



NCMS

ISP Program Update

June 2009 – Disneyland Resort, CA

ISP Committee



- **Barbara Taylor, ISP – Chair and Exam Review & Update Subcommittee**
- **Priscilla Crawford, ISP – Vice-Chair and Exam Review & Update Subcommittee**
- **Jim Hickok, ISP – Certification program advisor and Chair, ISP Accreditation Committee**
- **Karin Lee – Exam generation and maintenance**
- **Sharon Tannahill – On-line exam administrator and application & recertification credit application review**





ISP Committee

- **Exam Review & Update Subcommittee**
 - Cheryl Pelton, ISP (Entire Exam); Joe Reuter, ISP (COMSEC Elective); Bohdan Stryk, ISP (Information Systems Security Section & OPSEC Elective)
- **On-line Practice Exam Subcommittee**
 - Leonard Moss, ISP (Lead); Patrick Dale, ISP; Ray Hair; ISP
- **SPeD Comparison Subcommittee**
 - David Bledsoe, ISP; Lisa Doman, ISP





ISP Committee

- **SAP Elective Subcommittee**
 - Curt Kerrick, ISP (Lead); Patrick Dale, ISP; Gary Doss, ISP; Cynthia Moiani, ISP
- **Monitor ISP Web Page Subcommittee**
 - Bill Uttenweiler, ISP (Webmaster); Alycia Harris, ISP (Asst. Webmaster)
- **New Exam Questions Subcommittee**
 - Pat Robbins, ISP (Lead); James Bailey, ISP; Cathy Lybrand, ISP; Shona Nietzsche, ISP; Robin Smith, ISP; Polly Rupe, ISP; Jeanne Young, ISP





ISP Committee

- **Recertification Credit System Subcommittee**
 - Dianne Raynor, ISP (Lead); Dotti Bitner, ISP; Alycia Harris, ISP; Conrad Hertzog, ISP; Debra Holtzclaw, ISP; Hazel Martinez, ISP
- **OPSEC Elective New Questions Subcommittee**
 - James Bailey, ISP (Lead); Kat Boyer, ISP; Conrad Hertzog, ISP; Shona Nietsche, ISP





ISP Certification Metrics

- **ISP Program Metrics for June 1, 2008 – May 27, 2009**
 - Number of ISPs at the beginning of the Society year: **166**
 - Number of candidates who took the exam for the 1st time: **38**
 - Number of candidates who passed the exam the 1st time: **31**
 - Number of candidates who took the exam for the 2nd time: **3**
 - Number of candidates who passed the exam the 2nd time: **3**
 - Number of candidates who received certification under the DoE requirements: **2**
 - Number of ISPs who did not recertify: **7**
 - Number of ISPs now: **195**
 - Number of ISPs who have failed to renew since program inception: **14**





Exam Prep Program Committee

- **Bill Uttenweiler, ISP – Co-Lead EPP Mentor, ISP page Webmaster**
- **Pat Robbins, ISP – Co-Lead EPP Mentor, editor EPP Workbook**
- **Dianne Walton, ISP, CISSP – Co-Lead EPP Mentor, editor “The Annotated NISPOM”**
- **James Bailey, ISP; Kat Boyer, ISP; Patrick Dale, ISP; John Dean, ISP; Liz Fant, ISP; Joseph Fulco, ISP; Elaine Jennings, ISP; Wayne Lund, ISP; Jim Massaro, ISP; Hazel Martinez, ISP; Scott Minke, ISP; Cynthia Moiani, ISP; Carla Peters-Carr, ISP; George Quin, ISP, CPP; Erica Simmons, Rick West, ISP, CISSP; Jeanne**
), ISP – Mentors





Exam Prep Program Committee

Congratulations to the EPP Program Mentors who were awarded the NCMS Information Security Award!

