



DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

27130 TELEGRAPH ROAD
QUANTICO, VA 22134-2253

AUG 04 2020

Dear Colleagues:

The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) 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, Department of Homeland Security, and insider threat community stakeholders to support the second annual National Insider Threat Awareness Month during September 2020.

The theme of 2020's National Insider Threat Awareness Month is "Resilience." Resilience emphasizes the personal quality of facing adversity and coming back stronger than before, which helps promote thoughts and actions that strengthen well-being. Resilience builds good decision-making skills and enables people to avoid situations where they could become targets of exploitative opportunity.

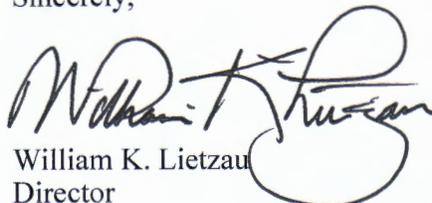
Personal and organizational resilience is more important than ever, as our workforce contends with significant health, child care, financial, and even socio-cultural challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These extended periods of difficulty can cause great stress and uncertainty that, if unaddressed, could weaken resilience and increase risks associated with insider threats.

Insider threats cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year, put critical infrastructure and supply chains at risk, endanger national security and, in the most tragic cases, can lead to senseless violence. These incidents highlight the critical need for raising awareness around deterring, detecting, and mitigating insider threats — the essential functions of insider threat awareness programs. September provides a month-long opportunity to highlight the critical importance of safeguarding our nation from the risks posed by insider threats and raise awareness across the workforce.

Insider threat programs help the workforce identify, understand, and report concerning behaviors early, enabling proactive intervention and assistance before those behaviors become a risk. Insider threat awareness is not about curtailing protected free speech or suppressing legitimate whistleblowing; it *is* about preventing the exploitation of authorized access to cause harm to an organization, its resources or its people.

I encourage everyone to participate in National Insider Threat Awareness Month activities this September as one way to help build resilience while staying aware and engaged. Suggested activities, products, and actions are outlined on the National Insider Threat Awareness Month 2020 web page: <https://cdse.edu/itawareness/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 of National Insider Threat Awareness Month.

Sincerely,



William K. Lietzau
Director