

WHAT IS INFORMATION ASSURANCE (IA)?

INFORMATION ASSURANCE UNIVERSITY

GENERAL DYNAMICS
C4 Systems

Defense in Depth

- “So how does IA deal with all the threats and goals?” One part of that answer is Defense in Depth (DiD)

• The U.S. Government¹ defines Defense in Depth as *“IA strategy integrating people, technology, and operations capabilities to establish variable barriers across multiple layers and dimensions of networks.”*

- Defense in Depth is the “onion layer” method... penetrate one layer of security, and there is another. Penetrate that layer, and there is yet another layer of security. Also, alternate the IA mechanisms... if someone knows how to penetrate one type of defense, they may not know how to penetrate another type of defense at another layer
- Notice the three areas mentioned above that match our broad classes of security from the very first slide:
 - DiD's People = Security Personnel
 - DiD's Technology = Security's Technical
 - DiD's Operations = Security's Physical plus Security's Policy

IA is More Than Just Technology

- IA includes the following elements that keep the information security system up and running on a daily basis:
 - **Design:** IA includes designing the protections for information, networks, computers, and applications using ALL possible defenses... not just the technological defenses
 - **Operate:** Your information needs ongoing “surveillance” against the 1000s of daily attacks and the 10s of new attacks monthly. IA has an active element that provides on-going defense:
 - **Protect:** IA provides the persons and tools that guard, protect, and administer the security for your systems and networks
 - **Detect:** IA provides the persons and tools that monitor systems and networks for inappropriate activities
 - **React:** IA provides the persons and tools that automatically and manually react to inappropriate activities
 - **Maintain:** IA provides the persons and tools that securely maintain, patch, and upgrade your IA defenses, your networks, and your systems

¹ From the US Government's National Information Assurance Glossary

For more information on Information Assurance University, contact your local CSC Representative.

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