



Counterintelligence Awareness Case Study: Exploitation of Relationships

Targeted Technology: Nuclear

Szuhsiung Ho – alias: Allen Ho



- 66-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen, with dual residence in Delaware and Taiwan.
- Owner/President: Energy Technology International Company in Delaware since 1996.
- August 31, 2017: Sentenced to two years in U.S. prison, one year supervised release and \$20,000 fine for violation of the Atomic Energy Act.

What Happened?

- Born in Taiwan, came to U.S. in 1973 to attend the University of California, received PhD in nuclear engineering from University of Illinois in 1980, and naturalized U.S. citizen in 1983.
- Married in 1974 and fathered a son outside of marriage in 2007 in China.
- Lived in Wilmington, DE, however spent much of his time in China
- Employed by China General Nuclear Power Company (CGNPC) as a senior advisor. State-owned CGNPC is the largest nuclear power company in China that specializes in the development and manufacture of nuclear reactors.
- From 1997 through April 2016, Ho conspired to enlist others to assist with the development and production of special nuclear materials in China without permission of the Department of Energy.
- Ho recruited several U.S. nuclear experts assist in the development of special nuclear material and nuclear reactor components in China, paying for their trips and providing compensation.



Impact

- Provided assistance in developing and producing special nuclear material for a Chinese state-owned nuclear power company, allowing China to more quickly develop components for nuclear reactors.
- Stolen information passed to China could be used to produce nuclear weapons.

The **Atomic Energy Act (AEA)** established the **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)** to promote the "utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes to the maximum extent consistent with the common defense and security and with the health and safety of the public." Since the abolition of the AEC, much of the AEA has been carried out by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy. The AEA was designed to regulate how nuclear technology was to be shared.