

*From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director*

## *Office of Research Security*



*We are excited to announce there will be in-person training opportunities available this year!*

*We will have speakers and pizza for lunch during the spring and summer.*

*We will be hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual September Security Social, as well as our October FBI movie month.*

*Keep your eyes out for updates on dates and locations!*



## Castro Valley Resident Pleads Guilty To Illegally Exporting American Aviation Technology To Beijing University

*U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California | January 17, 2023*

### **Defendant Admits Using Intermediary to Funnel Payments for United States Army Aviation-Related Software Sent to Restricted Beijing University**

SAN FRANCISCO – Jonathan Yet Wing Soong pleaded guilty today to violating export control laws in connection with a scheme to secretly funnel sensitive aeronautics software to a Beijing university, announced United States Attorney Stephanie M. Hinds; Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Robert K. Tripp; Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security, Office of Export Enforcement (BIS), Special Agent in Charge John D. Masters; Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) Special Agent in Charge Bryan D. Denny. The plea was accepted by the Hon. Susan Illston, United States District Judge.

Between August 2016 and September 2020, Soong, 35, of Castro Valley, Calif., was employed as a program administrator by Universities Space Research Association (USRA), a nonprofit research corporation focusing on advancing space science and technology. In April of 2016, USRA contracted with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to, among other things, license and distribute aeronautics-related Army flight control software for a fee. Soong's duties included, among other things, conducting and servicing software license sales, conducting export compliance screening of customers, generating software licenses, and exporting software pursuant to purchased licenses.

As part of his duties, Soong was responsible for vetting customers to ensure they did not appear on certain restrictive lists—including the Department of Commerce's Entity List and other U.S. government lists—that placed limitations on the transfer of products to identified entities. In pleading guilty, Soong admitted that he willingly exported and facilitated the sale and transfer of restricted software to Beihang University knowing that the university was on the Department of Commerce's Entity List.

Full article:

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndca/pr/castro-valley-resident-pleads-guilty-illegally-exporting-american-aviation-technology>



## Agencies are on the Hoot to Increase “Operations Security”

*Justin Doubleday | Federal News Network | January 16, 2023*

Agencies across government face new requirements to develop “operations security” programs to help reduce the risk of employees inadvertently exposing sensitive but unclassified information.

“OPSEC” activities have traditionally been linked with military and intelligence agencies. But in a national security presidential memorandum signed in January 2021, outgoing President Donald Trump directed all executive branch departments and agencies to implement OPSEC programs, according to Rebecca Morgan, deputy assistant director for insider threat the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

“We know that adversaries, whether that’s foreign intelligence entities or criminal enterprises, are targeting U.S. government information,” Morgan said in an interview. “And they don’t always go after the classified.”

Full article: <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2023/01/agencies-are-on-the-hoot-to-increase-operations-security-training-education/>

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