



## Insider Threat: Unreported Foreign Contact

### Edward Lin – LCDR U.S. NAVY

- 40 year old naturalized citizen from Taiwan
- TS/SCI clearance with extensive background in signals intelligence



Edward Lin

### What Happened

- In 2013, Lin claimed to take leave in Virginia when in actuality he traveled to Taiwan to meet with the head of the Taiwanese Navy, Vice Admiral Richard Chen Yeong-kang.
- A tip to FBI in early 2014 indicated that Lin was sharing sensitive information with foreign agents, which led to a joint FBI/NCIS investigation.
- Investigation revealed close and continuous contact with senior official assigned to Taiwan's embassy equivalent in the U.S., Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO).
- Developed relationship with a female registered foreign agent who worked for the Taiwanese Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)
- September 2015: After providing classified information to an undercover FBI agent in attempt to impress a woman, he was arrested for suspected espionage.
- June 2, 2017: Found guilty of wrongly transporting classified material, failing to store classified material as SECRET, wrongly failing to report foreign connections to the security manager, two specifications of false official statements, and two specifications of communicating defense information. Sentenced to nine years in prison with three years suspended for making false statements, failing to report foreign contact, mishandling classified information, and disclosing secret information to a foreign citizen. Lin will be dismissed from the Navy, and will forfeit all pay and allowances.



Honey Trap

### Insider Threat Indicators

- Unreported foreign contact with high ranking officials on multiple occasions
- Developed relationships with two female Chinese nationals and gave both women several thousand dollars.
- Falsified leave documents concerning a trip to Taiwan and scheduled trip to China.
- Unreported security violation after leaving classified information in an airport terminal
- Life crisis: Divorce



EP-3E Aries II

### Impacts

- May have shared technical or political classified information pertaining to the Navy's Special Projects Squadron Two mission with a foreign government.

### 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 (<https://www.cdse.edu>) for additional case studies, information, materials, and training or go directly to the Insider Threat Tool Kit at <https://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/index.php>

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