

CASE STUDY

Espionage

WHAT HAPPENED

In 1974, Christopher Boyce was employed by TRW, Inc. in its classified communications center. Upon receiving his security clearance, he was assigned to operate an encrypted teletype system for communication with the CIA in Langley, Virginia. When he discovered CIA communications that Boyce interpreted as indications of U.S. plans to influence and change power in the government in Australia, an ally country, his anger convinced him to expose

Government secrets." Boyce and his best friend, Andrey Daulton Lee, conspired to sell classified information, which Boyce obtained through his employment. During 1975 and 1976, Lee sold Russian nationals thousands of documents, or photographs of documents, provided by Boyce. The U.S.S.R. paid them \$70,000, of which \$15,000 went to Boyce.

Lee was arrested in front of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City on January 6, 1977. He had photographs of documents relating to a TRW study for the CIA about a worldwide communication satellite system to be used by American agents in "denied areas" of the world. The study was classified as Top Secret. Lee confessed his espionage role and implicated Boyce. Lee's confession, together with the documents found in his possession, were used to obtain a warrant for Boyce's arrest. Boyce was later arrested, and he confessed to his part in the scheme.

Boyce and Lee were charged with conspiring to transmit national defense information to a foreign nation, aiding and abetting an attempt to transmit national defense information, conspiring to gather and actually gathering national defense information intending, or having reason to believe, that the information would be used to the advantage of a foreign nation, unauthorized possession of national defense information and transmitting such information to non-authorized persons, disclosure of classified information, acting as an agent of a foreign government without prior notification to the Secretary of State, and with theft of Government property valued in excess of \$100. Boyce was found guilty on all counts and sentenced to two 40-year terms and six 10-year terms, concurrently.

INDICATORS

- Access Attributes – Boyce had easy access to Top Secret Information including the documents he was properly authorized to access as well as other Top Secret documents that he was never authorized to access.
- Unexplained affluence – Boyce was a frequent buyer of drugs and alcohol. Lee took frequent trips to foreign lands.
- Substance Abuse and Addictive Behaviors – Lee was a well-known cocaine and heroin dealer.



Christopher Boyce and Andrew Daulton Lee

- Boyce's Russian codename was "The Falcon"
- Boyce was age 25 at time of sentencing
- Lee's Russian codename was "The Snowman"
- Lee was age 26 at time of sentencing



CDSE

Center for Development
of Security Excellence

IMPACT

- Boyce stole Top Secret U.S satellite documents, communication codebooks, and other classified materials.
- TRW lost valuable proprietary research that negatively affected numerous development and research projects.
- Long-held trade secrets were disclosed to competitors and the public.
- Profits from current and future projects were compromised.
- U.S. communications ciphers and classified information on U.S. spy satellites were compromised.

ADDITIONAL INFO

- Federal district judge Robert Kelleher sentenced Boyce to forty years in prison.
- On January 21, 1980, Boyce escaped from prison and made his way to Beaver, Washington, a small fishing and logging town on the Olympic Peninsula.
- While a fugitive, Boyce committed 17 bank robberies in Idaho and Washington, hoping to pay for passage to the Soviet Union.
- Authorities received a tip about Boyce's whereabouts from his former bank robbery confederates. U.S. Marshals arrested Boyce on August 21, 1981 while he was eating in his car outside "The Pit Stop," a drive-in restaurant in Port Angeles, Washington.

Questions to consider:

- How have espionage and other insider threats evolved in America since this incident in the late 1970's?
- This incident occurred during the Decade of the Spy – what was unique about this time period that may have influenced these hostile acts?
- Resources for further exploration:
 - [Turning People Around, Not Turning Them In. S1/E2: "Check Out My New Ride"](https://www.cdse.edu/Training/Security-Training-Videos/Insider-Threat/Turning-People-Around-Not-Turning-Them-In-S1-E2/)
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Training/Security-Training-Videos/Insider-Threat/Turning-People-Around-Not-Turning-Them-In-S1-E2/>)
 - [Counterintelligence Awareness and Reporting for DOD](https://www.cdse.edu/Training/eLearning/CI116/)
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Training/eLearning/CI116/>)
 - [Venn of Counterespionage Webinar](https://www.cdse.edu/Training/Webinars-and-Conferences/Webinar-Archive/Venn-of-Counterespionage/)
(<https://www.cdse.edu/Training/Webinars-and-Conferences/Webinar-Archive/Venn-of-Counterespionage/>)

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

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

Name: _____

Agency/Department: _____

Title: Supervisor/Security Officer/ITP

Senior Official/ITP Manager