



**NSF SECURE Center**

## **NSF SECURE Center Research Security Briefing**

**Vol. 1 No. 8: August 21, 2025**

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*The SECURE Center distributes research security briefings and timely alerts via its listserv. The Briefing provides a centralized resource for research security-related information, including new statutory and research funding agency requirements, new or updated federal and community resources, and significant news items and scholarly works. The Center will also assess and provide commentary, interpretation, or implementation considerations on new requirements, notices and resources, working with higher education associations, legal partners, or agencies as needed.*

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## Federal Agency News & Updates

### DoD Fundamental Research Guidance

The Department of Defense (DoD) published [Fundamental Research Guidance](#) on August 4, 2025. The Guidance provides background on Fundamental Research (FR) as defined by National Security Decision Directive – 189 (NSDD-189) and DoD’s implementation of the Directive via the May 24, 2010 “Carter Memo”. The Guidance notes that “under the Carter Memo, research funded by 6.1 budget activity or 6.2 research conducted on a university campus is fundamental. For other research categories, the Department must be deliberate when deciding that a particular research topic is appropriate for openly published fundamental research” the availability of a FR Review to assist S&T Managers with determining whether a particular research topic should be developed as fundamental.

The Guidance notes the benefits of FR and that “transformative technologies generally come from unrestricted research conducted by the most talented researchers in a collaborative, open environment.” It incorporates Considerations for Program Managers and Contracts and Grants Officers, including:

- Refraining from imposing publication review of research that has been formally designated as fundamental;
- For awards with multiple performers, considering whether some portion of the work should be designated as FR even if much of the award is not; and,
- Avoiding flowing down restrictions to awardees performing FR that are inappropriate for FR.

In addition, apart from Risk-Based Security Reviews of Fundamental Research, that no security vetting should be done on personnel engaged in fundamental research and “no preapproval conditions for the addition of researchers such as students, postdoctoral fellows, laboratory technicians, or other persons not labeled as senior/key personnel by the research performer should be placed on awards for fundamental research.”

Considerations for Prime Awardees include that in cases where a subawardee requests a FR designation, prime awardees are encouraged to contact the Program Manager and request such a designation. Taken together, the guidance has the potential to 1. significantly limit restrictions on fundamental research that can preclude the participation of some institutions and 2. foster the open-exchange of scientific information.

## Research Security News & Reports

*Please note, articles linked below may require a subscription to view.  
NSF SECURE Center cannot distribute copies of subscription-based articles.*

### CISA 2015 Expires September 30<sup>th</sup>

From Cyberscoop, a summary of possibilities or pathways regarding the pending Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA), set to expire at the end of September 2025. Congressional authorization is needed before that date for organizations to continue sharing threat data, including

with the federal government. The Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 is a US federal law designed to improve cybersecurity by encouraging the sharing of cyber threat information between government agencies, private companies, and other non-federal entities. ([more](#))

## International Research Security Policy & Resources

### Major University in Denmark Increases Research Security Procedures

Announced online, the University of Copenhagen is taking additional steps to protect its research from foreign influence. The University will have “new procedures aimed at screening potential collaborators, employees, and students with ties to countries identified as posing a heightened espionage risk.” ([more](#))

## Research Security-Related Events & Conferences

### National Academies “Assessing Research Security Efforts in Higher Education - Meeting of Experts 2”:

Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1-4:30pm. Convened by the Department of Defense, subject matter experts from universities and federal agencies will gather to discuss research security efforts, including potential measures of effectiveness and institutional perspectives. Conducted in person in Washington DC or some portions available via a webcast (registration required). ([more](#))

### FDP Virtual Meeting:

Registration is now open for the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Virtual September 2025 meeting, taking place Monday, September 15th (11 AM ET – 5 PM ET), Tuesday, September 16th (11 AM ET – 5 PM ET) and Wednesday, September 17th (11 AM ET - 2 PM ET). ([more](#))

### COGR October Meeting:

Registration is now open for the October 23-24, 2025, meeting in Washington D.C. at the Washington Marriott in Georgetown. Hotel reservations under the COGR block can now also be made. ([more](#))

### Save the Date for ASCE 2026:

Mark your calendars now for the 2026 Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program. Next year is the 10th anniversary of the largest research security conference in the world: February 24 - 26, 2026. **Proposals are being accepted through noon (CST) on August 31, 2025.** ([more](#))

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