



Jack Douglas Teixeira

- Age 22 at time of sentencing
- Resided in Massachusetts
- His Air Force military specialty was Cyber Transport Systems Journeyman
- High school graduate



CDSE

Center for Development
of Security Excellence

CASE STUDY

Mishandling Classified Information

WHAT HAPPENED

Teixeira enlisted in the U.S. Air National Guard (USANG) in September 2019. He served with the 102nd Intelligence Wing at Otis USANG Base in Massachusetts as a Cyber Defense Operations Journeyman. Teixeira's primary responsibility was maintaining and troubleshooting the classified workstations of other members of the wing. To perform his job, Teixeira was granted a Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) security clearance in 2021. Beginning in or around January 2022, Teixeira unlawfully retained and transmitted National Defense Information (NDI) classified as "TOP SECRET" or "SECRET" and/or Sensitive Compartmented Information onto the social media platform Discord to persons not authorized to receive such information.

Teixeira used a secure workstation at the Otis USANG Base to conduct hundreds of searches for classified documents containing NDI that were unrelated to his duties. Teixeira purposefully and repeatedly removed classified information and documents containing NDI without authorization from the secure facility where he worked.

Teixeira subsequently transmitted the information by typing it into an online social media platform, where it was further transmitted by other users. Teixeira also posted images of hundreds of classified documents to a social media platform, nearly all of which bore standard classification markings – including "SECRET," "TOP SECRET," and SCI designations. The documents and information illegally disseminated by Teixeira discussed a range of topics, including descriptions of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and troop movements on a particular date.

Shortly before his arrest in April 2022, Teixeira took steps to conceal his disclosures by destroying and disposing of his electronic devices, deleting his online accounts, and encouraging his online acquaintances to do the same.

Teixeira was sentenced to 15 years in prison on November 24, 2024, in federal court in Boston for retaining and transmitting hundreds of pages of classified National Defense Information.

INDICATORS

- **Access Attributes** – As an Air National Guardsman, Teixeira held a TS/SCI clearance and had access to vast amounts of NDI.
- **Allegiance to the United States** – The posting of sensitive and classified NDI on the internet suggests an ambivalence and disregard for U.S. interests.
- **Security and Compliance Issues** – On two separate occasions, Teixeira's superiors warned him not to take notes on classified intelligence information and to stop conducting "deep dives" into classified intelligence information.

IMPACT

- Sentenced to 15 years in prison
- “Jack Teixeira repeatedly shared classified national defense information on a social media platform in an attempt to impress anonymous friends on the internet – instead, it has landed him a 15-year sentence in federal prison,” said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. “Teixeira’s profound breach of trust endangered our country’s national security and that of our allies. This sentence demonstrates the seriousness of the obligation to protect our country’s secrets and the safety of the American people.
- “This sentencing is a stark warning to all those entrusted with protecting national defense information: betray that trust, and you will be held accountable,” said FBI Director Christopher Wray. “Jack Teixeira’s criminal conduct placed our nation, our troops, and our allies at great risk.”

ADDITIONAL

- Teixeira first published the documents on the small Thug Shaker Central server on the gaming site Discord. Ten of those documents were later published by another member on the “Minecraft” Earth Map server, where they spread to thousands of its members and, a month later, were discovered by the U.S. Government through social media.
- In a search of Teixeira’s bedroom after his arrest, FBI agents found a stockpile of weapons, including handguns, shotguns, an AK-style rifle with high-capacity magazines, a gasmask, and other weapons.
- Addressing the court at sentencing, Teixeira expressed remorse, saying “I wanted to say I’m sorry for all the harm that I brought and caused.” “I understand all the responsibility and consequences fall upon my shoulders alone and accept whatever that will bring.”
- The Pentagon, after a comprehensive investigation, tightened controls to safeguard classified information and disciplined members found to have intentionally failed to take required action about Teixeira’s suspicious behavior.

Questions to consider:

- How can your organization proactively address the threat posed by insider threats? What measures are currently in place to detect this type of activity?
- What personal predispositions did Teixeira have that may have made him more likely to commit espionage?

Resources for further exploration:

- [Job Aid Potential Risk Indicators: Insider Threat](https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaidinsider/INTJ0181-insider-threat-indicators-job-aid.pdf)
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaidinsider/INTJ0181-insider-threat-indicators-job-aid.pdf>)
- [Understanding Espionage and National Security Crimes Job Aid](https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaidinsider/ci/ci-jobaidseries-understandingespionage.pdf)
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaidinsider/ci/ci-jobaidseries-understandingespionage.pdf>)
- [Insider Threat Mitigation Guide](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/Insider%20Threat%20Mitigation%20Guide_Final_508.pdf)
(https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/Insider%20Threat%20Mitigation%20Guide_Final_508.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