



**THIS  
MONTH'S  
FOCUS**

**CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

**CUI AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DOD**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*Authorized Holders are individuals, agencies, organizations, or groups of users that are permitted to designate or handle Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) in accordance with 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2002.*



Safeguarding classified and sensitive information is one of the most critical ways to maintain our national security. There are adversarial individuals and groups who make it their mission to gain access to critical information in hopes of weakening the United States. Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) is government-created or owned unclassified information that must be safeguarded from unauthorized disclosure. CUI is an overarching term representing many different categories, each authorized by one or more laws, regulations, or government-wide policies. Because there are fewer controls over CUI as compared to classified information, CUI is an attractive target for adversaries. Loss of aggregated CUI is a

significant risk to national security and can have a negative impact on the lethality of our warfighters. This article will explain the history of CUI, the importance of CUI, how it differs from classified information, who provides CUI guidance, and where to learn more about it.

The concept for CUI began in 2004 when the 9/11 Commission Report recommended the horizontal sharing of intelligence information, transcending individual agencies. Executive Order 13556 (The Order) established a comprehensive CUI Program in November

2010. The Order designated the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to serve as the Executive Agent (EA) to implement and oversee agency actions to ensure compliance with the Order. On September 14, 2016, section 2002.4 of Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), defined CUI as "information the Government creates or possesses, or that an entity creates or possesses for or on behalf of the Government, that a law, regulation, or Government-wide policy requires or permits an agency to handle using safeguarding or dissemination controls." On March 6, 2020, the



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## CUI AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DOD (CONT'D)

DOD established DOD CUI policy with the release of DoD Instruction 5200.48, "Controlled Unclassified Information."

The establishment of the CUI program was a defining moment in the DOD's information security program, formally acknowledging that certain types of unclassified information are extremely sensitive, valuable to the United States, sought after by strategic competitors and adversaries, and often have legal safeguarding requirements. Unlike classified national security information, DOD personnel at all levels of responsibility and across all mission areas receive, handle, create, and disseminate CUI. CUI policy provides a uniform marking system across the Federal Government that replaces a variety of agency-specific markings, such as FOUO (For Official Use Only), LES (Law Enforcement Sensitive), SBU (Sensitive But Unclassified), etc. FOUO is still used on legacy information, but is not authorized for new information. The CUI program enables timely and consistent information sharing. CUI also increases transparency between federal and non-federal stakeholders/partners.

There are several differences between CUI and classified information. CUI is not a classification and should not be referred to as "classified as CUI." A more accurate way to phrase it is "controlled as CUI." It is a safeguarding system for UNCLASSIFIED information. CUI and Classified National Security Information (CNSI) have separate, co-equal Executive Orders and implementing directives.

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (OUSD(I&S)) Information Security (INFOSEC) office provides policy guidance to DOD for the identification and protection of CUI in accordance with national-level policy issuances. It also promotes information sharing, facilitates judicious use of resources, and simplifies management through the implementation of uniform and standardized processes. Additionally, the OUSD(I&S) INFOSEC office employs, maintains, and enforces standards for safeguarding, storing, destroying, transmitting, and transporting CUI. It also actively promotes and implements security education and training throughout the DOD, and mitigates the adverse effects of



unauthorized access to CUI by investigating and acting upon reports of security violations and compromises.

One of the main DOD resources for learning about CUI is the **DOD CUI Mandatory training**. This course is mandatory training for all of DOD and, when required by contract, industry personnel with access to CUI and provides information on the training requirements for accessing, marking, safeguarding, decontrolling and destroying CUI along with the procedures for identifying and reporting security incidents.

As of 6 June, there have been 1,368,031 completions for the DoD Mandatory Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) training IF141.06.

OUSD(I&S) hosts the DOD CUI website, which offers information on policy, training, desktop aids, and news. The site also hosts the **DOD CUI registry**, which is a repository of policy guidance and the official list of the categories used to identify the various types of CUI. CDSE's **CUI toolkit** provides information on the DOD CUI program to include policy documents, resources, and training.

CUI is currently being implemented in DOD and other Government agencies. Once CUI is fully implemented, DOD and other federal agencies will no longer be bogged down with different markings and procedures from various organizations. This will allow us to create a better, more unified system to protect unclassified information that needs to be safeguarded in support of national security.



