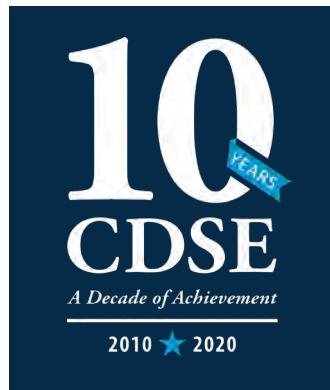




THIS  
MONTH'S  
FOCUS

## 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



During its inaugural year, the Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) Pulse proved 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, which resulted in over 9,400 subscribers in our first year. In 2020, the security awareness newsletter focused on specific security disciplines and CDSE programs each month. In 2021, the Pulse will feature security topics of interest to our readership starting with a look back at CDSE's 2020 highlights.

### DID YOU KNOW?

*In March of last year, CDSE celebrated 10 years of service to the security community!*

## 2020: A YEAR OF ADAPTATION

The year 2020 was one of adaptation for CDSE. With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting training schoolhouses and other industries, CDSE was called upon to assist with several high level, mission critical Department of Defense (DOD) training and federal/industry initiatives. These initiatives included Operation Warp Speed (OWS), the Operations Security (OPSEC) campaign, transitioning our core instructor-led courses into an online environment, developing Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) training, and digital badging, while ensuring the DOD and cleared industry continued to

have access to top quality training, education, and certification products during the pandemic.

Changes brought on by COVID-19 created a need for specific, pandemic-related training and resources, in addition to the normal ongoing cycle of product design and development. One of these new resources was a **toolkit** for cleared and un-cleared industry partners working on the OWS program. The goal for the OWS program was to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics,

and diagnostics (collectively known as countermeasures). In addition to the toolkit, CDSE also assisted in

*“Rather than rolling back during COVID-19, Lietzau noted the agency continues to barrel forward, including increasing training offered by the Center for the Development of Security Excellence (CDSE), enhancing industrial security, and overhauling the agency’s IT infrastructure.”*

—Excerpt from ClearanceJobs, “How Long Does It Take to Get a Security Clearance? – Q4 2020 Update.”

Full article: <https://news.clearancejobs.com/2020/11/18/how-long-does-it-take-to-get-a-security-clearance-q4-2020-update/>



CDSE – Center for Development of Security Excellence



@TheCDSE



Center for Development of Security Excellence



## 2020: A YEAR OF ADAPTATION (CONT'D)

producing training webinars that helped companies involved with OWS understand potential security risks. Assisting with OWS allowed CDSE to support a high-priority undertaking, crucial to our nation.

Another national-level interest initiative was the OPSEC campaign, a series of online courses and a video the Secretary of Defense mandated all government personnel and contractors complete within a span of only a few months. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (OUSDI&S) requested CDSE help create a platform to deliver these courses to millions of personnel in an effort to reduce unauthorized release of national security information. Thus, the team worked to ensure that the CDSE training platforms could accommodate the needs of the campaign. Though challenges occurred during

the campaign, CDSE fast-tracked resolving all issues, all while still maintaining the usual workload. At the end of the OPSEC Campaign in November, 4,307,319 completions were recorded.

In the early months of the pandemic, some of CDSE's core courses for security professionals could only be accessed in an in-person, instructor-led training (ILT) format. When the ILTs were postponed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, CDSE got to work on transitioning those courses to a virtual instructor-led training (VILT) environment. Some were transitioned in only a few months, as opposed to the usual nine to twelve months of a normal development cycle. "Our goal is 100 percent, right, [sic] that all of our offerings can be accessed virtually," said DCSA Deputy Assistant Director (Training) Erika Ragonese. "We probably trained about 200 security professionals that would

