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INSIDER THREAT JOB AID

Insider Threat: Gregory Justice – Economic Espionage

Who could become an insider threat? Anyone with authorized access to U.S. government resources who uses that access (wittingly or unwittingly) to harm national security. Insider threats can have a costly impact on national security.

Gregory Justice

- 50-year-old engineer at Boeing Satellite Systems
- September 18, 2017: Sentenced to five years in federal prison for attempting to commit economic espionage and to send restricted information out of the United States in violation of the Arms Export Control Act and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations

Insider Indicators

- Felt unappreciated at work and frustrated that he could not get promoted
- Wife suffered from multiple medical problems with mounting bills
- User Activity Monitoring indicated illegal download of information on USB
- Sent notes to Russian embassy and consulate
- Enamored with spy thrillers
- Sent gifts and over $21,000 to an "online paramour" he had never met

What Happened

- Worked as a mechanical engineer on the night shift for Boeing since March 2000
- Frustrated with financial problems and inability to get promoted, Justice attempted to contact Russian intelligence officials to sell sensitive and proprietary software technology and other satellite information
- Over the course of a year, he met several times with an undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent he thought was a Russian Intelligence Officer and collected $3,500 for the information he passed
- Arrested in July 2016 on charges that he sold proprietary trade secrets such as sensitive satellite information to a man he believed was a Russian spy

Impacts

- Actions posed an imminent threat to national security
- Sought to undermine national security by attempting to sell proprietary and controlled information about satellites to a foreign government's intelligence service
- The proprietary satellite information contained technical data covered by the U.S. Munitions List and therefore was subject to controls restricting export from the United States under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations
- The FBI and Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) law enforcement agents were able to timely and effectively intervene to protect this critical technology

This case study examined a real-life insider threat. Your awareness is key to protecting our national security from insider threats like this one. Please visit the Center for Development of Security Excellence's website (https://www.cdse.edu/catalog/insider-threat.html) for additional case studies, information, materials, and training or go directly to the Insider Threat Toolkit at (https://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/index.php).

If you SEE something, SAY something.