## CUI AND INDUSTRY

In May 2018, the OUSD(I&S) designated DCSA as the administrator of the DOD CUI Program for contractually established CUI requirements for contractors in classified contracts. DCSA is in the process of establishing a team to manage CUI responsibilities. The Critical Technology Protection (CTP) Enterprise Security Operations (ESO) Office is the lead office with

respect to the DCSA CUI Oversight Mission and industry. At this time, DCSA is not conducting any oversight of CUI associated with classified contracts/cleared contractors, but will continue to keep both Government and industry informed on any implementation of CUI oversight responsibilities before they occur.

CDSE has developed an eLearning course titled “DOD Mandatory Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Training For Contractors (IF141.06. FY21.CTR).” At the request of the Government Contracting Activity for contracts with CUI requirements, the course is mandatory training for all DOD and, when required by contract, industry personnel with access to

CUI. The course provides information on the 11 training requirements for accessing, marking, safeguarding, decontrolling and destroying CUI, along with the procedures for identifying and reporting security incidents. Visit the [DCSA CUI webpage](#) for information and news for industry personnel to include a [CUI Info Sheet](#) and [CUI Quick Reference Guide](#).

## CUI RESOURCES

There are several organizations that provide policy information, CUI registries, job aids, training, and news regarding CUI. Learn more about CUI by viewing the following resources:

Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE)	CUI Toolkit	<a href="https://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/cui/current.html">https://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/cui/current.html</a>
Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA)	CUI Webpage	<a href="https://www.dcsa.mil/mc/ctp/cui/">https://www.dcsa.mil/mc/ctp/cui/</a>
Department of Defense (DOD)	CUI Program Website	<a href="https://www.dodcui.mil/">https://www.dodcui.mil/</a>
Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO)	CUI Website CUI Training CUI Blog	<a href="https://www.archives.gov/cui">https://www.archives.gov/cui</a> <a href="https://www.dodcui.mil/Home/Training/">https://www.dodcui.mil/Home/Training/</a> <a href="https://isoo.blogs.archives.gov/">https://isoo.blogs.archives.gov/</a>
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	CUI Web	<a href="https://www.archives.gov/cui">https://www.archives.gov/cui</a>



## UPCOMING SPEAKER SERIES AND WEBINARS

CDSE invites you to **sign up** for our upcoming Speaker Series:



### **Overview of Continuous Vetting (CV) Methodology**

Wednesday, June 16, 2021  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

### **Understanding the DCSA Security Review and Rating Process**

Thursday, June 24, 2021  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

### **NATO Control Point**

Thursday, July 8, 2021  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

### **Overview of Personnel Vetting Methodology**

Wednesday, July 21, 2021  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

### **Organizational Culture and Countering Insider Threat: Best Practice Examples from the Marine Corps**

Thursday, July 29, 2021  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

### **Overview of the National Background Investigation Services (NBIS)**

Thursday, August 26, 2021  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

## REGISTER NOW FOR 2021 DOD VIRTUAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 2021 DOD Virtual Security Conference on August 3 - 5! This year's conference theme is "Collaborative Resilience: Vision Turns to Reality in Security Today." The agenda will include policy change and implementation updates on topics such as Operations Security, Insider Threat, Collaboration Peripherals, NISP/ NISPOM Updates, and CUI. The conference is open to .gov and .mil email holders. **Sign up today!**



## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR FALL 2021 SEMESTER OF CDSE TUITION-FREE EDUCATION CLASSES

Registration is now open for the Fall semester of CDSE Education classes that run from August 23 to December 17, 2021. Classes fill quickly, so please register early to secure your spot in the Fall semester. Registration is open to U.S. Government civilian employees and U.S. military service members.

The courses include reading, research, and writing assignments similar to a three credit, collegiate-level course. A significant time commitment is required, but the commitment will be worth the effort. The courses are

online, tuition free, and allow students the flexibility to collaborate with each other and Subject Matter Expert (SME) instructors.

You can learn more about the classes being offered and register for them by accessing the links on our **Education Page**.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, contact the CDSE Education Division at: **[dss.ncr.dss-cdse.mbx.cdse-education@mail.mil](mailto:dss.ncr.dss-cdse.mbx.cdse-education@mail.mil)**



## SAVE THE DATE: 2021 INSIDER THREAT VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for the 2021 Insider Threat Virtual Conference, hosted jointly by the DCSA and the OUSD(I&S). This virtual event will bring together security professionals and policy makers from across the U.S. Government and industry to kick off the National Insider Threat Awareness Month (NITAM) campaign. The theme for this year's conference and campaign is Cultural Awareness and Insider Threat. Registration opens August 2, 2021.

