



## Awareness in Action: Case Study

Who could become an insider threat? An insider threat is anyone with authorized access to U.S. Government resources and uses that access, either wittingly or unwittingly, to harm national security. Insider threats can have far-reaching consequences and impacts on national security.

### SP4 Ivan A. Lopez - Lopez



SP4 Ivan  
Lopez - Lopez

- Army Specialist assigned to Ft. Hood, TX
- Age at time of incident: 34
- Date of incident: April 2, 2014

### What Happened

- On March 2014, SP4 Lopez was transferred to Ft. Hood. His mother and grandfather had both died in the previous two months. His unit was experiencing a high operational tempo and undergoing turnover of leadership.
- SP4 Lopez had recently been counseled regarding a non-promotion status.
- Lopez experienced a five day delay in getting leave approved to attend his mother's funeral and encountered additional delays in leave approval for moving his family into a new apartment.
- SP4 Lopez went home, retrieved his pistol, and returned to Ft. Hood. He went into the administration office and began shooting soldiers. When confronted by the military police, he turned his weapon and shot himself.



Another  
shooting at Ft.  
Hood

### Risk Indicators

- Depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances
- Recent death of mother and grandfather
- \$14,000 debt
- Recent move to new post & apartment
- Frustration in getting his leave approved and processed
- Self-reported traumatic brain injury/possible post-traumatic stress disorder

### Impacts

- Death of three soldiers, who left behind wives and children
- Fourteen other soldiers wounded
- Lopez was a husband and father
- Lessons learned from this case and several others has shaped DoD response to Insider Risk



Military  
Service at Ft.  
Hood, TX

## 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 Toolkit at <https://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/index.php>.

If you SEE something, SAY something.