

Subject: Safe Use of A New Game: The Pokemon Go (Advisory No.15 September 2016)

1. **Introduction.** *Pokemon GO* is a free-to-play, location-based augmented reality game developed for iOS and Android devices. It was initially released in selected countries in July 2016. The game makes use of cell Phone's GPS to locate, capture, battle and train virtual creatures called Pokemon. The game has been banned within defense department's facilities of United States and Israel as it poses potential security risk to secure and sensitive facilities.

2. **Threats Posed by *Pokemon GO*.** The game poses following threats:-

a. **Technical Threats**

- (1) The game automatically turns on GPS / camera and possibly records activities of surroundings.
- (2) The game has complete access to the gmail account and can read and modify emails, locations and contacts.
- (3) Due to its massive success and non-availability in Pakistan, many users install the game from unofficial websites.

b. **Non-Technical Threats.** The addictive nature of game has caused serious injuries to unwary players.

3. **Recommendations.** Officers and staff be advised to avoid down loading / installation of Pokernon GO by them or their family members.