Welcome to the Understanding Insider Risk briefing for International Military Students.

As an International Military Student or IMS you are part of a proud tradition of US Department of Defense engagement with partners and allies around the world. International military education and training strengthens defense cooperation and critical security partnerships.

You have an important function in this international partnership as a service member and student.

And, your participation in this program is both an honor and a privilege.

With privilege, however, comes great responsibility. International Military Student codes of conduct require following security policies and practices on your host installation. These practices include the ability to recognize and report possible risks. Including those risks from trusted insiders.

At the end of this briefing, you will understand the importance of recognizing possible insider threats and reporting concerning behaviors to appropriate officials; identify possible risk indicators and reporting procedures; describe methods used to recruit trusted insiders and collect protected information; and understand security reporting requirements.

Who is an “insider” and what are their possible risks?

An insider is defined as anyone with authorized access. US Department of Defense personnel are insiders. And, as an International Military Student with access to your training installation, its personnel, and information, you are an Insider too.

Insiders may be your fellow classmates and peers or the Instructors, faculty, and support staff at your installation.

Insiders can be people you work with…

Or socialize with. Anyone with authorized access to Department of Defense resources is an insider.

It may be hard to imagine that those whom we know well could be a threat. Unfortunately, there are many examples of trusted insiders who have caused harm. Insiders who have exposed sensitive information or committed crimes such as fraud and theft, and even murder.
• These events have impacted many organizations, even the IMS community. The incidents of December 6, 2019 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, in which an international military student killed three people and injured eight others, not only resulted in tragic loss of life but also negatively affected the IMS mission.

• The US Department of Defense is committed to protecting the safety of personnel and their families on US military installations. All DoD resources, including facilities, personnel, and information must be protected.

• The Department of Defense is also committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct for DoD Military and Civilian personnel and the international military student population. As an international military student, you play an important role in identifying potential insider risk and correctly reporting that information.

• Could you recognize a threat from the inside? And would you know what to do if you saw one?

• Most insider threats do not plan to cause harm but because of personal situations and daily pressures, at-risk behavior increases. If these behaviors are not taken care of, it could lead to hostile acts including violence, theft, fraud, sabotage, and illegal recruitment for US Defense information.

• Everyone has difficult times in their lives. But for some, it can lead to at-risk behavior that, together with a life crisis, can cause negative events.

• If you see something, say something. Early identification and reporting of unusual behavior can help appropriate personnel manage the situation and provide the resources that an individual needs to improve. All IMS facilities have International Military Student Officials (IMSOs), instructors, and support staff with the resources to help someone with pressures of work or home.

• Professionals can help people with at-risk behavior learn to manage their situations, improve family life, continue their career, and successfully complete the training program. But, professionals can’t help if they don’t know the problem.

• Because we all have difficult times, people often don’t know if they should report unusual behavior of others. You may not want to interfere with other people’s lives or possibly make false accusations, especially with someone in a position of authority, a coworker, or a friend.

• The impacts of insider threat are so critical. It is important to report incidents of possible insider risk as soon as they occur.

• There are many behaviors and activities that may mean someone is experiencing stress, a life crisis, or is vulnerable to increased risk. These indicators can be unique to each individual and are mainly behaviors and activities that are out of the ordinary for that person. Let’s explore some categories of possible risk indicators of both intentional and unintentional insider threats in the past.

• Abuse of alcohol…

• Or drugs, whether prescription or illegal, is an at risk behavior that is reportable.

