Trump Fires Director of National Security Agency

Move comes after the president let go of several National Security Council officials

By **Dustin Volz**
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WASHINGTON—Gen. Tim Haugh, the chief of the National Security Agency, was fired Thursday at the direction of the White House, according to people familiar with the matter.

Haugh, who jointly helms U.S. Cyber Command, the military's combatant command for offensive use of cyberattacks, was informed by the White House that his services were no longer required, the people said, adding that his civilian deputy at the NSA, Wendy Noble, was also removed from her position, though she was reassigned to a job within the Pentagon.

Haugh held one of the most important national-security positions in government, responsible for overseeing tens of thousands of military and civilian employees who work to collect intelligence on foreign adversaries while safeguarding cybersecurity for sensitive computer networks. The NSA contributes a majority of the intelligence that appears in the president's daily brief, officials have said.

The reasons for the dismissals couldn't immediately be determined. They came in the midst of the firings by President Trump of several [National Security Council officials](#) following a meeting that the right-wing conspiracy theorist Laura Loomer had with the president in which she alleged that some members of his administration weren't aligned with his priorities.

Early Friday, Loomer cheered the removals of the two officials whom she called "Biden holdovers," appearing to take credit for the abrupt moves in a post on X.

Haugh and Noble, Loomer said, had been "disloyal to President Trump. That is why they have been fired." She thanked Trump for being "receptive to the vetting materials provided to you."

The latest moves could be part of a larger plan to split the leadership of the NSA and Cyber Command, former officials said, an idea that was considered during Trump's

first term. Such a split, which has long attracted bipartisan interest on Capitol Hill but also considerable pushback from many national-security officials, would allow Trump to install a political appointee at the top of the NSA—a powerful agency with access to troves of sensitive intelligence—instead of a uniformed military officer.

Haugh had been serving as the chief of the NSA and U.S. Cyber Command for a little more than a year, succeeding Gen. Paul Nakasone.

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, confirmed in a statement Haugh's firing.

"General Haugh has served our country in uniform, with honor and distinction, for more than 30 years," Warner said. "At a time when the United States is facing unprecedented cyber threats, as the Salt Typhoon cyberattack from China has so clearly underscored, how does firing him make Americans any safer?" Warner said, referring to the [widespread compromise](#) of U.S. telecommunications networks by Beijing-backed hackers.

The White House and NSA declined to comment and referred questions to the Pentagon. The office of the secretary of defense and Cyber Command didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. The Cipher Brief, a news outlet focused on national security, earlier reported the firings.

Haugh's dismissal came just weeks after [Elon Musk](#) visited NSA's headquarters at Fort Meade in Maryland, which was the billionaire's first known visit to a U.S. intelligence agency in his capacity leading the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, the Trump administration's effort to shrink the [federal government](#). That meeting, officials said at the time, centered on staff reductions and operations, with some describing it as a "positive" encounter.