

Former Australian Navy officer Alexander Gillett avoids jail over Fat Leonard bribery case

By [Elizabeth Byrne](#)

Updated about 5 hours ago

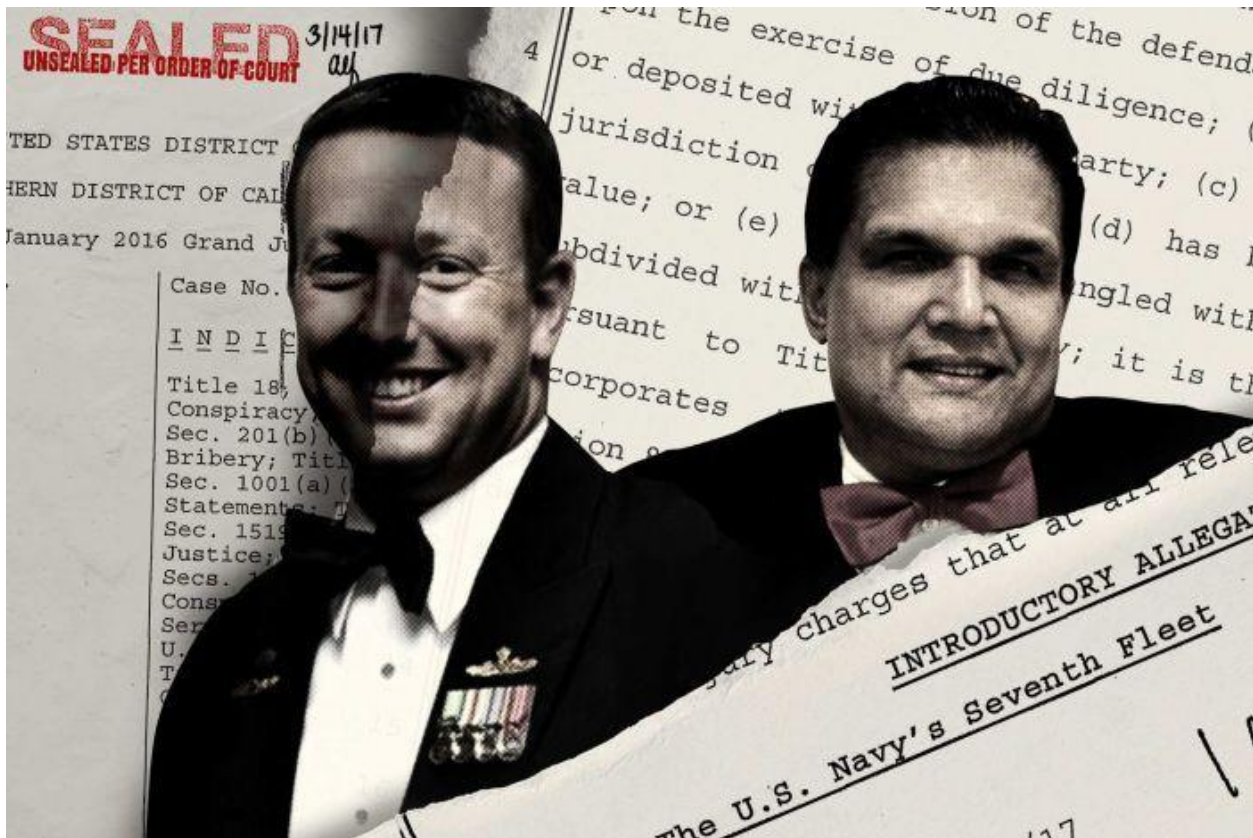


Photo: Alexander Gillett (left) was revealed as the Australian embroiled in scandal surrounding Fat Leonard (right). (ABC News)

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Former Australian Navy officer Alexander Gillett has avoided jail after being accused of abusing public office in connection to the Fat Leonard case that engulfed the US Navy.

Key points:

- Gillett was drawn into group calling itself "the Wolfpack" while a liaison officer with the US Navy
- He pleaded guilty to six occasions of providing Singapore businessman "Fat Leonard" with shipping information
- His sentence was heavily discounted because he agreed to help US authorities

Former Lieutenant Commander Alexander Bryan Gillett, 40, was drawn into a group which called itself the 'Wolfpack', when he was the Australian liaison officer with the US Seventh Fleet.

The group accepted favours including expensive dinners, hotel stays and even sex parties from Singapore-based businessman Leonard Francis, otherwise known as Fat Leonard, in exchange for information about fleet movements.

Francis was arrested in 2013 after he was lured to the United States.

He later pleaded guilty to defrauding the US military of about US\$35 million (\$49 million), in inflated invoices and bogus fees.

More than 400 Navy personnel, including 60 Admirals, have been investigated about their involvement in the network.

To date 33 people have been charged and 22 have pleaded guilty, with several sent to jail.

Gillett provided 'Fat Leonard' with shipping information



[Photo: Alex Gillett arriving home from a tour of duty on the HMAS Parramatta in 2012. \(Supplied: Defence Publications\)](#)

Gillett pleaded guilty to providing Francis with shipping information in return for meals, accommodation, alcohol and other entertainment on six occasions.

He said he was offered prostitution services but declined.

Court documents reveal Gillett was drawn into the scheme when another officer, who had been providing information to Francis, was leaving his post.

Gillett told Australian authorities the man told him the information would help the US Navy get port services at a cheaper rate.

He said he set up a secret email account that could be used from the ship under the name dingo11@cooltoad.com.

Gillett became the main contact for Francis for a time, and provided information between 2008 and 2009.

Gillett told to start a 'new chapter'

Gillett embraced his wife in a long hug outside the court, as he was spared time behind bars.

[Who is Fat Leonard?](#)



[How lavish dinners and five-star hotels led to an Australian becoming caught up in a global scam.](#)

His sentence was heavily discounted because he agreed to help US authorities prosecute the case.

Justice Chrissa Loukas-Karlsson told the court she had taken into account his remorse and evidence he was extremely embarrassed and ashamed.

"It's time for a new chapter in your life and you can show the community you are a better man than you were 10 years ago."

The crimes were committed between August 2008 and March 2009, but not detected until 2016.

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First posted yesterday at 3:49pm

Source:

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