

## **4.17.2023 SHOW NOTES:**

### **Classified Document Leak? “I Know This Music,...”**

*(All material is used for educational purposes only)*

**NOTE:** I have tried to make sure that none of the stories in this collection are duplicates, but I am allowing for the possibility that I may have missed cross-over referencing.

**FURTHERMORE:** Many of the articles I have posted here have video links imbedded in them that did not copy over to this page. You might want to reference the original sources for further investigation.

# THE GUARDIAN

## Edward Snowden and the NSA files – timeline

*What has happened to NSA whistleblower who leaked files to Guardian since he decided to reveal his identity to the world and began his asylum battle*

**20 May** Edward Snowden, an employee of defence contractor Booz Allen Hamilton at the National Security Agency, arrives in Hong Kong from Hawaii. He carries four laptop computers that enable him to gain access to some of the US government's most highly-classified secrets.

**1 June** Guardian journalists Glenn Greenwald and Ewen MacAskill and documentary maker Laura Poitras fly from New York to Hong Kong. They meet Snowden in a Kowloon hotel after he identifies himself with a Rubik's cube and begin a week of interviews with their source.

**5 June** The Guardian publishes its first exclusive based on Snowden's leak, revealing a secret court order showing that the US government had forced the telecoms giant Verizon to hand over the phone records of millions of Americans.

**6 June** A second story reveals the existence of the previously undisclosed programme Prism, which internal [NSA](#) documents claim gives the agency "direct access" to data held by Google, Facebook, Apple and other US internet giants. The tech companies deny that they have set up "back door access" to their systems for the US government.

**7 June** Barack Obama defends the two programmes, saying they are overseen by the courts and Congress. Insisting that "the right balance" had been struck between security and privacy, he says: "You can't have 100% security, and also then have 100% privacy and zero inconvenience."

The Guardian reports that GCHQ has been able to see user communications data from the American internet companies, because it had access to Prism.

**8 June** Another of Snowden's leaks reveals the existence of an internal NSA tool – Boundless Informant – that allows it to record and analyse where its data comes

from, and raises questions about its repeated assurances to Congress that it cannot keep track of all the surveillance it performs on American communications.

**9 June** Snowden decides to go public. In a video interview he says: "I have no intention of hiding who I am because I know I have done nothing wrong."

**10 June** Snowden checks out of his Hong Kong hotel.

**12 June** Hong Kong's South China Morning Post publishes the first interview with Snowden since he revealed his identity. He says he intends to stay in the city until asked to leave and discloses that the NSA has been hacking into Hong Kong and Chinese computers since 2009.

**14 June** The Home Office instructs airlines not to allow Snowden to board any flights to the UK.

**16 June** The Guardian reports that GCHQ intercepted foreign politicians' communications at the 2009 G20 summit.

**20 June** Top secret documents published by the Guardian show how US judges have signed off on broad orders allowing the NSA to make use of information "inadvertently" collected from domestic US communications without a warrant.

**21 June** A Guardian exclusive reveals that GCHQ has gained access to the network of cables which carry the world's phone calls and internet traffic and is processing vast streams of sensitive personal information it shares with the NSA. The US files espionage charges against Snowden and requests that Hong Kong detain him for extradition.

**23 June** Snowden leaves Hong Kong on a flight to Moscow. In a statement, the Hong Kong government says documents submitted by the US did not "fully comply with the legal requirements under Hong Kong law" and it had no legal basis to prevent him leaving. Snowden [arrives in Moscow](#). In a statement, WikiLeaks said it was assisting him, in part by providing adviser [Sarah Harrison as an escort](#), and said he was heading to a democratic country, believed to be Ecuador, "via a safe route".

**24 June** Journalists board a flight from Moscow to Havana amid reports Snowden is about to board – [but he doesn't](#).

Standing next to Edward Snowden's seat on flight to Cuba. He ain't here.  
[pic.twitter.com/NVRH3Pzved](http://pic.twitter.com/NVRH3Pzved)

— max seddon (@maxseddon) [June 24, 2013](#)

**25 June** Barack Obama [vows to extradite Snowden](#) while John Kerry, US Secretary of State, [urges Russia to hand him over](#).

**25 June** Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov [claims Snowden never crossed the border into Russia](#). But Putin later says Snowden is [at Sheremetyevo airport and is free to leave Russia](#).

**26 June** Putin [says Snowden will not be extradited to America](#). He denies that his security services had contacted Snowden.

**26 June** Ecuador warns that it may take months to decide whether to offer Snowden asylum, [pointing out that it took two months to decide whether to do so in the case of Julian Assange](#).

**26 June** Hong Kong [claims](#), amid growing Sino-American tensions, that the US got Snowden's middle name wrong in documents submitted for his arrest.

**27 June** Obama [declares](#) he will not spend much geopolitical capital on apprehending Snowden. He also [claims](#) that he hasn't spoken to Russia nor China about extradition.

**27 June** Ecuador [maintains its defiant stance](#), renouncing the Andean Trade Preference Act it has with America. The country also offered the US \$23m (£15m) for human rights training.

**28 June** President Rafael Correa of Ecuador [revokes Snowden's safe conduct pass](#) amid irritation that Assange was taking over the role of the Ecuadorean government.

**29 June** Correa [reveals](#) that US vice-president Joe Biden asked him to turn down Snowden's asylum request.

**1 July** A consular official in Russia [reveals](#) that Snowden has applied for asylum there. WikiLeaks later reveal that he has applied for asylum in a further 20 countries, amongst them France, Germany, Ireland, China and Cuba.

**1 July** Snowden [releases a statement](#) through the WikiLeaks website in which he claims that he left Hong Kong because "my freedom and safety were under threat". He says it is hypocritical of Obama to promise no "wheeling and dealing" but then instruct Biden to encourage other nations to deny him asylum.

**2 July** Snowden retracts his request for Russian asylum after [Putin says he must stop "bringing harm" to US interests](#). Meanwhile Brazil, India, Norway and Poland [refuse Snowden asylum](#), while Ecuador, Austria, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and Switzerland say he has to apply from their countries.

**2 July** Lon Snowden, Edward Snowden's father, and his father's attorney, Bruce Fein, [pen an open letter](#) to Edward Snowden praising him, comparing him to Paul Revere and noting the US supreme court decision that "statelessness is not to be imposed as a punishment for crime".

**2 July** Bolivia throws its hat into the ring with president Evo Morales declaring on Russian television that he would ["shield the denounced"](#).

Evo Morales at Vienna's airport after his plane, flying from Moscow, was inspected by Austrian officials. Photograph: Helmut Fohringer/AFP/Getty Images

**3 July** Morales's plane, en route from Moscow to Bolivia, is forced to land in Vienna after other European countries refused it airspace, suspecting that Snowden was on board. Bolivian vice-president Alvaro Garcia says Morales was ["kidnapped by imperialism"](#).

**3 July** Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay and Bolivia [denounce the treatment of Morales](#), who was held in Vienna airport for 12 hours while his plane was searched for Snowden. Bolivia files a complaint at the UN.

**3 July** UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon [says](#) that Snowden misused his rights to digital access and created problems greater than the public benefit of disclosure.

**4 July** Morales calls the rerouting of his flight an "[open provocation](#)" of "north American imperialism" and urges some European countries to "free themselves" from America.

**4 July** Ecuador distances itself from Snowden saying that he is under Russia's authority and would have to reach Ecuador before being granted asylum. Correa said the Ecuadorean consul [acted without authority](#) when it issued Snowden a temporary travel pass.

