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A

Arms, Ammunition and Explosives (AA&E)	Program that provides guidance regarding the safety of arms, ammunitions and explosives.
Assessment and Authorization (A&A)	The standard DoD approach for identifying information systems security requirements, providing security solutions, and managing the security of DoD Information Systems.
Assessment and Evaluation (A&E)	Monitors contractors for changes impacting their Facility Clearance (FCL) and performs data analysis, statistical reporting, and financial accuracy for Personnel Security Investigations (PSIs).

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C

Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE)	A nationally accredited, award-winning directorate within the DCSA. CDSE provides security, training and certification products and services for the DoD and Industry.
Cognizant Security Agency (CSA)	Agencies of the Executive Branch that have been authorized by Executive Order 12829 to establish an industrial security program to safeguard classified information under the jurisdiction of these agencies when disclosed or released to U.S. Industry. These agencies are The Department of Defense, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Department of Homeland Security.
Cognizant Security Office (CSO)	The organizational entity delegated by the head of a CSA to administer industrial security on behalf of the CSA.
Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)	An inter-agency committee authorized to review proposed mergers, acquisitions, or takeovers that could result in control of a U.S. business by a foreign interest in order to determine the effect of such transactions on the national security of the U.S.
Communications Security (COMSEC)	Protective measures taken to deny unauthorized persons information derived from telecommunications of the U.S. Government relating to national security and to ensure the authenticity of such communications.
Continuous Evaluation (CE)	A vetting process to review the background of an individual who has been determined to be eligible for access to classified information or to hold a sensitive position at any time during the period of eligibility. CE leverages a set of automated record checks and business

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rules to assist in the ongoing assessment of an individual's continued eligibility.

Counter Intelligence (CI)

Those activities concerned with identifying and countering the security threat posed by hostile intelligence services, organizations, or by individuals engaged in espionage, sabotage, subversion, or terrorism.

Counterintelligence Special Agent (CISA)

Assists FSOs in identifying potential threats to U.S. technology and developing CI awareness and reporting by company employees.

Critical Nuclear Weapon Design Information (CNWDI)

A DoD category of TOP SECRET RD or SECRET RD that reveals the theory of operation or design of the components of a thermonuclear or fission bomb, warhead, demolition munition, or test device.

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Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA)

The DCSA is an agency of the DoD located in Quantico, Virginia. The Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security provides authority, direction and control over DCSA. DCSA supports national security and the service members, secures the nation's technological base, and oversees the protection of U.S. and foreign classified information in the hands of industry. DCSA accomplishes this mission by clearing industrial facilities, accrediting information systems, facilitating the personnel security clearance process, delivering security education, training, and certification, and providing information technology services that support the industrial and personnel security missions of DoD and its partner agencies.

Defense Vetting Directorate (DVD)

Involved in the personnel security clearance (PCL) process.

Department of Defense (DoD)

The largest of five CSAs, having issued the most classified contracts to industry. Additionally, the Secretary of Defense has entered into agreements with other federal agencies for the purpose of rendering industrial security services. (agencies listed at <https://www.dcsa.mil/about/agreements/>)

Department of Defense Contract Security Classification Specification (DD Form 254)

This document provides security guidance to both the contractor and the government. It is a legal document that directs the contractor about the proper protection of classified material released under the contract.

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Executive Order (EO)

An order issued by the President to create a policy and regulate its administration with the Executive Branch.

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Facility Clearance Branch (FCB)

Processes companies for FCLs, issues FCLs and monitors companies that hold FCLs.

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Facility Security Clearance (FCL)	An administrative determination that, from a security point of view, a company is eligible for access to classified information of a certain category and all lower categories.
Facility Security Officer (FSO)	A U.S. citizen employee, appointed by a contractor, who will supervise and direct security measures necessary for implementing the NISPOM and other federal requirements for classified information.
Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)	Contains the rules for government acquisition. These rules provide instruction, forms and guidance on government contracting.
Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence (FOCI)	A U.S. company is considered to be under FOCI whenever a foreign interest has the power, direct or indirect, whether or not exercised, and whether or not exercisable through the ownership of the U.S. company's securities, by contractual arrangements or other means, to direct or decide matters affecting the management or operations of that company in a manner which may result in unauthorized access to classified information or may adversely affect the performance of classified contracts.

