THIS MONTH'S FOCUS

SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS DURING A PANDEMIC

DID YOU KNOW?

SAPs have existed for many years and were originally established to protect DoD acquisition programs, hide sensitive operations, and were referred to as "Black Programs." It was not until the 1980s that their existence was publicly acknowledged. During the 1990s, the term Special Access Program replaced Black Programs.

CDSE – Center for Development of Security Excellence

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Center for Development of Security Excellence

Throughout our nation's history, our military and strategic advantages have depended upon the work of sensitive programs and operations. These Special Access Programs (SAPs) have revolutionized industries and created new technologies that help keep our nation secure. Executive Order 13526, "Classified National Security Information," defines a SAP as "a program established for a specific class of classified information that imposes safeguarding and access requirements exceeding those normally required for information at the same classification level." In other words, a SAP is a classified program with enhanced safeguarding and access requirements. SAPs are established only when the program is required by statute, or when a vulnerability or threat to specific information is discovered. SAPs also require an assigned nickname and/or code word and identification of any special handling procedures. They also use the standard classification levels: Top Secret, Secret, and Confidential.

The Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) is committed to providing doctrinally accurate and relevant security training, education, and resources to the SAP community, even during a pandemic. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantine, many organizations faced a serious shift in work practices. Due to the classified nature of

SUPPORTING SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS DURING A PANDEMIC (CONT'D)

their work, most of the SAP workforce could not execute their regular duties while teleworking/on lockdown, and instead completed online training, like CDSE's eLearning courses.

When CDSE moved to telework in response to the pandemic, instructor-led training (ILT) courses were postponed. However, the training mission continued because the SAP team got to work and transitioned the Introduction to SAP course to a virtual instructor-led training (VILT) course. Moving a course to a virtual environment was a major project, but our dedicated team completed the task in only three months as opposed to the normal nine-12 month development cycle. Two iterations have been taught, and the next is scheduled for January 2021. CDSE will also transition two additional SAP ILT courses to VILT as part of a larger, ongoing effort to provide alternate training solutions to address training gaps during and beyond COVID-19.

The SAP Mid-Level Security Management course and the Orientation to

SAP Security Compliance Inspections course will be redesigned and converted to VILT later in FY21. The Mid-Level Security Management course provides an in-depth explanation of SAP security management with a focus on the student's ability to define how security enhancements, based on the threat and vulnerability of SAPs, are determined. The Orientation to SAP Security Compliance Inspections course reinforces policies and procedures established for the inspection of an SAP and its related functional areas as directed by the DoD SAP Central Office (SAPCO) to validate compliance with Government requirements.

Also during the pandemic, CDSE hosted a virtual Curriculum Review Meeting (CRM) on September 15-17, 2020. As part of the CRM, Curriculum Managers engaged with DoD stakeholders to review existing training products, identify training gaps, and discuss future products. Stakeholders voiced interest in more training specifically directed at the risk management aspects that Program Security Officers (PSOs) encounter while trying to protect programs.

In addition to the CRM, CDSE conducted a training needs analysis (TNA) and interviewed community stakeholders, practicing PSOs, SAP instructors, and students to gather data to inform the development of future training and resources. PSOs expressed concerns that current

training teaches them what their responsibilities are, but not how to apply them. As a response to the TNA, CDSE is looking at the recommendations on how to best serve the needs of the SAP community.

National security does not take a break, even during a pandemic. Adversaries who wish to do harm to the U.S. will continue their efforts, so the security community must remain vigilant in combating the many threats. CDSE is poised to continue supporting the SAP community with training and resources throughout the pandemic and beyond. Read the rest of this Pulse to learn about existing, new, and upcoming products that will provide the SAP workforce with the knowledge and tools needed to help keep their programs secure.

🖼️ UPCOMING NEW SAP ELEARNING

CDSE will release two new SAP eLearning courses in FY21:

ICD 705 Physical Security Construction Requirements eLearning Course

This course replaces the Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) Physical Security virtual course and exam. This new course provides the skills needed to evaluate a Special Access Program Facility (SAPF) in order to ensure it meets intelligence community directives and SAP policies. Although this course uses SAP terminology, it also meets the requirements of a SCI facility.

