSEC, and CNWDI briefing forms. Save time and download these from here to sign and send directly to the [NAESOC mailbox](#).
- Also, be sure to enroll in the August FSO Getting Started Seminar from CDSE.

NAESOC Latest Tab –

- Learn first-hand about NAESOC operations. Mark your calendars for the NAESOC's live presentation at the 58th NCMS National Seminar, June 21-23, in Minneapolis, MN. Be sure to come and learn about Insights and Best Practices for Companies Supported by the NAESOC.
- Remember to download your Threat Baseball Cards that can support your Insider Threat and Counterintelligence Awareness programs.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (NISS)

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING

As we spring into a new season, please verify that all the information on your facility profile is up to date. Pay special attention to the "Contacts" subcategory under "Facility Overview." In case of an emergency, a DCSA team member will have to reference these two tabs in order to get in contact with the facility. It is also a way to ensure that Key Management Personnel are receiving all-important updates.

Ensure that the FSO, Senior Management Official (SMO), and the Insider Threat Program Senior Official (ITPSO) have the correct name, phone number, and email listed. In order to update the contact information you must submit a Facility Profile Update Request.

NOTE: For more information on how to submit a Facility Profile Update Request, reference the "Facility Profile Update Request – Full Operational Capability (June 2021) User Guide," in the NISS Knowledge Base.



DCSA DOD CAF (ADJUDICATIONS) DIRECTORATE

REPORTING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ON YOUR E-QIP

Contrary to a common myth, reporting mental health issues on Section 21 of SF-86 is not a “career-killer.” In fact, a DCSA DoD CAF (Adjudications) analysis of denial and revocation statistics shows that only a fraction of one percent of adjudicative actions are denials or revocations solely for psychological conditions. There are at least two main reasons for this. First, Section 21 now has a greater focus on potential security-relevant concerns (e.g., findings of mental incompetence, court-ordered care, psychiatric inpatient care, and certain conditions that may be associated with judgment or reliability issues). Second, security professionals understand that when individuals candidly report their conditions and seek mental health care in accordance with their practitioner’s recommendations, psychological conditions are not security concerns in the majority of cases.

That said, curiosity about how adjudicators resolve affirmative answers to Section 21 is understandable. The following provides some insight:

- After obtaining consent, a background investigator will conduct a brief interview with the applicant’s treating health care practitioner focusing on whether the applicant’s condition may affect the applicant’s ability to perform sensitive national security duties.
- Depending upon the nature of the symptoms, there may be more details obtained regarding the treatment and prognosis.
- Psychologists who work with adjudicative teams may request a review of pertinent medical records.
- If security concerns remain after these inquiries, the security professional may ask the applicant to participate in an evaluation with a psychologist or psychiatrist who will consider possible security risks associated with the condition. Keep in mind that such security evaluations are quite rare. For National Industrial Security Program (NISP) contractors, there are usually fewer than 300 evaluations requested each year, and of those requested, the majority of evaluations find that the applicant’s psychological condition does not present any security concerns.

LOOKING FOR DCSA DOD CAF (ADJUDICATIONS) INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Please check out our latest resource on SCI Eligibility Process for Denials and Revocations located on the DCSA website at the [Adjudications Resources](#) page under the Resources tab. The SCI Eligibility one-pager provides steps to assist the FSO or security manager when SCI is denied or revoked for contractor personnel.

Additionally, we provide a robust selection of 1-pager communication products that can be easily downloaded and printed from the Resources tab at the [Adjudications Resources](#) page.

SCI Eligibility - Revocation or Denial
DCSA Adjudications (DoD CAF)

How to Request a Review of Your Contractor's SCI Eligibility

The SCI Eligibility - Revocation or Denial document provides steps for contractors to request a review of their SCI eligibility if it has been denied or revoked. It includes sections on SCI Denial/Revocation Meanings, What Does SCI Mean?, and How to Request a Review of Your Contractor's SCI Eligibility. It also includes a flowchart showing the process from requesting a review to final adjudication.

The How to Request a Review of Your Contractor's SCI Eligibility document provides step-by-step instructions for contractors to request a review of their SCI eligibility. It includes sections on Who Can Request a Review, Step 1: Requesting a Review, Step 2: DODIS Request of Customer Service Request, Type Revocation, Step 3: Review of Customer Service Request, Type Revocation, Step 4: Final Adjudication, and Step 5: Final Adjudication Review. It also includes a flowchart showing the process from requesting a review to final adjudication.

DCSA DOD CAF (ADJUDICATIONS) CALL CENTER

The Call Center is available by telephone or email for inquiries. For more information, please call 301-833-3850 or email the [DoD CAF \(Adjudications\) Call Center](#). We look forward to hearing from you.



VETTING RISK OPERATIONS (VRO)

REMINDER ON TIMING OF ELECTRONIC FINGERPRINT TRANSMISSION

As we move closer to full implementation of TW 2.0, VRO 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 Electronic Questionnaires for Investigations Processing (e-QIP) 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.

UPDATED INDUSTRY ENROLLMENT GUIDANCE

For additional guidance regarding Continuous Vetting (CV) enrollment, refer to the latest News on the DCSA website, [Industry Enrollment in CV](#).

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SECURITY EXCELLENCE (CDSE)

APRIL PULSE: CDSE SECURITY AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

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 April newsletter focused on National Supply Chain Integrity Month. 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 to [CDSE News!](#)

NEW PSA NOW AVAILABLE

CDSE has released a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) that explains the differences between our certificates and certifications. The PSA may be viewed at [Certificates vs. Certifications](#).

NEW WEBCAST RECENTLY RELEASED

CDSE has launched a new, recorded webinar that provides standard counterintelligence and reporting requirements for facilities that are assigned to the NAESOC. The webcast may be viewed at [Counterintelligence Awareness and Reporting for NAESOC Facilities](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA

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