in **Center for Development of Security Excellence**

CDSE – Center for Development of Security Excellence

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THIS MONTH'S FOCUS

DCSA Industrial Security Representative Lauds CDSE Training for Cleared Industry

By Matt Wright

Attacks on cleared industry appear to be never-ending.

Foreign adversaries are constantly looking for ways to gain an advantage on the battlefield, commercially, and economically.

In a **report** from November 2025 titled "Targeting U.S. Technologies: A report of Threats to Cleared Industry," the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) confirmed receiving over 28,000 suspicious contact reports in fiscal year 2023.

That was a seven percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

With threats on the rise, the crucial question becomes: how can cleared industry personnel protect themselves and their organizations? A primary defense is robust security training, which arms employees with the knowledge

to identify and thwart these attempts before they cause harm.

Under DCSA, the Industrial Security mission manages the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) by reviewing contractors, granting facility clearances, authorizing information systems that process classified information, and much more.

During security program audits of cleared industry vendors, DCSA personnel often observe opportunities for facilities to improve and strengthen their security programs.

"Some facilities take it upon themselves to create or borrow training off the shelf from third-party vendors and it's a one-size-fits-all," said Sydnee Vinson, an industrial security representative at DCSA.

"There might be components of that training that are not relative to what the cleared employees may need to know in their daily duties. There may be components of the training that are not specific enough," said Vinson. Failure to comply with NISP regulations can lead to severe operational and financial repercussions for a company.

During security reviews, DCSA assigns ratings such as "satisfactory," "marginal," or "unsatisfactory." A poor rating due to non-compliance can trigger a number of penalties ranging from operational disruptions all the way up to loss of a facility clearance.

To help facilities ensure compliance, Vinson and her ISR colleagues consistently promote the power and benefits of CDSE resources. They emphasize that the training is both free and customizable, making it a highly effective and accessible solution to train organizations to meet NISP requirements.

"We already create products to meet federal regulations and the criteria within them," Vinson said.

In addition to CDSE's **suite of products specific to Industrial Security**, other helpful courses include

Insider Threat Awareness Training and the new **Insider Threat Curriculum** which are available at no cost.

Vinson says companies not using CDSE training material have the potential to endanger themselves and national security.

"When you have inadequate training, or training that's completed by or created by a third party and you're relying on that to train your cleared personnel, then you're inserting risk into your security program there."

As threats against cleared industry mount, a well-trained workforce is critical as the first line of defense. CDSE stands ready to help, providing the essential training that empowers industry to meet its security requirements and safeguard national security.

INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

Upcoming Virtual Getting Started Seminar for New Facility Security Officers (IS121.10)

The Getting Started Seminar for New Facility Security Officers (FSOs) is a virtual instructor-led training course that allows new FSOs and security personnel to learn and apply fundamental National Industrial Security Program (NISP) requirements in a collaborative environment. If you are an FSO, contractor security personnel, DOD Industrial Security Specialist, or anyone else working in the security environment, **register** today to attend the upcoming sessions.

Virtual classes are offered on the following dates:

* March 24 - 27, 2026
* May 12 - 15, 2026
* July 21 - 24, 2026

New Job Aid: 2026 Annual Planner

CDSE published a new **2026 Annual Planner job aid** to help support and grow industrial security training and awareness. The job aid is a supplemental performance support tool, selected from various security content areas, that can be utilized to promote security awareness throughout the year.

DD Form 254: Subcontracting Video

The DD Form 254: Issuing Subcontracts video was released in January 2026 and provides information on the NISPOM requirements for issuing a DD Form 254 to subcontractors. The **video** was developed specifically upon requests from cleared industry for more information on issuing subcontracts.

CYBERSECURITY

Instructor-Led Training: Assessing Risk and Applying Security Controls to National Industrial Security Program (NISP) Systems (CS301.01)

Interested in expanding your knowledge on applying policies and standards used throughout the U.S. Government to protect information within computer systems?

A new training opportunity from the cybersecurity team is available: "**Assessing Risk and Applying Security Controls to NISP Systems**."