**5 July** The Washington Post, despite having published stories based on Snowden's leaks, [now writes](#) that he should be prevented "from leaking information that harms efforts to fight terrorism and conduct legitimate intelligence operations".

**6 July** Nicolás Maduro, the president of Venezuela, [says he has decided](#) "to offer humanitarian asylum" to Snowden. Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega says he could accept Snowden's asylum request "if circumstances permit".

**7 July** Alexei Pushkov, chair of the Duma's foreign affairs committee, tweets that Venezuela's asylum offer may be Snowden's "last chance" to avoid extradition to the US.

**8 July** The Guardian releases the [second part of its original video interview with Snowden](#). In this extract Snowden says he believes the US government "are going to say I have committed grave crimes, I have violated the Espionage Act. They are going to say I have aided our enemies".

**10 July** Glenn Greenwald, the Guardian columnist who has written many of the stories based on Snowden's information, [says that Snowden maintains](#) he didn't give classified information to China or Russia, following erroneous claims from the New York Times on 24 June that China had been "draining the contents of his laptop".

**July 20** Destruction of Guardian computer equipment after threat of legal action by the UK government.

Edward Snowden attends a meeting at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on 12 July.  
Photograph: Tanya Lokshina/AP

**12 July** Snowden sends a letter to human rights groups asking them to meet him at Sheremetyevo airport and [claiming](#) there is "an unlawful campaign by officials in the US government to deny my right to seek and enjoy... asylum". At the meeting [he says](#) he will be applying for temporary asylum in Russia while he applies for permanent asylum in a Latin American country.

**24 July** Anatoly Kucherena, a lawyer advising Snowden, [states that](#) the NSA leaker's asylum status has not been resolved and he will stay at Moscow airport for now. Kucherena claims that Snowden "intends to stay in Russia, study Russian culture", implying perhaps that Snowden may live in Russia for good.

**August 1** Guardian publishes [the story of secret American funding of GCHQ](#).

**August 18** David Miranda, the partner of Guardian reporter Glenn Greenwald, [held at Heathrow airport](#).

**August 21** [Guardian reveals](#) how and why its computer equipment was destroyed.

## BBC NEWS

### Edward Snowden: Leaks that exposed US spy programme

Published 17 January 2014

**Edward Snowden, a former contractor for the CIA, left the US in late May after leaking to the media details of extensive internet and phone surveillance by American intelligence. Mr Snowden, who has been granted temporary asylum in Russia, faces espionage charges over his actions.**

As the scandal widens, BBC News looks at the leaks that brought US spying activities to light.

#### **US spy agency 'collects phone records'**

The [scandal broke in early June 2013](#) when the Guardian newspaper reported that the US National Security Agency (NSA) was collecting the telephone records of tens of millions of Americans.

The paper published the secret court order directing telecommunications company Verizon to hand over all its telephone data to the NSA on an "ongoing daily basis".

That report was followed by revelations in both the Washington Post and Guardian that the NSA tapped directly into the servers of nine internet firms, including Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo, to track online communication in a [surveillance programme](#) known as Prism.

Britain's electronic eavesdropping agency [GCHQ was also accused of gathering information](#) on the online companies via Prism.

Shortly afterwards, the Guardian revealed that [ex-CIA systems analyst Edward Snowden](#) was behind the leaks about the US and UK surveillance programmes.

He has been charged in the US with theft of government property, unauthorised communication of national defence information and wilful communication of classified communications intelligence.

## UK spy agency 'taps fibre-optic cables'

The [GCHQ scandal widened](#) on 21 June when the Guardian reported that the UK spy agency was tapping fibre-optic cables that carry global communications and sharing vast amounts of data with the NSA, its US counterpart.

The paper revealed it had obtained documents from Edward Snowden showing that the GCHQ operation, codenamed Tempora, had been running for 18 months.

GCHQ was able to boast a larger collection of data than the US, tapping into 200 fibre-optic cables to give it the ability to monitor up to 600 million communications every day, according to the report.

The information from internet and phone use was allegedly stored for up to 30 days to be sifted and analysed.

Although GCHQ did not break the law, the Guardian suggested that the existing legislation was being very broadly applied to allow such a large volume of data to be collected.

GCHQ and NSA eavesdropping on Italian phone calls and internet traffic was reported by the Italian weekly L'Espresso on 24 October. The revelations were sourced to Edward Snowden.

It is alleged that three undersea cables with terminals in Italy were targeted. Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta called the allegations "inconceivable and unacceptable" and said he wanted to establish the truth.

## US 'hacks China networks'

After fleeing to Hong Kong, Edward Snowden [told the South China Morning Post](#) that the NSA had led more than 61,000 hacking operations worldwide, including many in Hong Kong and mainland China.

He said targets in Hong Kong included the Chinese University, public officials and businesses.

"We hack network backbones - like huge internet routers, basically - that give us access to the communications of hundreds of thousands of computers without having to hack every single one," Mr Snowden was quoted as saying.

## **EU offices 'bugged'**

Claims emerged on 29 June that the NSA had also spied on European Union offices in the US and Europe, according to [Germany's Der Spiegel](#) magazine.

Media caption,

Martin Schulz: "I am deeply shocked because I think the United States should treat the European Union not like an enemy"

The magazine said it had seen leaked NSA documents showing that the US had spied on EU internal computer networks in Washington and at the 27-member bloc's UN office in New York.

The paper added that it had been shown the "top secret" files by Edward Snowden.

One document dated September 2010 explicitly named the EU representation at the UN as a "location target", Der Spiegel wrote.

The files allegedly suggested that the NSA had also conducted an electronic eavesdropping operation in a building in Brussels, where the EU Council of Ministers and the European Council were located.

It is not known what information US spies might have obtained. But observers say details of European positions on trade and military matters could be useful to those involved in US-EU negotiations.

## **Merkel phone calls 'intercepted'**

The German government summoned the US ambassador on 24 October - a very unusual step - after German media reported that the NSA had eavesdropped on Chancellor Angela Merkel's mobile phone.

The allegations dominated an EU summit, with Mrs Merkel demanding a full explanation and warning that trust between allies could be undermined. She

discussed the matter by phone with US President Barack Obama. He assured her that her calls were not being monitored now and that it would not happen in future. But the White House did not deny bugging her phone in the past.

Past surveillance by secret police - whether Nazi or communist - has made Germans very sensitive about privacy issues. Mrs Merkel grew up in the former East Germany, where the Stasi spied on millions of citizens.

France's President Francois Hollande meanwhile expressed alarm at reports that millions of French calls had been monitored by the US.

The Guardian later reported that the NSA had [monitored the phones of 35 world leaders](#) after being given their numbers by another US government official. Again, Edward Snowden was the source of the report.

## **Embassies 'under surveillance'**

A total of 38 embassies and missions have been the "targets" of US spying operations, according to a [secret file](#) leaked to the Guardian.

Countries targeted included France, Italy and Greece, as well as America's non-European allies such as Japan, South Korea and India, the paper reported on 1 July.

EU embassies and missions in New York and Washington were also said to be under surveillance.

The file allegedly detailed "an extraordinary range" of spying methods used to intercept messages, including bugs, specialised antennae and wire taps.

The Guardian report also mentioned codenames of alleged operations against the French and Greek missions to the UN, as well as the Italian embassy in Washington.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said that activities to protect national security were "not unusual" in international relations.

## **Latin America 'monitored'**

US allies in Latin America were angered by revelations in Brazil's O Globo newspaper on 10 July that the NSA [ran a continent-wide surveillance programme](#).

