



THIS
MONTH'S
FOCUS

SUPPORT FOR THE CHANGING SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

THE ONSITE AND HOME OFFICES: SECURING THE CHANGING WORK ENVIRONMENT DURING COVID-19

DID YOU KNOW?

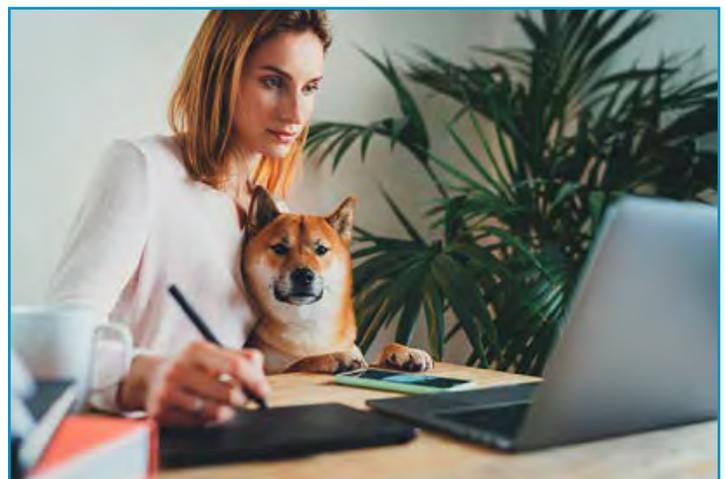
At the beginning of the stay-at-home orders (March 2020), CDSE saw a 44% increase in eLearning course completions and a 209% increase in performance support tools accessed, from the same period in FY19.

In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, DOD and Industry personnel adjusted to new ways of working in a socially distanced environment. This included teleworking, as well as reducing in-person events and non-essential travel. Now, with vaccines becoming available to wider segments of the population, certain restrictions are being lessened across the country resulting in more federal and industry personnel returning or making plans to return to their onsite offices. This is great news, but after a prolonged absence from office buildings the returning workforce may need to be reintroduced to in-person security policies and procedures.

Teleworking allows people to work productively from home, but the increased presence of large numbers of government and industry employees

working offsite also increased the risk of cyber threats (malware, phishing attempts, etc.). In March 2021, the White House released a **statement** regarding the threat, "significant malicious cyber-enabled activities originating from, or directed by persons located, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States."

To help, CDSE has tools to raise awareness about cybersecurity and prepare you to combat these threats. The **cybersecurity toolkit** contains information on policy, training/awareness, and assessment and authorization. CDSE also has several eLearning courses on combatting cyber threats, such as "**Cybersecurity Awareness**" and "**Phishing Awareness**," which can be accessed through the toolkit.



 CDSE – Center for Development of Security Excellence

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THE ONSITE AND HOME OFFICES: SECURING THE CHANGING WORK ENVIRONMENT DURING COVID-19 (CONT'D)

Travel was another aspect of business and daily life that faced major readjustment in response to COVID-19. The elimination of non-essential government travel and in-person training or meetings led to an increase in virtual networking, meetings, collaborations, training, and correspondence. DOD provided approved telework tools for the workforce to securely conduct virtual business operations and were vital to the ability of DOD personnel to maintain productivity.

Once the lockdowns started, CDSE suspended the offering of instructor-led training but there was still a need in the security community for courses that were only available in person. To meet this need, CDSE converted several of these courses to virtual instructor-led training as well as hosted numerous virtual conferences. Staying up-to-date on security training and policy continues to be important, regardless of the work locations of DOD and industry personnel.

When employees eventually return to their office buildings in large numbers, there will be a

need for refresher training on security policies and practices within a government facility. CDSE offers **Information Security Shorts –SF700 series** and **Physical Security job aids** to help refresh employees' knowledge of how to perform select security duties.

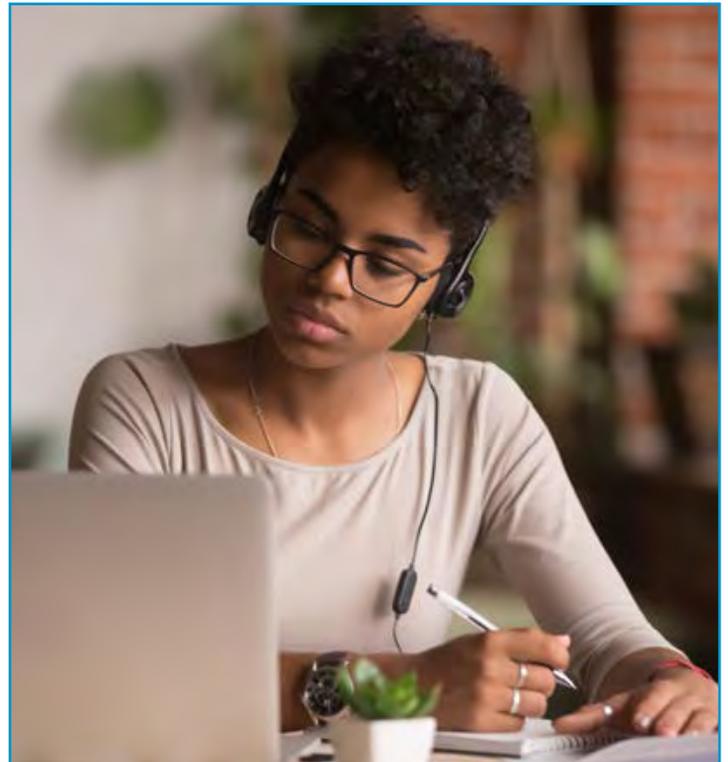
After onsite offices return to normal staffing levels, travel and in-person events will not be far behind. The White House released an **executive order** in January 2021 regarding safety in domestic and international travel. DOD also continues to release frequent **COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Installation Status Updates** and **Force Health Protection Guidance** regarding travel during the Coronavirus Pandemic. CDSE offers resources such as **"Traveling and Espionage"** and **"Traveling with Mobile Devices."** There is also a **Foreign Travel Briefing Short**, as well as **posters** to hang in offices for reminders.

