Prevention

If an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, imagine what five, ten, or 50 ounces could yield. But beware of unintended consequences! BLUF highlights what we at The Threat Lab are watching, listening to, reading, and thinking about. This month we highlight the importance of thinking through the second and third-order effects of insider threat prevention programs by offering examples of how they could go wrong.

ARTICLE
From Scott Sagan’s article, The Problem of Redundancy Problem: Why More Nuclear Security Forces May Produce Less Nuclear Security, “This article analyzes how we should think about nuclear security and the emerging terrorist threats. It presents a warning about the most simple, and most tempting, solution to our new nuclear terrorism problem: to add more security forces to protect power plants, weapons facilities, and nuclear storage sites.”

Read the article

PODCAST
From Episode 3 of Tim Harford’s Cautionary Tales podcast, La La Land: Galileo’s Warning, “Galileo tried to teach us that adding more and more layers to a system intended to avert disaster often makes catastrophe all the more likely to happen. His basic lesson has been ignored in nuclear power plants, financial markets and at the Oscars...all resulting in chaos.”

Listen to the podcast

ARTICLE
From CERT’s article, Effective Insider Threat Programs: Understanding and Avoiding Potential Pitfalls, “By establishing a clear picture of the way things could go wrong when establishing and executing an [Insider Threat Program], we can help organizations understand the need for a balanced approach that has a better chance of reducing insider threats while minimizing the chances or severity of negative unintended consequences.”

Read the article
https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/library/asset-view.cfm?assetid=446367

The Defense Personnel and Security Research Center (PERSEREC) founded The Threat Lab in 2018 to realize the DoD Counter-Insider Threat Program Director’s vision to incorporate the social and behavioral sciences into the mission space. Our team is headquartered in Seaside, California, and includes psychologists, sociologists, policy analysts, computer scientists, and other subject matter experts committed to workforce protection.

To be added to our distribution list, please email dodhra.ThreatLab@mail.mil

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