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SUBJ/DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY INSIDER THREAT AWARENESS MONTH//

RMKS/1. September 2026 is the eighth annual observance of National Insider Threat Awareness Month. The Department of the Navy (DON) will participate in this year's observance focusing on the deterrence, detection, and mitigation of insider threats that may cause significant damage to national security. An insider threat is a trusted individual who, wittingly or unwittingly, causes harm to government resources: people, facilities, networks, or information.

2. Deter potential insider threats by instituting appropriate security countermeasures within your organizations, to include the designation of insider threat representatives to develop command awareness and education programs. Detect individuals at risk of becoming insider threats by identifying potential risk indicators and coordinate your response with all command security mission partners.
Mitigate potential issues before they escalate by being proactive and use multi-disciplinary security resources and expertise. Command insider threat representatives can reach back to their respective Navy or Marine Corps Insider Threat Program Office or hubs for education and training resources, to schedule command training events, and to assess and support development of command insider threat programs.

3. Insider threats tend to develop over time with evidence of concerning behaviors prior to harmful events and provide early warning of insider risk. If recognized early, these behaviors provide opportunities for commands to address and mitigate potential threats before they act. Concerning behaviors and risk indicators may include, but are not limited to, a general disregard for security procedures, seeking access to information outside of their "need to know," attempting to access sensitive areas (where classified information is stored, discussed, or processed), inconsistent working hours (staying late or arriving early), unusual insistence on working in private, and workplace violence (physical aggression, verbal abuse, harassment, and intimidation).

4. Early intervention through reporting is crucial. I urge you to educate yourselves on the signs that may indicate a fellow Sailor, Marine, civilian, or contractor is on the path towards becoming an insider threat. If you see something report it so positive intervention can take place before a malicious or negligent act occurs. In addition to reporting concerning behaviors to your chain of command, you have the option to make a direct report to the Navy Insider Threat Hub or the Marine Corps Insider Threat Hub.
    a. Navy reports: USN-InsiderThreat@us.navy.mil.

b. Marine Corps reports: insiderthreat@usmc.mil.

5. For the 2026 DON Insider Threat Awareness Month, the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Intelligence and Security (ODUSN (I&S)) along with the Navy and Marine Corps are hosting a variety of in-person events in the National Capital Region as well as virtual symposiums, for the entire Fleet and its stakeholders, designed to raise awareness across the DON. Insider Threat Program points of contact (POC) and links to additional insider threat education and awareness resources are listed below:

a. Department of the Navy Insider Threat Program Share Point link: https://flankspeed.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/SECNAV_SD/SitePages/DON-Insider-Threat.aspx.

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b. Navy Insider Threat Program link to events and awareness materials: https://flankspeed.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/NIA/SitePages/US-Navy-Insider-Threat-Program.aspx.

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c. Marine Corps Insider Threat Program link to events and awareness materials: https://www.information.marines.mil/Units/Insider-Threat/.

d. Supplemental materials and training tools on insider threat education and awareness may be downloaded from the Center for Development of Security Excellence at: https://www.cdse.edu/Training/Toolkits/Insider-Threat-Toolkit/

6. DON Insider Threat Awareness Month POCs:

a. ODUSN (I&S): Franco Neto, DON Insider Threat Policy; franco.neto.civ@us.navy.mil; (703) 601-0554.

b. Navy: Richard Habina; Navy Insider Threat Program; richard.e.habina2.civ@us.navy.mil; (301) 669-3260.

c. Marine Corps: Joseph Groah; Marine Corps Insider Threat Program; joseph.groah.ctr@usmc.mil; (703) 693-9221.

7. The risk of insider threats is increasing as decisive and malign individuals and governments seek new ways to exploit vulnerabilities within our organization and its people. It is imperative every member of our team remain vigilant to indicators associated with insider risk behaviors and actions and have the conviction to report when they see or hear something.

8. Released by the Honorable Hung Cao, Acting Secretary of the Navy.//

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