

NATIONAL SECURITY ADJUDICATIVE
GUIDELINE A: ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES

The Concern. The willingness to safeguard classified or sensitive information is in doubt if there is any reason to suspect an individual's allegiance to the United States. There is no positive test for allegiance, but there are negative indicators. These include participation in or support for acts against the United States or placing the welfare or interests of another country above those of the United States. Finally, the failure to adhere to the laws of the United States may be relevant if the violation of law is harmful to stated U.S. interests. An individual who engages in acts against the United States or provides support or encouragement to those who do has already demonstrated willingness to compromise national security.

Conditions that could raise a security concern and may be disqualifying include:

- (a) involvement in, support of, training to commit, or advocacy of any act of sabotage, espionage, treason, terrorism, or sedition against the United States;
- (b) association or sympathy with persons who are attempting to commit, or who are committing, any of the above acts; and
- (c) association or sympathy with persons or organizations that advocate, threaten, or use force or violence, or use any other illegal or unconstitutional means, in an effort to:
 - (1) overthrow or influence the U.S. Government or any state or local government;
 - (2) prevent Federal, state, or local government personnel from performing their official duties;
 - (3) gain retribution for perceived wrongs caused by the Federal, state, or local government; and
 - (4) prevent others from exercising their rights under the Constitution or laws of the United States or of any state.

Conditions that could mitigate security concerns include:

- (a) the individual was unaware of the unlawful aims of the individual or organization and severed ties upon learning of these;

- (b) the individual's involvement was humanitarian and permitted under U.S. law;
- (c) involvement in the above activities occurred for only a short period of time and was attributable to curiosity or academic interest; and
- (d) the involvement or association with such activities occurred under such unusual circumstances, or so much time has elapsed, that it is unlikely to recur and does not cast doubt on the individual's current reliability, trustworthiness, or allegiance.