Request: Approval for Training & Professional Development

Subject: Request for Approval – Professional Development at NSI IMPACT '25

I'm requesting approval to attend NSI IMPACT '25, a targeted professional development and training event held April 14-16 in Chantilly, VA. This event is specifically designed to support national security professionals, providing critical insights and practical resources directly aligned with our agency’s mission and strategic security objectives. It has a reputation for being a ‘working event’, structured and focused on practical results

Key Benefits of Attendance:

* Enhanced Compliance and Audit Readiness:  
  Directly addresses emerging DCSA and federal regulatory requirements, reducing compliance risks and audit vulnerabilities.
* Improved National Security Program Effectiveness:  
  Practical strategies for addressing insider threats, clearance management, cybersecurity, and foreign espionage threats.
* Strengthened Interagency and Industry Collaboration:  
  Direct engagement with industry and government counterparts, improving our agency’s ability to share best practices, collaborate effectively, and streamline operations.
* Efficient Resource Utilization:  
  Concentrated agenda delivering maximum training benefits while minimizing resource expenditures and time away from essential mission responsibilities.

Sessions Directly Aligned with Our Mission Priorities:

Here is a sample of highly relevant sessions from the agenda:

* "DCSA’s 2025 Priorities & Expectations"  
  Direct guidance from senior DCSA leadership, including Deputy Director Daniel Lecce, ensuring our program remains fully compliant and proactively aligned with evolving security policies.
* "Clearing the Path: Insider Advice on Solving Security Clearance Challenges"  
  Practical insights directly from the Director of the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals, significantly reducing delays and operational inefficiencies in our security clearance processing.
* "American Industry Under Siege: Unmasking the Strategy and Tactics of Foreign Espionage Operations"  
  Strategic intelligence from former FBI senior executives on espionage threats, directly applicable to protecting our agency’s sensitive information and national security assets.
* "Inside the Cyber Battlefield: How China Threats Target U.S. Critical Infrastructure & Defense"  
  Actionable insights on effectively defending our agency's critical information and systems from targeted cyber threats by nation-state adversaries.

Cost & Logistics:

* Registration: 1, 2, and 3-day options available. Registering with discount code: “Security Means Business” gives us a discount of 20% (20-hours of training for only $1,200).
* Location: Chantilly, VA (easily accessible, ensuring efficient travel and minimal impact on time away).

Why This Program:

Attending NSI IMPACT '25 aligns strategically with our objectives, enhancing my capability to manage compliance, mitigate national security threats, and streamline our internal security operations. The insights gained will directly benefit our security initiatives, compliance readiness, interagency relationships, and ability to meet strategic security goals.

I've included the complete event agenda for your review. Please confirm your approval or let me know if you need additional information. Early approval allows us to maximize savings through discounted registration.

Thank you for your consideration.

You understand your supervisor’s priorities best. Here is a complete set of bullets you can choose from to replace the 4 bullets currently in the “Specific Sessions Aligned to Our Priorities” section above. We recommend selecting only 4.

Additional Sessions Relevant to Our Priorities:

