
Dod Security Clearance Process At Requesting Activities

Personnel Security Clearances: Preliminary Observations on Joint Reform Efforts to Improve the Governmentwide Clearance Eligibility Process

DOD personnel clearances DOD needs to overcome impediments to eliminating backlog and determining its size : report to the Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives.

Security Clearance Reform

Personnel Security Clearances: Progress Has Been Made to Reduce Delays But Further Actions are Needed to Enhance Quality and Sustain Reform Efforts

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Standards and Due Process Procedures for Granting, Denying, and Revoking Security Clearances

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Report of the Activities of the Committee on Armed Services, January 3, 2009, 110-2

House Report 110-942

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Clearances:

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In 2004, Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act to reform security clearance processes. The experience in evaluating

personnel security clearance processes has consisted of examining the DoD program, which maintains 2.5 million clearances on service members, DoD civilian employees, legislative branch employees, and industry personnel working for DoD and 23 other fed. agencies. Long-standing delays in processing applications -- and other problems in DoD's clearance program -- led it to be designated a high-risk area in 2005. There has also been clearance-related

problems in other agencies. Here, the author was asked to identify key factors that could be applied in personnel security clearance reform efforts. *DOD personnel clearances DOD needs to overcome impediments to eliminating backlog and determining its size : report to the Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives.* DIANE Publishing
The Department of Defense (DoD) personnel

security clearance program has been on GAO's high-risk list since 2005, due to delays in the process and incomplete documentation. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) conducts most of DoD's clearance investigations, which DoD adjudicators use to make clearance decisions. The Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) chairs a Performance Accountability Council that is responsible for reforming the clearance

process. Conducted under the authority of the Comptroller General, GAO's report addresses the following: (1) reporting on timeliness for DoD clearances, (2) documentation completeness for making initial top-secret clearance decisions for DoD personnel, and (3) reporting on the quality of the clearance process. To assess these issues, GAO analyzed data on most DoD clearances granted in fiscal year 2008, randomly sampled and analyzed 100 OPM

investigative reports and DoD adjudicative files for clearances granted in July 2008, and analyzed 2006-2009 executive branch annual clearance reports. GAO recommends that, in annual reports to Congress, OMB provide Congress with more information on timeliness and quality and that OPM and DoD address documentation completeness issues. OMB and DoD concurred, while OPM did not state whether it concurred with GAO's recommendations. Security Clearance

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 Since Jan. 2005, the
 DoD's personnel security
 clearance program has
 been placed on the list of
 high-risk government
 programs and operations.
 This statement discusses
 the personnel security
 joint reform efforts. It
 addresses: (1) elements
 of the most recent

security clearance reform
 efforts; and (2) the extent
 to which the recent
 reform efforts address key
 factors that should be
 considered in efforts to
 reform the security
 process. Also identifies
 best practices that
 agencies can use to
 successfully transform
 their cultures and,
 accordingly, can guide the
 implementation of these
 personnel security
 clearance reform efforts.
 Charts and tables.
[The Insider Threat to
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The Dept. of Defense (DoD) personnel security clearance program has been a high-risk entity since 2005, due to delays in the process and incomplete documentation. The Office of Personnel Mgmt. (OPM) conducts most of DoD's clearance investigations, which DoD adjudicators use to make clearance decisions. The Deputy Dir. for Mgmt. and Budget chairs a Performance Accountability Council that is responsible for reforming the clearance

process. This report addresses the: (1) reporting on timeliness for DoD clearances; (2) documentation completeness for making initial top-secret clearance decisions for DoD personnel; and (3) reporting on the quality of the clearance process. Includes recommend. *Illus. Progress Or More Problems* DIANE Publishing
Our independent analysis of timeliness data showed that industry personnel contracted to work for the

federal government waited more than one year on average to receive top secret clearances, longer than OPM-produced statistics would suggest. Our analysis of 2,259 cases for industry personnel who were granted top secret clearance eligibility in January and February 2006 had an average of 446 days for an initial clearance and 545 days for a clearance update. While OMB has issued a goal that the application-submission phase of the clearance process will

take no longer than 14 days by December 17, 2006, this phase took an average of 111 days. OPM's current procedures for measuring application submission timeliness do not fully capture all of the time in the application process that starts when the application form is submitted by the facility security officer to the federal government. Inaccurate data that the employee provided in the application, multiple reviews of the application, and manual entry of some application forms are

some of the causes for the extended application-submission phase. In addition, our analyses showed that OPM took an average of 286 days to complete the initial investigations for top secret clearances, well in excess of the 180-day goal (no goal is given for clearance update investigations) specified in the government wide plan for improving the clearance process. Factors contributing to the slowness of completing the investigation phase include an inexperienced

investigative workforce that has not reached its full performance level; and problems accessing national, state, and local records.

Standards and Due Process Procedures for Granting, Denying, and Revoking Security Clearances Last Post Publishing Security Clearance Manual is an indispensable guide for security clearance applicants, personnel security specialists and military recruiters. It provides detailed

explanations of the investigative and adjudicative processes with step by step instructions for completing the security application form, tips on mitigating suitability issues and numerous case examples.

Security Clearance Reform Due Process in Security Clearance Determinations Faster Processing of DOD Personnel Security Clearances Could Avoid Millions in Losses Review Procedures and Standards for the Granting of

Security Clearances at the Department of Defense Personnel Clearances: Key Factors for Reforming the Security Clearance Process

Due to concerns about long standing delays in the security clearance process, Congress mandated reforms in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which requires, among other things, that the executive branch report annually to Congress. The Office of Personnel Mgmt. conducts much of the

government's clearance investigations. In 2007, the Dir. of National Intelligence and DoD established a Joint Reform Team to coordinate governmentwide improvement efforts for the process. This statement addresses: (1) progress in reducing delays at DoD; (2) opportunities for improving executive branch reports to Congress; and (3) the extent to which joint reform efforts reflect key factors for reform.

Illustrations.

<u>DoD Personnel Clearances</u>	<i>Process for Denials and</i>	<i>Report of the Activities of</i>
<u>DIANE Publishing</u>	<i>Revocations by Defense,</i>	<i>the Committee on Armed</i>
<u>Departments of</u>	<i>Energy, and State</i>	<i>Services, January 3, 2009,</i>
<u>Transportation and</u>	<i>Security Clearance</i>	<i>110-2 House Report</i>
<u>Treasury, and</u>	<i>Procedures in the</i>	<i>110-942</i>
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