

*From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director*

*Office of Research Security (ORS)*

## Happy New Year UAH Community!!

If you plan on hosting a meeting on campus that will involve **Export Control, Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) or Classified Information**, please notify ORS **as soon as possible!**

Notification will be done via completing the Kuali form: [Request for Controlled Meeting](#)

For classified meetings there is specific information that is required from the attendee (April McMeans will assist with providing you this information). Export control and/or CUI meetings a “proof of U.S. citizenship” will be required from the attendees.

Proof of U.S. citizenship consists of one of the following documents: **US Passport, Real ID, Government issued picture ID.**



## GA Tech ‘Worked Hard to Educate’ DOJ; At \$875K, FCA Amount Is Surprisingly Small

Three years after two Georgia Tech cybersecurity officials filed suit claiming the institution had fabricated scores submitted to the Department of Defense (DOD) regarding its safeguards for federal research projects, the institution, along with Georgia Tech Research Corporation (GTRC), agreed to pay \$875,000.

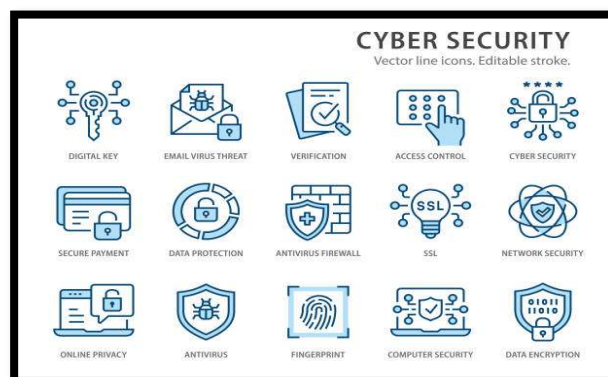
The amount resolves False Claims Act (FCA) allegations that Georgia Tech’s work for the Air Force and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, part of DOD, did not comply with required security safeguards and thus was fraudulent.

Although the settlement amount pales in comparison to what was expected and based on previous settlements under what the Biden administration called the Civil Cyber-Fraud Initiative—including \$1.25 million that Pennsylvania State University paid last year—Julie Bracker, the whistleblower attorney who brought both cases, told *RRC* her firm has “more than a dozen” similar cases filed under seal, with more in the works.

Thus, universities and other research organizations that must meet cybersecurity requirements shouldn’t assume they’ll get off lightly if similarly accused. Of course, defending against such accusations is often more costly than settlement payments themselves.

Georgia Tech and GTRC did not admit to wrongdoing as part of the settlement, a position they have maintained since the case began, generally arguing the contracts were for basic research that was exempt from certain cybersecurity protocols. Penn State also didn’t admit liability as part of its settlement. The Department of Justice (DOJ) did not require any corrective actions, such as enhanced cybersecurity efforts, as part of either of these settlements (it did in a prior FCA settlement agreement with Cleveland Clinic).

**To read the full article:** <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/ga-tech-worked-hard-to-educate-doj-at-7016612/>



## 2026 Annual Security Refresher Training

Be on the lookout for the upcoming refresher security training dates! ORS will host several training opportunities throughout 2026. They will be hosted at the Bob Jones Auditorium (Redstone Arsenal) as well as several locations on campus.

**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.*



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