

~~SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

History Rocks

Posted by [redacted] @ 2009-06-02 11:36:38

Tags: unknown device

Mood: curious

(U) Can you identify this analytic tool?

(S) CCH is trying to help [redacted] (declassification) identify this device/tool – does anyone out there have any idea what it might be? The device is currently classified SECRET KIMBO (S//SI//REL) but can't be evaluated for declassification until we know what it is! It's a long shot, but maybe...?

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2453 [redacted] @ 2009-06-02 11:52:37

I think it's a Chun wheel.

2454 re 2453 [redacted] @ 2009-06-02 12:08:11

(S//SI//REL) That was my initial thought, but it didn't resemble the Chun wheels we had tucked away here and it is very different from the Chun stick as well. So I've just now ventured out to the stacks and pulled a box marked "spare Chun wheels". Most of them are very different from this device, being two-sided and incorporating what is billed as "16 separate features in a single assembly." In this box of a dozen or so devices there are three devices (tagged 300-16) that match the photo but which don't match the description of the Chun Wheel. The Chun Wheels are imprinted CHUN WHEEL and are marked SECRET. So, I'm wondering if there was more than one type of Chun Wheel.

2455 [redacted] @ 2009-06-02 12:39:01

Any date stamp on them? Perhaps one is a later/more refined model, or was redeveloped for a specific target...

2456 re 2455 [redacted] @ 2009-06-02 12:44:34

(U//FOUO) Nothing to indicate date on the ones marked "Chun Wheel" but there was some paperwork that had a date on it (I've put the box away for the moment, not enough room here). The unidentified wheel can be pinned down to 1961-1965 because of the use of KIMBO.

2457 [redacted] @ 2009-06-02 15:22:48

Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52

Dated: 20070108

Declassify On: 20360801

Approved for Release by NSA on 02-17-2026, FOIA Case # 64726

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(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

~~SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~*Bkgrnd on the Chun Wheel*

Posting this background on Dick Chun from Joe Abbot. K

Classification: ~~SECRET//SI//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

(b) (1)
(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i)
(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

I know there was at least one generation of Chun Wheels, but I do not know if this is one of them, although it certainly could be. The Chun wheel was created by Dick Chun, [REDACTED] from Hawaii. I first met him in the late 60s. He was stationed at JSPC and had noticed that [REDACTED] messages being intercepted by RC-135s flying in the Gulf of Tonkin were exploitable and appeared to be logistics-related. This was the start of what became a massive SIGINT effort against the North Vietnamese General Directorate of Rear Services, the organization responsible for the movement of men and materials from NVN, through the DMZ or Laos, into the South. I'm not entirely sure where he went after Okinawa, but I do know he spent several years in Korea. We met again in the mid-70s when we both worked for Frank Smead [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] He probably retired in 77/78 (after I had gone overseas) and moved back to Hawaii. The last time I saw him was in 1980. Smead was Ch, NCPAC and had a party at his house for several of us as we came through Oahu. Dick Chun was there, loving life as usual. Sorry I can't be more helpful about the wheel itself, but there is a little sketch of the wheel's "father", for what it's worth.

Walter D. ("Joe"). Abbott

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

2458 re 2457 [REDACTED] @ 2009-06-02 15:24:28

Re: Bkgrnd on the Chun Wheel

(U) Thanks to you and Joe for this!

(U) I may have a lead on the particular wheel in question, will post here once I have more.

2459 [REDACTED] @ 2009-06-02 17:46:15

(U//FOUO) Luckily it wasn't some of that SECRET SAPPY stuff!

2461 [REDACTED] @ 2009-06-03 09:53:02

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(b) (1)
 (b) (3)-18 USC 798
 (b) (3)-50 USC 3024(i)
 (b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

(U) An update

(U//~~FOUO~~) I'm told that it is an encryptor -- used to encrypt/decrypt messages -- pre-Vietnam. I'm putting the knowledgeable parties in touch with the declass folks. Thanks for your input - when/if I learn more I'll try to remember to post it here.

2462 [redacted] @ 2009-06-03 11:35:40

(U) In a competing theory

(S//SI//REL) The folks in declass have done some research and think this device was used to exploit Soviet Naval [redacted] in the mid 1960's. [redacted]

(U) Will let you know how it all comes out!

3128 [redacted] @ 2009-10-05 14:51:07

(b) (1)
 (b) (3)-50 USC 3024(i)
 (b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

Chun Wheel

We came across a Chun Wheel during a recent office move. Turning it over the CHM this morning. has [redacted] conversions [redacted] teletype garbles, timezone converters, the works.

3129 re 3128 [redacted] @ 2009-10-05 14:58:33

Re: Chun Wheel

(U) [redacted] - CHM - the museum? (I usually abbreviate NCM) Think the wheel is still classified so they may not be able to take it. Call ahead before you take it over there.

3130 re 3129 [redacted] @ 2009-10-05 15:00:48

Re: Chun Wheel

It's stamped SECRET, but I can't imagine it's still classified. Maybe because of [redacted]

3131 re 3130 [redacted] @ 2009-10-05 15:03:55

Re: Chun Wheel

(U) I believe the last information I had on this was that someone would have to write an SPF asking for it to be officially declassified. I'll dig out what I have on that and put you in touch if you'd like ...

3353 re 3131 [redacted] @ 2009-11-04 23:20:29

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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Re: Chun Wheel

Betsy,

(U//~~FOUO~~) During clean-up for our upcoming building renovations we also came across a "CHUN WHEEL" here at NCPAC (I now find this amusing learning that the inventor is from here). It is also marked "SECRET" and seems to be a "305" (that is what it has on it). Like the others described here, there is no date or other markings. We have also been searching for declassification information on the device to turn it over to the Museum. We would also be happy to turn it over to CCH to add to the collection. Currently it is in my possession (the command here figured that if the NCM could trust me with a SIGABA, then they could trust me with a CHUN WHEEL! Honestly! That is the only reason it is in my possession). Let me know if you are interested.

3355 re 3353 [redacted] @ 2009-11-05 11:12:51

Re: Chun Wheel

(U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted] - we have boxes of them and probably don't need another right now. If no one out there wants to hang on to it, you could send it to Archives & Records. I do believe there is an ongoing effort to do the paperwork to see if it can be declassified, but I don't know how long that will take.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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