



Awareness in Action: Case Study

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

Bryan Martin

Petty Officer 2nd Class Bryan Martin

- Arrested in December 2010 for attempting to sell classified documents to someone he believed was a Chinese intelligence officer
- Pleaded guilty to four counts of attempted espionage
- Age at conviction: 22
- Sentenced to 34 years in prison, reduced in rank, forfeited all pay and allowances and a dishonorable discharge from the Navy.



Insider Threat Indicators

- **Financial:** Personal finance problems known to peers
- **Personal Conduct:** Excessive gambling and prostitution
- **Mishandling Classified Documents:** Removed classified documents and material from secure facilities.



What Happened

- Martin claimed that he was “blinded by greed” when he sold classified documents to a man he believed was a Chinese spy, but was actually an undercover FBI Agent.
- Martin was overextended due to gambling and prostitution debts. He was recently engaged and in an effort to shore up personal finances and impress his father-in-law to be he attempted espionage.
- The undercover agent paid Martin \$11,500 in exchange for three packets of documents containing Secret and Top Secret information about current naval operations and intelligence assessments.



Impacts

- The classified information Martin sold to the undercover agent included photos, satellite images and details about U.S. operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Martin revealed his access to military computer systems and named classified network systems he had access to.
- Could have resulted in grave damage to U.S. National Security if the undercover agent was in fact a Chinese foreign intelligence agent.

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.