THIS MONTH'S FOCUS

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

MENTAL HEALTH AND NATIONAL SECURITY ELIGIBILITY

Since 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a cornerstone of addressing the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions. This year's theme asks people to "Take the Moment" and encourages open dialogues, cultivating empathy and understanding. This campaign also champions normalizing the practice of taking moments to prioritize mental health care without guilt or shame.

Seeking mental health care will not impact your national security eligibility and should not be stigmatized. Mental health care is a positive course of action that often mitigates security concerns, but avoiding it can increase risk. Solid coping skills, drawing upon ways to problem solve, will allow you to feel and perform better when under stress. Seek support and assistance when needed, such as through your organization's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) or similar programs. Mindfulness and meditation are two useful emotion-focused coping techniques and there are many books and apps which can help develop these skills.

One of the biggest questions surrounding mental health and security is what actions are reportable in association with Section 21, Psychological and Emotional Health, of the Standard Form 86, Questionnaire for National Security Positions. The DoD Manual 5200.02, Enclosure 11 and Security Executive Agent Directive 3 outlines possible thresholds for what would merit reporting:

- Declarations of mental incompetence by a court or administrative agency
- Court-ordered mental health care or evaluation (inpatient or outpatient)
- Hospitalizations for mental health conditions (voluntary or involuntary)
- Diagnoses of the following conditions by a health care professional:
  - Psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or delusional disorder
  - Bipolar mood disorders
  - Personality disorders such as borderline personality disorder or antisocial personality disorder
  - Developing a mental health or other health condition that substantially affects judgment, reliability, or trustworthiness

(Please note that there is NO diagnosis that is considered automatically disqualifying)

DID YOU KNOW?

2024 is the 75th Anniversary of Mental Health Awareness Month.

It is important to have factual data to counter the myth that an individual is likely to lose or fail to gain national security eligibility after seeking mental health care or experiencing mental health symptoms. The denial and revocation statistics in the graphic above show this is not the case. To learn more, view the DCSA Mental Health and Security **Fact Sheet** and the **FAQs**.

On May 7, CDSE hosted the "Mental Health and National Security Eligibility" webinar to further support the messages of this awareness month. It featured a panel of experts from the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency's (DCSA) Adjudication and Vetting Services (AVS) and DOD Insider Threat Management and Analysis Center (DITMAC), as well as Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals (DOHA). They discussed the stigmas and concerns regarding seeking behavioral health treatment and how it affects security clearance eligibility.

Panelists included Dr. Rebecca A. Blood, PHD, the Installation Director of Psychological Services at Fort Meade in Maryland and the Regional Forensic Consultant to the Office of The Surgeon General for the eastern part

of the United States; Dr. Michael Priester, PHD, the Chief Behavioral Scientist for AVS under Personnel Security (PS) within DCSA; Dr. Phillip Atkinson, PHD, an Operational Psychologist currently serving as a Senior Behavioral Science Advisor at DITMAC; Dr. Elisabeth Jean-Jacques, PHD, a senior staff psychologist at AVS; Mrs. Jessica Belschner, a Branch Technical Lead in the Behavioral Science Branch at AVS; and Andrea Corrales, the Deputy Chief Department Counsel with DOHA.

We had over 1,000 participants in this webinar who not only listened to the experts on the panel, but asked them questions, and received actionable take-aways from the event. The knowledge from this webinar will be preserved in a recording on our **webinar and conference page** along with the Q&As from the event.

This is the 75-year anniversary of mental health awareness month. Techniques and conversations surrounding mental health continue to evolve, but there is always room for improvement. Seeking help and eliminating stigmas is difficult, but necessary work. While doing the work, it is also important to take a moment to reflect on how far we've come.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TOOLS

CDSE has a new tool to help with reporting requirements under the Security Executive Agent Directive (SEAD) 3. This interactive tool walks through the purpose of SEAD 3 and helps users recognize standards and conditions that are required to be reported. Check out the new tool **here**.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FALL EDUCATION CLASSES

The CDSE Education Program's Fall 2024 Semester registration opened on May 1. The fall semester classes will run from August 19 to December 15. Classes fill quickly, so please register early to secure your spot in the spring semester.

