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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER  
WASHINGTON, DC

NCSC 21-104

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

SUBJECT: September 2021 is National Insider Threat Awareness Month

REFERENCES: A. Executive Order 13587, Structural Reforms to Improve the Security of Classified Networks and the Responsible Sharing and Safeguarding of Classified Information, 11 October 2011

B. National Insider Threat Policy and Minimum Standards, undated

During September 2021 the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's National Counterintelligence and Security Center will work collaboratively with departments and agencies across the federal government to support the third annual National Insider Threat Awareness Month, which emphasizes the importance of safeguarding our nation by detecting, deterring, and mitigating insider threats.

The United States has suffered a rising number of incidents perpetrated by trusted insiders who have adversely affected public health and safety, national security, and the economic well-being of the United States. The last year and a half presented an increasingly challenging risk environment, with significant adjustments to work and home life, disrupted supply chains, financial insecurity, unreliable or overwhelmed technology capabilities, political and cultural fissures, and serious health concerns. The risks for espionage, violence, unauthorized disclosure, and even unwitting insider threat actions are higher than ever as our adversaries seek to take advantage of our vulnerabilities through increased targeting of insiders.

Nevertheless, we remain strong and committed to addressing these challenges. As you know, pursuant to Reference A all federal departments and agencies with access to classified information are required to maintain a program to deter, detect, and mitigate insider threats. Insider threat programs are comprised of multidisciplinary teams that address insider threats while protecting the privacy and civil liberties of the workforce, maximizing organizational trust, and ensuring positive work cultures that foster diversity and inclusion. Maintaining effective insider threat programs has never been more crucial to the nation's security.

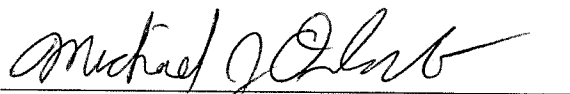
Participating in National Insider Threat Awareness Month will help federal departments' and agencies' programs more effectively detect, deter, and mitigate insider threats by increasing awareness and promoting reporting. Most insider threats emerge over time, with evidence of concerning behaviors or risk indicators surfacing prior to harmful events. Through National

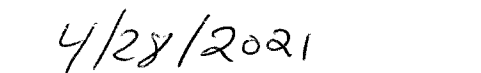
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Insider Threat Awareness Month events federal employees, private sector stakeholders, and other audiences will not only learn about the serious risks posed by insider threats, but also how to recognize and report anomalous activities to enable early intervention. Insider threat awareness is not about curtailing protected free speech or suppressing legitimate whistleblowing; it is about preventing the exploitation of authorized access to avoid harm to an organization and its resources. Reporting concerning behaviors and risk indicators allows insider threat programs to take proactive measures that can lead to positive outcomes for individuals and organizations.

I encourage you to participate in National Insider Threat Awareness Month this September. There are many ways to get involved, from accessing and distributing awareness materials provided by NCSC to hosting an Insider Threat Awareness Day. A multi-media communications platform for engagement on this topic, including a list of suggested actions and activities, is available at <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-how-we-work/ncsc-nittf>. I look forward to working together with you during this important month.

  
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Michael J. Orlando  
Acting Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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