NISS CONFERENCE PANEL STATEMENT

TITLE: Professional Certification of Information Security Professionals

PANEL CHAIR: Lynn McNulty, CISSP
                        RSA Security

PANELISTS: James Wade, CISSP
                      Air Touch Cellular and President of the International Information
                      Systems Security Certification Consortium (ISC)2

                      William Murray, CISSP
                      Information Security Consultant to Deloitte & Touche

                      Shirley Malia
                      Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office

                      John Colley, CISSP
                      ICL-UK

ABSTRACT: This panel will focus on the current status of efforts to elevate the status
and effectiveness of information security specialists through the development of
professional certification programs. An independent and objective measure of
professional expertise is gaining increasing importance within the field of information
security. Recent changes to the Federal Government's information technology
occupation series recognize that information security has become a separate and distinct
career field. The Office of Personnel Management recognizes Professional certification
as being one of the criteria for qualifying for government information security positions.
The members of the panel will discuss various aspects of professional certification.

Mr. James Wade, President of ICS2 will provide a general overview of the current state
of ISC2's efforts to orchestrate the certification of information security professional in
the United States and other countries in the world. He will discuss the organizational
history of ISC2; review the requirements for attaining certification as a Certified
Information Information Systems Professional (CISSP); and describe ISC2's new
initiatives to promote and enhance the concept of information security professionalism.

Mr. William Murray was a major participant in the founding of ISC2 and has long been
an advocate of the need for an independent measure of professional expertise in this
emerging career field. Mr. Murray is also the chair of the ISC2 Ethics Committee. He
will provide his perspective of information security professionalism developments in the
private sector and the applicability of these trends to government.

Ms Shirley Malia is assigned to the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office from the
Department of Labor. She is the lead specialist on implementing the information security

and training program of the National Plan for Critical Infrastructure Protection. She will provide an overview of the specific components of program and review the current status of the federal government's activities to enhance the professionalism of information security specialists.

Mr. John Colley will discuss the current status of efforts to establish professional programs in Europe. Mr. Colley is a member of the ISC2 Board of Director and in involved in a number of professional societies and information security groups in Europe.

BACKGROUND ON AUDIENCE: This panel session is applicable to public and private sector attendees who consider themselves to be information security professionals or who may be considering a career in this rapidly growing field.   It is particularly applicable to those government employees who are seeking information about developments in the private sector and how they can differentiate themselves for successful second careers as an information security professional. This panel will also be of interest to auditors and senior managers who are seeking information on a metric that available to measure the professional qualifications of individuals involved in agency or organizational information security programs.