DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

2026 VIRTUAL DCSA SECURITY CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 14 - 18, 2026 | PROTECT OUR POTENTIAL

INDUSTRY FOCUSED AGENDA | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

TIME (ET)	SESSION
9:00 - 9:30	**Opening & Welcome | Jeffrey Sgarlata**
9:35 - 10:15	**NISP Operations Updates | Misty Crabtree** Operational updates, fiscal year outlook and priority efforts.
10:20 - 10:35	**Cleared Industry Update | Ike Rivers** Provide an update on current industry activities. This session will highlight critical opportunities for cleared industry partners to engage with key stakeholders, outline how contractors engage DCSA on industrial security information, and reinforce the vital role industry plays in safeguarding national security information.
10:35 - 10:50	**Break | ST**
10:50 - 11:35	**Entity Vetting Updates | Matthew Kitzman** Entity Vetting will provide updates regarding vetting operations, including timelines and quality, process changes and improvements, and risk trends. In addition, Entity Vetting will discuss the status of the expanded foreign ownership, control, or influence (FOCI) mission (Section 847).
11:40 - 12:35	**NISP Cybersecurity Office Updates | William Vaughn** Operational updates, fiscal year outlook and priority efforts for NISP and CORA.
12:35 - 1:20	**Lunch | ST**
1:20 - 2:05	**NAESOC Program Overview | Julia Ruffini** Provides a comprehensive overview of the National Access Elsewhere Security Oversight Center (NAESOC) and its strategic role in centralizing, modernizing, and streamlining security oversight for the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). The presentation will detail the center's specialized service delivery mechanisms—including automated continuous monitoring, virtual security reviews, and dedicated national help desk support—and demonstrate how NAESOC works as a unified team with DCSA regional offices, ensuring seamless comprehensive oversight across the entire risk spectrum.
2:10 - 2:55	**NI2 Updates for Industry | David Scott & Dr. Don Mathes** National Industrial Security System Inc. 2 roadmap and strategy update.
2:55 - 3:10	**Break | ST**
3:10 - 4:10	**OUSW (I&S) Update on Acquisition and Industrial Security | Jamie Long & Patrick Harris** This session will provide updates on industrial security and acquisition security policy and oversight, including progress on addressing challenge areas from the Fast-tracking Acquisition Security Transformation study and Classified Infrastructure as a Service.
4:15 - 4:55	**Industry Training Updates | Kristina Eddins** Updates on training materials available to industry partners from the DCSA Security Academy and CDSE.
4:55	**Closing Remarks | Cashmere He**

INDUSTRY FOCUSED AGENDA | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

TIME (ET)	SESSION
9:00 - 9:05	**Opening & Welcome | Cashmere He**
9:10 - 9:55	**Threat Assessment and Threat Management for Insider Threat Programs | Bryan Keeling & Peter Lapp** Explains the fundamentals of DCSA Behavioral Analysis Threat Center's Threat Assessment and Threat Management (TATM) framework and demonstrates how it directly supports DCSA's Mission Areas at the critical intersection of DoW and cleared industry. We will highlight how TATM empowers risk owners by integrating multidisciplinary teams to assess concerning behaviors, develop research-based mitigation strategies, and develop/execute a structured Threat Management Plan designed to ensure safe and acceptable outcomes.
9:55 - 10:10	**Break | ST**
10:10 - 11:35	**The Weaponization of Artificial Intelligence | Steve Cook** The Weaponization of AI presentation provides a high-level overview of emerging and evolving AI tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) threat actors are using to target government and industry. This session will focus on how the TTPs work and discuss how defensive strategies must incorporate AI to be effective.
11:35 - 12:30	**Lunch | ST**
12:30 - 1:15	**Unclassified Annual Report Brief | Michael Joel** Developed by the DCSA Office of Counterintelligence, this Annual Unclassified "Targeting U.S. Technologies" brief highlights adversary methods used to target critical technologies within the Defense Industrial Base. The brief provides critical real-world context to threats across industry. This brief equips industry with information to better assess facility security postures, evaluate personnel vetting risks, and integrate timely threat trends into security practices.
1:20 - 2:05	**Trusted Workforce 2.0 Industry Updates | Scott Glassic** Overview and updates of Trusted Workforce 2.0 efforts and impacts to Industry.
2:10 - 2:55	**Break | ST**
2:20 - 3:05	**Trust Decision (Adjudications) Updates | Edward Bass** Targeted briefing on the current adjudications landscape, designed specifically for Industry Facility Security Officers (FSOs). This session provides a high-level overview of the personnel security adjudications process and critical updates on current processing timeliness. Attendees will walk away with actionable best practices for navigating the system efficiently, including clear, practical guidance on exactly when to escalate inquiries to the call center versus when to monitor the system.
3:10 - 4:10	**National Background Investigation System Updates | Sam Lerch** This session will provide an update on the NBIS suite systems, what command-level leaders can expect going into FY27, and a review of future capabilities.
4:10	**Closing Remarks | David Scott**

