



Awareness in Action: Case Study

Who could become an insider threat? Anyone with authorized access to U.S. Government resources who uses that access, either wittingly or unwittingly, to harm national security. Insider threats can have far reaching consequences and impacts on national security.



Bryan Underwood

- Former U.S. Marine working as a Cleared American Guard at the U.S. Consulate in China
- Age at arrest: 32
- Arrest date: 1 September 2011
- Charges: Attempted Espionage
- Sentence: 9 Years Prison Plus 2 Years Supervised Release

Espionage Indicators

- Financial Hardship (lost \$150k in stock market)
- Foreign Contact (attempted to enter and correspond with foreign government offices)
- Excessive Interest in Tradecraft (claimed to be working for U.S. law enforcement as a cover)



What Happened

- After losing over \$150,000 in the stock market, Underwood wrote a letter to China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) with an offer to "initiate a business arrangement..."
- Underwood took over 30 photographs of sensitive areas and created a schematic that listed all security upgrades to the consulate and locations of surveillance cameras
- Underwood attempted to deliver the letter and photos to the MSS but was turned away by a guard
- A joint FBI and Diplomatic Security Service Investigation uncovered Underwood's activity. After the arraignment, Underwood attempted to fake his suicide and flee.
- He was tracked down by law enforcement, taken into custody, and prosecuted for his crimes



Impacts

- Later review of the information gathered by Underwood revealed it contained information at the "Secret" level
- The loss of Secret information is deemed to cause serious damage to national security

Learn More

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

If you SEE something, SAY something.