SECRETARY OF WAR
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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, U.S. CYBER COMMAND
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY/CHIEF, CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Countering Foreign Threats to 2026 Elections

This memorandum underscores the critical role that secure voting plays in sustaining the strength of our democratic system. As we approach this election cycle, we must prove that we can and will protect the integrity of our democratic processes from any threat. As President Trump has emphasized, "free and fair elections are the foundation of our republic" and we must always work to protect our voting systems because "no country can be great without fair elections." In my role as Secretary of War, the Department of War (DoW) will effectively wield its capabilities to protect and uphold the reliability of America's voting mechanisms against external manipulation and disruption from foreign actors, while maintaining the fundamental freedoms that characterize our country.

Commander U.S. Cyber Command and the Directors of the Combat Support Agencies will prioritize the use of DoW intelligence and cyber capabilities to ensure foreign actors do not meddle in our democratic systems.

Further, I direct the Defense Intelligence Enterprise (DIE) to execute collection and production on foreign threats to our elections, in accordance with the law, regulation, Executive direction, and DoW policies and directives.

I also direct U.S. Cyber Command to use its existing authorities, capabilities, and competencies in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to counter potential cyber threats from foreign actors targeting our elections.

Our Nation's ability to conduct free and fair elections is a steadfast principal of our democracy. Assuring and protecting this ability is a no-fail mission and the DoW will do its part in supporting this whole of government effort.

Freedom does not happen by accident. It requires constant vigilance, and today, that responsibility falls heavily on the DIE. I am therefore directing the entire DIE to mobilize every authorized asset, capability, and partnership under your command to defend our election infrastructure from foreign malign influence and ensure that every lawful voter can cast their ballot free from foreign intimidation, coercion, or fear. In America, the people rule — and we must ensure that their voice remains sovereign, secure, and entirely undiluted.

PBH