

# MIS, DIS, MALINFORMATION

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CISA's Mis-, Dis-, and Malinformation (MDM) team is charged with building national resilience to MDM and foreign influence activities. Through these efforts, CISA helps the American people understand the scope and scale of MDM activities [targeting elections](#) and [critical infrastructure](#), and enables them to take actions to mitigate associated risks. The MDM team was formerly known as the Countering Foreign Influence Task Force (CFITF).

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**May 27, 2022:** Today, CISA released the [Election Infrastructure Insider Threat Mitigation Guide](#) which offers election stakeholders guidance on understanding and mitigating the risk of insider threats to elections. This guide defines insider threats, highlights the risks relevant to elections, and offers guidance for establishing an insider threat mitigation program that includes both proactive and reactive measures against potential threats.

- Download/share the [Election Infrastructure Insider Threat Mitigation Guide](#).

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## MDM Overview

In May of 2018, a Countering Foreign Influence Task Force (CFITF) was established within CISA's predecessor agency. The CFITF was charged with helping the American people understand the risks from MDM and how citizens can play a role in reducing the impact of MDM on their organizations and communities. In 2021, the CFITF officially transitioned into CISA's MDM team, and the mission evolved to reflect the changing information environment. The MDM team continues to work in close coordination with interagency and private sector partners, social media companies, academia, and international partners on a variety of projects to build resilience against malicious information activities.

## MDM Guiding Principles

The MDM team's guiding principle is the protection of privacy, free speech, and civil liberties. To that end, the MDM team closely consults with the DHS Privacy Office and DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties on all activities.

The MDM team is also committed to collaboration with partners and stakeholders. In addition to civil society groups, researchers, and state and local government officials, the MDM team works in close collaboration with the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Defense, and other agencies across the federal government. Federal Agencies respective roles in recognizing, understanding, and helping manage the threat and dangers of MDM and foreign influence on the American people are mutually supportive, and it is essential that we remain coordinated and cohesive when we engage stakeholders.

## What is MDM?

Misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation make up what CISA defines as "information activities". When this type of content is released by foreign actors, it can be referred to as foreign influence. Definitions for each are below.

- **Misinformation** is false, but not created or shared with the intention of causing harm.
- **Disinformation** is deliberately created to mislead, harm, or manipulate a person, social group, organization, or country.
- **Malinformation** is based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm, or manipulate.

Foreign and domestic threat actors use MDM campaigns to cause chaos, confusion, and division. These malign actors are seeking to interfere with and undermine our democratic institutions and national cohesiveness. The **resources** provided at the bottom of this page provide examples and more information about MDM activities.