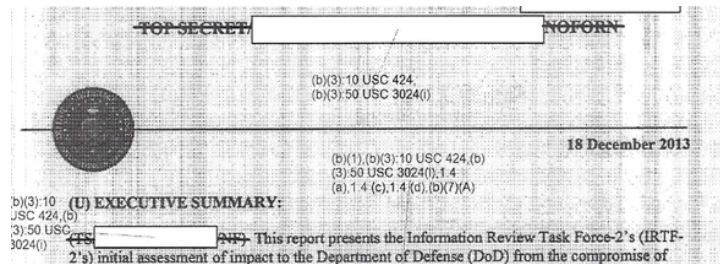


WHY CAN'T JASON LEOPOLD HAVE THE INFORMATION MIKE ROGERS ALREADY LEAKED, AND IN LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS?



Noted FOIA terrorist Jason Leopold liberated a copy of the Defense Intelligence Agency's damage assessment about Edward Snowden's leaks (story, document).

The report, as anticipated, doesn't appear to talk about actual damage DOD has suffered. Instead, it appears to talk about the damage that might happen if the information that has been "compromised" (that is, accessed by Snowden's scraper) actually gets released.

But we can't really tell because the report is heavily redacted (the screen shot here and the top of the first page is the most intact section of the report).

Which is odd, given that – as Shane Harris reported in January (and I noted here) – the Administration declassified some of this report so it could be leaked to discredit Snowden.

A congressional staffer who is familiar with the report's findings said that the lawmakers chose to make some of its contents public in order to counter what they see as a false impression of Snowden as a principled whistleblower who disclosed abuses of power.

“Snowden has been made out by some people to be a hero. What we need to do is really look at the effect of his leaks and see that what he’s done is really harm our country and put citizens at risk. The purpose [of releasing some findings] is to clear the record and show that he’s not a hero,” the staffer told Foreign Policy.

The staffer said that the administration approved the information that the lawmakers disclosed in advance.

Which makes the timing of this even weirder. It took the Administration no more than 23 days to provide the report to Mike Rogers and Dutch Ruppersberger and then approve the language they went on to blab.

But it has taken DOD around 4 months – and a lawsuit – for Leopold to get what little he got.

And, as he mentions in his story, he hasn’t even gotten the information that must be among the information okayed for blabbing

Here’s the information (*italicized*) that must have been okayed for blabbing.

A Pentagon review has concluded that the disclosure of classified documents taken by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden could “*gravely impact*” America’s national security and risk the lives of U.S. military personnel, and that leaks to journalists have already revealed sources and methods of intelligence operations to America’s adversaries. At least, that’s how two members of Congress who have read the classified report are characterizing its findings. But the lawmakers – who are working in coordination with the Obama administration and are trying to counter the narrative that Snowden is a heroic whistleblower – offered no specific examples to substantiate their claims.

In harsh language that all but accused Snowden of treason, the top members of the House Intelligence Committee said the report shows that Snowden downloaded *"1.7 million intelligence files,"* which they described as *"the single largest theft of secrets in the history of the United States."*

While the phrase "will have a GRAVE impact on U.S. national defense" [caps original] is unredacted in the report, neither the number – 1.7 million intelligence files" – nor the superlative claim – "the single largest theft of secrets in the history of the US" – appears unredacted in Leopold's version of the report.

That is, either Rogers and Ruppertsberger made that shit up. Or the Obama Administration is selectively declassifying again.

And taking their sweet time to do so.