When it comes to in-person events, CDSE has courses and information relating to counterintelligence (CI), operations security (OPSEC), and Kinetic

violence. The **CI Awareness toolkit** provides information on how to be aware of, and report unusual activities or behaviors. Recognizing unusual behaviors is crucial to your safety when you are in an unfamiliar environment, like at a conference, with people you do not know, such as conference attendees. The OPSEC awareness course provides information on protecting unclassified information about operations and personal information. The **Kinetic Violence Tab** provides resources on how to respond in the event of an

active shooter incident, terrorist threat, or other workplace violence event.

When quarantine and social distancing orders began in early 2020, there was no indication how long they would last or how they would affect our daily lives. CDSE has been here through it all, continuously providing security training, education, and certification to DOD and Industry personnel through this changing environment and will continue to do so as restrictions are lifted and daily work life returns to normal.





CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES

Cybersecurity threats increased in the pandemic environment and will extend beyond the pandemic as many sites modify telework policies to increase the number of telework days allowed. CDSE, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) have the resources to help keep you safe online.

Organization	Cybersecurity Resource Link
CDSE	https://www.cdse.edu/catalog/cybersecurity.html
CISA	https://www.cisa.gov/cisa-cybersecurity-resources
NCSC	https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-how-we-work/ncsc-know-the-risk-raise-your-shield/ncsc-awareness-materials

TOP ONLINE COLLABORATION TOOLS

There are many approved online collaboration tools available to DOD, industry, and other federal government personnel to include file sharing, screen sharing, meeting software, etc.

The DISA **DOD Cyber Exchange** provides many job aids and flow charts to help point you in the right direction for what tool will work the best for your team and what it hopes to accomplish.

CISA also has **telework resources** and **tips** for non-technical computer users to help all “at home workers” not just the federal workforce.



WHAT HAVEN'T YOU DONE IN A YEAR?

Many personnel across DOD, Industry, and the Federal Government have worked from home during the majority of the pandemic. As personnel prepare to move back to onsite work, there are several security related practices that many of us haven't done in a year or more. CDSE has many different job aids, shorts, eLearning courses, and posters that can help the DOD and Industry workforce make a smooth and secure transition back to working onsite. Here are some of our products to help refresh your knowledge of onsite security practices:



Operated GSA Containers



Destroyed classified and CUI material



Worn a badge



Completed end-of-day security checks (SF701/SF702 Forms)



Interacted in person with coworkers



Attended an in-person conference



Traveled to the office



SAVE THE DATE: 2021 DOD VIRTUAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for the 2021 DOD Virtual Security Conference on August 3 - 5! This year's conference theme is "Collaborative Resilience: Vision Turns to Reality in Security Today." The agenda will include policy change and implementation updates on topics such as NBIS, Insider Threat, Portable Electronic Devices, NISPOM Updates, and CUI. The conference is open to .gov and .mil email holders. Stay tuned for more details.

STEPP FAQ

Looking for all the STEPP FAQs? You can find a comprehensive list [here](#) as well as directions on how to contact the helpdesk if you are having an issue not addressed in the list. There is also an FAQ button on the STEPP login page and every STEPP page in the "Need Help?" section at the bottom and right-hand side.



WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Course: Introduction to Special Access Programs (SA101.01)

"The VILT option was amazing, having the flexibility to interact with everyone while not being locked into a physical classroom was perfect for me. I had to close on my new house during the training week and was able to do so without missing out on instruction or classwork."

– Student

"Thank you for offering this course through the COVID-19 pandemic. While I would have preferred to take this class in person, this worked out just fine."

– Student

CDSE WINS GOLD LEARNINGELITE AWARD



CDSE won a Gold Award for Learning and Development at the Chief Learning Officer's LearningElite Virtual Gala. CDSE was awarded the honor of gold among major U.S. and international corporations and other U.S. government agencies ranked in the categories of bronze, silver, or gold. The full list of winners can be found [here](#).

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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR FALL 2021 SEMESTER OF CDSE TUITION-FREE EDUCATION CLASSES

Registration is now open for the Fall semester of CDSE Education classes that run from August 23 to December 17, 2021. Classes fill quickly, so please register early to secure your spot in the Fall semester. Registration is open to U.S. Government civilian employees and U.S. military service members.

The courses include reading, research, and writing assignments similar to a three credit, collegiate-level course. A significant time commitment is required, but the commitment will pay off. The courses are online, tuition free, and allow students the flexibility to collaborate with each other and Subject Matter Expert (SME) Instructors when they want.

You can learn more about the classes being offered and register for them by accessing the links on our [Education Page](#).

If you have any questions, or need additional information, contact the CDSE Education Division at: dss.ncr.dss-cdse.mbx.cdse-education@mail.mil.

UPCOMING SPEAKER SERIES AND WEBINARS

CDSE invites you to [sign up](#) for our upcoming Speaker Series:

Overview of Continuous Vetting (CV) Methodology
Wednesday, June 16, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

Overview of Personnel Vetting Methodology
Wednesday, July 21, 2021
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

Organizational Culture and Countering Insider Threat: Best Practice Examples from the Marine Corps Insider Threat Hub
Thursday, July 29, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

Overview of the National Background Investigation Services (NBIS)
Thursday, August 26, 2021
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

