

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

A – Term

Adjudication

Definition

Now referred to as trust determinations. The evaluation of pertinent data in a background investigation, as well as any other available information that is relevant and reliable, to determine whether a covered individual is:

- (i) suitable for Government employment;
- (ii) eligible for logical and physical access;
- (iii) eligible for access to classified information;
- (iv) eligible to hold a sensitive position; or
- (v) fit to perform work for or on behalf of the Government as a contractor employee. As defined in E.O. 13467.

Automated Record Checks

A method for requesting, collecting, and validating electronically accessible and adjudicative relevant data using the most efficient and cost-effective technology and means available.

[Back to Top](#)

B – Term

Definition

[Back to Top](#)

C – Term

Continuous Vetting (CV)

Definition

A personnel vetting scenario that occurs on an ongoing basis to maintain trust with established insiders. Based on required coverage, periodicity, or event driven. Replaces periodic reinvestigations.

Covered Position

A position in the competitive service, a position in the excepted service where the incumbent can be noncompetitively converted to the competitive service, and a career appointment to a position in the Senior Executive Service.

Critical-Sensitive

A civilian position designation that has the potential to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

[Back to Top](#)

D – Term

Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA)

Definition

A workforce comprised of Trusted Workforce Vetting, Industrial Security, Counterintelligence, Investigative Service Provider and Professional Education and Certification.

Defense Intelligence System of Security (DISS)

The DOD system of record for non-IC agencies case management and adjudications. It is a secure, end-to-end information technology system that reduces the DOD national security eligibility determinations, suitability, and HSPD-12 process cycle.

D – Term	Definition
Department/Agency (D/A)	Any “executive agency” as defined in 5 U.S.C. §105, including the “military departments,” as defined in 5 U.S.C. §102, and any other entity within the executive branch that comes into possession of classified information or has positions designated as sensitive.
Derogatory Information	Information that reflects on the integrity or character of an individual, or circumstances that suggests that their ability to safeguard national security information may be impaired, that their access to classified or sensitive information clearly may not be in the best interest of national security, or that their activity may be in conflict with the personnel security standards or adjudicative guidelines.
Due Process	An established administrative process designed to ensure the fair and impartial adjudication of facts and circumstances when an unfavorable suitability or fitness trust determination is being considered.

[Back to Top](#)

E – Term	Definition
Electronic Application (eApp)	A web-based tool for self-reporting biographic details, declarations, clarifications, and mitigating information necessary to conduct investigations.
Eligibility	A formal determination that a person meets the personnel security requirements for access to classified information, occupancy of a sensitive position, suitability or fitness for Government employment; eligibility for logical and physical access; or fitness to perform work for or on behalf of the Government as a contractor employee.
Excepted Service	Excepted Federal service positions are subject to rules established by the respective agencies and are not subject to Federal competitive qualification requirements, appointment, pay, and classification rules.
Executive Order (E.O.)	An order issued by the President to create a policy and regulate its administration within the Executive Branch.

[Back to Top](#)

F – Term	Definition
Federal Personnel Vetting Investigative Standards	Standards for background investigations to determine eligibility for logical and physical access, suitability for Government employment, eligibility for access to classified information, eligibility to hold a sensitive position, and fitness to perform work for or on behalf of the Government as a contractor employee
Fitness	The level of character and conduct determined necessary for an individual to perform work for or on behalf of a Federal agency as an employee in the excepted service (other than a position subject to suitability) or as a contractor.

[Back to Top](#)

G – Term	Definition

[Back to Top](#)

H – Term	Definition
High Tier (HT)	Investigative tier under TW 2.0 that includes positions designated as non-sensitive high-risk public trust and/or critical-sensitive high-risk public trust or special-sensitive high-risk public trust.

[Back to Top](#)

I – Term	Definition
Illegal Drug	A controlled substance as identified in the Controlled Substances Act but does not include a substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under that Act or under any other provision of Federal law. A controlled substance included in Schedule I or II, as defined by Section 802(6) of E.O. 12564.

Initial Vetting	A personnel vetting scenario that assesses whether a subject can be trusted when first assigned. The level of investigation is based on the investigative tier for the position designation.
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Insider Threat	The threat an insider will use her or his authorized access, wittingly or unwittingly, to do harm to the security of the United States. This can include damage to the United States through espionage, terrorism, unauthorized disclosure of national security information, or through the loss or degradation of departmental resources or capabilities. As defined in DODD 5205.16.
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Investigative Service Provider (ISP)	An agency authorized by law, regulation, or designated by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) or the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in their role as Security or Suitability Executive Agent, respectively, to conduct personnel security investigations of persons to ascertain whether such persons satisfy the criteria for obtaining or retaining: (1) eligibility for access to classified information; (2) eligibility to hold a sensitive position; (3) suitability or fitness for Government employment; (4) eligibility for logical and physical access; or (5) fitness to perform work for or on behalf of the Government as a contractor employee.
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[Back to Top](#)

J – Term	Definition

[Back to Top](#)

K – Term	Definition
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[Back to Top](#)

L – Term	Definition
Logical and Physical Access	Access other than occasional or intermittent to Federally-controlled facilities or Federally-controlled information systems.
Low Tier (LT)	Investigative tier under TW 2.0 that includes positions designated as non-sensitive and low risk. The minimum investigative tier for eligibility for physical and/or logical access or credentialing determinations.

