Understanding the Federal IT Security Professional (FITSP) Certification

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Speaker Introduction

Mr. Jim Wiggins

- Cyber Security Trainer and Information Assurance Practitioner
- 18 years of experience in IT
- 14 years of experience in IT security
- Federal Information System Security Association (FISSEA) “Educator of the Year” for 2010

- holds the following IA/IT security certifications:
  - FITSP-M, CISSP, ISSEP, CISM, CISA, SCNA, SCNP, CAP, IAM, IEM, SSCP, CEH, ECSA, CHFI, LPT, TICSA, CIWSA, Security+, and MCSE: Security
What is FITSI?

- FITSI = Federal IT Security Institute
- Founded in 2009
- 1000 members
- 501c6 non-profit organization
- Focused on education and certifying the federal workforce
- Supports local chapters
  - FITSI-DC
  - FITSI-CO
  - FITSI-SC
- Supports the FITSI Foundation
  - 501c3
  - Setup for charitable, research and education in the cybersecurity market
What is FITSI?

- FITSI Foundation
  - Setup to support Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy
    - Build the Next Generation of Cyber Defenders
    - Retain Wounded Warriors in the ways of cybersecurity
What is FITSI?

FITSI Activities
- Chapter events
- Free online webinars
- Discounted training
- FITSP certification program
Why a Federally Focused Credential?

- Many high quality IT security certifications on the market
  - Not focused on the unique requirements of:
    - Federal sector
    - Federal workforce
  - Based upon international “best practices”
  - Many are one size fits all programs
    - CISO and system engineer might obtain the same credential
Why a Federally Focused Credential?

- All sectors of the government are adopting one standard
- Joint Task Force Transformation Initiative
  - U.S. Department of Defense
  - Office of the Director of National Intelligence
  - National Institute of Standards and Technology
  - Committee on National Security Systems
Federal IT Security Professional (FITSP)

- An IT security certification program
- Role-based
- Targeted at the Federal workforce
  - Civilian personnel
  - Military
  - Contractors
- Complements the knowledge, skills and abilities of other “generalist” security certifications
- Based upon the standards and practices used by the United States Federal government
  - NIST, OMB, Congressional mandates
Certification Roles

- Role-based program
  - Manager - Oversight
  - Designer - Builds
  - Operator - Maintains
  - Auditor - Reviews
Candidate Requirements

- Candidates must have five years of IT security experience
- Can waive up to two years
  - Bachelors in IT or IT security
  - Master’s degree in IT or IT security
  - Existing certification
- Must document experience
- Formal application process
Domains

- Six areas of knowledge
  - NIST Special Publications
  - NIST Federal Information Processing Standards
  - NIST Control Families
  - NIST Risk Management Framework
  - Government Laws and Regulations
  - NIST Interagency Reports

- Each role has different concentration and focus of these domains

- Refer to the FITSI Candidate Handbook for each role on FITSI.ORG for a breakdown of these domains
Exam Details

- Computer-based exam
- 180-minute
- 150 multiple choice questions
- Many of the questions are small scenarios
  - Allow the FITSI candidate to demonstrate the level of experience and proficiency they have achieved
- Instant knowledge of results
  - Pass or fail
- Current cost of exam
  - $295 per attempt
- FITSI membership is not required
Recertification Requirements

- Certification is good for three years
- Must earn 60 CPEs each three years to maintain currency
  - FITSI has published guidance on the private member site on how to earn and report CPEs
- Must pay a $45 Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF)
Maintenance Details

- Must earn 60 CPEs over 3 year period
  - Examples
    - Attend security conferences - 1 CPE for each hour of IT security discussion covered in the conference
    - Attend security training classes - 1 CPE for each hour of instruction. These classes can be instructor lead (ILT), online or computer based training modules (CBTs).
    - Publish security whitepapers - 1 CPE for each hour writing a whitepaper not to exceed 5 CPE per published whitepaper
    - Publish security books - 1 CPE for each hour writing a book not to exceed 30 CPEs per published book
    - Provide IT security training classes - 3 hours of prep time for each hour of in-class time
    - Provide NIST commentary on draft documents - 1 CPE for each hour of working on submitting commentary – not to exceed 5 CPE per activity
Audits

- All members are subject to potential audits
  - Experience background
  - Reported CPEs each year
Program Updates

- Content is updated on a yearly basis
- Members and certification holders are asked to make recommendations on newer guidance and standards
- Leverage three primary areas for updates
  - Congress
  - OMB
  - NIST
Government Adoption

- Both the Department of State (DOS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have approved FITSI Certifications for their workforce!
ANSI Accreditation / 8570 / 8140

- ANSI provides accreditation to certification bodies under ISO 17024
- FITSI has applied for ANSI Accreditation
  - FITSP-Manager
  - Working with ANSI Assessors to determine non-conformities and required program changes
- ANSI Accreditation is the first step towards 8570 / 8140
  - All certifications on the 8570 / 8140 are required to be ANSI accredited
Training Opportunities

- Classes are run both through FITSI and Authorized Training Partner

- FITSI Authorized Training Center Program
  - SecureNinja
  - PhoenixTS
  - Cyber Defenses
  - Knowlogy
  - Securible, LLC
Questions?

- Questions and Answers
Contact Information

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