The paper cited leaked documents showing that, at least until 2002, the NSA ran the operation from a base in Brasilia, seizing web traffic and details of phone calls from around the region.

US agents apparently joined forces with Brazilian telecoms firms to snoop on oil and energy firms, foreign visitors to Brazil, and major players in Mexico's drug wars.

Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Chile all demanded answers from the US.

But the revelations on Latin America kept coming, and in September more specific claims emerged that emails and phone calls of the presidents of Mexico and Brazil had been intercepted.

Also, the US had been spying on Brazil's state-owned oil firm Petrobras.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff [cancelled a state visit](#) to the US in the most high-profile diplomatic move since the scandal hit.

## **US spying 'errors'**

Documents leaked to the Washington Post in mid-August suggested the NSA [breaks US privacy laws](#) hundreds of times every year.

The papers revealed that US citizens were inadvertently snooped on for reasons including typing mistakes and errors in the system,

In one instance in 2008, a "large number" of calls placed from Washington DC were intercepted after an error in a computer program entered "202" - the telephone area code for Washington DC - into a data query instead of "20", the country code for Egypt.

Later in August, the Washington Post reported that US spy agencies [had a "black budget"](#) for secret operations of almost \$53bn in 2013.

## **SMS messages 'collected and stored'**

In January 2014, the Guardian newspaper and Channel 4 News reported that the US had [collected and stored](#) almost 200 million text messages per day across the globe.

A National Security Agency (NSA) program is said to have extracted and stored data from the SMS messages to gather location information, contacts and financial data.

The documents also revealed that GCHQ had used the NSA database to search for information on people in the UK.

The programme, Dishfire, analyses SMS messages to extract information including contacts from missed call alerts, location from roaming and travel alerts, financial information from bank alerts and payments and names from electronic business cards, according to the report.

Through the vast database, which was in use at least as late as 2012, the NSA gained information on those who were not specifically targeted or under suspicion, the report says.

**The revelations came on the eve of an expected announcement by President Obama of a response to recommendations by a US panel on ways to change US electronic surveillance programmes.**

## USA TODAY

### Here's why the US can't stop military and intel members from leaking top-secret documents

April 14, 2023

First there was Army soldier [Chelsea Manning](#), and after that intelligence contractors [Edward Snowden](#) and [Reality Winner](#). All of them were 20-somethings charged with [leaking highly classified documents](#) they had access to as part of their government work and disclosing some of America's most closely guarded secrets.

On Thursday, federal [authorities arrested yet another](#) suspected young [leaker of top-secret U.S. intelligence](#): Jack Teixeira, a low-ranking member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Teixeira, 21, is charged with the unauthorized removal, retention and transmission of classified national defense information about the war in Ukraine and U.S. efforts to spy on its enemies and allies. The disclosures over the past week have exposed sensitive information about the U.S.-assisted war effort in Ukraine and the fragile wartime relationship between Washington and its allies.

Teixeira, an enlisted airman first class, is a member of the 102nd Intelligence Wing based in Cape Cod. Media reports say he posted the documents to an online group of young men and teenagers who came together over their shared love of weaponry, video games and racist online memes.

Why do these kinds of damaging intelligence leaks keep happening? And perhaps more important, what can the U.S. military and intelligence establishment do to prevent it from happening again?

Experts, including former U.S. intelligence officials, told USA TODAY that there are no easy fixes to the problem. That's especially the case because of the vastness of the military and intelligence bureaucracy, which has millions of people – many of them independent contractors – with top-secret security clearances.

And in a post-9/11 world where government agencies are required to share whatever they can with whomever they can, no amount of "Insider Threat" monitoring is bound to catch all wrongdoers, they said in interviews.

"It's a very complex system, so there are no simple solutions," said Glenn Gerstell, the National Security Agency's general counsel from 2015 to 2020. "But maybe all those millions of people don't need access to everything the way we've got things going now."

## Similarities between leakers

According to military records, Teixeira joined the National Guard in 2019 and worked at Otis Air National Guard Base. His job title: cyber transport systems journeyman.

Teixeira is awaiting a court appearance Friday in the case and has not entered a plea. But military security experts and former U.S. intelligence officials told USA TODAY there are many similarities between Teixeira and the other young "grunts," or low-level operators and analysts who have been charged with stealing and leaking similarly classified documents.

Chelsea Manning was a 23-year-old Army intelligence analyst in 2010 when she stole and [leaked more than 700,000 classified documents](#), including battlefield reports on Iraq and Afghanistan and State Department cables. Manning, who said she provided the documents to [Wikileaks as a form of protest](#), was convicted and spent four years in prison before being pardoned by President Barack Obama.

In 2013, [there was the case of 29-year-old Edward Snowden](#), the National Security Agency intelligence contractor in Hawaii who [leaked a massive trove of classified documents](#) that disclosed details about top-secret U.S. intelligence-gathering and surveillance programs. Snowden, who was [charged under the Espionage Act](#), fled to Russia, where he lives today as a fugitive from U.S. justice. He has said he leaked the documents to protest U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

In 2017, 25-year-old Reality Leigh Winner, a linguist for an [NSA intelligence contractor in Georgia](#), was arrested and charged with giving a media organization a classified U.S. government report about Russian hacking attempts that [targeted](#)

[U.S. voter registration](#) information. She served about three years of her five-year prison sentence and was released in June 2021.

In the latest case, authorities have not said whether Teixeira is accused of leaking documents to make a political statement. A Pentagon spokesman, Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, declined to comment on case details at a press briefing, citing an ongoing Justice Department investigation.

But, Ryder, said, "this was a deliberate criminal act."

Teixeira posted the documents to Discord, a social media and messaging platform popular among gamers, in an online group called Thug Shaker Central, according to [The New York Times](#) and [The Washington Post](#).

Members of the group did not identify Teixeira by name but referred to the person posting dozens of top-secret documents in recent months as OG, their de facto leader, the reports said. Some said he might have been doing it simply to [share – and show off – the secrets](#) he knew to a small circle of online friends who bonded over video games.

According to The Times, "One of the friends said the O.G. had [access to intelligence documents](#) through his job."

## **What has been done to catch leakers?**

After each of the cases, authorities have promised to crack down on leaks. That has included stricter controls over who has access to intelligence, and what some people can download or print from certain government computers, [according to Gerstell](#) and Gavin Wilde, a former senior information security official at the NSA and the National Security Council in the White House.

In the current case, the documents in question – some of them posted on Twitter – appear to be photocopies of printed documents, according to a USA TODAY review of some of them.

Periodically, authorities also have beefed up "Insider Threat" programs at their respective agencies that are designed to catch disgruntled employees who might want to steal information and weaponize it for financial or political gain.

One problem is that the [Office of the Director of National Intelligence](#), which has oversight of all 18 U.S. intelligence agencies, has little ability to curtail information-sharing between or within agencies. In fact, its job is to promote such liaisons.

Given the patchwork of big and small military and intelligence units, it's impossible to take a 'one size fits all' approach to the problem, Wilde told USA TODAY.

As a result, efforts to actually stop classified information theft at the source, including scrutinizing who is actually downloading electronic documents or printing them out, have been done only in fits and starts and not on a mass scale, said Wilde, a senior fellow in the Technology and International Affairs Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"We can track a terrorist across the globe pretty seamlessly by now, but we don't have a very good way of saying, 'Hey, why are you printing out so much stuff when your title doesn't seem to denote that you need to be doing that?' " Wilde said. "There's probably major investments that should have gone into being able to track and adjudicate print privileges and to throw up other red flags."