SAP Nomination Process eLearning course

This interactive and engaging eLearning course and job aid uses in-depth content provided by the DoD SAPCO. This training applies to individuals performing as SAP Personnel Security Officials (SPOs) in their organization and will describe their role in accordance with DoD Manual 5205.07 Vol 2. This course will provide students with more detailed information, add additional examples and templates, and will help standardize SAP personnel security in enterprise within a year, per the DoD SAPCO.

Access current SAP eLearning courses and the new courses, once released, at **https://www.cdse.edu/catalog/sap.html**.

⏱️ UPDATED MARKINGS SHORT

This short fills a demand for the SAP community because it focuses on the student's ability to recognize and apply control markings to DoD SAP Information as set forth in the 5205.07, Volume 4, Special Access Program Security Manual: Marking. It will also examine the special marking considerations for SAP information. The target audiences for this short are DoD SAP security professionals and the DoD general workforce. The updated version will be released in December, 2020.
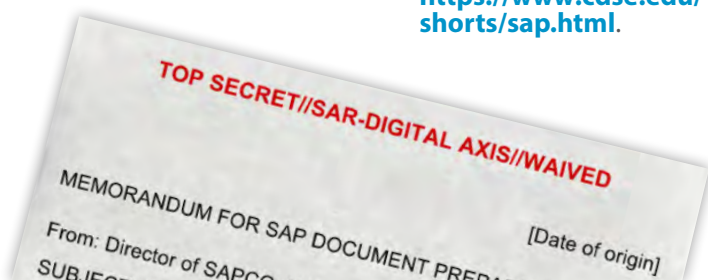
Additional SAP shorts include Introduction to the Risk Management Framework (RMF) for Special Access Program (SAP), Procedures for Transporting Special Access Program (SAP) Material, and SAP Security Incident Practical Exercise – Industry Day. These shorts and more can be found at **https://www.cdse.edu/shorts/sap.html**.

🏆 SAP HIDDEN OBJECT GAME

CDSE will soon launch a new SAP security awareness game! The Hidden Object game is a visual search puzzle wherein the player must find an item or a series of items hidden within a picture. PSOs are responsible for inspecting SAP facilities, and this game will assist them in locating and identifying items for inspection within those facilities.

For access to current and new CDSE security awareness games, once available, visit **https://www.cdse.edu/resources/games.html**.

TOP SECRET//SAR-DIGITAL AXIS//WAIVED

MEMORANDUM FOR SAP DOCUMENT PREPA...

From: Director of SAPCO

[Date of origin]

SUBJEC...

⬠ SPECIAL PROGRAM SECURITY CERTIFICATION

The Special Program Security Certification (SPSC) is part of the Security Professional Education Development (SPēD) Certification Program that facilitates professional development and training for security professionals. This certification is for personnel who will be, or already are, performing security officer functions for DoD SAPs. This certification is ideal for members of the SAP workforce who want to validate their competency and advance their careers. For more information on SPSC, or other SPēD Certifications, visit **https://www.cdse.edu/certification/about.html**.

✎ UPCOMING SPEAKER SERIES

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

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

★★★★★ WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Course: Introduction to Special Access Programs (SA101.01)

"The VILT is new since COVID; however, it was outstanding. Since we completed numerous prerequisite courses, the content was perfect. Very well presented."
– Anonymous

"So happy you could tailor the training to online learning during the pandemic. I would have preferred in person but this was the next best thing and I appreciate the hard work that went into making it a success."
- Anonymous

Course: Special Access Programs Overview (SA001.16)

"Outstanding information and the flow of the course was spot on. For someone that has very limited knowledge of the intricate details related to the SAP World, this course is highly recommended."
– Anonymous

REGISTER NOW FOR 2021 DVSCI

Registration is now open for the 2021 DoD Virtual Security Conference for Industry on 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 under the the National Industrial Security Program (NISP).

REGISTRATION OPEN | FEBRUARY 10-11, 2021
BACK TO BASICS
2021 DOD VIRTUAL SECURITY CONFERENCE FOR INDUSTRY

Find out more and register at the following link: **https://cdse.acms.com/dvsci2021/event/event_info.html**.