



Naval Criminal Investigative Service
Office of Strategic Communications
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**NCIS LEADS COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION RELATING TO
ESPIONAGE**

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) is leading a counterintelligence investigation of U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Bryce Pedicini, assigned to USS HIGGINS (DDG 76), involving several violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice relating to espionage.

NCIS Office of Special Projects and the NCIS Far East Field Office detained and questioned Pedicini on May 19, 2023, after being suspected of removing classified information from U.S. Navy secure spaces and passing them to a representative of a foreign government as early as November 2022. Pedicini was arrested by NCIS in May 2023 and placed into pre-trial confinement by his command. He is awaiting a General Court Martial in San Diego, Calif.

On Sept. 22, 2023, charges were preferred against Pedicini by U.S. Navy Region Legal Service Office Southwest for violations of:

- Article 103a (Espionage/Attempted Espionage)
- Article 134 (Communicating Defense Information)
- Article 92 (Failure to Obey a Lawful General Order)
- Article 80 (Attempted Violation of a Lawful General Order) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

These charges include allegations that Pedicini delivered classified and national defense information to a representative of a foreign government with reason to believe it would be harmful to the United States or advantageous to the foreign nation.

A preliminary hearing officer found there was sufficient probable cause to believe Pedicini committed the above-listed violations and recommended additional charges pertaining to conspiracy and unauthorized access on Dec. 14, 2023. The Convening Authority, Commander,



Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific, referred charges to a general court martial on Feb. 13, 2024. A tentative trial date is scheduled for April 2024.

This investigation is part of the ongoing efforts by NCIS to prevent the exploitation of U.S. Navy personnel by foreign adversaries. As the primary investigative and counterintelligence arm of the Department of the Navy, NCIS ensures the continued advantage of the Department of Defense and the Navy over foreign adversaries by conducting complex counterintelligence investigations and other sensitive national security matters involving the Navy and Marine Corps.

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