* "Spark a Security Culture That Energizes Everyone Around You"  
  Proven techniques for creating a robust security culture internally, leading to improved compliance and security effectiveness.
* "Better SETA: Strategies to Improve Your Security Education, Training & Awareness Program"  
  Practical methods to enhance security training effectiveness, crucial for addressing compliance obligations efficiently.
* "Practical Guidance to Operationalize Continuous Monitoring"  
  Techniques for effectively managing insider threats through enhanced continuous monitoring—reducing operational risk and vulnerability.
* "Insightful Ways to Measure and Demonstrate the Contributions of Your Security Program"  
  Clear methodologies to quantify and effectively communicate the value of security initiatives within our organization.
* "Communicating Security Risks: Turning Skeptics into Advocates"  
  Strategic approaches for gaining buy-in and internal support from stakeholders across the agency.
* "Trusted Workforce 2.0 – Getting a Clear View and Aligning Your Security Program"  
  Strategies for effectively integrating continuous evaluation into personnel security management in line with government initiatives.
* "The FSO/DCSA Dynamic: Crafting a Collaborative Approach"  
  Key insights into improving collaboration between government oversight and industry FSOs, essential for smoother interactions and more effective security oversight.
* "Mastering SMO Engagement and Cross-Functional Collaboration" (Know-How Panel)  
  Actionable methods for improving internal collaboration, reducing silos, and enhancing overall program effectiveness.
* "Pride of Work: Leadership, Influence, and Career Growth" (Know-How Panel)  
  Insights for developing strong security leadership capabilities, directly supporting our internal security team’s professional growth.
* "Protecting Your Workforce: Identifying and Mitigating Insider Threats"  
  Proven methods for effectively identifying and managing insider threats, directly supporting critical compliance mandates and national security priorities.
* "CMMC '25: What's Real, What's Not & How to Keep Your Contracts"  
  Understanding industry compliance pressures with CMMC enables improved oversight and collaboration with contractors.
* "ISOO '25 – What’s Ahead for Security Professionals in Cleared Industry"  
  Early insights into industry-focused regulatory changes, enhancing our preparedness for effective industry oversight and smooth inter-agency cooperation.
* "NISPPAC in Action – Be In The Know, Get Engaged, Get Prepared"  
  Insights into how regulatory policy evolves, enabling proactive adjustments and stronger oversight of our industry partners.