CDSE Education Program offers:

- Tuition-free & flexible 100% virtual instructor-led courses
- Five security education post-baccalaureate certificate programs
- Highly qualified instructors
- Real-world practical assignments
- Virtual networking with professionals throughout the security community

You can learn more about the classes being offered and register for them by accessing the links **here**.

To register, log into **STEPP**.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, contact the **CDSE Education Division**.
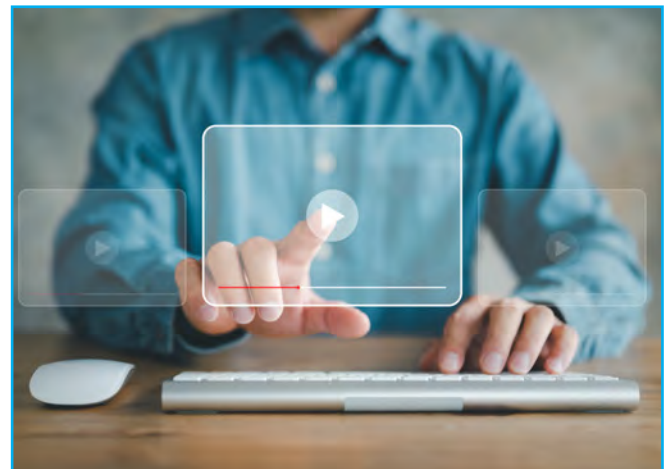
NEW CUI SHORTS NOW AVAILABLE

CDSE recently released the following four new Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) shorts, which were designed to provide learners with the "how-to" of common tasks related to protecting and handling CUI:

CUI Life Cycle Short #1: Create/Identify & Designate CUI: CUI Life Cycle Short #1 exemplifies for the DOD workforce how to create, identify, and designate information as CUI in accordance with DODI 5200.48, Controlled Unclassified Information.

CUI Life Cycle Short #2: Safeguarding Part 1 – Marking CUI: CUI Life Cycle Short #2 provides the DOD workforce with clear examples and guidance on how safeguard CUI by implementing the minimum marking requirements in accordance with DODI 5200.48, Controlled Unclassified Information.

CUI Life Cycle Short #3: Safeguarding Part 2 & Sharing: CUI Life Cycle Short #3 provides specific examples and guidance for the DOD workforce on how to safeguard CUI when handling, storing, and sharing it in accordance with DODI 5200.48, Controlled Unclassified Information.

CUI Life Cycle Short #4: Destroying and Decontrolling CUI: CUI Life Cycle Short #4 provides specific examples and guidance for the DOD workforce on how to destroy and decontrol CUI in accordance with DODI 5200.48, Controlled Unclassified Information.

NEW PERSONNEL VETTING SHORT NOW AVAILABLE

CDSE recently released the new "Continuous Vetting Awareness" short. This short provides a detailed overview of Continuous Vetting and addresses its policies, purpose, and the role it plays in maintaining a trusted workforce. It will also help you understand what to expect when you are in Continuous Vetting. Visit **here** to view our latest short.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

CDSE webinars are a great way to gain insight into various security topics and interact with security experts. Webinars can also be used as professional development units (PDUs) in support of SPēD certification maintenance. Sign up today for the following upcoming live webinars:

Behavioral Threat Analysis to Mitigate Perceived Risk
May 16, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET

Dr. Tabassum "Shumi" Rahman-Rawlins and Mr. Ian Stubblefield, subject matter experts from the Behavioral Threat Analysis Center, DOD Insider Threat Management & Analysis Center, will present a briefing on "Behavioral Threat Analysis to Mitigate Perceived Risk."

Visit CDSE's **webinar webpage** to register for these events and join the discussion!

