

Personnel Security Definitions

Adjudication. An overall common sense determination based upon consideration and assessment of all available information, both favorable and unfavorable, with particular emphasis being placed on the seriousness, recency, frequency and motivation for the individual's conduct; the extent to which conduct was negligent, willful, voluntary, or undertaken with knowledge of the circumstances or consequences involved; and, to the extent that it can be estimated, the probability that conduct will or will not continue in the future.

Adjudicator. Trained and certified Military, government and contractor personnel who have been trained in the "whole person" concept and recommends suitability/clearance determinations based upon all available information.

Alien. Any person not a citizen of the United States.

Citizen. United States citizens, either by birth or who are U.S. Nationals, those who have derived U.S. Citizenship or those who acquired it through naturalization.

Classified Information. Information that requires protection in the interests of National Security in accordance with Executive Order 12958.

Clearance. A security determination that an individual is eligible and authorized to be allowed access to classified information on a need-to-know basis. The level of clearance will not exceed the required level of access.

Command. For the purpose of this regulation, a Command is any organizational entity under one individual authorized to exercise direction and control. The term includes units, ships, laboratories, bases, squadrons activities, facilities or any other indication of organizational integrity.

Commanding Officer. Unless otherwise noted, the term “Commanding Officer” includes “Commander”, “Officer-in-Charge”, “Director”, “Inspector” and any other title assigned to an individual, military or civilian, who through Command status, position or administrative jurisdiction, It has the authority to render a decision with regard to a specific question under consideration.

Command Security Officer (CSO). Designated by the Commanding Officer to manage the security program and to provide unit or staff level security support. Commands not required to designate a CSO per COMDTINST M5510.21 (series) shall designate a unit security officer to perform the functions designated for the CSO in this Manual.

Eligibility. Results from a determination made by a trained adjudicator under the standards of Enclosure (1), which establishes the highest level of final security clearance that an individual may qualify to receive. The determination will be based upon the type and recency of the member's personnel security investigation. Also, eligibility can be affected by the review of any other pertinent information relating to the member's qualification for a final security clearance.

Foreign National. Considered to be any person not a U.S. citizen or immigrant alien. American citizens representing foreign governments, foreign private interests, or other foreign nationals are considered to be foreign nationals for the purposes of this regulation, when acting in that capacity.

Immigrant Alien. Any person lawfully admitted into the United States under an immigration visa for permanent residence.

National Security. The national defense and foreign relations of the United States.

Need-to-Know. A determination by an authorized holder of classified information that a prospective recipient requires access to specific classified information in order to perform or assist in a lawful and authorized governmental function. Knowledge or possession of, or access to, classified information shall not be afforded to any person solely by virtue of the individual's office, position or security clearance.

Personnel Security Investigation (PSI). Any investigation required for the purpose of determining the eligibility of an individual for access to classified information, acceptance or retention in the Armed Forces, assignment or retention in sensitive duties or other designated duties requiring such investigation.

U.S. National.

- a. A person born in an outlying possession of the United States on or after the date of formal acquisition of such possession or;
- b. A person born outside the United States and its outlying possessions of parents both of whom are nationals, but are not citizens of the United States, and have had residence in the United States or one of its outlying possessions prior to the birth of such person; or
- c. A person of unknown parentage found in an outlying possession of the United States while under the age of five years, unless shown, prior to attaining the age of 21 years, not to have been born in such outlying possession. For the purposes of this directive, U.S. Nationals are included in the use of the term "U.S. Citizens".