



**THIS  
MONTH'S  
FOCUS**

**YEAR IN REVIEW**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

January 2022 was the inaugural OPSEC Awareness Month.

Since its launch in 2020, the Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) Pulse Newsletter has proven to be a great way to share our training, education, and certification offerings with the security community. We thank you, our readers, for your support, resulting in nearly 35,000 Pulse subscribers. In 2024, the newsletter will continue to focus on security awareness topics that are timely and relevant. We invite you to share this resource with others who may benefit from it and help us reach our goal for the new year of 40,000 subscribers!

 CDSE – Center for Development of Security Excellence

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**CDSE Pulse**

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**A LOOK BACK AT CDSE IN 2023**

CDSE has been the premier provider of security training, education, and certification for the Department of Defense (DOD), and across the Federal Government for over 12 years. During Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), CDSE continued to provide the most up to date and relevant security products and services for its customers. Many in the community returned to work in person during FY23 while others continued to telework, so CDSE adapted its technology to ensure our products reach everyone in this hybrid work environment.

As the security community continues to adapt to the hybrid work environment, not only was there an increase of in-person training, but of in-person meetings and events overall. During FY23, we saw an increase of in-person stakeholder meetings to include the National Industrial Security Program Policy Advisory Committee (NISSPAC), Customer Advisory Board meetings, NCMS Chapter meetings, and more. Though most meetings also had a virtual component, there was an increased level of collaboration and overall





networking that couldn't be achieved in a purely virtual event.

The same was true for the CDSE outreach opportunities. Since the start of the pandemic, the Outreach and Engagement team focused more on the virtual events and digital publications. During FY23, the CDSE Exhibit Booth went back on the road and attended many different events to include the NCMS Annual Seminar in New Orleans, LA; National Security Institute (NSI) Impact Conference in Sterling, VA; and the Foreign Control or Influence (FOCI) Conference in Tysons, VA.

During FY23, CDSE continued to grow the products and services provided to the DOD, industry, and beyond. This ability to grow stemmed from collaboration with Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA), DOD, and

cleared industry. This collaboration was achieved through steering committees for conferences, co-hosting webinars and other virtual events, participating in countless working groups through the Federal Government and industry, and keeping abreast of stakeholder needs.

CDSE also had another record year of course completions throughout the offerings of eLearning, Virtual Instructor-led (VILTs), and Instructor-led Training (ILTs). While the virtual offerings remain popular, there was a need in the community to increase the offering of the ILTs, including expanding our mobile trainings to select locations. During FY23, there were 19 ILTs delivered, including the Getting Started Seminar delivered in New Orleans, LA and the Introduction to Special Access Programs classes delivered in Colorado and Florida.

 **4,870,883**  
Course Completions



## CDSE HOSTED CONFERENCES

CDSE hosted three virtual conferences in 2023 to increase collaboration across DOD and industry. There was record attendance across all three conferences.



### Virtual DCSA Security Conference for Industry

"Elevating Industrial Security"

April 26 - 27, 2023

2,063 Attendees



### Virtual DCSA Security Conference for DOD

"Elevating Security through

Vigilance and Innovation"

August 16 - 17, 2023

2,730 Attendees



### Virtual DCSA Conference for Insider Threat

"Bystander Engagement"

September 7, 2023

1,843 Attendees



## OPSEC AWARENESS MONTH

The Secretary of Defense has officially designated January as Operation Security (OPSEC) Awareness Month to raise awareness about OPSEC and its importance. This year's awareness campaign theme is "Preventing and Reporting Unauthorized Disclosures."

