



DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

27130 TELEGRAPH ROAD
QUANTICO, VA 22134-2253

August 30, 2022

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 fourth annual National Insider Threat Awareness Month (NITAM) during September 2022. NITAM, now in its fourth year, emphasizes the importance of safeguarding our nation by detecting, deterring, and mitigating insider threats.

The theme for 2022's NITAM is "Critical Thinking in Digital Spaces." Critical thinking in a digital society is a skill that all security professionals must develop, especially as we become more reliant on technology. A key component of insider threat prevention is to develop increased awareness and understanding of hidden dangers. Critical thinking helps individuals become more attuned and less susceptible to such dangers, including social engineering, solicitation by adversaries (foreign and domestic), and harmful information.

Many unsuspecting individuals and organizations have fallen victim to the tactics deployed by malicious actors. Individuals and organizations must achieve a greater understanding of how virtual platforms can be exploited and how to spot efforts to intentionally manipulate perceptions. During the past 2 years, the workforce has been faced with the challenges of remaining connected during a global pandemic, to include balancing the need for digital spaces while recognizing its dangers. In digital spaces, it is more challenging to distinguish between legitimate coworkers and malicious actors using phishing techniques to acquire proprietary or sensitive information. The digital environment has led to more interactions on social media, making individuals more vulnerable to deception.

I encourage everyone to participate in NITAM activities this September as a way to educate the workforce on the importance of critical thinking in digital spaces. Suggested activities, products, and actions are outlined on the NITAM 2022 web page at <https://securityawareness.usalearning.gov/cdse/nitam/index.html>. Whatever activities or engagements you choose, actions both large and small will contribute to the ultimate goal of securing the Federal Government from insider threats. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William K. Lietzau".

William K. Lietzau
Director