The Pathway to Success Begins with

SPēD

Security Professional Education Development

Upcoming SPēD Events

Joint presentation to Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii
Feb. 7—10

2011 DoD European Security Conference and SPēD Sessions (by invitation only)
Garmish-Partenkirchen, Germany
May 9—11

Security Fundamentals Professional Certification Testing
Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
June 20

DoD Worldwide Security Conference
Summer 2011

Interested in scheduling a SPēD test at DSS in Linthicum?

Send an e-mail to SPED@dss.mil.

Looking Back: SPēD 2010

The much anticipated SPēD (Security Professional Education Development) Program was launched at last year's DoD World Security Conference in Rosemont, Illinois. This new program provides security professionals with an accredited certification that is recognized and transferable throughout the DoD. Security practitioners were invigorated by this opportunity for professional development.

Dr. Joselito Lualhati of Global Skills X-Change (GSX) points out technical elements of SPēD during an informational briefing at the Pentagon on Sept. 30, 2010.

Following the August SPēD launch, DSS traveled to over 20 locations to administer the Security Fundamentals Professional Certification Beta Test. Bringing SPēD to the security community had positive results. Tom Wheeler, Chief of Information Security at Redstone Arsenal, commented, "After hearing about SPēD for the last few years, it was good to see movement and progression towards actual certification for our security professionals. After DSS came to visit Huntsville to administer the Beta Test, the community has a much greater sense of the significance of this program and how it will better professionalize and authenticate our security specialists."

Outlook for 2011

Security professionals will have additional resources to assist them in obtaining a Security Fundamentals Professional Certification. DSS will be releasing the *Security Fundamentals Professional Certification Candidate Handbook* and a diagnostic test in the future. Locations and schedules for SPēD briefings and testing will also be released in the next weeks.

Security Asset Protection Professional Certification beta testing will launch at the DoD Security Conference this summer.

Second Quarter Newsletter

SPēD Beta Test Turnout Exceeds Expectations

The results are in! Nine hundred and twenty-seven security practitioners took the Security Fundamentals Professional Certification Beta Test. This far exceeded the Department's goal of testing 500 candidates. Defense Security Service proctors traveled to test sites across the U.S. to test DoD candidates.

DSS appreciates the support provided by test centers throughout the U.S. who participated in beta testing. The contributions of the test centers were critical to DoD reaching its goal.

Security professionals were excited to be involved with beta testing. According to Michael Scott, Chief of Information Security at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, "The response to the test and the certification concept from the community has been phenomenal. Most are stating that the program is long overdue. I've taken the first test myself, and as a manager of security professionals, it clearly outlines DoD expectations for security professionals."

During the next weeks, DSS will use results from the beta tests to develop the final test and determine the passing score. Beta candidates will receive their results in February from their Component Program Office.

Launching the Security Fundamentals Professional Certification

Now that the Beta phase of the Security Fundamental Professional Certification has ended, DSS is preparing to launch the production version of the program. Be sure to ask your Component Point of Contact (POC) for more information about test dates.

POC Contact Information

Air Force, David Day, David.Day@pentagon.af.mil
Army, Luisa Garza, Luisa.Garza1@us.army.mil or SPeD@mi.army.mil
Marine Corps, William T. Potts, Jr., William.T.Potts@usmc.mil
Navy, Susan Conklin, Susan.Conklin@navy.mil

If your organization is not listed above, check the SPēD Website at http://dssa.dss.mil/seta/sped/sped.html or send an e-mail to SPED@dss.mil and DSS will provide your organization's POC.

People are Talking

"I was impressed with the content and functionality of the assessment. It was challenging, realistic and engaging. I'm glad I volunteered!"

Mary Stech, Security Specialist
Defense Security Service/Center for Development of Security Excellence

On the Horizon...

Scheduling a SPēD Certification Assessment

Before beginning the process, notify your supervisor of your plans to schedule a SPēD Certification Assessment.

Step One: Component must identify you as an applicant or you may volunteer based on your Component's SPēD Candidate policy.

Step Two: Create or update your ENROL account to be added to the SPēD Certification Audience.

Step Three: Contact your Component SPēD Program Management Office to schedule your test date and time.

Step Four: Register for the Certification Assessment via SPeDCert.Registration@DSS.MIL with your confirmed scheduled test site location, date and time.