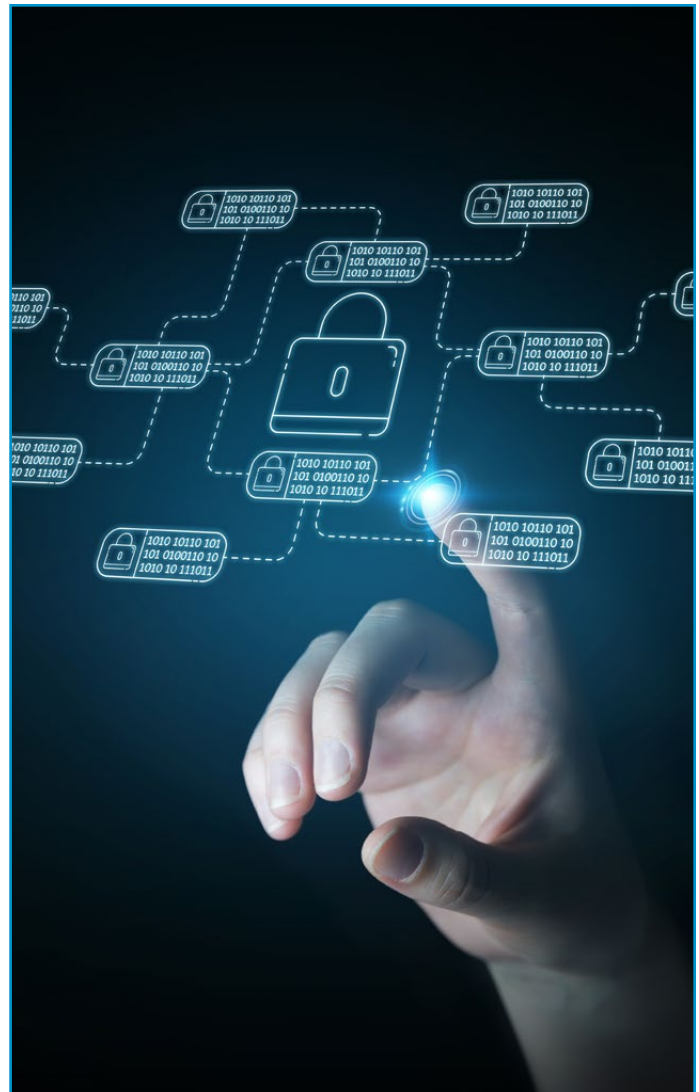
OPSEC is the process by which we protect critical information, whether it is classified or unclassified, that can be used against us. It focuses on preventing our adversaries' access to information and actions that may compromise an operation. OPSEC challenges us to look at ourselves through the eyes of an adversary and deny them the ability to act. The National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) and CDSE both offer OPSEC training and resources to aid individuals and organizations in learning about and promoting OPSEC.

CDSE has the following products (job aids, case studies, webinar, videos) to support the 2024 OPSEC theme:

- **Unauthorized Disclosure (UD) of Classified Information and Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) IF130.16**
- **DOD Unauthorized Disclosure Desk Reference**
- **How to Respond to an Unauthorized Disclosure (UD) of Classified and Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)**
- **Insider Threat Video Lesson: Unauthorized Disclosure Video Lesson: DNI Testimony**
- **Unauthorized Disclosure Toolkit**

NCSC executes the roles and responsibilities of the National Operations Security Program Office as described in the National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM)-28 and supports department and agency implementation of OPSEC programs. NCSC provides additional guidance to all Executive Branch departments and agencies to develop their programs, training, and awareness materials. Visit the NCSC OPSEC website to get access to training, posters, resources/templates, policies, and bulletins.

CDSE offers a short, online course, "OPSEC Awareness for Military Members, DOD Employees, and Contractors GS130.16," which provides information on how to protect unclassified information about operations and personal



information. The course is offered on our Security Awareness Hub (no account needed) and Security Training, Education, and Professionalization Portal (STEPP) (account required). CDSE also has an OPSEC security awareness game, SAP OPSEC, and IA Crossword Puzzle.

During January, DOD and cleared industry personnel can learn and refresh their knowledge about OPSEC polices and procedures and the importance of implementing these practices in their work and personal lives throughout the year. Hackers, spies, terrorists, and criminals are all threats looking for any opportunity to obtain your work and personal critical information. Protecting sensitive and critical information, classified and unclassified, is a shared responsibility. Practice good OPSEC to help ensure your personal and professional safety and security!