## **Well-meaning changes with dangerous consequences**

Gerstell said two of the main reasons there are gaping holes in the information security apparatus began with intelligence-sharing reforms that were instituted years ago and with the best of intentions.

One came in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, and the failure of U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies to ["connect the dots" and uncover](#) the plot beforehand.

"We never wanted to be in a position again where we looked back and said, 'Oh, we knew this information but we couldn't access it and therefore, some terrible accident or disaster has occurred,' " Gerstell said.

That fear infused the government at all levels with the mandate to share intelligence wherever possible, including widely disseminating the kind of top-secret warfighter intelligence that was posted online in recent months.

The second change, Gerstell said, came after the Iraq War underscored problems with faulty intelligence analysis. The Pentagon, CIA and other agencies sought to

bend over backward to share not only the information they were getting, he said, but also how they were getting it and what it meant.

"But you put these two things together and you wind up in a situation where we've enabled seemingly lower-level people to have access to a great amount of information while giving lip service to the need-to-know principle" necessary for protecting classified information, he said.

## **Using intel to gain online respect**

The documents posted to the private online Discord community were discussed online but were meant to be purely informative, members of Thug Shaker Central told The New York Times. It reported that while many of the documents were related to the war in Ukraine, the group's members said they took no side in the conflict.

The documents began to get wider attention only when one of the teenage members posted some to a public online forum. From there they were picked up by Russian-language Telegram channels, The Times reported.

James Ivory, a Virginia Tech professor who monitors the intersection of social media, video gaming and international intelligence, said the news reports – if true – underscore the virtually impossible task of monitoring the online activities of young military service members.

"The defense community has no small number of people working in roles where they are far removed from the battlefield but have access to classified information that will gain them authority and credibility among others fascinated with the military, including gamers" like those on Discord, Ivory told USA TODAY.

"The temptation for young people with security access to leverage their knowledge as a way to gain cachet among military-interested communities will continue to be a common risk in online communities," Ivory said.

## **After latest leak, are there more to come?**

With Teixeira in custody and awaiting a court appearance, experts said it's unlikely that more of them will be posted given his arrest Thursday afternoon. But many of them could have been shared beforehand.

Garland said little beyond the immediate charges facing Teixeira at a brief news conference Thursday at Justice Department headquarters.

Ryder, the Pentagon spokesman, also did not discuss details of the case but said that stringent guidelines are in place to protect classified information and that the whole system is under review.

Asked why such a junior member of a National Guard unit might have access to such top-secret material, Ryder would not comment on Teixeira.

But, he said, "we entrust our members with a lot of responsibility at a very early age. Think about a young combat platoon sergeant and the responsibility and trust that we put into those individuals to lead troops into combat."

## BREITBART

# Everything You Need to Know About the Alleged Pentagon Leaks

[John Hayward](#) 14 Apr 2023

***The FBI arrested alleged Pentagon leaker Jack Douglas Teixeira on Thursday, closing the first chapter of an ongoing story that still has many questions to answer – including whether the classified documents Teixeira posted online are accurate or not and how he came to possess them.***

Here are the known facts of the case, as of Friday.

**Who is the “leaker?”** The suspect in custody is Jack Douglas Teixeira, a 21-year-old resident of North Dighton, Massachusetts. Attorney General Merrick Garland said on Thursday he was detained as part of “an investigation into alleged unauthorized removal, retention, and transmission of classified national defense information.”

FBI agents [arrested](#) Teixeira without incident at his mother’s home. The FBI [said](#) its agents were heavily armed because they had reason to believe Teixeira owned multiple weapons.

“Since late last week the FBI has aggressively pursued investigative leads, and today’s arrest exemplifies our continued commitment to identifying, pursuing, and holding accountable those who betray our country’s trust and put our national security at risk,” the FBI [said](#) after the arrest.

Teixeira is an Airman First Class in the Massachusetts Air National Guard, assigned to the [102nd Intelligence Wing](#) at Otis Air National Guard Base, which is [located](#) at Joint Base Cape Cod in the eastern Massachusetts town of Bourne, about 50 miles from where the Teixeira family lives. His stepfather retired after serving in the same unit.

The 102nd Intelligence Wing is tasked with providing “worldwide precision intelligence and command and control along with trained and experienced airmen for expeditionary combat support and homeland security.” Among other duties, its personnel process data from reconnaissance planes and drones.

According to the [BBC](#), Teixeira enlisted in 2019 and currently holds the position of Cyber Transport Systems journeyman, which means he works on the Air Force global communications network. He was on active duty at the time he allegedly exposed classified materials and may be punished more harshly as a result. He will probably face at least ten years in prison.

Teixeira would have needed to pass a background check to take the job, since it involves accessing classified information, although **most observers of the case are puzzled about how Teixeira managed to obtain documents that were classified at such a high level.**

The [UK Daily Mail](#) on Friday quoted a sworn statement from an FBI agent that said Teixeira “had held a top secret security clearance since 2021, and that he also maintained sensitive compartmented access to other highly classified programs.”

The suspect’s mother has worked for veterans’ non-profit organizations and posts family photos each year on Veterans Day. His stepfather is retired with 34 years of military service. Teixeira’s mother proudly charted her son’s progress in the Air National Guard with Facebook posts. When he graduated from tech school in June 2021, she posted a photo of a patriotic balloon tied to the family mailbox to welcome him home.

Neighbors told the BBC that Jack Teixeira was a “good kid, not a troublemaker,” had a “good head on his shoulders,” and was enthusiastic about joining the military.

**What did he allegedly do?** Teixeira is allegedly a video game enthusiast who created a group called “Thug Shaker Central” on a video, voice, and text platform called [Discord](#) during the pandemic lockdowns of 2020.

Gamers commonly use Discord to talk to each other while playing games, but it also offers chat groups and forums, where photos and videos can be shared along with typed messages. It is very easy to install and use – it can even be run within a web browser without installing any software – and basic accounts are free.

According to friends interviewed by the [Washington Post](#), Teixeira created Thug Shaker Central under the user name “OG,” one of several accounts he maintained, to discuss his interests in guns, Catholicism, libertarian politics, and games. As with many people, his outspoken persona online was reportedly very different from the modest way he conducted himself in person.

Teixeira’s Discord group was fairly small, accepting new members by invitation only. It had about 30 members at its peak, including a number of teenage boys, who enjoyed telling politically incorrect jokes – the name of the group was borrowed from a gay pornography video – and egging each other on to greater heights of verbal transgression. Some frankly racist comments were made in the forum. The *Washington Post* summarized the bulk of the content posted by the group as “memes, offensive jokes, and idle chitchat.”

Some of them created fictitious identities for themselves, including a member living in Kentucky who pretended he was a Russian naval officer, a ruse that apparently prompted early suspicions that Teixeira’s group was created or infiltrated by foreign intelligence agents. The members who spoke to the *Washington Post* insisted they were just a rowdy crew of young people looking for online companionship during the lockdowns. A great deal of steam was blown off, but in addition to the trash talk, some members conducted serious discussions of the Ukraine war and prayed together online.

Shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in 2022, Teixeira began posting what he described as classified material on the forum. At first, he retyped what he claimed to have seen on these documents, but later he included photographic images of the originals. According to other group members, he switched to photos of the documents when he grew frustrated with the amount of work needed to retype them, and the inability of other members to understand military and intelligence jargon.