Find the agenda-at-a glance below

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| NSI IMPACT DAY-1 -- APRIL 14 -- CHANTILLY, VA | |
| 8:00–8:45 | American Industry Under Siege: Unmasking the Strategy and Tactics of  Foreign Espionage Operations |
|  | Allan Kohler, Former Assistant Director, FBI Counterintelligence; President, Pamir Consulting |
| 8:45 -- 9:30 | Spark a Security Culture That Energizes Everyone Around You​ |
|  | Jim Kennedy, Executive Director of Government Security, Boeing Defense, Space & Security |
| 9:30 -- 10:30 | SECURITY EXPO & GOVT INDUSTRY OUTREACH FAIR |
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| 10:30-- 11:15 | Adversary Briefing: Russia’s Evolving Security and Intelligence Threats |
|  | Glenn Corn, Former Senior Executive, CIA; Co-Founder, Varyag, LLC |
| 11:15 -- 12:00 | Clearing the Path: Insider Advice on Solving Security Clearance Challenges |
|  | Perry Russell-Hunter, Director, Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals, DoD |
| 12:00—12:45 | Inside the Cyber Battlefield: How China Threats Target U.S.  Critical Infrastructure & Defense |
|  | R. Connor Gauvin, Deputy Branch Chief, Cybersecurity Division, CISA |
| 12:45 -- 1:45 | NSI LUNCHEON • EXPO & FAIR OPEN |
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| 1:45 – 3:00 | DCSA’s 2025 Industrial Security Priorities & Expectations –  What’s Changing and How to Adapt |
|  | Matthew Redding, Assistant Director, Industrial Security, DCSA |
| 1:45 – 3:00 | Better SETA: Strategies to Improve Your Security Awareness Program |
|  | Martin McNair, Security & Emergency Planning, DOJ |
| 3:00 -- 3:20 | REFRESHMENTS • EXPO & FAIR OPEN |
|  |  |
| 3:20 – 4:35 | IMPACT ‘KNOW-HOW' PANEL  Communicating Security Risks: Turning Skeptics into Advocates |
|  | Christy Wilder, CSO, Peraton • Kevin Clifton, Head of Intelligence, RAND • Mark Levett, Dir. Cyber Intelligence, L3HarrisTechnologies • Phil Bozeman, Security Director, SAIC |
| 3:20 – 4:35 | Insightful Ways to Measure and Demonstrate the Contributions  of Your Security Program |
|  | Latoya Coleman, Executive Director Enterprise Security, ManTech • Rebekah Guira,  Director of Systems Integration, ManTech |
| 5:00 -- 6:00 | NSI Champagne Networking Reception - Westfield's Patio |
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| NSI IMPACT DAY-2 -- APRIL 15 -- CHANTILLY, VA | |
| 8:00 – 8:45 | Defending American Innovation: Countering China's Espionage  and Economic Manipulation |
|  | William Evanina, Former Director NCSC; CEO of Evanina Group |
| 8:45 -- 9:45 | IMPACT 'KNOW-HOW' PANEL  Mastering SMO Engagement and Cross-Functional Collaboration |
|  | MODERATOR: Jim Kennedy, Executive Director of Government Security, Boeing Defense, Space & Security; Pat Gould, Director, Enterprise Threat Awareness, Peraton; Kari Phillips, Security Director, SAIC; Amanda Ward, Group Supervisor Compartmented Security, Johns Hopkins University, APL |
| 9:45 -- 10:05 | REFRESHMENT BREAK |
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| 10:05 –10:35 | Practical Guidance to Operationalize Continuous Monitoring |
|  | Tom Miller, CEO, ClearForce |
| 10:35 –11:35 | IMPACT 'KNOW-HOW' PANEL  Pride of Work: Leadership, Influence and Career Growth |
|  | Sharon Claridge, Vice President & Chief Security Officer, Booz Allen Hamilton; Bob Trono, Vice President & Chief Security Officer, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Scott King, Chief Security Officer, Invictus International Consulting, LLC |
| 11:35 – 12:20 | DCSA 2025 – Meeting New Security and Compliance Challenges  Together with Industry |
|  | Daniel Lecce, Deputy Director, DCSA |
| 12:20 -- 1:20 | NSI LUNCHEON |
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| 1:20 – 2:35 | IMPACT 'KNOW-HOW' PANEL  The Art of Compliance: Aligning NISPOM Requirements with  Operational Realities |
|  | Catherine Kaohi CEO, C.S. Consulting; Richard Ray, FSO, Eutelsat America Corp;  Patricia Brokenik, Security Director, General Dynamics |
| 1:20 – 2:35 | CMMC '25: What’s Real, What’s Not & How to Keep Your Contracts |
|  | Dr. Shayla Treadwell, Deputy Chief Security Officer, Lumen Technologies |
| 2:35 -- 2:55 | REFRESHMENT BREAK |
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| 2:55 -- 4:10 | Security Awareness: How to Supercharge Employee Engagement |
|  | Jeremy Treadwell, President, Treadwell Agency |
| 2:55 -- 4:10 | Insider Threat Compliance: What Does Meaningful Progress Look Like? |
|  | James Shappell, Director, DITMAC, DCSA |
| NSI IMPACT DAY-3 -- APRIL 16 -- CHANTILLY, VA | |
| 8:00 -- 8:30 | ISOO ‘25 – What’s Ahead for Security Professionals in Cleared Industry |
|  | Michael Thomas, Director, ISSO |
| 8:30 -- 9:30 | NISPPAC in Action – Be In The Know, Get Engaged, Get Prepared |
|  | Ike Rivers, NISPPAC Industry Spokesperson and CSO, IDA |
| 2:35 -- 2:55 | REFRESHMENT BREAK |
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| 9:50 -- 10:50 | Trusted Workforce 2.0 – Getting a Clear View and Aligning  Your Security Program |
|  | MODERATOR: Lindy Kyzer, Vice President, ClearanceJobs • Marianna Martineau, DCSA  • Ryan Dennis, DCSA • Ike Rivers, NISPPAC |
| 10:50 -- 11:35 | The FSO/DCSA Dynamic: Crafting a Collaborative Approach |
|  | Justin Walsh, Mid-Atlantic Region Director, DCSA |
| 11:35 -- 11:45 | CLOSING REMARKS • CONCLUSION OF 39TH NSI IMPACT |