## REGISTER FOR EDUCATION SPRING SEMESTER

Registration for the CDSE Education Program spring 2024 semester is still ongoing. The spring semester classes will run from January 22 to May 19, 2024. In addition to providing 160 professional development units (PDUs) per course, which are used toward maintenance of Security Professional Education Development (SPeD) Program certifications and credentials, the Education Program offers the following benefits:

CDSE Education Division offers:

- Tuition Free & Flexible 100% virtual instructor-led courses
- Five Security Education Certificate programs
- Highly qualified instructors
- Real-world practical assignments
- Virtual networking with professionals throughout the security community

Classes fill quickly, but space is still available in several courses including the following:

**ED504.10 Understanding Adversaries and Threats to the United States and the DOD**

**ED506.10 Human Resource Management for DOD Security**

Visit the education [course webpage](#) to explore your options. To register, log into [STePP](#). If you have any questions, or need additional information, contact the [CDSE Education Program](#). Sign up today to secure your spot in the spring semester!



## 2024 VIRTUAL DCSA SECURITY CONFERENCE FOR INDUSTRY

Registration opens on Monday, January 22, for the 2024 Virtual DCSA Security Conference for Industry on February 28-29, 2024! This year's conference theme, "Investing in Security," reflects the need to provide Industry with the tools and practical application to bolster their security postures.

Conference topics include DD254s, Facility Clearance Process, CUI, Cyber Program and Capabilities, Personnel Security, panel discussions at the end of each day, and more! This event is open to cleared industry under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). Visit CDSE's [Webinars and Conferences webpage](#) to learn more and register.

## UPCOMING WEBINAR

Sign up today for the following upcoming live webinar:

**Understanding and Leveraging the Role of Counterintelligence and Law Enforcement within an Insider Threat Program**

February 7, 2024

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

This webinar will look at the changing landscape of criminal investigations and share valuable insights to enhance our security practices. This web training session will also delve into the lessons learned from the Jack Teixeira case.

Visit CDSE's [webinar webpage](#) to register for these events and join the discussion!



## FY 2024 UPCOMING COURSES

Consider signing up for one of CDSE's ILT or VILT courses! Training is free and the VILT eliminates travel expenses. Complete CDSE courses to earn PDUs toward maintenance of SPeD Program certifications and credentials. Select courses have the American Council on Education (ACE) CREDIT recommendations that may earn transfer credits at participating universities. Access the [training schedule](#) today to learn more and secure your spot! Below is a list of ILT/VILT courses available from February to May 2024. All ILT iterations are located at Linthicum, MD unless otherwise indicated.

### HIGHLIGHTED COURSES

The **DOD Security Specialist training course** provides students a baseline knowledge to perform common DOD security tasks and practices. This course provides 70 PDUs toward maintenance of SPeD Program certifications and credentials. It is also eligible for an ACE CREDIT recommendation that may earn transfer credits at participating universities and is approved for COMPTIA continuing education units (CEUs). Classes fill quickly, so register now for one of the upcoming iterations!

The **ITDAC** has just been transferred to CDSE and is now open for registration. This no cost course is offered to all Executive Branch departments and agencies and is designed for all federal insider threat program analysts from the DOD, Intelligence Community (IC), and Non-Title 50 (NT-50) communities.

This course teaches entry level Counter-Insider Threat Analysts how to apply critical thinking skills and applicable structured analytic techniques to potential insider threat indicators. Learners will also obtain and use holistic data in conjunction with the application of critical pathway theory.

Participants will also be taught the following:

- How to apply Executive Order, DOD, and IC authorities to gather holistic data while ensuring constitutional and privacy rights are maintained.
- How to execute the appropriate processes for conducting and reporting insider threat response actions from intake of an initial potential threat to mitigation of the threat.
- How to execute the procedures for disclosing mandated counterintelligence and criminal activity information to the appropriate agency/office.