Teixeira is accused of ultimately [leaking](#) over a hundred purportedly classified documents, many of them pertaining to the Ukraine war. According to reports, he often presented these documents as evidence that every government involved in the conflict is lying to its citizens about the progress of the war. He also allegedly posted materials related to other news stories discussed in the Thug Shaker Central forum, including foreign interference in U.S. elections, U.S. interference in foreign governments, and the [Chinese spy balloon saga](#).

**Why did he allegedly post classified documents?** Teixeira's friends told reporters he does not view himself as a "whistleblower" in the vein of Edward Snowden, the NSA contractor who [claimed](#) his exposure of classified materials was conducted to defend privacy rights and expose government surveillance overreach.

Instead, Teixeira evidently posted these documents because he wanted to impress and educate other members of his Discord group, especially the younger members, who he viewed as proteges. The poster identified in reports as Teixeira escalated his activities when he did not think the others were paying enough attention to his opinions and the material he was exposing.

"He's a smart person. He knew what he was doing when he posted these documents, of course. These weren't accidental leaks of any kind," a teenage member of Thug Shaker Central told the *Washington Post*.

"He got upset, and he said on multiple occasions, if you guys aren't going to interact with them, I'm going to stop sending them," another said of the shared documents.

One of his friends said Teixeira saw his Discord forum as a means of "keeping kids informed about real-world issues."

The leaker swore other group members to secrecy about the materials he was posting – a promise they kept with surprising fidelity, all things considered. Some of them told the media it took them a while to accept that he was posting genuine classified material, instead of fabrications he boastfully invented to make himself look important.

Several group members have told the media their forum was thick with "irony" and sarcasm, so it was difficult to tell exactly where Teixeira was coming from. He appears to have crafted a persona as a fiery libertarian individualist, an "anti-war Christian" who distrusted the U.S. government and had serious qualms about its Ukraine policy.

One forum member said Teixeira came to regret joining the military because he concluded it was "run by the elite politicians" and threatened to "kick [his] ass if I thought about joining."

**How did he get caught?** The code of silence on Thug Shaker Central held remarkably firm until last month, at which time some of the members began

sharing “OG’s” posts and classified documents in other Discord groups, apparently because they wanted to impress other users or win arguments with them.

This brought the alleged document leak to the attention of the media, generating a few big headline news stories and sparking an intense media manhunt for the original leaker. Open-source investigation website [Bellingcat](#) reported on Sunday that the *New York Times* (NYT) began digging into the story after five documents related to the Ukraine invasion were shared in Russian channels on the messaging platform Telegram.

Some of Teixeira’s docs were also posted on the notoriously rambunctious 4chan system, where one poster employed a classified document to win a petty argument with the message, “Source this dick, at least my piece of paper is more credible than hearsay.”

Bellingcat found another exposure of classified material in a March 4 Discord feud between players of the Minecraft computer game that concluded with one of them saying, “Here, have some leaked documents.” The accompanying images were of ten documents concerning the Ukraine war, some of them visibly stamped “Top Secret.”

These heated comments from 4chan and Discord users perfectly capture the overall tenor of the most embarrassing national security breach since Edward Snowden.

Bellingcat also found documents posted on a Discord channel dedicated to a Filipino YouTube celebrity. The investigators considered these “bizarre” venues for such potentially explosive disclosures, so they kept looking for the original source of the documents and eventually found the Thug Shaker Central group. It then took the *Washington Post* about a week to hunt Teixeira down.

According to the [Associated Press](#) (AP), Teixeira knew he was in trouble after the *NYT* story on his documents was published last week. He then held a video conference call with other Thug Shaker Central members to apologize for the consequences that might fall on them.

“Basically what he said was, ‘I’m sorry, guys, I prayed every single day that this wouldn’t happen.’ I prayed, and I prayed, and now it’s only up to God what happens next,” another group member told the AP.

**How did he get so much sensitive information?** This is perhaps the biggest lingering question of the Teixeira story. If the documents are not all fakes, then how did a young, low-ranking member of the Air National Guard get access to them?

Bellingcat noted that once Teixeira began sharing images of the classified material, they appeared to be photos of hard-copy documents, not scans or computer-generated images. Some of the photos appear to have been digitally manipulated when they were passed along by other users, especially the Russians on Telegram, but it was not clear if any of the original copies posted by Teixeira are manipulations or fakes.

“When asked how such a young service member could have had access to highly sensitive documents, the Pentagon spokesman, Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder, said it was the nature of the military to trust its very young service members with high and sometimes grave levels of responsibility, including high levels of security clearance,” the AP reported on Thursday.

“We entrust our members with a lot of responsibility at a very early age. Think about a young combat platoon sergeant, and the responsibility and trust that we put into those individuals to lead troops into combat,” Ryder said.

“National security is our foremost priority and any attempt to undermine it compromises our values and degrades trust among our members, the public, allies and partners,” said the National Guard.

The *NYT* described Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin as “struggling” to explain how his department did not know about the leaks until they spread across the Internet and caught the attention of reporters.

“Well, they were somewhere in the web. And where exactly and who had access at that point, we don’t know. We simply don’t know at this point,” Austin said. The *NYT* archly observed that even more classified documents were being discovered online by media outlets while Austin was speaking.

According to the *NYT*, the Joint Chiefs of Staff acted last Friday to implement “procedures to limit the distribution of highly sensitive briefing documents and restrict attendance at meetings where briefing books containing paper copies of the documents were available.”

## BREITBART

### Exclusive — Kash Patel Questions Emerging Narrative on Pentagon Leaks: ‘This Is an Extensive Cover-Up’

[Kristina Wong](#) 15 Apr 2023

*Kash Patel, former chief of staff at the Pentagon and former deputy director of National Intelligence, in an exclusive interview with Breitbart News on Friday, questioned the evolving narrative over the Pentagon leaks — specifically that a 21-year-old Massachusetts Air National Guard reservist acted alone to leak top secret military data.*

**Patel, a former federal prosecutor, said he does not believe “for a single second, this guy — a 21-year-old Air National Guardsman — ran this operation alone.”**

**Patel said, first, the suspected leaker, Jack Teixeira, would not have had access to the information without someone within the Department of Defense (DOD) or the intelligence community giving it to him, providing it to him, or telling him it should be put out there. “It’s just not possible,” he said.**

**He said even though he worked in information technology (IT), he still would not have had access to the information.**

**“You can be the biggest IT person in DOD, and you are still compartmented off of the actual information. Almost never does an IT person need to know, as we say, the substance of the intelligence. Their job is to provide the secure informations systems around it to protect any disclosures,” he said.**

**“This is crazy sensitive stuff,” he said. “Ninety-nine percent of people who have a Top Secret/SCI clearance don’t have access to this information. And me, as the former deputy DNI and chief of staff of the DOD and publisher of the [Presidential Daily Brief], with the highest security classification, knows that, literally, there is not a lot of people in the U.S. that have access to this kind of intel. It’s done for a reason. So this doesn’t happen.”**

Patel said while the Joint Chief of Staff's daily brief produced by its Directorate of Intelligence (J2) goes out to thousands of people, there is underlying contributing information that is compartmented and goes to fewer people. "The underlying intel — that's very sensitive because it exposes how we got it, who we got it from, when we got it, and whether we can get it again, how is that delivered," he said.

The Air Force confirmed to Breitbart News that Teixeira is Airman First Class, which is the third lowest enlisted rank in the Air Force and is a "cyber transport systems journeyman," which is essentially an IT technician. He entered the Air National Guard in September 26, 2019. He is based at the Otis Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts.

