

*From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director
Office of Research Security (ORS)*

Security Clearance Myths That Refuse to Die

JUL 19, 2026 | John Berry

Few areas of security clearance law generate more misinformation than the security clearance process. Over the years, I have heard countless applicants and clearance holders repeat the same advice from coworkers, internet forums, and well-meaning friends, and much of it simply isn't true.

Unfortunately, believing these myths can lead individuals to make poor decisions that actually increase their risk of losing a clearance.

In our practice representing security clearance holders, we have found that many of the commonly held beliefs about security clearances are not always true.

Security Clearance Myths That Refuse to Die

Here are a few of the common myths that we hear.

Myth #1: Going to Counseling Will Cost You Your Clearance

This is perhaps the most damaging myth I encounter.

Many people avoid seeking counseling or mental health treatment because they fear it will automatically disqualify them from obtaining or maintaining a security clearance.

The opposite is often true.

To read the full article: [Security Clearance Myths That Refuse to Die](#)



Additional Articles

1M+ Emails Use Hidden Text to Dupe AI Security Filters

JUL 16, 2026 | Nate Nelson

Hackers are using simple text salting to evade both static and artificial intelligence-powered email security checks.

Since April, researchers at Barracuda Networks observed more than 1 million retail-themed phishing emails that used hidden text to make malicious social engineering look legit to automated security filters. It's a simple age-old trick that's working better today than ever, thanks to an asymmetric advantage afforded by large language models (LLMs). LLMs are helping attackers salt their phishing emails faster and more effectively than ever, whereas the AI-based content analysis engines they're up against don't seem to be putting up much of a defense.

"Text salting appears simple, but its continued and growing use shows it remains effective," says Peterson Gutierrez, vice president of information security at Barracuda. "A technique many people associate with older spam-filter evasion can also influence modern AI-based detection."

To read the full article: [1M+ Emails Use Hidden Text to Dupe AI Security Filters](#)

DoD plans CMMC listening sessions as questions swirl around review

JUL 17, 2026 | Justin Doubleday

The Pentagon wants to move quickly with its review of the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification program, but plenty of questions swirl around what defense officials can do differently this time to balance compliance concerns for small businesses with the need to enforce cybersecurity requirements.

The CMMC review team met for the first time on Thursday, July 16, Defense Department Chief Information Officer Kirsten Davies told reporters that same day following a tour of the factory floor at Kform, a small defense manufacturer based in Sterling, Va.

Davies was joined on the tour by Small Business Administrator Kelly Loeffler and Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Michael Duffey.

Davies said small business considerations were central in the decision to suspend CMMC third-party assessment requirements and launch a "top-to-bottom" review of the program. The goal is to address cost and compliance concerns that Davies, Loeffler and Duffey said are creating barriers for smaller companies to compete for defense contracts.

To read the full article: [DoD plans CMMC listening sessions as questions swirl around review](#)



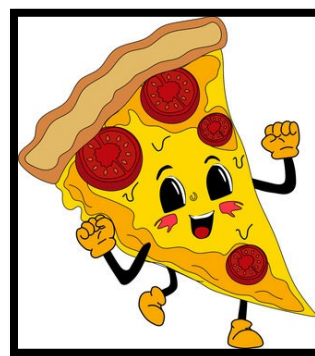
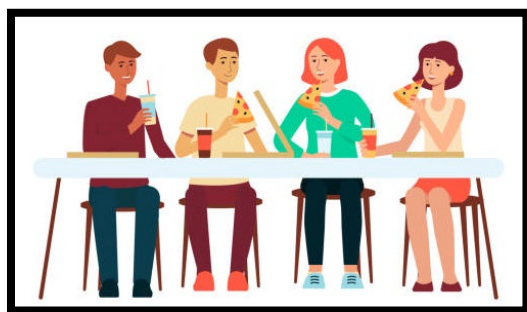
2026 Annual Security Refresher Training

For admission to training events, you must RSVP (using your UAH email account) at the link below which corresponds to your chosen date of attendance.

- **Location:** UAH OKT S105; Time: 11:15-11:30 Sign-In and Pizza, 11:30-12:30 Training
***Training starts promptly at 11:30
 - [Thursday, August 6th](#)
- **Location:** SMAP Suite C (5021 Technology Dr); Time: 11:15-11:30 Sign-In and Pizza, 11:30-12:30 Training ***Training starts promptly at 11:30
 - [Tuesday, September 8th](#)
 - [Thursday, September 24th](#)

Keep in Mind – One of the requirements to maintain your PCL is to complete Annual Refresher Training. Per the 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 117.12(k), contractors will provide all cleared employees with security education and training every 12 months. Refresher training will reinforce the information provided during the initial security briefing, keep cleared employees informed of changes in security regulations, and address issues or concerns identified during contractor self-reviews.

All cleared employees will need to attend an in-person session if they are local to the Huntsville area and within a 2-hour drive.



Please remember to report any suspicious contacts or activity to ORS.

Stay aware and stay safe!



KNOW YOUR SECURITY TEAM!



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