



The Crackdown Cometh

Description

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":



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

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.

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