



Unauthorized Disclosure Case Study: Candace Marie Claibourne

What Happened?



Candace Marie Claibourne

- Claibourne was an office management specialist with the Department of State (DoS)
- Joined DoS in 1999 and served several overseas posts, including Beijing and Shanghai, China
- Spoke several languages, including Mandarin Chinese
- Held a Top Secret security clearance since 1999
- Failed to report foreign contact with agents of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) Intelligence Service
- Received from the agents gifts and benefits in excess of \$550,000 during the period of conspiracy, including cash, international travel and vacations, tuition at a Chinese fashion school, a fully furnished apartment, and a monthly stipend
- Some of these gifts and benefits were provided directly to Claibourne, while others were provided to a co-conspirator, who was a close family member

Potential Risk Indicators



People’s Republic of China

- Unexplained affluence
- Frequent, unreported contact with foreign persons
- Failure to comply with regulations for reporting foreign contacts or foreign travel
- Attempts to conceal foreign travel
- Attempts to conceal close and ongoing contact with a foreign national
- Sudden purchase of high-value items
- Frequent personal travel, beyond known income

Impact



- Pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to defraud the United States by lying to law enforcement and background investigators and hiding extensive contacts with, and gifts from, agents of the PRC in exchange for providing them with internal documents from the U.S. State Department
- Provided copies of internal documents from the State Department on topics ranging from U.S. economic strategies to visits by dignitaries between the two countries

Learn More About Insider Threat

This case study examined a real-life Insider Threat 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 Insider Threat awareness by visiting <https://www.cdse.edu/catalog/insider-threat.html>.