



**CDSE**  
Center for Development  
of Security Excellence

# INSIDER THREAT CASE STUDY



## Insider Threat Awareness Case Study: Harold Martin III



### What Happened?

- From December 1993 through August 2016, Martin was employed by at least seven different cleared companies and assigned as a contractor to work at a number of Government agencies. Throughout that time, Martin held a Top Secret clearance with access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) at various times.
- Martin was arrested on August 27, 2016, and was subsequently charged with 20 counts of unauthorized retention of national defense information (NDI).
- Martin admitted to stealing and retaining U.S. Government property and information since the late 1990s that included terabytes of highly-sensitive classified information.
- On March 27, 2019, Martin pleaded guilty to one count of unauthorized and willful retention of NDI, and was sentenced on July 19, 2019 to nine years in federal prison on one count of willful retention of NDI.

### Potential Risk Indicators

- Mishandling, unauthorized removal and retention of classified information
- Undiagnosed mental illness
- Alcohol issues
- Disregard for security policies



### Impact

- Harmed Intelligence Community sources and methods
- Disclosure of NDI may result in a loss or negative impact to U.S. defense capabilities
- His criminal conduct caused the Government to expend substantial investigative and analytical resources, the diversion of which resulted in significant costs.



#### 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 for additional case studies, information, materials, and training. Raise your Insider Threat awareness by visiting <https://www.cdse.edu/catalog/insider-threat.html>.