



# DIACAP RESOURCE CENTER

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## DIACAP CONSULTING SERVICES FOR DoD INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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*“The Department of Defense shall certify and accredit information systems through an enterprise process for identifying, implementing, and managing Information Assurance capabilities and services.”*

*... John G. Grimes, DoD CIO*

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### DIACAP BACKGROUND

It is DoD policy that all information systems undergo a Certification and Accreditation (C&A) process. *Certification* is a technical analysis of the system’s compliance with an assigned set of Information Assurance (IA) Controls (i.e., security requirements, derived from DoD Instruction 8500.2 and other policies), thereby providing an assessment of the system’s risk level. *Accreditation* is a formal Approval To Operate (ATO), granted by a senior government official, who determines the risk is acceptable on the basis of information collected during the certification.

DIACAP (DoD Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process) is the name given to the formal process for certifying and accrediting information systems within the Department of Defense. DIACAP roles and responsibilities, process steps, and documentation deliverables are detailed in DoD Instruction 8510.01.

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### THE PROGRAM MANAGER’S DILEMMA

The Program Manager/System Manager’s primary responsibility is to oversee the development and maintenance of a system that fulfills its stated mission. However, in order for the system to be put into operation, it must receive accreditation. The Program Manager must therefore ensure the appropriate DIACAP activities are integrated into the system life cycle. Usually there is a support contractor in place to provide system development and integration services, but additional Information Assurance support is often needed to oversee DIACAP activities.

In response to this need, the DIACAP Resource Center is pleased to offer DIACAP consulting services to DoD program and system managers.

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### DIACAP CONSULTING SERVICES

Our DIACAP consulting services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Supporting the Program Manager in identifying key personnel, forming a DIACAP team, and conducting a successful DIACAP “project kickoff”
- Supporting the DIACAP team in determining the Mission Assurance Category (MAC) and Confidentiality Level (CL), and selecting/augmenting the Baseline IA Controls (security requirements)
- Supporting the DIACAP team in initiating and executing the DIACAP Implementation Plan
- Supporting the system development team in design/implementation of assigned IA Controls



- Developing documentation, such as policies, procedures and other “artifacts”, in support of the DIACAP process
- Supporting the DIACAP team in evaluating compliance with assigned IA Controls
- Supporting the Program Manager and development contractor to facilitate development and/or revision of documentation artifacts required to demonstrate compliance with assigned IA Controls
- Supporting the Program Manager and development contractor to properly prepare for independent validation (certification testing)
- Supporting the Program Manager during the validation and certification process
- Developing the key DIACAP documents, including the System Identification Profile (SIP), DIACAP Implementation Plan (DIP), and Plan of Action & Milestones (POA&M)
- Supporting the Program Manager in maintaining accreditation, conducting annual reviews as required by FISMA, and conducting re-accreditation as required

## **CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEES**

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If the scope of work and expected deliverables are well-defined, DIACAP consulting engagements can be done on a “firm fixed price” basis. If, however, there are significant uncertainties, a “time and materials” arrangement may be more appropriate, in which case an initial estimated number of hours will be provided, and adjusted thereafter based on progress and issues encountered.

In either case, DIACAP Resource Center can work as a direct contractor to DoD or as a subcontractor to an existing system developer/integrator. Our parent company, BAI, is listed in the Central Contractor Registry and holds a SECRET facility clearance.

## **DIACAP TRAINING**

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The DIACAP Resource Center also offers classroom training to government and industry. We currently offer a one-day *DIACAP Fundamentals* and a three-day *DIACAP In Depth* course. Both courses are presented on a regularly-scheduled basis at selected locations nationwide. If you have a group (normally 8-10 trainees or larger), we can also arrange to bring one of our instructors to your site. A registration form for the regularly-scheduled courses is available at [www.diacap.net](http://www.diacap.net). For an on-site training quotation, please contact us at 540-808-1050.

## **ABOUT US**

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The DIACAP Resource Center is an independent consulting organization dedicated to assisting the DoD and its contractors in understanding and implementing the DIACAP process.

The DIACAP Resource Center is a division of BAI Information Security Consultants. BAI has been a provider of information technology and security consulting services since 1974 and specializes in Certification and Accreditation (C&A) of federal information systems. BAI founder and principal consultant Lon Berman has over 35 years’ IT experience and is a recognized authority on DIACAP.

## **CONTACT US**

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For more information, please contact the DIACAP Resource Center:

Phone: 540-808-1050

FAX: 540-808-1051

E-mail: [diacap@diacap.net](mailto:diacap@diacap.net)



**Information Security Consultants**  
**DIACAP Resource Center**

7467 Bluff View Dr • Fairlawn, VA 24141  
540-808-1050 • FAX 540-808-1051  
[diacap@diacap.net](mailto:diacap@diacap.net) • [www.diacap.net](http://www.diacap.net)