

Report on the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency's Personnel Vetting Mission

**IN RESPONSE TO
FISCAL YEAR 2020 NDAA (SECTION 1627)**

DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

June 2020



In response to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, Section 1627 - ***Reports on the Department of Defense's Consolidated Adjudications Facility (DoD CAF)***, which resides within the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA), the Director of DCSA is required to submit this report to the congressional defense committees on the processes in place for adjudicating security clearances and the progress made to address the backlog of security clearance applications. This report will provide metrics used by the Director of DCSA to evaluate the inventory and timeliness of adjudicating security clearance cases. The report will also provide details on the resources used by the Director of DCSA in carrying out the security clearance mission of the DoD CAF.

(1) Metrics used by the Director of DCSA to evaluate the inventory and timeliness of adjudicating security clearance cases

The DoD CAF adjudicates investigations on behalf of the Secretary of Defense for DoD Components and the National Industrial Security Program which constitutes roughly 75 percent of all adjudications across the Federal government. There are 100 plus other departments and agencies that continue to make their own determinations, pursuant to Executive Order 12968.

The Director of DCSA utilizes weekly metrics to outline the status and performance of the DoD CAF's adjudication inventory in order to evaluate its overall performance. These metrics include the current and trending adjudicative inventory by case type, as well as additional operational details such as the incoming and outgoing case volume, current inventory age, and inventory size for each DoD agency.

In addition to the weekly metrics, the Director of DCSA uses the Monthly Agency Performance Metric Report that outlines the prior month's adjudication timeliness performance in the following categories: National Security Initial; National Security Reinvestigation; and Public Trust & Non Sensitive case groups.

In order to meet timeliness goals under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA), a stable inventory for the DoD CAF is approximately 60-80,000 actionable determinations. As of May 21, 2020, the DoD CAF reported approximately 76,000 actionable determinations in their inventory, which as outlined above, represents a stable state inventory. Current stable inventory levels reflect a major inventory reduction achievement by DCSA as the DoD CAF's adjudication inventory stood at over 212,000 actionable determinations in February 2019. Of these 76,000 actionable determinations, nearly 32,000 are attributed to a completed background investigation (79 percent are initial security clearance cases and 21 percent are periodic reinvestigations). The remaining actions (approximately 44,000) are ongoing security management functions (e.g., customer service requests, incident reports, and Continuous Evaluation (CE) alert cases). DCSA's focused efforts on DoD CAF inventory reduction and stable inventory management through the implementation of various information technology (IT) solutions, a series of targeted Lean Six Sigma efficiency studies, and increased use of civilian personnel overtime.

As a result of the shift from artificial time-based, periodic reinvestigations to more frequent, continuous vetting processes, the definition of “adjudicative inventory” is transforming and presenting a paradigm shift in the way adjudications have been traditionally perceived. Going forward, as the new wave of Trusted Workforce 2.0 policies are implemented, how DCSA measures case inventories will be redefined.

(2) Details on the resources used by the Director of DCSA in carrying out the security clearance mission of the DoD Consolidated Adjudications Facility

As of May 21, 2020, DCSA has approximately 590 Federal employees who comprise the DoD CAF. The DoD CAF’s budget for FY2020 is approximately \$90,280,000.