DOW FOCUSED AGENDA | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

TIME (ET)	SESSION
9:00 - 9:30	**Opening & Welcome | Jeffrey Sgarlata**
9:35 - 10:35	**Modernizing Mission Readiness: Personnel Vetting & Trusted Workforce 2.0 Updates | Crystal Neubauer & Janeen Beatty** This briefing outlines critical updates to the federal Personnel Vetting (PV) process and insight into the alignment with the ongoing Trusted Workforce 2.0 initiatives. Security professionals will gain essential insights into vetting scenarios, including the integration of modernized systems and evolving policy changes affecting background investigations and continuous vetting processes.
10:35 - 10:50	**Break | ST**
10:50 - 11:40	**Adjudications Updates | Charis Lyon** Join us for a targeted briefing on the current adjudications landscape. This session provides a high-level overview of the personnel security adjudications process and critical updates on current processing timeliness. Attendees will walk away with actionable best practices for navigating the system efficiently, including clear, practical guidance on exactly when to escalate inquiries to the call center versus when to monitor the system.
11:40 - 1:00	**Lunch | ST**
1:00 - 2:00	**DCSA & GCA Partnership: NISP Compliance & System Updates | Misty Crabtree** This session seeks to strengthen Industrial Security collaboration with Government Contracting Activities (GCA). Topics include roles and alignment, compliance actions, security cognizance, and systems and forms.
2:05 - 3:05	**Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in the Insider Threat Domain | John Massey** As the Department integrates advanced analytics and User Activity Monitoring (UAM), this session will explore the guardrails for AI/ML. Topics include "Human in the Loop" requirements, algorithmic bias testing, and alignment with overarching CDAO policies to protect privacy and civil liberties.
3:05	**Closing Remarks | Cashmere He**

DOW FOCUSED AGENDA | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

TIME (ET)	SESSION
9:00 - 9:05	**Opening & Welcome | Cashmere He**
9:05 - 10:05	**Managing Risk, Enabling Mission: Security Decisions Across the Acquisition Lifecycle Panel | Nick Phillips (Moderator), Brett Hennagir, James (Kyle) Hurst, Ryan Daniels, Sean Dohr, Shaun Mueller, Benjamin Noble & Kelly Geyer** Security is the foundation of effective risk management. Hear perspectives from policy, security practitioners, acquisition professionals, and industry on balancing mission needs, cost, schedule, and protection.
10:05 - 10:15	**Break | ST**
10:15 - 11:15	**Security and Mental Health | Dr. Michael Priester & Dr. Lindsay Braden** This session details how adjudicators evaluate mental health in the context of security clearance eligibility (SEAD 4) utilizing the "whole person" concept and describes how Component Insider Threat capabilities leverage DCSA's specialized Behavioral Threat Analysis Center (BTAC) to assess risk, support complex cases, and identify pathways to risk independent of an individual's clearance status. Participants will understand why security professionals encourage seeking mental healthcare when needed as this indicates good judgment, and the presenters will identify current resources for various types of mental health support.
11:20 - 12:20	**Contracting Awareness for Security Professionals | Joyce Pappas** This session will provide training in basic contracting concepts as applied to industrial security requirements.
12:20 - 1:00	**Lunch | ST**
1:00 - 2:30	**Personnel Vetting and Insider Threat in Trusted Workforce 2.0 | Roger Smith & Noelle Griffith** This session provides a strategic update on the policy, oversight, and implementation of the Trusted Workforce 2.0 (TW 2.0) framework, including a focus on the convergence of the personnel vetting and insider threat enterprises. Attendees will explore how continuous vetting (CV) impacts component insider threat programs, and the critical requirement for components to fuse agency-specific information (ASI) and derogatory information into the personnel vetting process. This session will also provide an overview on how components can participate and shape enterprise Personnel Vetting and Insider Threat IT systems (NBIS and DSATS).
2:30 - 2:40	**Break | ST**
2:40 - 3:40	**SPēD Program Updates | Audrey Gutierrez & Dr. Joe Lualhati** CDSE will share critical updates on the Security Professional Education Development (SPēD) Certification Program and review and our path forward. Attendees will gain direct insight into ongoing transformation efforts designed to modernize and elevate these industry-standard credentials.
3:45 - 4:45	**National Background Investigation Services | Caitlin Lerch** This session will provide an update on the NBIS suite systems, what command-level leaders can expect going into FY27, and a review of future capabilities.
4:45	**Closing Remarks | Cashmere He**

