



UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE: A CASE STUDY

Unauthorized Disclosure (UD) of classified information can cause damage to the 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.



GARY MAZIARZ

- Gunnery Sergeant (E-7), U.S. Marine Corps
- Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt) Maziarz and four co-conspirators were arrested in October 2006 for leaking classified information to the Los Angeles Terrorism Early Warning Group
- GySgt Maziarz pled guilty in July 2007 with a plea bargain and served 26 months in prison; co-conspirators received sentences ranging from confinement, reduction in rank, and monetary fines



WHAT HAPPENED?

- Between 2004 and 2006, a group of Marine Corps Reserve intelligence analysts leaked classified information to the Los Angeles Terrorism Early Warning Group, co-founded by one of the conspirators
- Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) agents stumbled upon over 100 classified documents inside GySgt Maziarz's storage unit while being investigated for an unrelated incident
- When arrested, GySgt Maziarz accused other Marines of being accomplices
- GySgt Maziarz testified he and the other Marines believed they were providing the information to the Terrorism Task Force in order to fight terrorism even though they knew they were violating national security laws
- GySgt Maziarz and his accomplices "believed bureaucratic walls erected by military and civilian agencies were hampering intelligence sharing and coordination making the nation more vulnerable to terrorists"



IMPACTS

- Some of the nation's most sensitive national intelligence information was leaked to individuals whom did not have a "need to know," and careers and lives were destroyed
- The Task Force did not have the ability to properly store and protect the information once they had it, and multiple DoD policies and regulations were broken and ignored

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.