



# CONTINUOUS EVALUATION PROGRAM

## FACT SHEET

### **Background**

Although the concept of continuous evaluation (CE) has existed for many years within the personnel security community, the need for CE has become more prominent and poignant in the wake of recent events.

The current background investigation process consists of initial investigations and periodic reinvestigations on individuals determined to have a need for access to classified information. However, a gap exists between investigative cycles in which issues relevant to an individual's continued eligibility for a security clearance may go unreported or unknown. The principles of CE and periodic reinvestigations are fundamentally the same: to provide information that can assist in evaluating an individual's continued eligibility for access to classified information during the period of eligibility. The difference is that CE relies on automated records checks conducted on a continuous basis, while periodic reinvestigations, conducted less frequently, also include other sources of information such as subject interviews and interviews of coworkers, references, and supervisors.

### **What is Continuous Evaluation (CE)?**

CE is a personnel security investigative process that leverages an automated records check methodology and applies standardized business rules to identify adjudicatively relevant information between investigations to assess cleared individuals' on-going eligibility for access to classified information. CE will supplement the periodic reinvestigation process while also providing potential insight and input to insider threat programs.

### **What are the authorities for CE?**

Pursuant to Executive Order 13467, the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), as the Security Executive Agent (SecEA), is responsible for developing uniform and consistent policies and procedures to ensure the effective, efficient, and timely completion of investigations and adjudications relating to determinations by agencies of eligibility for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position. Under Executive Order 12968 as amended, the DNI may determine and establish the standards for CE across the executive branch. Additionally, because CE is an investigative activity that supports eligibility determinations, the DNI has responsibility for and oversight of CE.

**Who is responsible for developing CE?**

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) has established a Continuous Evaluation Program (CEP) to develop standards for the implementation of CE, and to coordinate, align, and integrate executive branch departments and agencies' CE activities. Additionally, the CEP is developing an automated records check capability that can be used by any executive branch department or agency to conduct CE.,

**Who is subject to CE?**

Any individual affiliated with an executive branch department or agency and who has been determined to be eligible for or who currently has access to classified information is subject to CE during the period of eligibility.

**How will CE be implemented?**

By the end of September 2015, the capability of the NCSC CE System to perform automated record checks will be demonstrated, with the objective of expanding the option to use the NCSC CE System to all executive branch departments and agencies with a TS/SCI population by March 2017.

Agencies that have developed their own CE capability may continue to conduct their own CE-related data inquiries or may acquire data from the NCSC CE System. An organization may also decide to partner with another agency and utilize that agency's CE capabilities. Any alternative CE capability must comply with the requirements, standards, and policies developed and issued by the SecEA.

**Is CE going to infringe on anyone's privacy or civil liberties?**

Individuals who are eligible for access to classified information sign waivers that permit the government to conduct investigative activities and to collect information relevant to the granting of the security clearance. CE will only collect information relevant to personnel security eligibility determinations for individuals who currently have eligibility for access to classified information and have signed the waiver. CE will only include information that is lawfully available to security officials. Additionally, the CEP is coordinating with legal, civil liberties and privacy experts to ensure that the privacy and civil liberties of individuals are protected in the collection and processing of information for CE.

**Will the government be collecting information from social media for CE?**

During the initial implementation, CE will generally involve records checks of the same types of information that are currently being checked for personnel security purposes, except on a more frequent basis. However, we are currently researching the use of Publicly Available Electronic Information (PAEI), to include social media and other information available online. As part of the research process, a full legal review of the use of PAEI will be conducted to ensure that the privacy and civil liberties of individuals are protected. Our intent is to have an established standard for handling PAEI in personnel security investigations prior to its inclusion as a CE data source.