DOW FOCUSED AGENDA | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

TIME (ET)	SESSION
9:00 - 9:05	**Opening & Welcome | Cashmere He**
9:05 - 10:15	**Integrating Operations Security with Security Stakeholders | Thomas Finley** This session highlights the strategic necessity of breaking down silos to create a proactive defense posture against adversary intelligence gathering efforts. The presentation outlines a unified approach to protecting unclassified critical information and indicators by synchronizing measures with security stakeholders to safeguard mission capabilities.
10:15 - 10:30	**Office of Customer Success Overview | Dr. Mireille Aprahamian**
10:30 - 11:30	**Security Policy Panel: What do you want to see in security policy? | Roger Smith, Shayna Heron, Paola Apodaca, Noelle Griffith, Devin Casey, Jamie Long & Patrick Harris** This panel's primary purpose will be to take questions and suggestions from the practitioners.
11:35 - 12:30	**Battering Ram/Automated Classification Management Environment (ACME) | Jimmy Jones & Paola Apodaca** Technical overview of the Battering Ram/ACME program. Covers digitization of existing Security Classification Guides (SCGs), standardized creation of new SCGs, and other key capabilities.
12:30	**Closing Remarks | Blake Moore**

FOCI FOCUSED AGENDA | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

TIME (ET)	SESSION
9:00 - 9:20	**Opening & Welcome | Matthew Kitzman**
9:25 - 10:30	**Private Equity: Considerations and Best Practices for Private Fund Investment Panel | Ted Banks, Cody Birkoski and James Brower** Venture Capital (VC) acts as the incubator for cutting-edge, high-risk defense innovation, while Private Equity (PE) provides the scale, infrastructure, and operational compliance needed to transition these technologies into mature, production-ready defense programs. Legal counsel and PE sponsors collaborate to navigate this capital pipeline, helping dual-use startups bridge the "Valley of Death" to scale successfully within the highly regulated defense industrial base.
10:35 - 11:35	**Partnership in Practice: What High-Performing FOCI Organizations Do Differently Panel | Greg Downes, Jonathan Greenert, Amy Patterson & Alexis Lively (Moderator)** Panelists will share insights on topics including evolving security risks, incident response, technology integration, communication strategies and the changing role of security officers in today's workplace.
11:35 - 12:00	**Lunch | ST**
12:00 - 1:15	**Updates to SF 328/ISL/CCP | Elijah LeCain and John Howe** Breakout session will focus on how to complete the SF 328, potential changes to the change condition package process, previous rejection rates vs. current rates.
1:20 - 2:00	**Threats and Vulnerabilities to Critical Infrastructure | Brad Rhodes** Discussion on common threats and vulnerability to combat adversaries. Discuss how threats to critical infrastructures can affect manufactures in daily operations.
2:05 - 3:15	**Interagency Initiatives: Understanding the Differences that Matter | Carrie McCarthy, Ryan Ruppert & Steve Nemeth & Mark Bartol (Moderator)** This session explores ongoing interagency initiatives designed to increase efficiency and reduce industry burden, alongside a candid look at cross-agency expectations and reporting structures. Participants will gain insight into key areas of regulatory overlap and divergence—specifically tailored to unique nuclear and energy sector considerations—and walk away with actionable strategies to prepare their organizations for seamless, multi-agency oversight.
3:20 - 4:30	**FOCI Template Updates and Best Practices | Dan Valentine** This collaborative session will provide industry partners with critical updates. As we modernize our frameworks to enhance agility and strengthen partnership pathways, this briefing will highlight major structural consolidations and template standardizations designed to simplify operations. Participants will gain direct insight into how these updates reduce administrative friction, improve alignment, and foster a more integrated, efficient defense industrial base.
4:30	**Closing Remarks | Alexis Lively**