

**TO CLEARED CONTRACTORS IN THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL
SECURITY PROGRAM**

**SECURITY REMINDER
OF POLICY REGARDING ACCESSING PUBLICALLY POSTED
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

Defense Security Service

December 13, 2010

As recent media reporting has shown, a consequence of the current electronic data environment is that persons are able to easily distribute or post in the public domain protected information, to include government classified information. Security regulations are clear on this point: Classified information is not declassified automatically as a result of an unauthorized disclosure of identical or similar information.

The public posting of classified information on the Internet does not automatically remove the classified designation. Classified information should only be processed on systems that are certified and accredited for such processing in accordance with security regulations. Cleared contractor personnel have a responsibility to view or handle classified information in accordance with the level of classification assigned.

Downloading classified information or potentially classified information to an IT system not certified and accredited to process classified information constitutes a security violation. Please err on the side of caution and continue to be vigilant when it comes to protecting classified information.

Questions regarding this reminder should be addressed to your facility security officer or the Defense Security Service Industrial Security Representative assigned to your facility.