



Korbein R. Schultz

- 25 year old U.S. Army Intelligence Analyst
- TS/SCI clearance
- Sentenced to 7 years
- Conspired to collect and transmit national defense information



CDSE

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of Security Excellence

CASE STUDY

Espionage

WHAT HAPPENED

Korbein Schultz, a former U.S. Army Sgt., Intelligence Analyst was sentenced on April 23, 2025, to 7 years in prison for conspiring to collect and transmit national defense information. He used his position and access to restricted databases to download and transmit at least 92 sensitive U.S. military documents.

While on an internet platform that connects freelancers with clients, Schultz was contacted by an individual claiming to be with a geopolitical consulting firm. He later admitted when seeking a plea deal that he suspected all along that this individual was associated with the Chinese Government.

According to court documents, from May 2022 until his arrest in March 2024, Schultz engaged in an ongoing conspiracy to provide dozens of sensitive U.S. military documents directly to a foreign national residing in the People's Republic of China in exchange for financial compensation of approximately \$42,000.

The case also revealed Schultz's attempts to recruit a friend and fellow Army Intelligence Analyst into the conspiracy. At the time, Schultz's friend was assigned to the U.S. Department of Defense's Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), a combatant command that covers China.

Schultz was also charged with exporting technical data related to defense articles without a license, conspiracy to export defense articles without a license, and bribery of a public official.

Let this case serve as a reminder to any service member that if asked for either classified or sensitive information, they should report the incident to their appropriate authorities within 24 hours or be held accountable for their inaction.

INDICATORS

Personal Conduct – Schultz was not limited to simply making money selling national defense information. According to his indictment, he at one point told his handler that he “wished he could be Jason Bourne.”

Personal Conduct – Schultz swore an oath to defend the United States; instead, he betrayed it by putting military service members at risk.

Technical Activity – Revealed Schultz's attempts to recruit his friend and fellow Army Intelligence Analyst into the conspiracy.

IMPACT

- Those who collaborate with America's foreign adversaries put our country, and those who defend it, at risk.
- Protecting classified information is paramount to our national security.
- The Justice Department remains vigilant against China's efforts to target our military and will ensure that those who leak military secrets are punished.

ADDITIONAL

- Among the documents handed over by Schultz was the lessons learned by the U.S. Army from the Ukraine-Russia war that it would apply in a defense of Taiwan.
- Other documents collected contained information on Chinese military tactics and preparedness, and U.S. military exercises and forces in South Korea and the Philippines.
- Schultz's arrest came less than a year after two U.S. Navy sailors in California were arrested and charged with spying for China.
- Schultz was required to surrender all property and money tied to his crimes and is prohibited from profiting from his crimes in the future, e.g., by writing a book about his experiences.
- Schultz's indictment identified his co-conspirator in China as a purported geopolitical consulting firm employee, but the FBI reported the person worked for the Chinese government.
- Based on the indictment, the co-conspirator baited Schultz with promises of perks leveraging his apparent love of auto racing and his desire for wealth.

Questions to consider:

- How can your company or organization proactively prevent potential insider threat risks?
- Have you considered the possibility of being recruited by a coworker like Korbein Schultz into an insider threat violation/crime?

Resources for further exploration:

- Publication – Insider Threat Mitigation Guide
(<https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/insider-threat-mitigation-guide>)
- Job Aid – Insider Threat Potential Risk Indicators
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/INTJ0181-insider-threat-indicators-job-aid.pdf>)
- Job Aid – Insider
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/insider-threat-reporting-procedures.pdf>)

Supporting Through Reporting!

Contact the appropriate POC to report any observed potential risk indicators:

Name: _____ Agency/Department: _____
Title: Supervisor/Security Officer/ITP Senior Official/ITP Manager