**Second, Patel said the way the classified information was put out suggests Teixeira did not act alone.**

**"Whether he's in IT or not, is irrelevant. The way it was produced, the way it was put out there — pages, printed photographs taken, published online — that is a methodical way of releasing classified information illegally," he said.**

**"I think he's definitely working with other people in DOD or the intel space to get this information out. This is an Assange-style operation. This kid — no offense to him — at 21 years old, cannot put out this five-months, unlawful disclosure of sensitive intelligence," he said.**

**Patel said the tradecraft around the way the leaks are being disclosed also suggests a cover-up of how damaging the leaks are.**

**"I think the DOD and the [intelligence community] gave it to [the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*]," he said. "They're giving it to them to say we need, you know, we needed a cover-up. We need to make sure people think Ukraine's working, we need to make it seem like it's one rogue 21-year-old actor in some airbase in Cape Cod, Massachusetts."**

**"The amount of intelligence they got...Somebody's giving them that type of documentation. It's just not readily available," he said about the reporting. "Where did they get that from? That doesn't come from anyone who doesn't have direct access at the end in the United States."**

**“That the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* ‘broke’ this story, that also leads me to believe it’s the same tradecraft from Russiagate, that when deep state actors want stuff out there, they put it out to their sources,” he said. “Am I to believe that these two newspapers found this guy out first, before the FBI? That’s absurd. That’s the timeline we’re being told. So now, we have better investigators at the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* than in the FBI?”**

**“This is an extensive cover-up,” Patel said of Teixeira’s arrest. “It’s going to go on for some time, and they needed a quick victory. This kid should be prosecuted, no questions asked, no questions about it in my mind — he broke the law and needs to be prosecuted.”**

**But, he said, “It’s a CYA operation, for sure. Because we haven’t gotten to the worst of it. We’re not there yet. There’s more stuff. And you know, there’s probably more stuff floating around in these chat rooms and whatnot, but they want to talk about him, the kid, and not the [verified intelligence].”**

He said the intelligence shows that the Pentagon and President Joe Biden have been lying to the American people about how well the Ukraine War was doing.

**“I think the substance of the intel...it says basically, our effort in the Ukraine, our \$100 billion effort, is failing,” he said.**

**“And I think that’s why this has ignited such a firestorm in DOD—because they’ve been exposed and no one’s had any answers. So I don’t know if Congress is going to act, but the Gang of Eight, the Armed Services Committee, and possibly even Intel Committees need to jump in on this,” he said.**

“Why hasn’t the Armed Services Committee subpoenaed [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley] and [Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin] and demanded an answer under oath as to why they have been lying to the President of the United States, or permitted him to lie on the success and failure of our operations in Ukraine, who we have there, and how much money we’re spending there? Because they’ve been telling us for months and months and months that we’re on the verge of beating Putin,” he said.

“Why wasn’t this intelligence briefed to these members in Congress who are supposed to oversee our highest levels of intelligence? And if they were told it, it’s

an even bigger problem because it clearly shows the U.S. position in the Ukraine failing," he said.

# [A SON OF THE NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION](#)

## [UPDATE – -A Controlled Leak and A 21 Year Old Scape-Goat?](#)

13 April 2023 by [Larry Johnson](#)

**Until I saw the document labeled, CIA Operations Center Intelligence Update, I was inclined to believe that the leaked documents were the work of a frustrated whistleblower. But I have changed my mind. This looks like a controlled, directed leak by individuals who manipulated the 21 year old National Guard troop into taking certain documents and posting them on a public server.**

The CIA Operations Center Intelligence Update is a document produced by analysts in the Operations Center to be delivered to the regular CIA analysts. When I worked in the Ops Center I was responsible for monitoring traffic from Latin American posts and flagging items that the analysts in the Latin American Division need to know. I would write up summary paragraphs just like the ones in the documents leaked on line. This was an internal CIA document. It was not broadcast to the other intelligence agencies. In my 23 years working with U.S. military commands around the world, I never saw a copy of this type of report circulating among those with the highest clearances. Never. **How did a 21 year old kid get his hands on at least two of these?**

**The classified documents now in the public domain are focused primarily on Russia and Ukraine.** The CIA Ops Center docs now floating around the internet are only partial copies. For example, there are three pages, all classified Top Secret, from an eight page document. If you're a goofy 21 year old gamer simply intent on impressing your young proteges, why not take all eight pages. My guess is that the other five pages contained no intelligence information on Ukraine or Russia.

The kid reportedly was a cyber analyst assigned to the [102 Intelligence Wing, which reports to the U.S. 16 Air Force:](#)

*The 102nd ISS provides intelligence systems maintenance, integration, and operations for the AN/GSQ-272 SENTINEL weapon system, as part of the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (AF-DCGS) Enterprise, enabling near real-time Collection, Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination (CPED) of*

*The **Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber)**, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, focuses on information warfare in the modern age. Information Warfare requires integrating: Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance; Cyber Warfare; Electromagnetic Warfare; Weather; Public Affairs; and Information Operations capabilities. 16th Air Force ensures that our Air Force and Nation are fast, resilient, and fully integrated in competition, crisis, and conflict by incorporating Information Warfare at operational and tactical levels, capitalizing on the value of information by leading the charge for uniquely-21st century challenges in the highly dynamic, seamless, and global information domain..*

I do not believe it is a coincidence that he served in an information warfare unit. Remember, he was a low ranked enlisted guy. He had a chain of command. He did not show up to work and decide what duties he had to perform while on the job. He reported to and worked at the direction of Non-Commissioned Officers and Commissioned Officers. He did not just waltz into a SCIF and print documents at his leisure. **A guy at his level would attract attention if he was printing off a document like the CIA Ops Center report.**

I believe that the alleged leaker did have access to Top Secret intelligence by virtue of his job. I don't know if there was a polygraph requirement for him and his cohorts. **Regardless, all of the intelligence that has been leaked was on a Top Secret computer net and could only be accessed inside a SCIF.**

Let me explain why I think the story currently being sold to the public about this young man is too good to be true and, in my view, is a smoke screen.

The first problem is BELLINGCAT. [Bellingcat is an Open Source Intelligence](#) outfit that has been funded by U.S. and British intelligence. BELLINGCAT is "credited" with sleuthing out the identity of the site where the classified documents were posted and [the name of the leaker.](#)

*Pictures of the classified documents first appeared outside of Thug Shaker Central in early March, [investigative group Bellingcat reported.](#)*

*A batch of 10 documents surfaced on a Discord server called "Minecraft Earth Map" after a user posted them.*

*Bellingcat traced an earlier leak to a Discord server called "WowMao," which appears to have been sourced from the Thug Shaker Central channel.*

An amazing coincidence, right?

So how did the Washington Post get on the story? If the reporters were not tipped off by Bellingcat then it had to be someone in the U.S. intelligence or military hierarchy.

The Washington Post report is written perfectly for credulous readers. It touches all the hot buttons — e.g., racist, religious extremist, anti-Semite, loves guns, hates the U.S. Government. The only thing lacking is that the fellow, Jack Teixeira, was not wearing a MAGA cap.

