



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.



AP Photo

Wen Chyu Liu

- Dow Chemical Company
- Research Scientist 1965 - 1992
- Age at Conviction: 75
- Conviction Date: 7 February 2011
- Charges: Conspiracy to Commit Trade Secret Theft
- Sentence: Two years supervised release, forfeit of \$600k, and \$25K fine

Espionage Indicators

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



What Happened

- While employed at Dow, Liu worked as a research scientist on various Dow elastomer products.
- Liu conspired with at least four current and former employees of Dow to steal elastomer trade secrets and sell them in China.
- Liu traveled extensively throughout China to market the stolen information.
- Liu paid current and former Dow employees for information.
- Liu bribed one current employee with \$50,000, in cash, for a technical manual.
- That employee was also arrested and prosecuted.



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
- Numerous employees were fired and several prosecuted

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; you can also go directly to the Insider Threat Toolkit at <http://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/index.php>.

If you SEE something, SAY something.