

'Spy' Cracks Pentagon Secrets

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The Pentagon's super-secret Defense Intelligence Agency has been penetrated by an agent who roamed through guarded offices, stole secret documents, planted electronic listening devices and even operated the agency's main computers.

Using homemade credentials, the agent posed as a DIA employee to carry out his espionage activities in some of the most heavily

protected offices in the Washington area.

No, the agent was not a Soviet spy but an Army intelligence officer assigned to test security — or the lack of it — at DIA installations.

The relative ease with which he succeeded caused embarrassment within the Pentagon and led to a series of security lectures last week for nearly all 4,000 DIA employees, civilian and military, whose job it is to gather and disseminate in-

telligence information to the armed forces.

Pentagon officials refused to discuss the episode or even acknowledge it occurred. But a DIA employee who attended one of the sessions recalled this account of how the in-house spy went about his business:

Unfamiliar with the inner workings of the DIA, the agent first mingled with employees picknicking on the grass at lunchtime at one of the agency's installations in suburban Virginia. This was

so he could photograph their identity badges and make a duplicate to get inside restricted areas.

Cameras are forbidden on the grounds but no one reported him or questioned his identity. The agent said he needed their pictures for a security campaign he was conducting.

Inside, the agent said, security was almost nonexistent.

On one occasion a door to a vault holding top-secret

documents was left open and unguarded. Sensitive papers often were left on desks an arm's reach from open windows, he said.

Pretending one day to be a Pentagon courier, the agent asked for classified information needed for a high-level briefing of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. But a disbelieving DIA employee at first refused.

It's a "rush, hot item," the agent claimed, and asked the distrusting employe to check him out with an office where he once worked in the Pentagon. Although his identity was never confirmed, the agent walked out not only with the information he requested, but some other highly sensitive documents he had picked from a desk and stuffed in his briefcase.

The agent's primary objec-

tive was to get into the computer area. He not only succeeded, but managed to operate the computer himself, get the information and carry it from the building.

In relating his experiences, the agent told the DIA workers that one of the big problems was young, attractive secretaries who often hung around the guards' desks, diverting their attention as people entered the buildings.

The guards complained that the identification pictures become outdated by fashion-conscious government workers adorned with beards, long hair and wigs.

The DIA has asked for an additional \$11,000 to buy more elaborate security badges. Officials would not say what other steps were being taken to tighten security.