DCSA ENROLLS U.S. SECURITY CLEARANCE HOLDERS IN CONTINOUS VETTING PROGRAM

Moves Government Closer to New Trusted Workforce Environment

Oct. 1, 2021, WASHINGTON – The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) has successfully enrolled all DOD clearance holders in Continuous Vetting (CV). This brings the agency and the federal government one step closer to its Trusted Workforce (TW) 2.0 goal of providing CV for all U.S. security clearance holders. The U.S. security clearance population includes individuals from the Department of Defense (DOD), remaining federal government, and private industry.

TW 2.0 is a whole-of-government background investigation reform effort that is overhauling the personnel vetting process by establishing a government-wide system enhancing security, allowing reciprocity across organizations, and generating cost savings across government. This includes replacing periodic reinvestigations every five-10 years with a CV program, ensuring a trusted workforce in real time through automated records checks and inter-agency information sharing. To reach that end state by October 1, 2023, DCSA developed two transitional phases — Trusted Workforce 1.25 (TW 1.25) and Trusted Workforce 1.5 (TW 1.5)**.**

The TW 1.25 program was designed to enroll DOD and non-DOD agencies into an initial version of the CV system, offering high-value, continuous record checks by October 1, 2021. TW 1.25 removes the requirement for periodic reinvestigations by applying a risk-managed approach with select automated records checks.

"This is an incredible accomplishment and a major milestone for the national security community. Not only does this allow us to help ensure the trustworthiness of the national security workforce, it helps identify and address factors that may lead to insider threat incidents, all while maximizing efficiencies across government; this is a major win for the security community," said DCSA Director William K. Lietzau.

DCSA is also enrolling select agency clearance holders into TW 1.5, which automates and continuously checks seven current record sources. Agencies were able to independently select the best option to meet their unique needs and goals during the phased personnel vetting revamp.

Ultimately, in the full TW 2.0 framework, CV will fully replace periodic reinvestigations by employing a full suite of automated record checks through NBIS — the National Background Investigation Services.

Currently under development, NBIS is the new personnel vetting IT system that's transforming the background investigation process to deliver stronger security, faster processing, and better information sharing. . It replaces a suite of outdated, legacy IT systems that no longer meet the needs of the U.S. government.

To learn more about how DCSA delivers America's Trusted Workforce, visit www.dcsa.mil.

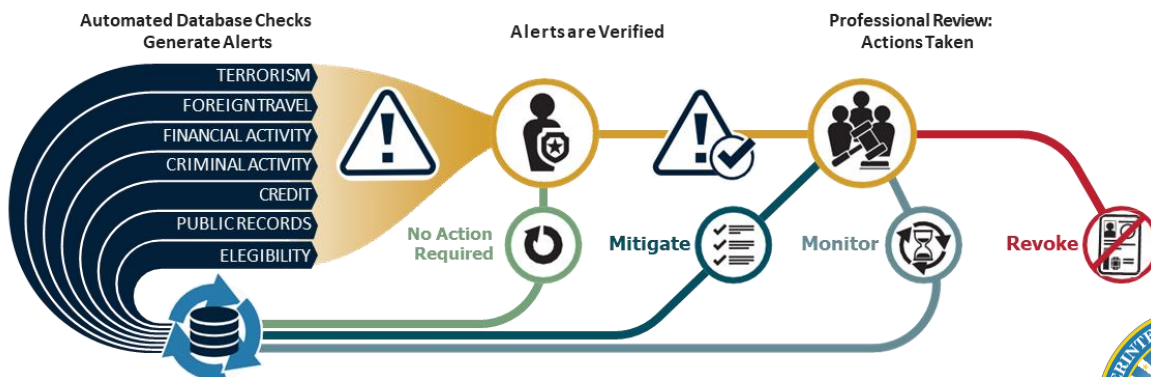### ###

WHAT IS TRUSTED WORKFORCE 2.0?

TW 2.0 is a whole-of-government background investigation reform effort overhauling the personnel vetting process by creating one government-wide system that allows reciprocity across organizations. This includes moving from periodic reinvestigations every five-10 years towards a Continuous Vetting (CV) program, which protects the trusted workforce in real time. To reach that end state by October 1, 2023, DCSA developed two transitional phases — Trusted Workforce 1.25 and Trusted Workforce 1.5.

Initial Capability Phase		Standardization Phase		Full Deployment Phase	

Traditional

TW 1.25

TW 1.5

Transfer DNI and agency responsibility to DCSA

TW 2.0

FY21   FY22   FY23

	Traditional	TW 1.25	TW 1.5	TW 2.0
Population	Entire federal workforce	National security workforce	National security workforce	Entire federal workforce
Investigative Sources	No automated checks	Initial high-value automated checks (3)	Expanded automated checks (7)	Maximum automated checks
Continuous Vetting (CV)	Reinvestigations every 5 years	Defers required reinvestigation	Satisfies required reinvestigation	Replaces required reinvestigation
Previously Vetted Workforce	Full process after two years	Full process after two years	Full process after two years	Minimum process to establish trust
Workforce Mobility	Effective for limited % of workforce	Effective for limited % of workforce	Effective for limited % of workforce	Effective for majority of workforce
Integrated IT Capability	None	Partially implemented	Moderately implemented	Fully implemented

HOW DOES CONTINUOUS VETTING (CV) WORK?

CV involves regularly reviewing a cleared individual's background to ensure they continue to meet security clearance requirements and should continue to hold positions of trust. Automated record checks pull data from criminal, terrorism, and financial databases, as well as public records, at any time during an individual's period of eligibility. Potentially derogatory information in the form of incident reports, insider threat information and other sources also feeds into the CV alert process. When DCSA receives an alert, it assesses whether the alert is valid and worthy of further investigation. DCSA investigators and adjudicators then gather facts and make clearance determinations. CV helps DCSA mitigate personnel security situations before they become larger problems, either by working with the cleared individual to mitigate potential issues, or in some cases suspending or revoking clearances.

THE CV PROCESS

Automated Database Checks Generate Alerts

TERRORISM
FOREIGN TRAVEL
FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY
CREDIT
PUBLIC RECORDS
ELEGIBILITY

Alerts are Verified

Professional Review: Actions Taken

No Action Required

Mitigate

Monitor

Revoke

WHAT IS NBIS?

NBIS is the new personnel vetting IT system that is transforming the background investigation process to deliver stronger security, faster processing, and better information sharing. It will replace a suite of outdated, legacy IT systems that no longer meet the needs of the U.S. government. It is the future of personnel vetting, enabling the federal government to fully meet necessary TW 2.0 policy reforms. DCSA is planning NBIS capability deployment and onboarding/adoption in a phased approach. This gradual rollout is designed to ensure NBIS capabilities have gone through significant user acceptance testing.

ABOUT DCSA: "AMERICA'S GATEKEEPER"

DCSA, the U.S. government's largest security organization, is the federal agency that secures the trustworthiness of the U.S. government's workforce, the integrity of its cleared contractor support, and the uncompromised nature of its technologies, services, and supply chains through vetting, industry engagement, counterintelligence support, and education. Learn more and connect with DCSA at www.dcsa.mil.