This course is designed to provide guidance on applying policies to protect information within the Risk Management Framework (RMF) process. The course also offers a comprehensive review of contractor requirements under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP).

This training is highly recommended for:

* Information System Security Managers (ISSMs)
* Information System Security Officers (ISSOs)
* Facility Security Officers (FSOs)
* Personnel involved in the planning, management, and execution of security programs for cleared industry.

In-person sessions will be held on the following dates:

* May 4-8, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
* Aug. 17-21, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)

Register for this valuable training via STEPP **here**.

PERSONNEL VETTING

New Personnel Vetting Resources

Stay current on Trusted Workforce (TW) 2.0 with CDSE's "**Overview of Federal Personnel Vetting**." This 2.5-hour e-learning course for adjudicators covers the latest changes to the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing (SSC) enterprise. Registration requires a .gov or .mil email and fulfills specific gap training requirements.

Learn how to reduce mistakes and streamline the security clearance process with DCSA's 10-minute **Alleged Directed Falsification video** which explains the impacts of intentional falsification on personnel vetting timelines and costs.

Effectively manage risk and ensure the integrity of the federal workforce with CDSE's new courses and resources to help security professionals master the foundations of personnel vetting. Introductory courses provide security practitioners with a comprehensive overview of the Trusted Workforce (TW) 2.0 initiative, tailored by course to cover policies and procedures for both national security and public trust positions.

- **Introduction to Federal Personnel Vetting Policy for Security Practitioners (PS128.16)**
- **Introduction to Suitability and Fitness for Security Practitioners (PS127.16)**
- **Introduction to National Security for Security Practitioners (PS113.16)**
- **Personnel Vetting Scenarios: Initial Vetting Crossword**

INSIDER THREAT

FY26 Insider Threat Detection Analysis Course (ITDAC) Offerings (INT200.10)

The five-day "**Insider Threat Detection Analysis Course** (ITDAC) is specifically designed for insider threat analysts to apply critical thinking skills and analytic techniques to potential insider threat indicators. The course uses realistic, simulated cases to analyze reports, build context through information gathering, and develop effective mitigation strategies.

Successful completion of several prerequisite courses is required. View the course page for details.

The virtual course will be offered on the following dates:

- Feb. 9-13, 2026
- March 16-20, 2026
- April 13-17, 2026
- May 11-15, 2026
- June 8-12, 2026
- July 13-17, 2026
- Aug. 17-21, 2026
- Sept. 21-25, 2026

PHYSICAL SECURITY

Physical Security and Asset Protection (PY201.10 VILT)

The Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) is offering the "**Physical Security and Asset Protection**" virtual course from Feb. 23 to March 13.

In this comprehensive 21-day course, students learn to apply essential regulatory guidance and proven methodologies to safeguard resources and develop robust security plans. This course only requires a few hours of commitment each day. Certain prerequisites apply. Find more details and enroll through the course information page **here**.

INFORMATION SECURITY

Transmission and Transportation for DOD (IF107.16)

An all new "Transmission and Transportation for DOD" course is now available. This two-hour course offers a comprehensive scenario-based learning opportunity that covers authorized procedures, methods, and dissemination requirements for transmitting and transporting classified information in accordance with regulatory guidance. **Register** today to take this course.

BEHAVIORAL THREAT ANALYSIS CENTER

BTAC Bulletin

The Behavioral Threat Analysis Center (BTAC) Bulletin is a monthly newsletter offering timely and relevant insider threat guidance and resources.

The bulletin is produced by a multidisciplinary team of experts in threat assessment/threat management, law enforcement, counterintelligence, behavioral science, employee management relations, and cybersecurity.

View the latest BTAC Bulletin **here**.

Beyond The Bulletin Podcast

DOD Insider Threat Management and Analysis Center (DITMAC) has released a new podcast "Behavioral Threat Analysis Center – Beyond the Bulletin." Tune in for the **interview**, led by DITMAC Director James Shappell, with Peter Lapp and Dr. Kristin Schneider, where they discuss the vision for the BTAC, the Bulletin, and the podcast.

