

Findings:

Case Number: #2030-12

Case Investigator: [Carlos Cruz Suarez]

Identity of the Submitter: [Carlos Cruz Suarez]

Receipt Date: [3/25/24]

Items for Examination:

1. Laptop:

- Serial Number: 4857625 - Make: Dell

- Model: Inspiron

2. Mobile Device:

- Serial Number: 8827841 - Make: Samsung

- Model: Galaxy A70

3. Additional Evidence of an Alternate Personal Email Address:

Thesilverman@gmail.com

4. Gathering Evidence of a Lunch Spot Meeting from Maps App:

Becca's Seafood and Grill

5. Capturing a License Plate from Camera Footage of the Lunch Spot:

Plate # LKW2213

Findings and Report (Forensic Analysis):

Cellular Device:

- I received a search warrant today on 3/18 via the US District Courts in Washington D.C. and began my search beginning with the phone
 - Recovery of text messages and phone numbers linked to "Red Ralph" confirmed a lunch meeting on 2/15/2023. Deleted files yielded no relevant information pertaining to the investigation. Key phrases such as “send,” “schedule/scheduled,” and financial terms were identified within the recovered data.

Laptop:

- Email conversations between the official and "Red Ralph" were uncovered, detailing undisclosed transactions and meetings. Files named “Objective Complete” and “Smith to Ralph” were found on the laptop. Alternate email address found being used on the laptop.

Account of Steps Taken During Investigation:

To begin, I performed a thorough forensic analysis on the laptop and cell phone utilizing specialized software tools. After putting those tools to use, I then began string searches to uncover pertinent keywords and phrases associated with meetings, communications, and payment transactions. With that complete, I switched over to performing some graphic image searches to help uncover any visual evidence relevant to the case. After this, I did my best in trying some data recovery techniques to retrieve deleted files and analyze their contents.

Following this step, I moved on to examining web logs, where I got to monitor the uploading and possible downloading of sensitive information from the file sharing platform used. The final

process I did was that I cross examined all electronic devices (laptop and phone) to confirm they match up with the stated location and times in where the government official was supposedly located at.

Results/Conclusions:

1. Uncovered email exchanges on the laptop involving a prominent US government official and an individual known as "Red Ralph" discussing meetings and compensation for consulting work.
2. Discovered more evidence of transactions conducted using a different personal email address, which further suggests the official's involvement.
3. Verified the presence of a lunch meeting on 2/15/2023 by examining text messages on the cell phone, where the contact was saved as "Red Ralph."
4. Deleted files were successfully obtained, but provided no information that was in correlation to the case
5. Found pertinent keywords such as "send", "schedule/scheduled", "in-full", and "partial"
6. Discovered the lunch spot meeting location by accessing the maps app on the official's mobile phone.
7. Obtained the license plate information from camera footage of the lunch spot, revealing the presence of a rental vehicle, suggesting the person they were with was not from the area, which aligns with the suspicions of having met with a foreign official.

After carefully examining the evidence, I am inclined to believe that a prominent US government official participated in secretive meetings and transactions with individuals connected to the Russian government. The evidence presented strongly suggests the need for a thorough examination by law enforcement authorities to determine if collusion has taken place.