• Untreated or undiagnosed mental health conditions may also be a sign that someone is at risk.
- Unusual or sudden depression, isolation, and anger should be reported.
- As should any extreme interest in guns and armaments.
- International military students are prohibited from making firearms purchases while participating in the program.
- Unreported or unexplained travel may also be a potential risk indicator.
- Those with personal family problems or dissatisfaction with work or training, financial problems...
- Legal or court issues...
- Or addictive behavior, such as excessive gambling, may be at risk.
- Criminal activity of any kind...
- including hiring prostitutes, is a potential risk indicator.
- Security violations of any kind, whether on purpose or by accident can cause increased risk of harm.
- This includes inappropriate online activity; cybersecurity violations; misuse of mobile devices; attempts to expand access; fishing through offices, files or storage for information; or being responsible for unaccounted materials.
- These potential risk indicators may include other behaviors and activities such as membership in prohibited groups or organizations, unauthorized absences, criminal connections, overly nervous or suspicious behavior, working hours inconsistent with the duty assignment, or insisting on working alone or in private.
- Many of these behaviors and activities may also increase the possibility of recruitment by criminals wanting illegal access to US Department of Defense information. They may use pressure, intimidation, or blackmail to persuade insiders to betray or unknowingly share information. Insiders may be targeted, either in person or on social media, and should be aware of the signs of targeting and recruitment including overly friendly behaviors, unexpected or unexplained romantic behavior, asking specific and direct questions about your access and associations, or any other methods.
- Counterterrorism studies have also identified behaviors that are possible indicators of terrorism related activity that may include long absences or spending abnormal amounts of time with a new group of individuals, trouble at work or at home, or having more money than would seem appropriate, changes in character, behavior and appearance, and stating strong beliefs in an inappropriate manner.
- There are specific signs associated with those who commit acts of violence. These include statements of intent to harm others, extreme anger or physical aggression, stated violence in media or social media, poor work performance, risk-taking behavior, or unlawful use or purchase of weapons.
- You should know that most of the described behaviors and activities are entirely normal and may be experienced by everyone at some point in their lives – even those trusted insiders who have been evaluated and vetted for access to DoD resources. None of these behaviors necessarily means that an individual will pose a threat. However, in order to effectively and appropriately manage risk,
these behaviors and activities must be managed in a timely and appropriate manner.

- Your IMSO and support staff at the US installation have training and DoD resources to safely and fairly manage any security issues with personnel, information, and the IMS program.
- But they can’t help, if they don’t know what’s happening. If you see something, say something.
- Each of us plays an important role in recognizing and reporting insider risk. We have a duty to protect our organization, facilities, information, and our mission.
- Every member of the DoD community, including international military students and program faculty and personnel, must identify and report potential risk indicators.
- Report potential risk indicators to your instructor, security staff, or IMSO.
- If there is a threat of immediate danger, dial 9-1-1 or the emergency number provided by your IMSO and follow emergency procedures at your installation. For more information, refer to the handout “Insider Risk Reporting for IMS” provided with this briefing.
- Remember, when you report a risk indicator, you have not identified an individual as a threat. Appropriate officials have the opportunity to investigate the situation and provide risk reducing options that often create positive results for individuals while protecting DoD resources, information, and personnel.
- The international military student program and your IMSO want to ensure a positive experience for all participants and understand the difficulties and stresses of long term deployment.
- In most instances, they will provide resources and options that ensure the success of the individual and the larger international military training and education mission.
- The IMSO is there for all international military students and you shouldn’t hesitate to reach out if you or a colleague are having any issues. Seeking assistance to help deal with life’s challenges is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign of good judgement, and a sign of bravery to say “I need help”
- Identifying colleagues in need of help is not an act of betrayal. It is an act of respect. Respect for the safety and well-being of the individual, all of those on the installation, and the IMS mission.
- The DoD IMS program provides essential engagement around the world to strengthen collaboration and security partnerships
- It also provides an incredible learning opportunity for you. Understanding your responsibility in identifying and reporting insider risk…
- Will ensure the success of your mission…
- Bring great pride to your home country…
- And ensure the safety of your fellow students, their families, and all personnel living and working on US Military installations.
You should now understand the importance of detecting possible insider threats and reporting behaviors of concern to appropriate officials; identify possible risk indicators and reporting procedures; describe methodologies used to recruit trusted insiders and collect protected information; and understand security reporting requirements.

Please ensure you review the associated Job Aid “Insider Risk Reporting for IMS” and coordinate with your IMSO and other support staff to learn about installation specific reporting procedures and points of contact. Congratulations on your selection as an International Military Student. Working together we can ensure the success of your mission and the safety of all.