

On Mon, Apr 17, 2017 at 9:19 PM, Larry Formaine <larryformaine@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I'm an employee of the Dept of Commerce and I work for the Office of Security. I am a concerned employee. I'm a 1810 with the Protection Service team for the Secretary of Commerce.

I'm concerned about a branch within our office known as the Investigations and Threat Management Division, the Special Agent in Charge is George Lee.

The unit received USMS deputization to support the PSO mission, which includes doing protection and protection type investigations.

But George has misuses your deputization to conduct counterintelligence gathering investigations, stateside and overseas, and I believe they misused their authority during the case of Sherri Chen. For example:

During a trip overseas George sent an agent from ITMD of asian ancestry to conduct surveillance and counterintelligence detection.

The agent was sent in an undercover status. I did not know this agent was a member of Commerce, therefore I asked the country's security to engage with this individual as we were not told of ITMD's operation, and we were responsible for the security of the secretary.

After the person was detained he informed myself and that country's security team that he was with ITMD. To conduct intelligence missions overseas there needs to be coordination with the CIA and US Embassy, this was not done beforehand.

George has come up with his own method of intelligence collection, to include opening counterintelligence investigations on US citizens while using USMS deputization.

They opened cases primarily on individuals of asian ancestry. George has told his agents to conduct intelligence collection on the USMS deputization.

I'm hoping you understand they do not have the authority to do intel investigations. Look into this before it causes an international incident, his group violates somebody's constitutional rights under auspices of conducting counterintelligence investigations.

They carry firearms on your deputization, they've attempted to prosecute cases on your deputization and they are not doing the PSO mission as they're deputized to do.

Please talk to Mr. Patrick D. Gallagher, previous director of NIST labs at Dept. of Commerce. He accused George and ITMD of being "Xenophobes" as they only targeted individuals of asian (primarily Chinese) decent. Sherri Chen was targeted because she was asian and traveled to China, and had family in China. I have heard individuals in ITMD make derogatory comments about Chinese, including stating they will do anything to put them in prison. Agents assigned to ITMD have been accused on numerous EEO related actions.