We recently added several webinars to the archives. Visit our webinar archive if you missed these or other webinars, would like a refresh on the webinar, or want to share with colleagues.

NEW VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE ON DVIDS

CDSE has two new videos available on the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS) platform:

Insider Threat Video Witting and Unwitting: Unexpected Capacity

In the animated series, "Witting and Unwitting", executive Marc Connors is overlooked for a promotion that goes to a colleague instead. Frustrated and disgruntled, Marc disrupts corporate operations in an effort to retaliate for his perceived rejection and cause as much damage to the company as he can, in secrecy. In episode three, "Unexpected Capacity", Marc and a colleague attempt to defraud the corporation by falsifying financial information and covering their tracks, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) gets involved in an investigation of prior hacking incidents at the company.

Capturing Electronic Fingerprints

This video demonstrates methods to take successful electronic fingerprints. It reviews fingerprint categories, and common challenges to obtaining useable fingerprints and techniques to overcome those challenges.

FY 2024 UPCOMING COURSES

Consider signing up for one of CDSE's instructor-led (ILT) or virtual instructor-led (VILT) courses. Training is free and travel expenses are eliminated for VILT courses. Take CDSE courses to earn PDUs toward maintenance of SPēD Program certifications and credentials. Select courses also have ACE CREDIT recommendations that may earn transfer credits at participating universities and/or are approved for CEU credit toward some CompTIA certification renewals. Access the **training schedule** today to learn more and secure your spot. Below is a list of ILT/VILT courses available from May to August. All ILT iterations are located at Linthicum, MD unless indicated otherwise.

COURSE	DATE	RECOMMENDATION
DOD Security Specialist	June 4 -12 (ILT) Aug. 6 - 14 (ILT) Aug. 14 - Sept. 15 (VILT)	ACE CREDIT CompTIA
Physical Security and Asset Protection	July 22 - 26 (ILT)	
Getting Started Seminar for New Facility Security Officers	Aug. 20 - 23 (VILT)	
Introduction to Special Access Programs (Huntsville, AL)	Sept. 10 - 13 (ILT)	ACE CREDIT CompTIA
Assessing Risk and Applying Security Controls to NISP Systems	June 24 - 28 (ILT) July 15 -19 (ILT)	CompTIA
Insider Threat Detection Analysis Course (ITDAC)	June 24 - 28 (VILT) July 15 - 19 (VILT) Aug. 12 - 16 (VILT)	
Introduction to Special Access Programs	June 3 - 11 (VILT)	ACE CREDIT CompTIA
Orientation to SAP Security Compliance Inspections (WPAFB, OH)	Aug. 6 - 7 (ILT)	
SAP Mid-Level Security Management	July 8 - 12 (ILT)	ACE CREDIT CompTIA

★★★★★ WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE SAYING

FUNDAMENTALS OF NATIONAL SECURITY ADJUDICATION PS101.01:

"This was a great class and clarified a lot of topics for me which I was foggy on coming into the class. The instructors were excellent!"

"I will be able to provide some of the critical thinking I ascertained while being here. Along with applying a better understanding of SEAD 4, being able to interact and feed off of each other in a group setting so was beneficial."

"The entire team was professional and very knowledgeable about the content. Other than the content of the course, I truly appreciate the professional attire and attitude. The environment was conducive to learn and participate."

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.

UPCOMING SECURITY SPECIALIST TRAINING

Are you a security specialist who wants to gain a baseline knowledge to perform common DOD security tasks and practices? If so, sign up for one of CDSE's instructor-led training (ILT) or virtual instructor-led training (VILT) DOD Security Specialist training courses. Training is free and the VILT eliminates travel expenses. Complete the course to earn PDUs toward maintenance of SPēD Program certifications and credentials. This course is approved for Continuing Education Units (CEU) credit toward several CompTIA certification renewals and has an ACE CREDIT recommendation that may earn transfer credits at participating universities.

Visit **DOD Security Specialist GS101.01** or **DOD Security Specialist Course VILT GS101.10** to learn more and register.