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, these records were also not released to Congress during the House impeachment inquiry, despite congressional subpoenas.

Click here to download the records.
Part of Investigation:
The Trump Administration’s Contacts with Ukraine
<https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine>
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

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

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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>

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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

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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**

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**

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**

December 3, 2019

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

**INVESTIGATION UPDATE**
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

<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


November 25, 2019

**American Oversight Sues Justice Department for Ukraine-Related Communications**
Department of Justice

<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
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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


November 21, 2019

Nikki Haley Sent Classified Emails on an Unclassified Email System
Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE
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<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

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November 14, 2019

**How ‘Sharpiegate’ 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-sharpiegate-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


November 7, 2019

**What We Learned from the Yovanovitch and McKinley Transcripts**
Congress, Department of State

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October 31, 2019

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

Department of State

October 25, 2019

News Roundup: Court Chips Away at Trump Administration Obstruction

October 24, 2019

Research Tool: Ukraine-Donald Trump Key Figures and Documents

October 23, 2019

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

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

October 18, 2019

**Court Calls for Hearing on Emergency Motion for Ukraine Documents**

Department of State

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

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 Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services
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**  
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<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

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October 1, 2019

**We’re Suing the State Department for Giuliani-Ukraine Documents**  
Department of State

**INVESTIGATION UPDATE**
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**


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/were-suing-the-state-department-for-giuliani-ukraine-documents>
September 12, 2019

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

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

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

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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

January 9, 2019

**Investigating the Acting Defense Secretary’s Ties to Boeing**
Department of Defense
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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

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

December 17, 2017

Trump Transition GSA Emails and Memorandum of Understanding
General Services Administration

INVESTIGATION UPDATE

October 31, 2017

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

NEWS
October 17, 2017

5 Questions for Attorney General Sessions
Department of Justice

September 2, 2017

DOJ Confirms Trump Lied in “Wiretap” Tweets
Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

August 1, 2017

American Oversight Obtains Attorney General Sessions SF-86 Signature Page
Department of Justice

August 1, 2017

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
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<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-s-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

May 12, 2017

Letter to Burr and Warner: Senate Should Request Trump-Comey Tapes
Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

May 10, 2017

Statement on the Firing of FBI Director Comey
Federal Bureau of Investigation

May 10, 2017

Ethics Watchdog Calls for IG Investigation of Sessions for Violating Recusal
Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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
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>

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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>

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March 22, 2017

**Statement on Intelligence Committee Chairman Nunes’ Actions**

**INVESTIGATION UPDATE**

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

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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**