

Former DNI Kash Patel Confirms Jack Teixeira Would Not Have Had Access to Documents He Leaked

By Jennifer Van Laar | 3:03 PM on April 16, 2023

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Massachusetts Air National Guardsman Jack Teixeira, accused of classified document leak. CREDIT: Simon Ateba, Twitter

Despite working in information technology within an intelligence wing of the Air Force, Massachusetts Air National Guardsman Jack Teixeira would not have legally had access to the classified information he's accused of leaking on a Discord server, former Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Kash Patel said Friday. Patel's assessment echoes [what was written at RedState on Thursday](#).

On [Breitbart News](#), Patel also described several methods by which Teixeira could have gained access to the information:

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

“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.”

Surprisingly, [ABC News also published a story on Saturday](#) citing defense officials who agreed that Teixeira’s job description does not equal “need to know.”

Defense officials told ABC News that having a TS-SCI clearance is typical for Air Force personnel who in order to provide IT support might need access to classified spaces, computers and networks so they could do their jobs.

But the fact that you have a clearance does not mean you have access to everything at that level. That access is based on your “need to know” the information for your job.

Some have argued that since Teixeira worked on the computer systems within a SCIF he would have had access to these documents and that perhaps the intelligence wing he supported possessed the work product of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Presidential Daily Brief. Patel says, no way:

“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

“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.”

As Patel said, in addition to the classification level and the “need to know” basis, there’s also the compartmentalization of information. While silo-ing of information within a corporate structure is a bad thing, within military intelligence it is vital.

On Thursday we suggested the possibility that Teixeira did not act alone:

A possibility that needs to be considered is that Teixeira was given many of the documents by someone else who did have access to them, and who wanted them to be leaked.

According to Patel, that possibility has a very high probability of being true based on the methodical way in which the leaks occurred.

“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.



Teixeira did this for months with nobody knowing. As we reported Thursday, several stories about Teixeira were stealth-edited on Wednesday and Thursday. One of those stories, from NBC News, originally said that officials had been tracking Teixeira for some time. Then it was changed to say that they were “onto him.” Then that paragraph was deleted in its entirety.

But the criminal complaint details what was found on logging systems regarding Teixeira accessing various documents or searching for them.

The criminal complaint provides a description of how investigators used information from an unnamed U.S. government agency that “has access to logs of certain documents” to track how Teixeira allegedly used his clearance in February to look for a specific document that he later posted on a small Discord channel the following day.

Another logging system from another U.S. government agency that “can monitor certain searches conducted on its classified networks” indicated that Teixeira may have been concerned about the initial news reports that classified intelligence documents had begun to appear on Twitter and Telegram.

Teixeira on April 6 “used his government computer to search classified intelligence reporting for the word ‘leak,’” according to the complaint.

“The first public reporting regarding the Government Information appeared on or around April 6, 2023,” it added. “Accordingly, there is reason to believe that TEIXEIRA was searching for classified reporting regarding the U.S. Intelligence Community’s assessment of the identity of the individual who transmitted classified national defense information, to include the Government Document.”

video, and file transfer logs. There are still major questions to be answered about how this happened, who was involved, and what their motives are. The fact that ABC News is (maybe unintentionally) casting doubt on the narrative that Teixeira was a disgruntled, gun-loving, traitorous racist who acted alone is significant and raises additional questions about who's driving what narrative with various news organizations.

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