**Topic Selection Report**

**Topic:** China’s Cyber Espionage

**Title:** Advanced Persistent Threat 1: The People's Liberation Army Unit 61398

**Issue:** The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Unit 61398 is a state-sponsored espionage organization. This group has been found guilty of compromising data consisting of business plans, company assets, network information, product development plans, and administrative data. Since funding began, The United States has been a primary target.

**General Approach to the Topic and the** **Issue**

Regarding my topic and the issue highlighted, this proposal will cover China’s Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) 1. I plan to incorporate the State’s agenda regarding their superiority on a global scale and their dominant operational procedures. I will examine how APT 1 PLA Unit 61398 poses threats to the United States economy, military, and political parties. Since the group formed, China has experienced drastic growth in the economy and in military spending since the early 2000s. Unit 61398 conducts data threats by cyber espionage, leveraging the State’s dominance on a global scale. The sensitive data this group compromises from their targets is circulated throughout China and used to remain economically competitive. The group is expected to continue exploitation and espionage to supplement the State’s agenda.

I researched China’s motives, tactics, resources, and targets in espionage and the role of APT 1 espionage unit. My findings are from threat intelligence reports by FireEye’s *Mandiant Exposes APT1 – One of China's Cyber Espionage Units & Releases 3,000 Indicators* and IBM’s X-Force Exchange *X509\_APT1\_Malware\_Certificate*. With the addition of The National Security Agency advisory center, these credible sources will be significant in covering China’s cyber espionage against the United States.