



News Briefs

January 2017

TRANSITION

Dan Coats Expected to Be Named Intelligence Director Retired Senator Dan Coats of Indiana is expected to be named the Trump administration's director of national intelligence, according to a Trump transition official. [NYT, [1/6/17](#)]

Former CIA director Woolsey splits from Trump's transition team Former CIA director Jim Woolsey on Thursday announced that he would no longer serve as a senior adviser for President-elect Donald Trump, providing limited reasoning for his seemingly abrupt departure. [Politico, [1/5/17](#)]

Trump team has differences of opinion on shaping spy agencies: sources There is disagreement within President-elect Donald Trump's camp about the structure of the top U.S. intelligence agency when he takes office and it is unclear whether his national security adviser will prevail in advocating a reorganization, sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday. [Reuters, [1/6/17](#)]

Mattis clashing with Trump transition team over Pentagon staffing The honeymoon seems to be ending between retired Gen. James N. Mattis and Donald Trump's transition team amid an increasingly acrimonious dispute over who will get top jobs in the Defense Department — and who gets to make those decisions. [Washington Post, [1/6/17](#)]

GENERAL NEWS

Countering Trump, Bipartisan Voices Strongly Affirm Findings on Russian Hacking A united front of top intelligence officials and senators from both parties on Thursday forcefully reaffirmed the conclusion that the Russian government used hacking and leaks to try to influence the presidential election, directly rebuffing President-elect Donald J. Trump's repeated questioning of Russia's role. [NYT, [1/5/17](#)]

U.S. Intercepts Capture Senior Russian Officials Celebrating Trump Win Senior officials in the Russian government celebrated Donald Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton as a geopolitical win for Moscow, according to U.S. officials who said that American intelligence agencies intercepted communications in the aftermath of the election in which Russian officials congratulated themselves on the outcome. [Washington Post, [1/5/17](#)]



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How Republicans Plan to Roll Back Obama-Era Regulations Health care, trade pacts, environment regulation, financial oversight—you name the policy area, the GOP is set to roll it back. [The Atlantic, [1/6/17](#)]

Trump on border wall: Mexico will pay us back President-elect Donald Trump on Friday tweeted that Mexico will reimburse American taxpayers for a new border wall and that U.S. money spent will be for the "sake of speed." [AP, [1/6/17](#)]

A guide to rebuilding the Democratic Party, from the ground up Organizationally, the US right is light years ahead of the left. A leading political scientist explains what Democrats should do to change that. [Vox, [1/5/17](#)]