**To reiterate an earlier point, the leaked material is not random intelligence material. It is designed to tell several stories. The most prominent is the deterioration of Ukrainian capabilities and the major obstacles confronting the United States and the rest of NATO in supplying badly needed air defense, artillery shells, artillery pieces and tanks. In other words, Ukraine is going to crash and burn.**

**The information about Israel, South Korea and the UN Secretary General also is enormously damaging to U.S. foreign policy equities. This is a real black eye.**

Let me suggest one possibility for this leak — create a predicate for forcing Joe Biden from office. The revelations in the classified documents are not fabrications designed to deceive the Russians. Nor are they the kind of material to rally more U.S. support for pouring more resources into the black hole of Ukraine. **These leaks feed the meme that the Biden team is incompetent and endangering American interests overseas.**

Just consider what has transpired since these documents were first posted in the “private” gamers chat. **Putin and Xi Jinping consequential historic summit in March marked the destruction of the Nixon policy that had guided U.S./China relations for fifty one years. In the aftermath of the summit, China facilitated a rapprochement between longtime adversaries, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Those two countries now have formal diplomatic relations and are working together to end the U.S. backed war in Yemen. The U.S. support for the Yemen conflict was an important element in the United States’ effort to contain and weaken Iran.**

**In addition, China has stepped up its efforts to encourage important countries to bid adios to the dollar and use the yuan instead for international commerce. The Saudis and Brazil have signed on.**

China, along with Russia, are also playing a critical role in cutting the legs out from under the U.S. effort to remove Syria's President Bashir Assad. **It was President Obama who persuaded the Gulf Arabs, Saudi Arabia in particular, to help fund and incite the Arab Spring.** Part of that effort was the Arab League decision to kick Syria out. That is now being reversed and Syria, once a pariah thanks to U.S. and U.K. pressure, is now being welcomed back into the Arab League. **For the United States, the war in Syria was another pillar in its policy to weaken Iran. That pillar is headed for the dustbin of history.**

Russia also is playing a key role in brokering a rapprochement between Turkey and Syria. **Turkey played a critical role arming Islamic insurgent, with weapons supplied by the United States courtesy of stockpiles in Libya, in the early days of the civil war in Syria.** If you don't think this is pissing off the CIA, then you don't know the CIA.

There was another leak today that is quite damaging to Joe Biden.

Obama-era staffer

Former Obama stenographer Mike McCormick blows whistle on Biden kickback scheme: He is 'a criminal'. McCormick claims then-Vice President Biden used American taxpayer money to enrich his family and says Jake Sullivan a 'conspirator.' I am unable to post the video so you will have to click on the following link.

<https://www.foxnews.com/video/6324957711112>

Just another coincidence? I do not think so. Besides painting Biden as a foreign policy failure who is endangering American interests, this twist in the story reinforces the meme of Biden corruption.

With respect to the alleged leaker, Jack Texeira, I will be interested to see if he gets the William Calley treatment (i.e., only Calley was punished for the My Lai Massacre while his chain of command got off scott free) or if his immediate chain of command are called to account.

Sundance at the [Conservative Tree House](#) offers another plausible explanation for the leaks. Also worth considering.

The Sundance scenario and mine are not mutually exclusive. Both may be true. I wouldn't discount the desire of the Deep State to kill two birds with one stone.

VIDEO LINK

<https://youtu.be/Gh9CxQ2C0qI>

## THE LAST REFUGE

### [The Leak Was the Op – White House and Congress Demand New Powers, Think Restrict Act, in Aftermath of Classified Intel Leaks](#)

April 13, 2023 | [Sundance](#) | [180 Comments](#)

**Never letting a crisis go to waste is very useful tool, especially when the government creates the crisis. As CTH has said from the first discussion of the classified intelligence leaks, the “leak is the op.”**

The intel leak is the operation created by the Intelligence Community to support new expanded powers for the Fourth Branch of Government. **It should not be a surprise to discover the institution now leading the charge to give more power for U.S. intel agencies, is.... wait for it..... The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.**

The SSCI is the organizational institution that supports the Fourth Branch of Government, the intelligence branch. **The SSCI previously created a bipartisan Restrict Act, to deal with dangerous information on the internet.**

According to SSCI Chairman Mark Warner, **‘The Restrict Act’ will give more power and authorities to the Executive Branch to deal with internet danger.** Now the SSCI sees the classified intel leaks as evidence for the importance of the Restrict Act.

Well, butter my buns and call me a biscuit, surprise-surprise! Funny how that happens.

*(Via NBC) – The Biden administration is looking at expanding how it monitors social media sites and chatrooms after U.S. intelligence agencies failed to spot [classified Pentagon documents circulating online for weeks](#), according to a senior administration official and a congressional official briefed on the matter.*

The possible change in the intelligence-gathering process is just one potential shift as officials scramble to determine not only [how the documents leaked](#) but also how to prevent another damaging incident.

[...] The president and other officials were dismayed when they learned the documents had been online for at least a month. “Nobody is happy about this,” said the senior administration official.

The administration is now looking at expanding the universe of online sites that intelligence agencies and law enforcement authorities track, the official said.

[...] If the administration tries to check online chatrooms more closely, it will have to navigate legal safeguards designed to protect Americans’ privacy and freedom of expression, former intelligence officials said.

Watching a public chatroom is fair game, but law enforcement agencies don’t have the legal authority to monitor a private online chatroom without probable cause, the former officials said.

“We do not have nor do we want a system where the United States government monitors private internet chats,” said Glenn Gerstell, former general counsel of the National Security Agency from 2015 to 2020.

[...] Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Mark Warner, D-Va., said the leak raised yet more questions about how the government manages its secrets, only months after revelations that successive administrations appeared to have mishandled classified documents. [...] “I think it’s time that Congress plays a role here in **setting some parameters**,” Warner said. [\(read more\)](#)

Just a few “parameters“...

Swear.

Promise.

Uh huh....

The Restrict Act, also known as Senate Bill 686 [[SB686 HERE](#)], also known as the bipartisan bill to empower the executive branch to shut down TikTok. Also known as the 'online Patriot Act'.

## RACKET NEWS

### The Crackdown Cometh

#### *Leaks for me, not for thee*

[Matt Taibbi](#) Apr 13, 2023

On a flight, reading about the FBI's [arrest](#) of Jack Texiera, already dubbed the "Pentagon Leaker." A quick review reveals multiple media portraits already out depicting him as a dangerous incel who shared his wares on Discord, a social media app where "racist memes" and "offensive jokes" flourish. Writes the *New York Times*:

*Dark humor about race or ideology can eventually shape the beliefs of impressionable young people, and innocuous memes can be co-opted into symbols of hatred, researchers say.*

Well, clearly we can't have dark humor or innocuous memes! Gitmo cages for all!

The *Washington Post* went with "charismatic gun enthusiast":



The Washington Post   
@washingtonpost

**Exclusive: The man behind a massive leak of U.S. government secrets that has exposed spying on allies, revealed the grim prospects for Ukraine's war with Russia and ignited diplomatic fires for the White House is a young, charismatic gun enthusiast who shared highly classified documents with a group of far-flung acquaintances searching for companionship amid the isolation of the pandemic. [wapo.st/3UvaNTQ](https://wapo.st/3UvaNTQ)**

The *New York Times* [summarized](#) key points in the secret defense documents, which among other things suggested “Ukrainian forces are in more dire straits than their government has acknowledged publicly.” Reading what’s out there, it’s not easy to parse what’s a legitimate intelligence concern in reaction to these leaks and what’s mere embarrassment at having been caught lying, to the public, to would-be U.S. allies the documents show we’ve been spying on, etc.

