

Beyond the Memo

An investigative report based on the memo, a declassified FISC report, and public records on how the Trump team was spied on

A declassified House Intelligence Committee memo reveals how the unverified Fusion GPS dossier—opposition research paid for by the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee (DNC)—was used by the FBI and Department of Justice (DOJ) to obtain a FISA surveillance warrant to spy on Trump campaign volunteer Carter Page.

The memo details how the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court was intentionally left in the dark about the source of the allegations that led it to approve the spy warrant in October 2016.

It reveals that top FBI and DOJ officials signed off on the initial warrant and

three subsequent renewals, including by President Donald Trump's deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein. In one instance, the FBI and DOJ used a Yahoo News article based on the Trump dossier as evidence to extend its FISA warrant, despite the unverified information having come from the same source.

The memo does not reveal how the FISA warrant was subsequently used. The Epoch Times used additional sources, including a declassified top-secret report of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to paint a fuller picture of the apparent abuse of power.

After the initial FISA warrant was approved, dozens, if not hundreds of so-called unmasking requests were made by senior members of then-President Barack Obama's administration.

It also opened the floodgate to a number of intelligence leaks to media organizations, which served to turn public opinion against Donald Trump.

Continuing well after Trump was elected, the spying and leaking raise serious concerns about apparent efforts by the Obama administration, the DNC, and the Clinton campaign to prevent Trump from being elected and to delegitimize him once he was in office.



HILLARY CLINTON DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

The Clinton campaign, together with the Democratic National Committee, financed the so-called Trump Dossier produced by Fusion GPS. The dossier, which had been described as "unverified and salacious" in sworn testimony by former FBI Director James Comey, became the driving force of the Russia collusion allegations.



PERKINS COIE

An undisclosed amount of money—potentially millions—was paid by the Clinton campaign and the DNC to Fusion GPS. The money was sent through law firm Perkins Coie and mislabeled in FEC filings to avoid detection.

FUSIONGPS

Opposition research company Fusion GPS hired Christopher Steele and Nellie Ohr to produce the Trump dossier.



Steele was paid over \$160,000 by the Clinton campaign and the DNC via the law firm Perkins Coie and Fusion GPS. The memo reveals the FBI had also authorized payment to Steele for the same information.

Steele was terminated by the FBI as a source after telling media organization Mother Jones about his relationship with the FBI. According to the memo, Steele should have been fired earlier as he had concealed his other relationships with media organizations.

After he was terminated by the FBI, Steele maintained contact with the DOJ via senior official Bruce Ohr.



NELLIE OHR

Nellie Ohr was hired by Fusion GPS to do opposition research on Trump. This information was concealed from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.



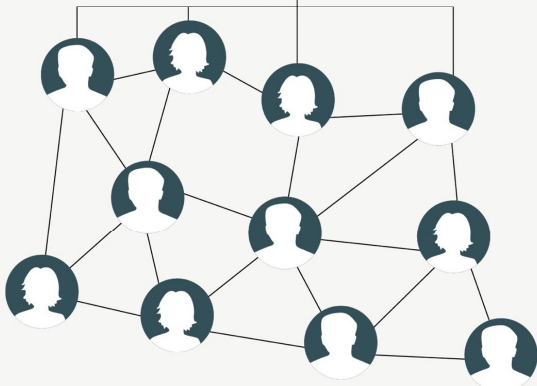
KREMLIN SOURCES

The Trump dossier relies almost exclusively on Kremlin-linked sources. Fusion GPS had also previously been hired by the Russian government to do lobbying work against the Magnitsky Act.



UNMASKING

Hundreds of unmasking requests were made to the NSA by Obama officials for the identities of people connected to the Trump team that were otherwise redacted.



MINIMIZATION AND TARGETING PROCEDURES

U.S. intelligence agencies have strict requirements when conducting spy operations to avoid spying on U.S. persons. To avoid violating the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits "unreasonable searches and seizures," they have "targeting procedures" and "minimization procedures" to limit the scope of spy operations to the

Gary Milesky said these standards work to "minimize what you're going to acquire on U.S. people during the process of collecting or targeting information on foreign individuals." An April 26, 2017, report from the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Court says the NSA had an 85 percent noncompliance rate while searching for U.S.

THE TRUMP DOSSIER

The so-called Trump dossier produced by Fusion GPS, and paid for by the Clinton Campaign and the DNC, became the driving force of the Russia collusion allegations.