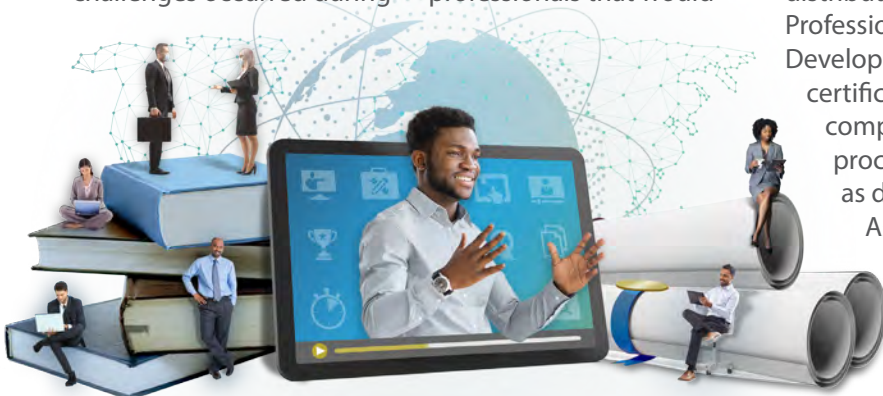
not have been trained if we didn't move quickly and get those into an online format by the end of the year."


In the midst of these new initiatives, CUI training requirements also came to the forefront. The DOD CUI training went live in October for approximately four million DOD government employees and on-site government contractors. CDSE staff worked in record time to get this new course launched on STEPP (our learning management system), the Security Awareness Hub, and the new USD(I&S) CUI [website](#). At the end of 2020, we had 414,484 completions of the CUI course.

We've also had to adapt our methods of communication, use new platforms, and explore new ways to keep the security mission moving forward. Part of this was transitioning from distributing our Security Professional Education Development (SPeD) certificates manually to a completely automated process, also known as digital badging. As part of the automating process, all the certification data was

migrated to one system: the Pearson Credential Manager. In the fiscal year, 8,755 digital badges were issued to SPeD certification holders through Credly's Acclaim platform. This represents thousands of badges for security professionals who no longer have to wait months to receive a physical certificate.

Shutdowns and stay-at-home orders were used in 2020 to impede the spread of COVID-19, but national security does not shut down. "Everything we've done has been adaptation. We had no choice but to continue the mission and to figure out how to do things differently," Ms. Ragonese stated. We will continue to use lessons learned from 2020, as well as leverage new technologies to ensure that we will have a virtual alternative for all of our training. No matter how long the pandemic lasts, or what other obstacles may arise in the future, CDSE will continue to adapt to support the training, education, and certification needs of DOD and cleared industry.



 During the 2020 fiscal year, CDSE had over 5.2 million course completions!



## TOP VIEWED PERFORMANCE SUPPORT TOOLS

Last year, our performance support tools became more popular than ever. Here are some of the most viewed resources:

### WEBINARS

- **Assessment and Remediation Using the SCAP Tool and POA&M Template**
- **Implementing Effective Physical Security Countermeasures**
- **SPeD - Physical Security Certification**

### JOB AIDS

- **Marking Classified Information**
- **Self-Inspection Handbook for NISP Contractors**
- **Tales from the Inside: Volume I**

### CASE STUDIES

- **Unauthorized Disclosure: Bryan Martin**
- **Insider Threat: Charles Eccleston**
- **Insider Threat: Stewart David Nozette**

### VIDEOS

- **Episode 1 - An odd encounter with Tim**
- **How to Take Successful Electronic Fingerprints**
- **Packaging Classified Documents**

### SECURITY AWARENESS GAMES

- **Cybersecurity Trivia Twirl**
- **Insider Threat Concentration**
- **Insider Threat Trivia Twirl**

### SECURITY POSTERS

- **Supply Chain Resilience**
- **Responsibility**
- **Unauthorized Disclosure**



## CDSE WINS 2020 BRANDON HALL AWARD

CDSE won a 2020 Brandon Hall Group Excellence in Technology Bronze Award under the category "Best Advance in Rewards and Recognition Technology" for our digital badging initiative. Entries were evaluated by an international panel of independent industry experts, Brandon Hall

Group senior analysts, and the Brandon Hall Group executive leadership team. Each winner was selected through a rigorous judging process. Judging was based on the following criteria: fit the need, design of the program, functionality, innovation, and overall measurable benefits. The winners are listed [here](#).

