



## DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

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August 23, 2023

Colleagues:

The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency is partnering with the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, National Insider Threat Task Force, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, and insider threat community stakeholders to support the fifth annual National Insider Threat Awareness Month (NITAM) during September 2023. NITAM emphasizes the importance of safeguarding our nation by detecting, deterring, and mitigating insider threats.

The theme for 2023's NITAM is "Bystander Engagement," supporting the Department's priority to take care of people, while emphasizing that everyone has a responsibility to recognize insider threat indicators and understand reporting requirements as defined in the Secretary of Defense's March 2, 2023 "[Message to the Force](#)."

Recent security incidents highlight the lifetime obligation of DoD employees, Military Service members, and contractor personnel to safeguard classified information and to remain vigilant in their commitment to protecting themselves and their colleagues from myriad threats. This year's NITAM theme promotes increased awareness for the workforce to identify, understand, and report potential behaviors of concern, and to engage and assist at-risk employees.

NITAM also focuses on the important roles that bystanders play in daily interactions. Insider threats are often hidden and pose a real threat to our nation and its security. Preventing and mitigating the risks posed by insider threats is everyone's responsibility, and this is especially true for DCSA employees. Bystander engagement helps reinforce the principle of "when you see something, say something" by maintaining awareness of potential insider threat indicators to build a sense of accountability among all. Safeguarding our nation's security is DCSA's mission, and at the core of that mission is our number one asset, our Gatekeepers.

Throughout the month of September, organizations across DCSA and the Department will host and participate in NITAM events to reinforce the importance of bystander engagement. Suggested activities, products, and actions are posted on the NITAM 2023 website at <https://securityawareness.usalearning.gov/cdse/nitam/index.html>. Regardless of how you choose to participate, please know that your actions and contributions support our collective effort to identify and mitigate insider threats to our national security. Thank you for your dedication and continued hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William K. Lietzau", is positioned above the printed name.

William K. Lietzau  
Director