



[Hegseth Comes Under Fire Again for Sharing Sensitive Information in Another Signal Group Chat](#)

U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth is facing criticism yet again after the existence of a second Signal group chat where he shared sensitive information came to light this past weekend. The revelation follows last month's high-profile government chat leak on the messaging platform involving Hegseth and other Trump administration officials which had already drawn significant alarm, and as such, news of the additional group has prompted calls for the defense secretary's ouster. On the second Signal group chat, created this time by Hegseth on his personal phone, was his lawyer, wife, and brother – among several others. It has been outlined that the contents of the second group chat are similar to those from the first one, whereby sensitive details were shared regarding an imminent attack against the Houthis in Yemen, which included information about the flight schedules for the aircraft involved in the strikes. Equally as eyebrow-raising is the fact that Hegseth did this even after an aide had warned him to be careful not to share sensitive information on an unsecure communications platform before the Yemen attacks. Despite these troubling leaks, it appears that the White House has no intention of taking accountability, as it has vehemently defended Hegseth and even blasted reports that it is considering replacing him.

This is the second time that Hegseth has been part of a Signal group chat which has had its contents leaked to the public. Just last month, an editor for the Atlantic was inadvertently added to a chat with a number of senior White House officials where attack plans were worryingly discussed in very precise detail. The incident had resulted in several members of Congress pushing for the removal of Mike Waltz, U.S. national security adviser and the one responsible for the leak. However, the White House tried to downplay the leak in an effort to sweep implications under the rug, with President Trump publicly expressing that Waltz had learned a lesson and defending him, while reportedly privately angry over what transpired. Due to the behind-the-scenes fury at the first incident, some had suspected that news of the second group chat might force Trump to take action, but instead, he has stuck to the method of downplaying it – even as further questions and concerns have been levied at Hegseth over his fitness to lead the Pentagon.

The substantial scrutiny towards Hegseth following this latest revelation is not only because of what took place already with last month's leak, but also due to this coming amid reports of disarray and chaos at the Department of Defense under his leadership. John Ullyot, who resigned as acting Defense Department press secretary last week, published an op-ed for Politico in which he documented this and argued that it had become a major distraction for the Trump administration. Ullyot expressed bewilderment at Hegseth's recent firing of three of his most loyal senior staffers, and the efforts to smear them as a means for trying to justify their dismissal – which Ullyot suggested was unfounded and demonstrated that "Hegseth's team has developed a habit of spreading flat-out, easily debunked falsehoods anonymously about their colleagues on their way out the door." Ullyot's remarks are made even more damning considering his closeness to Hegseth and past advocacy for him – which included an opinion piece that he wrote during Hegseth's confirmation hearings stating that he was the best man for the job.

On top of the disorder at the Pentagon, it is the recklessness of using a commercially available messaging app like Signal to discuss sensitive information that has garnered such criticism towards Hegseth. For many, it speaks to the Trump administration's lack of regard for rules and oversight that they would continue to allow senior officials to

get away with problematic breaches such as this – which jeopardize the safety and security of United States military personnel and put American lives at risk. Bypassing a range of secure classified government mechanisms and instead discussing plans for an upcoming military attack on a commercially available messaging platform is highly irresponsible. As some have pointed out, had the communication simply fallen into the wrong hands, the attacks could have been thwarted – endangering the lives of American personnel carrying them out. Thus, the latest news of the second group chat has prompted sharp rebuke of Hegseth from several lawmakers including retired military officer and current U.S. Representative Don Bacon (R-NE), who became the first Republican member of Congress to openly indicate support for Hegseth’s ouster. U.S. Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ), U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) – the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee – U.S. Representative Jerry Nadler (D-NY), and others have also spoken out against Hegseth following this week’s additional uncovering.

Prior to all of this, Hegseth already had the tightest of Senate confirmation margins due to major questions over his qualifications and fitness to serve as the nation’s defense secretary. With the recent group chat revelations as well as the documented dysfunction at the Pentagon under his leadership, there is even more validity to these serious concerns.