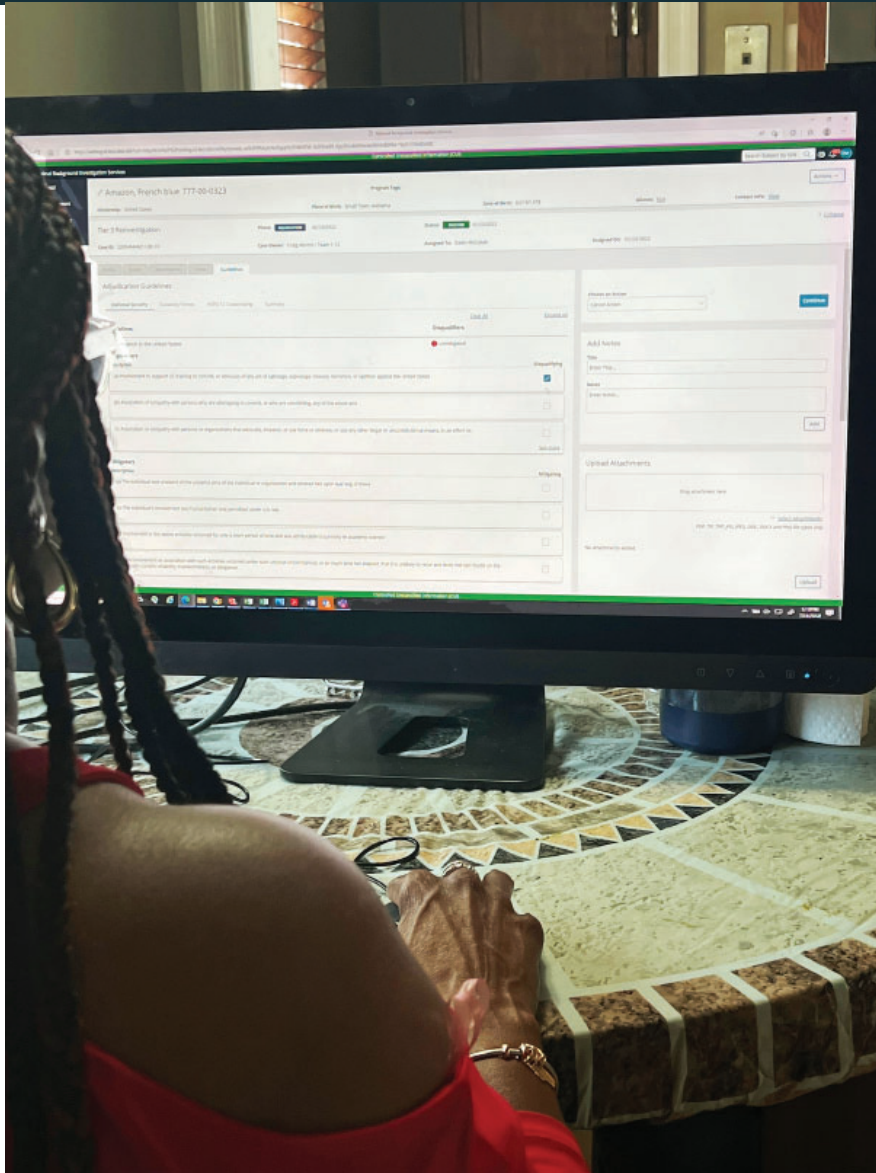


National Background Investigation Services (NBIS)



The National Background Investigation Services (NBIS) integrates Agile development methodologies with flexible testing and validation processes to provide near continuous evaluation of an emerging system. The NBIS program places a strong emphasis on data security design and testing.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

NBIS is a cloud-based system-of-systems that will function as a single-source information technology solution for all tasks associated with end-to-end personnel security vetting and continuous reviews. NBIS includes legacy and newly developed applications in a common architecture to support data gathering, storage, and management of data associated with personnel background investigations in a secure and protected environment. NBIS will replace previously compromised legacy systems.

MISSION

The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA), other Federal agencies, and industry partners will use NBIS to authorize and support conduct of background investigations for new applicants as well as incumbent government, military, and contract personnel. NBIS provides automation and support to allow agencies to initiate clearance requests, to enable candidates to complete background investigation forms, to gather public data concerning personnel applying, and to manage the findings of an investigation. The system also supports adjudication of clearances as well as continued vetting of cleared personnel.

PROGRAM

NBIS transitioned to the Software Acquisition Pathway in 2021 and uses Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) and Development Security Operations methodologies. The DCSA assumed operational control for NBIS from Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) in October 2020, and is deploying NBIS in multiple releases of increasing capability while building upon and replacing legacy systems, which will be decommissioned through 2023. The program has employed SAFe methodologies to rapidly develop and field capabilities in collaboration with the testers and intended customer/user base. Early releases to a limited and restricted user base supported continuous developmental testing and a cumulative validation of system and data security. In March 2022, DOT&E placed NBIS on oversight due to program size, complexity, and importance to DOD operations.

» MAJOR CONTRACTORS

- Peraton – Herndon, Virginia and Basking Ridge, New Jersey (major software developer)
- Salient Systems – Austin, Texas (security support)
- Soleil LLC – Vienna, Virginia (sustainment support)
- Accenture Federal Services – Arlington, Virginia (system onboarding to Federal agencies)
- Alion Science and Technology Corp – McLean, Virginia (user training)

- Lockheed Martin Corp, Deloitte, Kapili Services, and Perspecta Enterprise Solutions LLC (contractor support)

TEST ADEQUACY

The Joint Interoperability Test Center (JITC) is conducting both developmental and operational testing of this program. An updated Test and Evaluation Strategy (TES) for NBIS is currently in review and staffing with DOT&E. Current NBIS testing is adequate to resolve the critical operational issues, and includes several innovations in both automated and continuous testing of systems using Agile and other rapid development approaches. JITC has conducted or overseen multiple rounds of government acceptance, user acceptance, and limited user tests in 2022 using a previously prepared TES. DOT&E will capture lessons learned from the development of these testing capabilities, which may be of use in other Agile program tests.

PERFORMANCE

The program is incrementally building functionality and testing at each iteration and release. All tests to date have resulted in rapid correction of findings either during the test event or immediately thereafter.

» EFFECTIVENESS

Evaluation of the five specific mission areas include Initiation/ Review/Authorize, Investigation,

Adjudication/Appeals, Continuous Vetting, and Subject Management. Each are in a different stage and an effectiveness determination is in progress. No major findings from prior tests remain open.

» **SUITABILITY**

Determination of suitability is in progress with an expanding user base via operational tests

and table top reviews to include help desk and user training. The program continues to meet or exceed system latency, loading, and simultaneous use goals.

» **SURVIVABILITY**

The system has no major unresolved cyber survivability findings. JITC has conducted four rounds of operational cyber

testing. Findings are rapidly corrected and the emerging system continues to implement new security capabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

None.