“The NCMS ISP Exam Prep Program Mentor Team is nominated for the NCMS Information Security Award for the many hours of diligent work they have contributed to provide quality training to candidates who are planning to take the ISP Certification exam, and for the overall improvement in the practice of industrial security their efforts have achieved.”





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Assist the ISP Accreditation Committee in obtaining accreditation for the ISP certification**
 - **Obtained resumes and completed Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Agreements from all ISP Certification and EPP Committee members**
 - **Finalized the Lifetime Certification and the Recertification Lapse policies for inclusion in the ISP Certification Manual**
 - **Made various changes to the ISP Certification Program Manual**
- **As we undergo the accreditation process, we will be making various program changes recommended/required by ANSI for accreditation**





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Review and update the ISP exam, as necessary**
 - Evaluated the questions missed by a number of candidates on the June 2008 exam administration and made minor revisions for clarity to several questions
 - Reviewed all current exam questions and made necessary revisions/deletions/moves to different sections of the exam
 - Reviewed the OPSEC elective questions in light of newly discovered references and revised as necessary
 - Created a new subcommittee which generated new OPSEC elective questions from the new reference material





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Implement the on-line practice exam**
 - The On-line Practice Exam Subcommittee provided 30 questions in March 2008
 - The BoD decided that the practice exam should be only 10 questions
 - Selected 10 questions, eliminating questions that were too similar to current exam questions
 - Will use other questions as “new” exam questions
 - Edited questions for proper exam format
 - Will implement the on-line practice exam as soon as possible





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Monitor development of the SPeD program**
 - The SPeD program has evolved into a competency model used to identify training needs
 - “The goal of the SPeD program is to identify, organize and provide validated training and skills requirements across the major security disciplines to support the development of a professional security workforce.”
 - “These skills and competencies have been collated and analyzed to define the training needs for security specialists as well as generalists within the DoD.”





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Monitor development of the SPeD program**
 - “Linking training to validated skills and competencies facilitates the development of a certification program for DoD security professionals - a concept currently under analysis.”
 - This objective will be tabled until such time as the SPeD program becomes a certification





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Implement the SAP elective**
 - The SAP Elective Subcommittee provided 22 exam questions, based on the JAFAN 6/0, and
 - The Subcommittee also provided the SAP EPP Workbook section
 - Edited questions for proper exam format
 - Placed exam questions on-line for beta testing
 - Obtained knowledgeable personnel to be beta testers and provide comments on the questions and answer choices





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Implement the SAP elective**
 - Still awaiting selected beta testers to provide comments
 - Reviewed the EPP Workbook section and eliminated several questions as they were too similar to exam questions
 - Will include SAP elective in Round #8 of the EPP
 - Unknown exam implementation date due to non-responsiveness of beta testers





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Monitor the ISP web page for currency**
 - Formed a new subcommittee to assist with this task as it is an ongoing issue
 - Updated the ISP web page to the new format/style of the new NCMS website
 - Posted several new Intellectual property references to the Study References & Test Sources page
 - Deleted links found to be no longer working





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Incorporate new questions into the exam**
 - The New Exam Question Subcommittee provided 38 new questions in August 2008
 - Reviewed these against current exam questions – eliminated new questions that were too similar to current questions
 - Combined these with questions from the on-line practice exam not used for that purpose
 - All proposed new questions are under review by the Exam Review & Update Subcommittee





2008-2009 Objectives & Accomplishments

- **Determine whether or not to change to Continuing Professional Education credits for recertification**
 - It is our recommendation that we convert to CPE/CEU credits for recertification at some point in time
 - When we do this, we will need:
 - An equation to convert our current point system to CPEs/CEUs and incorporate/advertise the new criteria
 - A method to convert those ISPs during the three-year recertification period
 - As we are currently undergoing review for accreditation, we will not switch until we have attained certification or the accrediting agency asks that we do so