Registration Now Open

CDSE courses are a great way to gain security knowledge, gain awareness, and expand skill sets. Secure your spot now as classes fill quickly! **Available** instructor-led training (ILT)/VILT courses are listed below.

Cybersecurity
Assessing Risk and Applying Security Controls to NISP Systems (CS301.01)
- May 4 - 8, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- Aug. 17 - 21, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)

General Security
DOD Security Specialist (GS101.01)
- March 17 - 25, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- June 2 - 10, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- Aug. 11 - 19, 2026 (Germany)
- Sept. 15 - 23, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)

DOD Security Specialist VILT (GS101.01)
- April 6 - May 3, 2026 (Virtual)
- July 6 - Aug. 2, 2026 (Virtual)

Industrial Security
Getting Started Seminar for New Facility Security Officers VILT (IS121.10)
- March 24 - 27, 2026 (Virtual)
- May 12 - 15, 2026 (Virtual)
- July 21 - 24, 2026 (Virtual)

Information Security
Activity Security Manager VILT (IF203.10)
- April 19 - May 17, 2026 (Virtual)
- July 26 - Aug. 23, 2026 (Virtual)

Insider Threat
Insider Threat Detection Analysis Course VILT (INT200.10)
- Feb. 9 - 13, 2026 (Virtual)
- March 16 - 20, 2026 (Virtual)
- April 13 - 17, 2026 (Virtual)
- May 11 - 15, 2026 (Virtual)
- June 8 - 12, 2026 (Virtual)
- July 13 - 17, 2026 (Virtual)
- Aug. 17 - 21, 2026 (Virtual)
- Sept. 21 - 25, 2026 (Virtual)

Personnel Vetting
Advanced National Security Adjudication VILT (PS301.10)
- June 1 - 11, 2026 (Virtual)
- Sept. 14 - 24, 2026 (Virtual)

Fundamentals of National Security Adjudications VILT (PS101.10)
- April 20 - 29, 2026 (Virtual)
- July 20 - 29, 2026 (Virtual)

Physical Security
Physical Security and Asset Protection (PY201.01)
- April 6 - 10, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- May 11 - 15, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- June 8 - 12, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- Sept. 14 - 18, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)

Physical Security and Asset Protection VILT (PY201.10)
- Feb. 23 - March 13, 2026 (Virtual)

Special Access Programs
Introduction to Special Access Programs (SA101.01)
- March 10 - 13, 2026 (Hawaii)
- April 21 - 24, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- May 12 - 15, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- Aug. 4 - 7, 2026 (San Diego, Calif.)
- Aug. 25 - 28, 2026 (Cincinnati, Ohio)
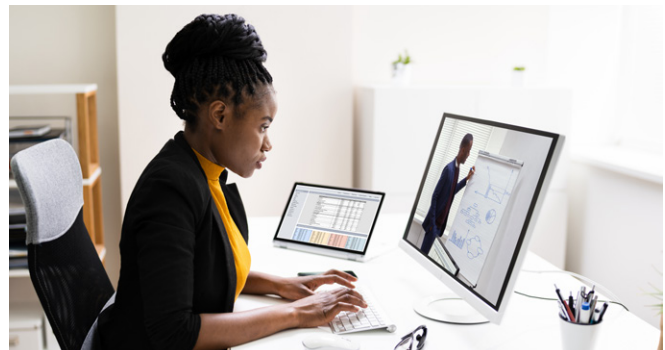
Introduction to Special Access Programs VILT (SA101.10)
- June 1 - 9, 2026 (Virtual)

Orientation to SAP Security Compliance Inspections (SA210.01)
- Feb. 18 - 19, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)
- Aug. 31 - Sept. 1, 2026 (Cincinnati, Ohio)

SAP Mid-Level Security Management (SA201.01)
- July 13 - 17, 2026 (Linthicum, Md.)

Staff Spotlight: Kristina Eddins, Curriculum Manager, Industrial Security

By Tammi Bush

When it comes to protecting national security information, knowledge is power. Kristina Eddins is an integral part of building that knowledge. As a curriculum manager for DCSA Security Training , she spearheads the development of the industrial security curriculum that empowers thousands across cleared industry and government.

