



**Naval Criminal Investigative Service**  
Office of Strategic Communications  
Quantico, Va.

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**Navy Chief Petty Officer Convicted of Attempted Espionage, Related Charges**

SAN DIEGO – Following a seven-day trial, U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Bryce Pedicini, assigned previously to the USS Higgins (DDG 76), was found guilty today at a general court-martial of UCMJ Article 103a (Attempted Espionage), Article 92 (Failure to Obey a Lawful Order), and Article 80 (Attempted Violation of a Lawful General Order).

Pedicini's sentencing, determined by a military judge, is scheduled for May 7, 2024.

An NCIS investigation revealed that Pedicini delivered classified and national defense information to a representative of a foreign government as early as November 2022 and had reason to believe it would be harmful to the United States or advantageous to the foreign nation. Pedicini engaged with the foreign government representative under the guise of writing research papers, a tactic increasingly used by foreign adversaries to obtain classified and unclassified national defense information. Pedicini was detained by NCIS on May 19, 2023 and placed into pre-trial confinement by his command.

“This guilty verdict holds Mr. Pedicini to account for his betrayal of his country and fellow service members,” said NCIS Director Omar Lopez. “Adversaries of the United States are unrelenting in their attempts to degrade our military superiority. Nevertheless, the American public should be confident knowing that NCIS will also not relent in our mission to deter, disrupt, and defeat the ongoing threat from foreign intelligence entities. Although the overwhelming majority of Department of the Navy service members are honorable and faithful public servants, NCIS stands ready to expose those who are not.”

The NCIS Office of Special Projects led the investigation with assistance from the NCIS Far East Field Office and NCIS Southwest Field Office, among other NCIS support elements. The investigation served as part of 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 conducts complex counterintelligence investigations and national security matters involving the Navy and Marine Corps. NCIS regularly educates the DON workforce on the threat posed by foreign contacts requesting information via social media and through requests for research papers, which can quickly lead to providing national defense information. NCIS encourages DON service members or civilians to report such requests immediately.



Please submit media queries regarding the investigation to NCIS Public Affairs at [ncispublicaffairs@ncis.navy.mil](mailto:ncispublicaffairs@ncis.navy.mil). Please submit media queries regarding prosecution and personnel matters to Cmdr. Arlo Abrahamson at Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet at [arlo.k.abrahamson.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:arlo.k.abrahamson.mil@us.navy.mil).

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