2008-2009 Other Accomplishments

- **The OPSEC Elective New Questions Subcommittee generated 20 questions from several newly discovered references**
 - Reviewed these against current elective questions – eliminated new questions that were too similar to current questions
 - Edited questions for proper exam format
 - Ten new OPSEC questions have been incorporated into the exam





2008-2009 Program Revisions

- **Decided that hardcopy exams would normally be given only at the NCMS Seminar**
 - When there are a number of candidates for one sitting who want to take the hardcopy exam, e.g., a Chapter-sponsored exam, and an ISP will act as the proctor, the ISP Certification Committee may approve an exception
- **Made minor revisions to the Recertification Guide for clarity in what will be counted for credit**
 - Recertification credit is given for being an EPP Mentor and an exam Proctor





2008-2009 Exam Prep Program

- This voluntary program is related to, but separate from, the ISP Certification Program. It is an informal program, run by ISPs, that is designed as a method to assist candidates in preparation for the ISP Certification Examination. This program does not provide “answers” to the ISP examination questions. Rather, it provides a structured approach to studying, a platform for discussions that will assist the candidate in confirming the accuracy of their knowledge, and a refresher on test-taking strategies.





2008-2009 Exam Prep Program

- To assist in defining the separation between the EPP and the ISP Certification Committee, the EPP is no longer shown as a “subcommittee” of the ISP Certification Committee. It is now shown as its own committee with oversight by the ISP Certification Committee Chair. Its activities are reported under the ISP Certification Committee for ease of record keeping.





2008-2009 Exam Prep Program

- **Program statistics**

- Conducted Round #6 in mid July – November 2008
 - 120 registered participants
- Conducted Round #7 February – June 2009
 - 100+ registered participants
- Will conduct Round #8 July – November 2009
- Collected \$910 for the sale of EPP workbooks
- Majority of people who take and pass the exam continue to be EPP graduates
 - Acquired 2 new mentors and retained experienced mentors





2008-2009 Exam Prep Program

- **Program improvements:**

- Updated the Mentor's version of the EPP Workbook for Round #6
- Moved the "Searching the Annotated NISPOM" lesson from call 11 to call 1B
- Revised "The Annotated NISPOM" to:
 - include ISL 2009-1
 - allow users to copy & paste
 - include clear references to the ISL from which a NISPOM change has come





2008-2009 Exam Prep Program

● Program improvements:

- Summarized the critiques from Round #5 for easy use in making improvements to the program and the workbook, as needed
- Solicited testimonials from ISPs on how the attainment of certification has impacted them and their careers to encourage others to take the exam and attain the same benefits





2008-2009 Exam Prep Program

- **Program improvements:**
 - Completed a review of the OPSEC elective section of the EPP Workbook by a new ISP and OPSEC expert (Wayne Lund, ISP) – no revisions needed
 - Completed a review of the Counterintelligence elective section of the EPP Workbook (Jim Massaro, ISP) – resulting in significant update of the content





2009-2010 Objectives

- **Review the master test question bank (core and elective questions)**
 - **Make revisions necessitated by new/revised guidance**
 - Information Systems Security section (ISL 2009-01)
 - Marking questions (ISOO Notices)
 - **Hire consultant to assist with this effort**
 - **Maintain separation between EPP Mentors and anyone who reviews questions for the exam**
 - **Mentors can write new questions as they won't know what questions were accepted/rejected and what changes were made to the accepted questions but they cannot review current questions**





2009-2010 Objectives

- **Generate new questions, as necessary**
 - Counterintelligence elective questions
- **Assist the ISP Accreditation Committee in obtaining accreditation of the ISP Certification**
- **Implement the SAP elective**
- **Monitor the ISP web page for accuracy**





2009-2010 Objectives

- Continue planning for conversion to CPEs/CEUs for recertification
- Continue to host and improve the Exam Prep Program and the EPP Workbook
 - Seek new volunteer mentors as needed





Conclusion

Questions?

Suggestions?

New Committee Members?

We do need your help!





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