Prospective students will need to complete one of two designated tracks within the Insider Threat Program curricula before registering for the ITDAC:

**Insider Threat Program Operations Personnel Curriculum**  
[INT311.CU](#)

**Insider Threat Program Management Personnel Curriculum**  
[INT312.CU](#)

| COURSE   |                          | DATE  |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| <b>DOD Security Specialist</b>                                       | CompTIA<br>ACE<br>CREDIT | <a href="#">Feb. 6 - 14, 2024</a> (ILT)<br><a href="#">Apr. 9 - 17, 2024</a> (ILT)<br><a href="#">May 20 - Jun. 16, 2024</a> (VILT)   |
| <b>Physical Security and Asset Protection</b>                        |                          | <a href="#">Mar. 25 - Apr. 14, 2024</a> (VILT)  |
| <b>Getting Started Seminar for New Facility Security Officers</b>    |                          | <a href="#">Apr. 16 - 19, 2024</a> (VILT)   |
| <b>Introduction to Special Access Programs</b>                       | CompTIA<br>ACE<br>CREDIT | <a href="#">Mar. 12 - 15, 2024</a> (ILT)<br><a href="#">Apr. 1 - 9, 2024</a> (VILT)<br><a href="#">Apr. 23 - 26, 2024</a> (ILT)<br><a href="#">May 14 - 17, 2024</a> (ILT)          |
| <b>Assessing Risk and Applying Security Controls to NISP Systems</b> | CompTIA                  | <a href="#">Mar. 18 - 22, 2024</a> (ILT)  |
| <b>Orientation to SAP Security Compliance Inspections (ILT)</b>      |                          | <a href="#">Feb. 21 - 22, 2024</a> (ILT)  |
| <b>Insider Threat Detection Analysis Course (ITDAC)</b>              | CompTIA                  | <a href="#">Feb. 26 - Mar. 1, 2024</a> (VILT)<br><a href="#">Mar. 18 - 22, 2024</a> (VILT)<br><a href="#">Apr. 15 - 19, 2024</a> (VILT)<br><a href="#">May 20 - 24, 2024</a> (VILT) |





## WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE SAYING

### GS130\_OPSEC AWARENESS FOR MILITARY MEMBERS, DOD EMPLOYEES, AND CONTRACTORS:

"Great course. Subjects were clearly presented and understandable."

"The course increased my knowledge and provoked thought."

"The identification of OPSEC is a helpful classification. It helps me be more aware of potential threats."

"The exam questions required you to think through some of the definitions in the course, especially the one identifying an indicator. I liked the brevity of the course and there was just enough repetition to make sure you understood the content, but not too much. Great course!"

### IF130.16 UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE (UD) OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION (CUI):

"Great Questions and Great Refreshers!!"

"What you see here, what you hear here, what you do here - it stays here" was new to me. I'm glad to see it being used in this material."

"Very enjoyable training with great examples."

"Excellent."



## SPeD CPTS NOW LOCATED IN STEPP

All SPeD competency preparatory tools (CPTs) have been moved to STEPP. Each SPeD certification and credential has a CPT which help applicants prepare for their SPeD assessments. CPTs and their references are aligned with the April 2023 DOD Security Skill Standards (DS3) and the Defense Security Essential Body of Knowledge (D-SEBOK), which is the DOD security community's expectations of what a security professional needs to know to perform various aspects of their jobs. The CPTs provide an overall scope of what may be in the assessment, but not every topic in the CPT will be covered in the assessment.

To access and use the CPTs, users should take the following 4 steps:

1. Log-in to **STEPP**
2. Type "CPT" into the search bar and click the "Go" button, or enter
3. Select the appropriate CPT, click "Enroll me"
4. Download and review

Contact your **DOD SPeD Component PMO** or email [dcsa.spedcert@mail.mil](mailto:dcsa.spedcert@mail.mil) with any questions.

## CDSE NEWS

CDSE offers an email subscriber news service to get the latest CDSE news, updates, and information. You may be receiving the Pulse through your subscription, but if you were forwarded this newsletter from another source and would like to subscribe to the Pulse or one of our other topics, visit our [news page](#) and sign up or update your account today.

Insider Threat  
Bulletins

Weekly  
Flash

Quarterly  
Product Update

