



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.



Reuters Photo

Walter Liew

- Targeted DuPont
- Research Engineer 1956 - 1991
- Age at conviction: 56
- Conviction date: 6 March 2014
- Charges: Economic Espionage Act, tax evasion, bankruptcy fraud, and obstruction of justice
- Sentence: 15 years prison term, forfeit of \$27.8 million, and \$511K in restitution to DuPont

Espionage Indicators

- Unexplained Affluence
- Owned Multiple Foreign Companies
- Foreign Contacts
- Foreign Travel
- Access Information Outside Need to Know



What Happened

- The conspiracy was first identified when DuPont received an anonymous letter accusing Walter Liew of stealing the company's technology.
- Liew conspired with at least two current and former DuPont employees to steal chloride-route titanium dioxide production trade secrets and sell them in China.
- Liew traveled extensively throughout China to market the stolen information.
- Liew paid former DuPont employees for information.
- Liew and his partner Robert Maegerle obtained and sold DuPont trade secrets to the Pangang Group companies in China for more than \$20 million.
- Former DuPont Engineer, Robert Maegerle, was also arrested, prosecuted, and convicted in the case.



Impacts

- The company lost valuable research that impacted numerous projects.
- Long held trade secrets were disclosed to competitors and the public.
- Profits from current and future projects were compromised.
- The same process is used to produce titanium tetrachloride, a material with military and aerospace uses.

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.