## CDSE WINS SIX OMNI AWARDS

CDSE won one Gold and five Silver Omni Awards:

Unauthorized Disclosure (UD) of Classified Information and Controlled Unclassified Information	Gold Winner, Government
National Insider Threat Awareness Month Website	Silver Winner, Government
Insider Threat Sentry Mobile App	Silver, Government
Insider Threat Resilience Animation Video	Silver, Government
DOD Mandatory Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Training	Silver, Government
Physical Security Virtual Environment Assessment	Silver, Government

The Omni Awards exist to recognize outstanding achievements in film/video, web, and mobile media. Since 2008, CDSE has won over 90 Omni Awards for various security shorts, virtual simulations, eLearning courses, and practical exercises in the categories of Education and Government.

## NATIONAL INSIDER THREAT AWARENESS MONTH (NITAM) CULTURAL AWARENESS VIDEO COMPETITION



DCSA and its partners in the Counter-Insider Threat community would like to hear about your organization's daily actions to create a positive workplace culture. To participate, create an original video clip (between 30 - 45 seconds long) relevant to Cultural Awareness or

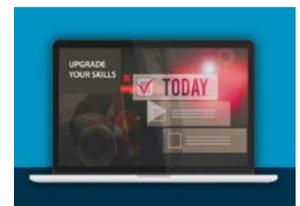
any of the sub-themes: Toxic Workplaces, Leadership and Top-Down Culture, Microaggressions in the Workplace, and Work-Life Stressors. Competition winners will receive recognition during the Annual Virtual Insider Threat Conference. Learn more about the competition here! (hyperlink "here" to <https://www.cdse.edu/itawareness/video-competition.html>)

## NEW PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSAS)

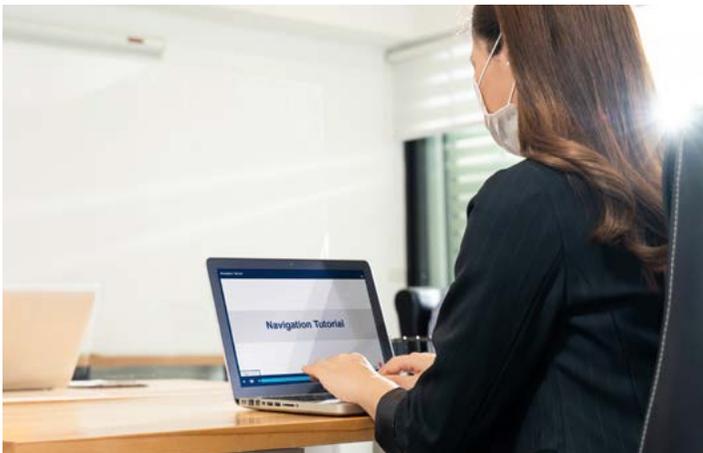
Check out CDSE's new PSAs:

**Professional Affiliation.** Learn about our Professional Affiliations, including the American Council on Education (ACE), the Council on Occupational Education (COE), the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), and CompTIA with our new PSA, which can be viewed [here](#).

**Training vs. Education.** Learn about the differences between our Education and Training Programs with our new PSA, which can be viewed [here](#).



**Industry.** Learn all about what CDSE has to offer industrial security professionals under the NISP with our new PSA, which can be viewed [here](#).



## STEPP COURSE TUTORIAL

**ARE YOU HAVING ISSUES NAVIGATING WITHIN A COURSE OR MANIPULATING THE COURSE WINDOW TO SEE THE BUTTONS?**

Whether you are new to STEPP or an experienced learner, we recommend you review this course tutorial to understand the user interface of our predominant courses and how to setup your system for optimum performance and ease of navigation. A menu is provided in the tutorial so you may go directly to a topic of interest if desired. The Course Tutorial is located in the STEPP FAQs and in the "Need Help" section on every STEPP page.



### WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

#### Course: DOD Mandatory Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Training

*"This training course was very accurate according to policy. The training beautifully outlined the policy and clearly communicated my responsibilities as an authorized holder of CUI. The entire course was aesthetically pleasing and easy to navigate. The course appropriately covered all of the learning objectives. The exam questions were appropriate and challenging. CDSE did an excellent job putting this course together."*

– Student

#### Course: Unauthorized Disclosure (UD) of Classified Information and Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) IF130.16

*"This was one of the best computer-based training courses I have taken in the DoD. It was very informative and well put together. Great job!"*

– Student

