



Counterintelligence Awareness Case Study: Kevin Patrick Mallory

What Happened?



Kevin Patrick
Mallory

- Kevin Patrick Mallory was a self-employed consultant with GlobalEx LLC who spoke fluent Mandarin Chinese. He had previously held numerous positions with various U.S. government agencies and several defense contractors through which he was granted a Top Secret security clearance.
- Mallory’s security clearance was terminated in October 2012 when he left government service.
- In March and April 2017, Mallory travelled to Shanghai to meet Michael Yang, who claimed to represent a People’s Republic of China think tank, but—as Mallory correctly determined—Yang was actually an agent of the People’s Republic of China Intelligence Service. Yang gave Mallory a smartphone so they could covertly communicate.
- Later, Mallory agreed to allow FBI agents to review a smartphone that contained a message from him to Yang that revealed Mallory had planned to travel to Shanghai with classified documents. The smartphone also held a handwritten index that described eight different documents later determined to be classified.
- FBI analysts determined Mallory had completed all of the steps necessary to securely transmit four documents using the smartphone.
- A federal jury convicted Mallory of espionage charges related to his transmission of classified documents to an agent of the People’s Republic of China.



Method of Operation

- Elicitation and recruitment/targeting of U.S. travelers overseas. Foreign intelligence agents targeted Mallory due to his prior security clearance.

Impact

- One of the documents provided to the Chinese operative contained unique identifiers for human sources who had helped the United States government.
- A key objective for numerous foreign intelligence services and other entities is infiltrating the U.S. national decision-making apparatus and Intelligence Community and targeting national security information and proprietary technology from U.S. companies and research institutions.
- Counterintelligence intervention led to the disruption of these activities and prevented the loss or compromise of additional national security information.



Learn More about Counterintelligence

This case study examined a real-life counterintelligence case. Your awareness is key to protecting our national security from 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. Raise your counterintelligence awareness by visiting <https://www.cdse.edu/catalog/counterintelligence.html>.