FISA SURVEILLANCE WARRANT

The FBI and DOJ used the Trump Dossier to obtain a FISA surveillance warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on Trump campaign volunteer Carter Page.

The agencies did not disclose to the court that Steele was paid by the Clinton campaign and the DNC. They also hid the fact that Steele was working for Fusion GPS.

The FISA surveillance warrant was approved on Oct. 21, 2016. There were three subsequent FISA renewals.

SPYING FOR POLITICAL GAIN

The Trump team was spied on both before and after the elections.

LEAKS FROM OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Multiple selective leaks, aimed at advancing the narrative that Trump colluded with Russia took place. FBI Director James Comey would later testify under oath before Congress that most of the information contained in the leaks was inaccurate. Less than two weeks before leaving office, President Barack Obama signed an executive order that allowed the NSA to widely spread raw intelligence information across agencies. This helped make it easier to leak classified intelligence.

MEDIA SPREADS FALSE NARRATIVE



Media organizations were used, through selective leaks, to spread false information that Trump had colluded with Russia. Fusion GPS also provided a briefing to The New York Times, The Washington Post, Yahoo News, CNN, and The New Yorker. Fusion GPS also made payments directly to a select number of journalists. The FBI and DOJ then used a Sept. 23, 2016, article by Yahoo News in its FISA extension application to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

ROD ROSENSTEIN EXTENDS FISA WARRANT APPOINTS ROBERT MUELLER

After becoming deputy attorney general in April 2017, Rosenstein signed off on an extension of a FISA warrant on Trump associate Carter Page. Rosenstein also appointed Robert Mueller as special counsel after he had advised Trump to fire then-FBI Director James Comey.



DEMOCRACY TARGETED

The use of a FISA warrant to spy on a political opponent during, and after, a presidential race, raises serious concerns about abuse of power at the highest levels of the FBI, DOJ, and Obama administration. These matters are now under investigation by the DOJ inspector general, as well as



JAMES COMEY

FBI director
Comey signed three FISA applications to spy on Trump campaign volunteer Carter Page.



ANDREW McCABE

FBI deputy director
McCabe confirmed to the House Intelligence Committee that the FBI would not have been able to apply for the FISA warrant without the Trump dossier. McCabe signed off on one of the FISA applications on Carter Page.



BILL PRIESTAP

Head of the FBI Counterintelligence Division
Priestap testified to the House Intelligence Committee that the Trump dossier was in its "infancy" when used for the initial FISA warrant application.



PETER STRZOK

Deputy assistant director, FBI Counterintelligence Division
Strzok opened a counterintelligence investigation in July 2016 based on information on Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos.



DOJ DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 2016

The DOJ filed a FISA surveillance application on behalf of the FBI in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.



LORETTA LYNCH

Attorney general
Lynch served as attorney general when the FISA application was made to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.



SALLY YATES

Deputy attorney general
Yates signed off at least one time on a FISA warrant application or extension on Trump campaign volunteer Carter Page.



BRUCE OHR

Associate deputy attorney general, husband of Nellie Ohr
Ohr met multiple times with Christopher Steele, who was hired by Fusion GPS to produce the Trump dossier—even after Steele was terminated as an FBI source.

2017



ROD ROSENSTEIN

Deputy attorney general
Rosenstein signed off on at least one FISA warrant extension on Trump campaign volunteer Carter Page.



DANA BOENTE

Acting deputy attorney general
Boente signed off at least one time on a FISA warrant application or extension on Trump campaign volunteer Carter Page.



OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

High-profile officials within the Obama administration made hundreds of so-called unmasking requests for the identities of members of Trump's team.



SUSAN RICE

National security adviser



SAMANTHA POWER

US ambassador to the UN



JOHN BRENNAN

CIA director



BEN RHODES

Deputy national security adviser



ROBERT MUELLER

SPECIAL COUNSEL
Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed Robert Mueller on May 17, 2017, as special counsel to investigate allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 elections.

TEXT MESSAGES



PETER STRZOK

Text messages sent between FBI agent Peter Strzok and FBI lawyer Lisa Page revealed their clear bias in favor of Hillary Clinton and against Donald Trump. According to the memo, the texts had also revealed how they orchestrated leaks to the media, and a meeting they had with Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe in which they discussed an "insurance policy" against President Donald Trump's election.



LISA PAGE

STRZOK FIRED FROM SPECIAL COUNSEL

FBI agent Peter Strzok was fired by special counsel Robert Mueller after thousands of text messages sent between Strzok and Lisa Page, in which they showed a clear bias against Trump, were revealed.