## NEW INSIDER THREAT EDUCATION COURSE

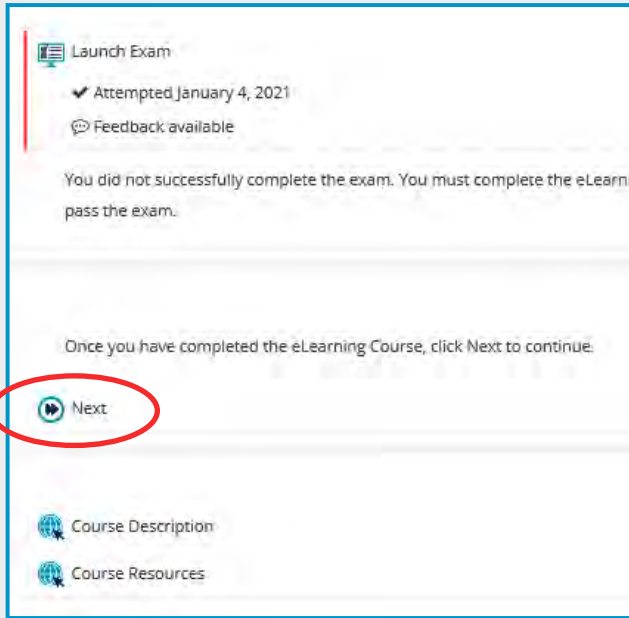
CDSE added "Foundations of Insider Threat Management" to its Education Program. This course is designed to introduce students to the risks posed by trusted insiders, including the psychological motivations, predispositions, and behaviors associated with this group. The course was

developed in partnership with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (OUSD(I&S)) and National Insider Threat Task Force (NITTF). This course fills up quickly; [learn more](#) and sign up early for the Fall 2021 semester when registration opens.

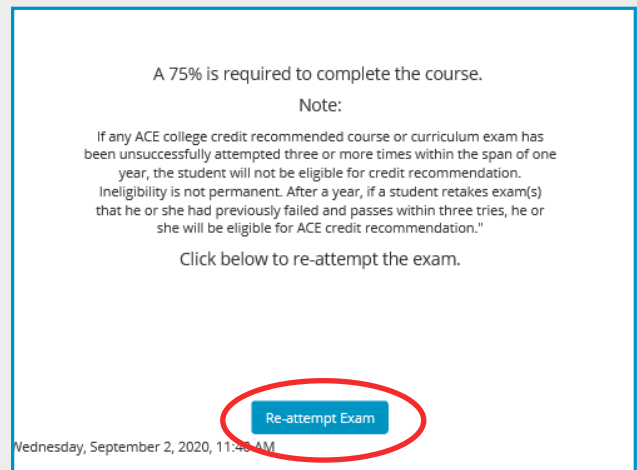


## UNSUCCESSFUL ON YOUR FIRST EXAM ATTEMPT IN STEPP?

If you are unsuccessful at passing an eLearning course exam, STEPP is now configured to allow you to retake that exam. However, students wishing to retake an eLearning course exam must first complete the corresponding eLearning course again.



1. Upon failing the exam on the first attempt and retaking the course, students will be presented with a "Next" option below the "Launch Exam" option on the course page.



2. Selecting "Next" will open a "Re-attempt Exam" button for students who have successfully retaken the eLearning course since the previous failed exam.