[Back to Top](#)

M – Term	Definition
Moderate Tier (MT)	Investigative tier under TW 2.0 that includes positions designated as non-sensitive moderate-risk public trust and/or non-critical sensitive moderate-risk public trust.

[Back to Top](#)

N – Term	Definition
National Background Investigation Services (NBIS)	A consolidated IT system for end-to-end personnel vetting that will replace a suite of legacy systems, including e-App, PDT, CVS, and DISS.
National Security	The national defense or foreign relations of the United States. National security includes defense against transnational terrorism.
Non-Critical Sensitive	A civilian position designation that can cause significant damage to national security.
Non-Sensitive	A civilian position designation that poses no potentially adverse effects on national security.

[Back to Top](#)

O – Term	Definition
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[Back to Top](#)

P – Term	Definition
Personnel Vetting	Assessment of the trustworthiness of individuals based on the core characteristics to protect people, property, information, and mission. Encompasses all vetting domains, including suitability, fitness, national security, and credentialing.
Position Designation System (PDS)	Assesses the duties and responsibilities of a position to determine the degree of potential damage to the efficiency or the integrity of the service by misconduct of an incumbent or the potential for an incumbent to bring about a material adverse effect on the national security. Results of the assessment determine the level of investigation.

P – Term	Definition
Position Designation Tool (PDT)	Tool hosted by DCSA to guide personnel through the PDS process.
Public Trust	Positions at the high or moderate risk levels would normally be designated as “Public Trust” positions. Such positions may involve policy making, major program responsibility, public safety and health, law enforcement duties, fiduciary responsibilities or other duties demanding a significant degree of public trust, and positions involving access to or operation or control of financial records, with a significant risk for causing damage or realizing personal gain.

[Back to Top](#)

Q – Term	Definition

[Back to Top](#)

R – Term	Definition
Re-establishment of Trust	A personnel vetting scenario that applies when a former trusted insider returns to U.S. Government affiliation. Additional vetting occurs to address the new position designation, time away, and individual record.

[Back to Top](#)

S – Term	Definition
Security Executive Agent (SecEA)	The DNI is the U.S. Government national authority responsible for developing uniform and consistent policies and procedures to ensure the effective, efficient, and timely completion of national security investigations and adjudications relating to determinations of eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position, as well as other security duties as delineated in E.O. 13467.
Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI)	A subset of Classified National Intelligence concerning or derived from intelligence sources, methods, or analytical processes, that is required to be protected within formal access control systems established by the Director of National Intelligence.
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 delegated such authority pursuant to reference (b).
Special-Sensitive	A civilian position designation that may potentially cause inestimable damage to the national security or adverse impact to the efficiency of the DOD or military services.

S – Term	Definition
Suitability	Refers to a person's identifiable character traits and/or conduct that may have an impact on the integrity or efficiency of the service.

[Back to Top](#)

T – Term	Definition
Transfer of Trust	A personnel vetting scenario that applies when an individual moves from one agency to another. Agencies must accept determinations for the same type and level. Previously referred to as reciprocity.
Trust Determination	Suitability, fitness, national security, and credentialing determinations that determine an individual can be trusted to protect people, property, information, and mission.
Trusted Workforce (TW) 2.0	A whole-of-government approach to reforming the personnel security process. Establishes a single vetting system for the U.S. Government.

[Back to Top](#)

U – Term	Definition
Upgrade	A personnel vetting scenario that applies when there is an initial favorable trust determination, the subject has been enrolled in compliant continuous vetting, and the subject has a new position requiring a higher level investigation. Additional vetting is conducted for the difference between the current and new tiers.

[Back to Top](#)

V – Term	Definition
Vetting	Process by which covered individuals undergo investigation, evaluation, and adjudication of whether they are, and remain over time, suitable or fit for Federal employment, eligible to occupy a sensitive position, eligible for access to classified information, eligible to serve as a non-appropriated fund employee or a contractor, eligible to serve in the military, or authorized to be issued a Federal credential.

[Back to Top](#)

W – Term	Definition
Whole-Person Concept	The consideration of all available, reliable information about the subject, past and present, favorable and unfavorable, in reaching a trust determination.

[Back to Top](#)

X – Term	Definition

[Back to Top](#)

Y – Term

Definition

[Back to Top](#)

Z – Term

Definition

[Back to Top](#)