



UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE: A CASE STUDY

Unauthorized Disclosure (UD) of classified information can cause damage to national security. It is important to remember that as a cleared person, you have a lifelong responsibility to protect and safeguard classified information. Your requirement to protect classified information applies while you are actively employed with the government and does not end when you retire or leave government service.



BENJAMIN BISHOP

- Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel (O-5)
- Employed by a government contractor at U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) in Hawaii
- Sent SECRET classified information to a person not authorized to receive it



WHAT HAPPENED?

- Mr. Bishop emailed classified information to a Chinese woman he met at an international defense conference, with whom he had a romantic relationship and who was in the United States as a graduate student on a J1 Visa
- In the email, he provided SECRET information related to joint training and planning sessions between the United States and the Republic of Korea
- He also provided, at the Chinese woman's request, a classified photograph of a Chinese naval asset he retrieved from classified sources
- He was arrested in March 2013 and plead guilty on March 13, 2014, for unlawfully retaining classified national defense information at his home and willfully communicating classified national defense information to a person not authorized to receive it
- Mr. Bishop was sentenced to 87 months of imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release



IMPACTS

- SECRET information was compromised through unauthorized disclosure to the Chinese woman, resulting in serious damage to national security
- Classified information was at further risk of compromise due to improper storage
- Mr. Bishop violated his oath to protect classified information with which he was entrusted

Learn More about UD & the DoD Prepublication Review Process

This case study examined a real-life UD incident. Your awareness is key to protecting our national security by preventing UD incidents such as this.

Visit the Center for Development of Security Excellence's website (<http://www.cdse.edu>) for additional information, materials, and training. Learn more about UD and visit the DoD UD Program Management Office (<https://intelshare.intelink.gov/sites/ousdi/hcis/sec/icdirect/default.aspx>). Please also visit the Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review (DOPSR) website (<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/esd/osr/>) and learn more about the DoD prepublication review process of material prior to public release.