## UPCOMING SPEAKER SERIES

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

**The Ins and Outs of the Foreign Travel Brief**  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

**Insider Threat and Prevention, Assistance, and Response (PAR) Capabilities**  
Thursday, January 28, 2021  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

**EPMO and Insider Threat**  
Thursday, March 4, 2021  
12:00 p.m. – 1 p.m. ET

**Organizational Culture and Countering Insider Threat: Best Practice Examples from the Marine Corps Insider Threat Hub**  
Thursday, July 29, 2021  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET





### WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

#### DoD Security Specialist Course (GS101.01)

*"Just wanted to send you a quick message of gratitude. I am really enjoying this course and appreciate everything you and your staff offer to make us better security professionals."*

– Anonymous

*"Also, I would like to note that the Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) is an excellent resource for security professionals and there is a wealth of information in the Information Security Toolkit section on handling and protection of classified information. Any training or forms that a security manager would need could be located here, this is honestly my go to place for my training and education resources."*

– Anonymous

#### Fall 2020 Education Semester

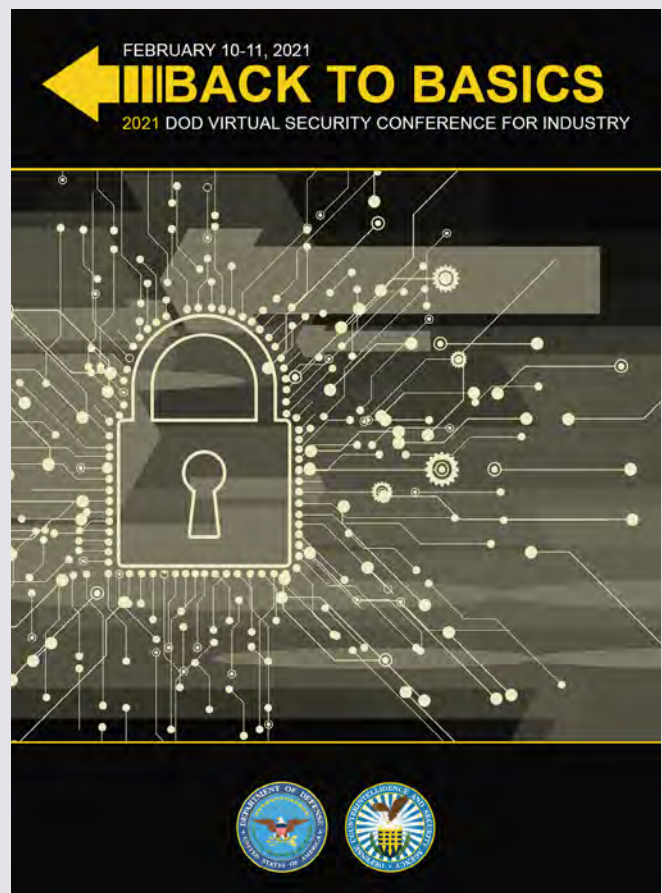
*"Team, I've been a "Security Professional" since 1979, and this is the first time I've had the opportunity to measure what I think I know and what I need to know. Thank you for your insight, and I believe this learning environment is conducive for creating "Security's Finest." I enjoyed the course tremendously! It was nice to get back into the swing of school work, it's been almost ten years since my last grad course. I appreciate everyone's participation and especially the Professors' guidance."*

– Anonymous



## 2021 DVSCI

The 2021 DOD Virtual Security Conference for Industry (DVSCI) is scheduled for February 10 and 11, 2021! This year's conference theme is "Back to Basics." The agenda will include updates on changes to the Industrial Security and Personnel Vetting policies and topics such as, How to Run an Effective Insider Threat Program, Controlled Unclassified Information, and more. The conference is open to cleared industry falling under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) - Facility Security Officers (FSO), Assistant FSOs, Directors of Security, Insider Threat Program Senior Officials, Information System Security Managers, and Senior Management Officials.



Registration is currently at capacity. Stay tuned for information about recorded sessions available for release.  
[https://cdse.acms.com/dvsci2021/event/event\\_info.html](https://cdse.acms.com/dvsci2021/event/event_info.html)