

*From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director*

## *Office of Research Security*

We are winding down towards the end of the year (it's hard to believe 2024 is almost over), please be sure to look for emails from ORS reminding you of upcoming trainings that are due or coming due.

As a reminder, if you take any customer required trainings, please forward the certificates to [april.mcmeans@uah.edu](mailto:april.mcmeans@uah.edu). They will be added to your security file.

Also, the 2024 Annual Security Refresher trainings have begun. Everyone within a two hour drive of Huntsville, AL are required to attend an in-person session. April has loved getting to see you all in person!



### **IN PERSON** 2024 Annual Security Refresher Trainings

ORS Annual Security Refresher are underway and in person this year. They will be on UAH campus and at the Bob Jones Auditorium. All trainings will be in person for 2024.

Sept. 10, 2024, Location: UAH Olin King Technology Hall, S105, 2:45pm – 4:00pm

Sept. 17, 2024, Location: UAH Olin King Technology Hall, S105, 2:45pm – 4:00pm

Sept. 26, 2024, Location: UAH SMAP Bldg., 11:00am – 12:30pm (SMAP employees only)

Oct. 1, 2024, Location: UAH Olin King Technology Hall, S105, 2:45pm – 4:00pm

## Defense Department Contractor Charged after Printing Top Secret Documents, Trying to Leave with Them to Mexico

*Landon Mion / Fox News / August 14, 2024*

Gokhan Gun, 50, was charged with unauthorized removal and retention of classified material

An electrical engineer working with the Air Force is accused of printing over 150 pages of "top secret" government documents before attempting to flee the country for Mexico, according to prosecutors.

Gokhan Gun, 50, was arrested Friday as he was departing for a flight to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Gun, a northern Virginia resident who was born in Turkey and holds dual citizenship, was charged with unauthorized removal and retention of classified material, according to Fox 5 DC.

On Friday morning, Gun was leaving for the airport when FBI agents executed a search warrant on him and two of his homes. Agents discovered documents marked as "TOP SECRET" inside a backpack in front of his home. They also found stacks of documents in the dining room of his home with visible classification markings, including some marked as Top Secret and SCI, or Sensitive Compartmented Information.

It is unclear what the contents of the documents were.

To read the full article, use the link below: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/defense-department-contractor-charged-after-printing-top-secret-documents-trying-leave-them-mexico>



## North Korean Hacker got Hired by US Security Vendor, Immediately Loaded Malware

*Jon Brodtkin | Ars Technica | July 24, 2024*

KnowBe4, a US-based security vendor, revealed that it unwittingly hired a North Korean hacker who attempted to load malware into the company's network. KnowBe4 CEO and founder Stu Sjouwerman described the incident in a blog post yesterday, calling it a cautionary tale that was fortunately detected before causing any major problems.

"First of all: No illegal access was gained, and no data was lost, compromised, or exfiltrated on any KnowBe4 systems," Sjouwerman wrote. "This is not a data breach notification, there was none. See it as an organizational learning moment I am sharing with you. If it can happen to us, it can happen to almost anyone. Don't let it happen to you."

KnowBe4 said it was looking for a software engineer for its internal IT AI team. The firm hired a person who, it turns out, was from North Korea and was "using a valid but stolen US-based identity" and a photo that was "enhanced" by artificial intelligence. There is now an active FBI investigation amid suspicion that the worker is what KnowBe4's blog post called "an Insider Threat/Nation State Actor."

To read the full article, use the link below: <https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2024/07/us-security-firm-unwittingly-hired-apparent-nation-state-hacker-from-north-korea/>

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