"What I enjoy most about the role is interacting with our stakeholders to provide the most effective training possible," Eddins said.

Beginning as a federal contractor in 2009, Eddins was responsible for providing services to government personnel and cleared industry by supporting field operations administration and research. In this capacity, she administered security conferences and training and assisted with the creation of agency procedural manuals.

Eddins became an Industrial Security Representative (ISR) in 2010, where she worked with cleared industry under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) until 2015. She was soon promoted to a Senior Industrial Security Representative with security oversight of over 130 cleared facilities. Her duties included oversight of classified information, counterintelligence, foreign ownership, control, or influence (FOCI), security education, and non-compliance issues. In addition, she acted as a liaison with government agencies on NISP compliance, security violations, and facility clearances.

In 2015, Eddins moved to Security Training as an industrial security course manager and instructor, developing and presenting course material, both in the classroom as well as in virtual environments. She has led the "Getting Started Seminar for New FSOs", transforming the course into a virtual classroom, reaching FSOs from around the country and military personnel across the globe. Eddins later transitioned to the role of project integration manager, where she was responsible for internal curriculum development, integrating DCSA HQ elements and ST. In this role,

she directed the development and launch of new foundational training for ISRs.

"What is interesting and challenging about industrial security is that it encompasses most other security disciplines in the oversight of a complete security program," Eddins said.

One of the most challenging aspects of her job is balancing the urgent timelines for training delivery with the fact that quality curriculum development takes time.

FY26 will be a busy year for Eddins and the CDSE Industrial Security program, which is actively developing a range of new products, including a key initiative to build a dedicated training program for government partners with industrial security responsibilities.

Eddins earned a bachelor's degree in Telecommunications and History at Indiana University and maintains a Security Fundamentals Professional Certification (SFPC), Security Asset Protection Professional Certification (SAPPC), Industrial Security Oversight Credential (ISOC), OPM Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) certificate. She is also a DCSA Leadership Development Program graduate and has been awarded several counterintelligence and achievement awards, including Senior Employee of the Year for ST.

In her free time, Eddins enjoys traveling, particularly to the beach, which she calls her happy place. When at the beach, Eddins thoroughly enjoys listening to the ocean, watching the waves, and glorious sunsets. She is also active in several local quilt guilds and enjoys being creative.

ABOUT DCSA

The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) provides industrial security engagement and counterintelligence support to secure the trustworthiness of the U.S. government's workforce, contract support, technologies, services, and supply chains.

Our Role
We protect America's trusted workforce, trusted workspaces, and classified information. To do so, we have two fundamental missions: personnel security and industrial security. Supporting these two core missions are counterintelligence and insider threat and security training. For over 50 years, our agency has used each of these missions to meet the threats of our nation's adversaries.

How We Serve
DCSA is the largest investigative service provider in the federal government, supporting over 100 federal entities. We oversee 12,500 cleared facilities under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). We rely on the following directorates to ensure the security of our nation's technologies and information.

Personnel Security
We deliver efficient and effective background investigations, continuous vetting, and adjudications. In doing so, we safeguard the integrity and trustworthiness of the federal and contractor workforce. We conduct background investigations for 95% of the federal government, including 105 departments and agencies. We also adjudicate 70% of the federal government's adjudicative determinations.

Industrial Security
At DCSA, we oversee 12,500 cleared facilities under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). We make sure companies are protecting their facilities, personnel, and associated IT systems from attacks and vulnerabilities.

Counterintelligence and Insider Threat
Counterintelligence and insider threat supports both our personnel security and industrial security missions. Counterintelligence focuses on foreign insider threat while insider threat is focused on internal threat. In this mission center, we identify and stop attempts by our nation's adversaries to steal sensitive national security information and technologies.

Security Training
Our agency is comprised of nationally accredited training centers. These centers provide security training, education, and certifications for security professionals across the federal government and industry.

CDSE CONTACT LIST

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STEPP (Learning Management System) Help Desk
Submit an online support request ticket or call the Help Desk at 202-753-0845 within the Washington, DC area or toll free at 833-200-0035 on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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