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Government Contracting Activity (GCA)	An element of an agency designated by the agency head and delegated broad authority regarding acquisition functions.
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Industrial Security Letter (ISL)	Documents that provide detailed operational guidance and notification of changes to or clarification of existing policies or requirements to the NISPOM.
Industrial Security Representative (IS Rep)	Local representative from the DCSA that provides advice and assistance to establish the security program and to ensure the cleared facility is in compliance with the NISP.
Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO)	Office responsible for implementing and monitoring the NISP and for issuing implementing directives that shall be binding on agencies.
Information System (IS)	An assembly of computer hardware, software, and firmware configured for the purpose of automating the functions of calculating, computing, sequencing, storing, retrieving, displaying, communicating, or otherwise manipulating data, information and textual material.
Information System Security Manager (ISSM)	An individual appointed by a contractor with oversight responsibility for the development, implementation, and

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evaluation of the facility's classified information system security program. The ISSM must be trained to a level commensurate with the complexity of the facility's information systems.

Information System Security Professional/Security Control Assessor (ISSP/SCA)

An employee of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency who provides advice and assistance and participates in accreditation and assessments of information systems. An ISSP is a subject matter expert on information systems security in the NISP.

Insider Threat Program Senior Official (ITPSO)

A U.S. citizen employee of the contractor, who is cleared as part of the facility clearance (FCL). The ITPSO is responsible for establishing and executing the facility's insider threat program.

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Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

A written agreement among relevant parties that specifies roles, responsibilities, terms, and conditions for each party to reach a common goal.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Is a formal document describing the broad outlines of an agreement that two or more parties have reached through negotiations.

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National Industrial Security Program (NISP)

The National Industrial Security Program (NISP) was established by Executive Order 12829 for the protection of classified information released or disclosed to industry in connection with classified contracts. The NISP applies standards for the protection of classified information released or disclosed to contractors of all federal executive branch departments and agencies. Requirements of the NISP are stated in the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM), (DoD 5220.22-M).

National Industrial Security Program Authorization Office (NAO)

Office within the DCSA that facilitates the Assessment and Authorization (A&A) process for classified information systems at cleared contractor facilities.

N

National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM)	A manual issued in accordance with the National Industrial Security Program that prescribes the requirements, restrictions, and other safeguards to prevent unauthorized disclosure of classified information.
National Industrial Security Program Policy Advisory Committee (NISPPAC)	The Committee members shall advise the Chairman of the Committee on all matters concerning the policies of the National Industrial Security Program, including recommended changes to those policies as reflected in E.O. 12829, its implementing directives, or the operating manual established under E.O. 12829, and serve as a forum to discuss policy issues in dispute.
National Interest Determination (NID)	A written statement by the GCA affirming the release of proscribed information to accompany operating under a SSA will not harm the national security interests of the United States.
National Security Council (NSC)	A governing entity responsible for providing overall policy direction for the National Industrial Security Program.
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	Military alliance formed to enforce the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949. NATO provides a mutual defense from external threats.

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O

Original Classification Authority (OCA)	An individual authorized in writing, either by the United States (U.S.) President, or by agency heads or other officials designated by the President, to classify information in the first instance. OCAs must receive training to perform this duty.
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P

Personnel Security Clearance (PCL)	An administrative determination that an individual is eligible, from a security point of view, for access to classified information of the same or lower category as the level of the personnel clearance being granted.
Personnel Security Investigation (PSI)	Investigation of an individual for a personnel security clearance.

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R

Regional Director (RD)	DCSA individual who oversees the operation of DCSA field offices in his or her assigned area of responsibility.
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Security Training Education and Professionalization Portal (STEPP)

The learning management system used by the Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE). STEPP is where the list of courses is maintained and where student information and course transcripts are maintained.

Special Access Program (SAP)

Any program that is established to control access, distribution, and to provide protection for particularly sensitive classified information beyond that normally required for TOP SECRET, SECRET, or CONFIDENTIAL information. A Special Access Program can be created or continued only as authorized by a senior agency official who has been delegated such authority pursuant to the NISPOM.

Special Security Agreement (SSA)

Is used when a cleared company is effectively owned or controlled by a foreign entity with majority interest.

Suspicious Contract Report (SCR)

A report of CI concern that likely represents efforts by an individual to obtain illegal or unauthorized access to classified information or technology.

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Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD(AT&L))

This office within the Department of Defense establishes acquisition policy, procedures, and guidance in coordination with USD (I&S).

Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (USD(I&S))

Office within the Department of Defense that is responsible for overseeing NISP policy and management. It also develops and updates the DoD Manual 5220.22, Volume 2.

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V

Vetting Risk Operations Center (VROC)

Office within the DCSA that processes requests for, and other actions related to, personnel security clearances for personnel from facilities participating in the NISP.

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