

PUBLISH DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2019

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT UKRAINE DOCUMENTS RELEASED TO AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Late on Friday evening, the Department of Defense released five pages of records to American Oversight — including emails sent by Secretary of Defense Mark Esper — in response to the watchdog group’s Freedom of Information Act lawsuit seeking records related to the Trump administration’s efforts to pressure Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 election.

While heavily redacted, based on facts developed through the impeachment inquiry and independent journalism, the emails show senior officials in the Pentagon and the Office of Management and Budget engaged on the issue of aid to Ukraine at a time when the president himself was insisting on freezing such aid.

“As OMB and Defense officials debated the finer points of military aid funding, we know that none of their effort or apparent confusion over funding for Ukraine would have been necessary but for the president and his shadow foreign policy,” said Austin Evers, executive director of American Oversight. “It is deeply troubling to see so many public servants dragged, perhaps unwittingly, into the president’s extortion scheme.”

The records produced to American Oversight on Dec. 20, 2019, came in response to a lawsuit seeking senior officials’ emails relating to the Trump administration’s effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate the president’s political rivals. The production includes emails sent by Esper in August 2019 and Deputy Secretary David Norquist in September and October 2019.

This is the second production of Ukraine-related records obtained by American Oversight, and, like State Department records [released in late November](https://www.americanoversight.org/state-department-releases-ukraine-documents-to-american-oversight) <<https://www.americanoversight.org/state-department-releases-ukraine-documents-to-american-oversight>>, these records were also not released to Congress during the House impeachment inquiry, [despite congressional subpoenas](#).

[Click here to download the records](https://www.americanoversight.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/ao-v-omb-dec-20-2019-dod-release.pdf) <<https://www.americanoversight.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/ao-v-omb-dec-20-2019-dod-release.pdf>>.

Part of Investigation:

The Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine>>

Select a tag below to see a full list of related documents

Topic

National Security & Foreign Policy

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/topic/national-security>>

Areas of Investigation

Abuse of Power <https://www.americanoversight.org/areas_of_investigation/abuse-of-power>

Jurisdiction

Federal <<https://www.americanoversight.org/jurisdiction/federal>>

Entity

Department of Defense <<https://www.americanoversight.org/entity/department-of-defense>>

FOIA ID #

DOD-19-1192 <<https://www.americanoversight.org/foia/dod-19-1192>>

Case #

19-3213 <<https://www.americanoversight.org/case/19-3213>>

RELATED BLOG POSTS

ALL

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

NEWS

December 27, 2019

American Oversight's 2019 in Review: Nine Important Stories We

Uncovered NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversights-2019-in-review-nine-important-stories-we-uncovered>>

December 20, 2019

News Roundup: Beyond Impeachment — The Investigations Continue

Administration for Children and Families, Congress, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Government Accountability Office, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Management and Budget

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-beyond-impeachment-the-investigations-continue>>

December 18, 2019

Why Trump Has Met the Standard for Obstruction of Congress

Congress, Department of Defense, Department of State

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/why-trump-has-met-the-standard-for-obstruction-of-congress>>

December 13, 2019

News Roundup: Stephen Miller's Extremist Network

Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Carroll County - Georgia, Congress, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, Department of the Interior, Department of the Treasury, Environmental Protection Agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Office of Management and Budget, Texas Attorney General

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

NEWS

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-stephen-millers-extremist-network>>

December 12, 2019

American Oversight Sues for Treasury Communications About Russian Investment in Kentucky Plant

Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-sues-for-treasury-communications-about-russian-investment-in-kentucky-plant>>

December 11, 2019

Lawsuit over Administration's Unlawful Seizure of Trump-Putin Meeting Notes Moves Forward

Department of State, National Archives and Records Administration

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/lawsuit-over-administrations-unlawful-seizure-of-trump-putin-meeting-notes-moves-forward>>

December 6, 2019

News Roundup: Impeachment Report, Border Wall Contracts, and Pompeo's Meeting with GOP Donors

Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-impeachment-report-border-wall-contracts-and-pompeos-meeting-with-gop-donors>>

December 3, 2019

House Committee Impeachment Report References State Department Documents Obtained by American Oversight

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/house-committee-impeachment-report-references-state-department-documents-obtained-by-american-oversight>>

November 27, 2019

News Roundup: Thankful for FOIA

Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Kentucky Office of the Governor

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-thankful-for-foia>>

November 27, 2019

Behind the Scenes: How American Oversight Forced the Release of State Department Ukraine Records

Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/behind-the-scenes-how-american-oversight-forced-the-release-of-state-department-ukraine-records>>

November 25, 2019

American Oversight Sues Justice Department for Ukraine-Related Communications

Department of Justice

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-sues-justice-department-for-ukraine-related-communications>>

November 22, 2019

State Department Releases Ukraine Documents to American Oversight

Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/state-department-releases-ukraine-documents-to-american-oversight>>

November 22, 2019

News Roundup: Fiona Hill's Warnings, Nikki Haley's Emails, and Matt Bevin's Stay at Trump's Hotel

Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Kentucky Office of the Governor

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-fiona-hills-warnings-nikki-haleys-emails-and-matt-bevins-stay-at-trumps-hotel>>

November 21, 2019

Nikki Haley Sent Classified Emails on an Unclassified Email System

Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/nikki-haley-sent-classified-emails-on-an-unclassified-email-system>>

November 20, 2019

Sondland's Testimony Highlights State Department Obstruction

Department of Energy, Department of State

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/sondlands-testimony-highlights-state-department-obstruction>>

November 15, 2019

News Roundup: Impeachment Inquiry Goes Public

Bartow County - Georgia, Carroll County - Georgia, Centers For Medicare and Medicaid Services, Council on Environmental Quality, Dallas County - Texas, Decatur County - Georgia, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, Department of Veterans Affairs, Florida House of Representatives, Georgia Secretary of State, Harris County - Texas, Lowndes County - Georgia, Paulding County - Georgia, Travis County - Texas

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-impeachment-inquiry-goes-public>>

November 14, 2019

How ‘Sharpigate’ Turned a Simple Misunderstanding into a Media Frenzy — and Headache for NOAA Employees

Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/how-sharpigate-turned-a-simple-misunderstanding-into-a-media-frenzy-and-headache-for-noaa-employees>>

November 8, 2019

News Roundup: Ukraine-Related Documents, Hurdles for Asylum-Seekers, and Chad Wolf’s Involvement in Family Separation

Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Office of the Governor, Office of Information Policy, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Management and Budget

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-ukraine-related-documents-hurdles-for-asylum-seekers-and-chad-wolfs-involvement-in-family-separation>>

November 7, 2019

What We Learned from the Yovanovitch and McKinley Transcripts

Congress, Department of State

NEWS

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/what-we-learned-from-the-yovanovitch-and-mckinley-transcripts>>

October 31, 2019

State Department Agrees to Produce Ukraine Records to American Oversight by November 22

Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/state-department-agrees-to-produce-ukraine-records-to-american-oversight-by-november-22>>

October 25, 2019

News Roundup: Court Chips Away at Trump Administration Obstruction

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-court-chips-away-at-trump-administration-obstruction>>

October 24, 2019

Research Tool: Ukraine-Trump Key Figures and Documents

Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, Department of State, Department of the Treasury

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/research-tool-ukraine-trump-key-figures-and-documents>>

October 23, 2019

Federal Judge Says He Will Order State Department to Begin Turning Over Requested Ukraine Documents

Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

**INVESTIGATION UPDATE
NEWS**

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/federal-judge-says-he-will-order-state-department-to-begin-turning-over-requested-ukraine-documents>>

October 22, 2019

New Lawsuit Seeks Perry and Brouillette Ukraine Documents and Communications about Biden Investigation Effort

Department of Energy

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/new-lawsuit-seeks-perry-and-brouillette-ukraine-documents-and-communications-about-biden-investigation-effort>>

October 18, 2019

News Roundup: Corruption, Plain and Simple

Customs and Border Protection, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-corruption-plain-and-simple>>

October 18, 2019

Court Calls for Hearing on Emergency Motion for Ukraine Documents

Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/court-calls-for-hearing-on-emergency-motion-for-ukraine-documents>>

October 11, 2019

News Roundup: Impeachment, Obstruction, and More Questions about Rick Perry

Administration for Children and Families, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland

Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-impeachment-obstruction-and-more-questions-about-rick-perry>>

October 4, 2019

News Roundup: The Public Needs Answers

Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-the-public-needs-answers>>

October 4, 2019

Pompeo's Obstructionism Won't Work

Department of State

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/pompeos-obstructionism-wont-work>>

October 2, 2019

Pompeo's Letter Is the Trump Administration's Opening Salvo of Obstruction

Department of State

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/pompeos-letter-is-the-trump-administrations-opening-salvo-of-obstruction>>

October 1, 2019

We're Suing the State Department for Giuliani-Ukraine Documents

Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/were-suing-the-state-department-for-giuliani-ukraine-documents>>

September 27, 2019

News Roundup: From the Top Down

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Collier County - Florida, Council on Environmental Quality, Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Management and Budget

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-from-the-top-down>>

September 25, 2019

Release of Trump–Zelensky Call Readout Raises Questions About Justice Department Involvement

Agency for International Development, Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of the Treasury

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/release-of-trump-zelensky-call-readout-raises-questions-about-justice-department-involvement>>

September 20, 2019

News Roundup: Trump, Giuliani, and Ukraine

Administration for Children and Families, Agency for International Development, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of the Treasury, Department of Transportation, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Reserve, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, National Institutes of Health, Starr County - Texas, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Texas Attorney General, Texas Secretary of State, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-trump-giuliani-and-ukraine>>

September 12, 2019

New Lawsuit Seeks State Department Records of Jared Kushner's Middle East Trips

Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/new-lawsuit-seeks-state-department-records-of-foreign-policy-and-jared-kushners-middle-east-trips>>

