

**DEPARTMENT  
OF  
DEFENSE**

**COMPUTER SECURITY INITIATIVE:  
A STATUS REPORT  
AND  
R&D PLAN**

**MARCH 1981**

**PREPARED BY THE CHAIRMAN  
COMPUTER SECURITY TECHNICAL CONSORTIUM**

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**INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIRECTORATE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
COMMUNICATIONS, COMMAND, CONTROL AND INTELLIGENCE**

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Information Systems Directorate  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
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## SECTION 1

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Effective 1 Jan 1981 the Director of the National Security Agency was assigned the responsibility for the evaluation of computer security for the Department of Defense (figure 1-1). This function, to be called the DoD Computer Security Evaluation Center, will be responsible for advising all elements of the DoD on matters concerning the security of computer systems and in particular when the integrity of the hardware and software of a system must be relied upon. The Center will be an independent Program Management Office, separate from all other functions at NSA but drawing upon specialized skills as needed.

This report serves three purposes. The first is as a status report on the DoD Computer Security Initiative, an OSD-level effort which since mid-1978 has significantly advanced the level of understanding, both technical and managerial, of computer security and has led to the establishment of the DoD Computer Security Evaluation Center at NSA. The second purpose of this report is a summary of computer security R&D in the DoD and a projection of where future research should be directed. The third purpose of this report is as a point of departure and technical guide for the Computer Security Evaluation Center.

On 1 June 1978 ASD(C3I) formed the DoD Computer Security Technical Consortium and began the Computer Security Initiative. The goal of the Initiative is to establish widespread availability of trusted\* computer systems. There are three major activities of the Initiative seeking to advance this goal: (1) coordination of DoD R&D efforts in the computer security field, (2) identification of consistent and efficient evaluation procedures for determining suitable environments for the use of trusted computer systems, and (3) encouragement of the computer industry to develop trusted systems as part of their standard product lines. This report is a summary of the activities of the Initiative since June 1978 and an

\* A "trusted" computer system is one that employs sufficient hardware and software integrity measures to allow its use for simultaneously processing multiple levels of classified and/or sensitive information.