**You’ll read a lot in the coming days about the dangers of apps like Discord, or of online gaming groups, which counterintelligence officials told the *Washington Post* today are a “magnet for spies.” The Leaker tale will also surely be framed as reason to pass the [RESTRICT Act](#), the wet dream of creepazoid Virginia Senator Mark Warner, which would give government wide latitude to crack down on “communication technology” creating “undue or unacceptable risk” to national security.**

The intelligence community has itself been massively interfering in domestic news using illegal leaks for years. Remember the “[Why Did Obama Dawdle on Russia’s Hacking?](#)” story by David Ignatius of the *Washington Post* in January of 2017, outing would-be Trump National Security Advisor Michael Flynn as having been captured in intercepts speaking with a Russian ambassador? That was just the first in a string of leak- or intercept-based news stories that dominated news cycles in the Trump years, involving everything from conclusions of the FISA court to supposedly secret meetings in the Seychelles.

**When civilians or whistleblowers like Edward Snowden, Julian Assange (in jail for an incredible four years now), Reality Winner and now the “Discord Leaker” bring leaked information to the public, the immediate threat is Espionage Act charges and decades of jail time. When a CIA head or a top FBI official does it, it’s just news. In fact, officials talk openly about using “[strategic leaks](#)” as a P.R. staple. In a world where media currency is becoming the ultimate power, these people want a monopoly. It’s infuriating.**

Watch how this thing will be spun. It’s going to get ugly fast.

## WASHINGTON EXAMINER

### Biden administration mulls expanding online surveillance after missing leak: Report

by [Misty Severi, Breaking News Reporter](#) April 12, 2023 06:50 PM

The [Biden administration](#) is considering expanding its social media and chatroom monitoring protocols after [classified documents](#) were circulated online for [weeks](#) without notice, according to a report Wednesday.

President [Joe Biden](#) and Defense Secretary [Lloyd Austin](#) were briefed about the drop of [classified information](#) last week, but the documents had already been floating online since early March, according to *Bellingcat*, an open-source investigative group. The president and his administration were upset when they learned how long ago the leak had occurred, according to a senior administration official.

“Nobody is happy about this,” the unnamed official [told](#) NBC News.

**The administration is now looking at expanding its list of online sites that intelligence agencies and law enforcement monitor, the official said.**

The expansion is just one potential change to the monitoring officials could make in the aftermath of the national security scandal. The Pentagon is investigating the leak, as is the Department of Justice, and it has opened a criminal investigation.

Roughly 100 classified documents were leaked on social media platforms last month, including Discord. The released documents were not intended for public eyes and provided insights into the U.S. intelligence community's reach and its willingness to possibly spy on its allies. However, the Department of Defense warned that some of the documents were doctored.

It is not known who is responsible for the leak nor how the leak occurred in the first place.

The leak comes after classified documents were found at the homes and offices of former President [Donald Trump](#), Biden, and former Vice President [Mike Pence](#),

prompting more questions about how the U.S. intelligence community and government safeguard secrets.

“We’ve now got two examples, you know, the potential mishandling of documents by current and former presidents and now this potential leak, or real leak,” Sen. [Mark Warner](#) (D-VA) said.

“I think it does raise a question that in some cases we way overclassify. In other cases, we may ... give out the documents to too many people. **I think it’s time that Congress plays a role here in setting some parameters,**” he added.

## GLENN GREENWALD

### [The Same Establishment Playbook is Used to Malign the Character of Leakers and Distract Attention From the Substance of the Revelations](#)

April 15, 2023

On a virtually daily basis, one can find **authorized leaks** in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, on CNN and NBC News: meaning stories dressed up as leaks from anonymous sources that are, in fact, nothing more than messaging assertions that the CIA, FBI, Homeland Security and the Pentagon have instructed these subservient media corporations to disseminate. When that happens, the leaker is never found or punished: even when the leaks are designated as the most serious crimes under the U.S. criminal code, such as when *The Washington Post's* long-time CIA spokesman David Ignatius in early 2017 published the [contents of the intercepted phone calls](#) between Trump's incoming National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Most of Russiagate was constructed based on *authorized leaks*, a generous way of describing official propaganda from the U.S. Security State laundered in the American corporate press.

But when it comes to **unauthorized leaks** -- which result in the disclosure of secret evidence showing that the U.S. Security State lied, acted corruptly, or broke laws - - that is when the full weight of establishment power comes crashing down on the head of the leaker. They are found and arrested. Their character is destroyed. And now -- in a new and genuinely shocking escalation -- it is the largest media corporations themselves, such as *the Times* and *the Post*, that actually do the FBI's work by hunting down the leaker, exposing him, and ensuring his arrest.

**This playback is always used in such cases and is easily recognized. The point is to shift attention from the substance of the embarrassing and incriminating disclosures onto the personal traits of the person who exposed them, so as to make the public forget about what they learned and come to see the leaker as so unlikeable that they want nothing to do with the disclosures themselves. Thus:**

When **Daniel Ellsberg** leaked the Pentagon Papers – **showing the US Government was lying to the American public that it believed it could win the war in Vietnam** – FBI and CIA agents *broke into the office of his psychoanalyst* to try to expose his psychosexual secrets to discredit him and distract from the substance of the disclosures.

When **Chelsea Manning** leaked massive evidence of hidden US war crimes to **WikiLeaks**, long-time [anti-LGBT bigot Joy Ann Reid](#) of MSNBC and others said the overarching motive was [mental illness over gender identity](#).

When it became clear that **Julian Assange** had created a powerful and formidable instrument for holding the U.S. Security State accountable and exposing their lies and crimes -- WikiLeaks -- corporate outlets began puking up a deluge of personal attacks against him, ones designed to make people conclude he is so repellent that the disclosures he enabled should be ignored because he was just too personally distasteful. The then-editor-in-chief of *The New York Times* Bill Keller even stooped to demeaning his personal hygiene, [publishing this 2011 paragraph](#) that he said he received from one of his reporters:

“He was alert but disheveled, like a bag lady walking in off the street, wearing a dingy, light-colored sport coat and cargo pants, dirty white shirt, beat-up sneakers and filthy white socks that collapsed around his ankles. He smelled as if he hadn’t bathed in days.”

When **Edward Snowden** furnished to myself and **Laura Poitras** the previously secret evidence that **Obama national security official James Clapper lied to the public** when denying that the NSA spied en masse on millions of Americans - reporting that ended up winning every major journalism prize in the West and that caused an appellate court to rule that [Obama's NSA had acted both unconstitutionally and illegally](#) in infringing the privacy rights of millions of Americans -- CNN, NYT, NBC and *The New Yorker's* Jeffrey Toobin [labeled him a "narcissist"](#) for believing he knew better than everyone else, and numerous outlets dug through [his old blog comments](#) to prove he had bad politics as a teenager.

Now, when doing the FBI's work by outing **Jack Teixeira**, both the Washington Post and CNN are [emphasizing transgressive comments](#) he made about race and anti-Semitism in a teenagers' gaming room to distract attention from the lies these docs reveal about, among other things, Biden's role in Ukraine.

On last night's episode of SYSTEM UPDATE, we examined the media's conduct this week with regard to the leaker, and the way in which they proudly did the FBI's job of hunting him down, exposing him and ensuring his arrest. On Monday night, we examined the key revelations from those documents and the strange circumstances surrounding that leak. The key leaked documents we examined can be read at the link below.

A full transcript for last night's episode will be posted later today on Locals (we post transcripts for each night's show on this platform exclusively for our Locals subscribers); the transcript for Monday night's show is below. And you can watch the full SYSTEM UPDATE episode on the video player below.

*To support the independent journalism we are doing here and with our live nightly SYSTEM UPDATE program on Rumble, please join our Locals community; that gives you full access to our live interactive after-show on Tuesday and Thursday night, all of our written journalism, and full transcripts for each night's show:*