June 7, 2019

News Roundup: Investigating Outside Influence and Political Appointments at the State Department

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of Transportation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Small Business Administration

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/news-roundup-investigating-outside-influence-and-political-appointments-at-the-state-department>>

March 12, 2019

Investigating the Trump Administration's Efforts to Sell Nuclear Technology to Saudi Arabia

Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of State, Department of the Treasury, International Trade Administration, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/investigating-the-trump-administrations-efforts-to-sell-nuclear-technology-to-saudi-arabia>>

January 9, 2019

Investigating the Acting Defense Secretary's Ties to Boeing

Department of Defense

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/investigating-the-acting-defense-secretarys-ties-to-boeing>>

December 12, 2018

Audit the Wall: No Plans, Funding or Timeline — And No Wall

Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/audit-the-wall-no-plans-funding-or-timeline-and-no-wall>>

February 9, 2018

New Lawsuit Seeks DHS Border Wall Emails with White House, Fox News, Border States

Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/new-lawsuit-seeks-dhs-border-wall-emails-white-house-fox-news-border-states>>

December 17, 2017

Trump Transition GSA Emails and Memorandum of Understanding

General Services Administration

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/trump-gsa-emails>>

October 31, 2017

American Oversight Sues State Department for Records Showing Efforts to Compel Mexico to Pay for Border Wall

Department of State

NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-sues-state-department-records-showing-efforts-compel-mexico-pay-border-wall>>

October 17, 2017

5 Questions for Attorney General Sessions

Department of Justice

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/5-questions-attorney-general-sessions>>

September 2, 2017

DOJ Confirms Trump Lied in “Wiretap” Tweets

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/1195-2>>

August 1, 2017

American Oversight Obtains Attorney General Sessions SF-86 Signature Page

Department of Justice

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-obtains-attorney-general-sessions-sf-86-signature-page>>

August 1, 2017

Statement on Waiver of Environmental Regulations for Border Wall

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/statement-on-waiver-of-environmental-regulations-for-border-wall>>

July 21, 2017

American Oversight Calls for Resignation of Attorney General Jeff

Sessions

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

INVESTIGATION UPDATE NEWS

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-calls-for-resignation-of-attorney-general-jeff-sessions>>

July 13, 2017

DOJ Releases Redacted Page of Sessions's SF-86 to American Oversight

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/doj-releases-redacted-page-of-sessions-sf-86-to-american-oversight>>

June 16, 2017

Watchdog Group Files Lawsuit on Trump Border Wall

Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, Office of Management and Budget

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/watchdog-group-files-lawsuit-on-trump-border-wall>>

May 24, 2017

After American Oversight Lawsuit, DOJ Confirms that Sessions Lied about Russian Contacts

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/after-american-oversight-lawsuit-doj-confirms-that-sessions-lied-about-russian-contacts>>

May 16, 2017

American Oversight Demands Release of Comey Trump Memos

American Oversight Demands Release of Comey-Trump Memos

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-demands-release-of-comey-trump-memos>>

May 12, 2017

Letter to Burr and Warner: Senate Should Request Trump-Comey Tapes

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/letter-to-burr-and-warner-senate-should-request-trump-comey-tapes>>

May 10, 2017

Statement on the Firing of FBI Director Comey

Federal Bureau of Investigation

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/statement-on-the-firing-of-fbi-director-comey>>

May 10, 2017

Ethics Watchdog Calls for IG Investigation of Sessions for Violating Recusal

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/ethics-watchdog-calls-for-ig-investigation-of-sessions-for-violating-recusal>>

April 19, 2017

American Oversight Sues DOJ for Release of Trump Tower Wiretap Records, Russia Investigation Documents

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, White House

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-sues-doj-for-release-of-trump-tower-wiretap-records-russia-investigation-documents>>

March 28, 2017

Statement on Trump Administration Proposal to Build Border Wall South of Rio Grande

Department of the Interior

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/statement-on-trump-administration-proposal-to-build-border-wall-south-of-rio-grande>>

March 24, 2017

American Oversight Launches Investigation of President Trump's Border Wall

Department of Homeland Security

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-launches-investigation-of-president-trumps-border-wall>>

March 22, 2017

Statement on Intelligence Committee Chairman Nunes' Actions

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

<<https://www.americanoversight.org/statement-on-intelligence-committee-chairman-nunes-actions>>

March 17, 2017

American Oversight Calls on Congress to Investigate Trump Aide's Reported Ties to Nazi Group

Office of Government Ethics, White House

NEWS

<https://www.americanoversight.org/american-oversight-calls-on-congress-to-investigate-trump-aides-reported-ties-to-nazi-group>

HELP US KEEP THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

DONATE [donate](#)



CONNECT



<https://twitter.com/weareoversight> <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight>

JOIN AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sign up for updates

Enter Email Address

JOIN

© 2020 COPYRIGHT AMERICAN OVERSIGHT.

[Privacy Policy](#) </privacy-policy>