Awareness in Action: Case Study

Who could become an insider threat? Anyone with authorized access to U.S. Government resources who uses that access, either wittingly or unwittingly, to harm national security. Insider threats can have far reaching consequences and impacts on national security.

Kun Shan Chun

- Federal Bureau of Investigations employee (1997-2016)
- Age at arrest: 46
- Arrest date: March 16, 2016
- Charges: Acting in the United States as an agent of China.
- January 20, 2017, sentenced to 24 months in federal prison and fined $10,000

Espionage Indicators

- Foreign Preference
- Foreign Contacts
- Foreign Travel
- Mishandling of Classified/Sensitive Information

What Happened

- In 1997, Kun Shan Chun began working at the FBI’s New York Field Office as an electronics technician. As a result of that position, the FBI granted Chun a Top Secret security clearance.
- In connection with a progressive recruitment process, Chun, a naturalized U.S. citizen, received and responded to taskings from Chinese nationals and at least one Chinese government official.
- On multiple occasions at the direction of Chinese government officials, Chun collected sensitive FBI information and caused it to be transmitted to Chinese and others.
- Chun engaged in a prolonged and concerted effort to conceal from the FBI his illicit relationships with these foreign contacts.

Impacts

- Chun violated our nation’s trust by exploiting his official U.S. government position to provide restricted and sensitive FBI information to a foreign adversary.

Learn More

This case study examined a real-life insider threat. Your awareness is key to protecting our national security from insider threats like this one. Visit the Center for Development of Security Excellence’s website (http://www.cdse.edu) for additional case studies, information, materials, and training or go directly to the Insider Threat Tool Kit at http://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/index.php.

If you SEE something, SAY something.