

arrested in Russia during a different trip on allegations that he is a spy. His brother says he is innocent and was there for a wedding. (Photo: Marine Corps) # Federal court records portray Paul Whelan, the Novi resident detained in Russia, as a computer and security expert whose work brought him into close contact with members of the U.S. intelligence community, federal agents and foreign embassies. # The new details emerged Wednesday about Whelan, 48, an ex-police officer, former Marine and security official who Russian officials accuse of being a spy. # U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman Jr. was allowed Wednesday to visit Whelan, an official with Auburn Hills-based BorgWarner -- the first American contact with Whelan since his arrest Friday. The arrest is likely to weaken already strained U.S.-Russian relations, an expert told The Detroit News. # " He does have some of the kinds of experience one might associate with someone in the intelligence community, " said Kullberg, whose research has focused on Russian Federation politics. " He seems to have some Russian language fluency and appears to have traveled to Russia several times. " # Whelan's testimony in connection with a federal employment lawsuit six years ago sheds additional light on his work history and expertise. # Whelan was questioned in connection with a complaint filed by a former Kelly Services employee. At the time, Whelan was senior manager of global security and investigations for the Troy-based staffing company. # During a deposition that lasted more than five hours, he portrayed himself as a worldly man, a computer and security expert skilled at dealing with diplomats, federal agents and the U.S. intelligence community. # According to the deposition, Whelan served in the U.S. Marines