

**From:** Rebecca Hahn [redacted]@twitter.com  
**Subject:** Re: privileged and confidential [inform] Follow-up on Graphika/Stanford report  
**Date:** September 19, 2022 at 8:03 PM  
**To:** Katie Rosborough [redacted]@twitter.com  
**Cc:** Lauren Culbertson [redacted]@twitter.com, Jim Baker [redacted]@twitter.com, [redacted]@twitter.com, [redacted]@twitter.com, John Hughes [redacted]@twitter.com, [redacted]@twitter.com, [redacted]@twitter.com, Yoel Roth [redacted]@twitter.com



thanks for doing all that you could to manage this one.  
it didn't seem to get too much traction beyond verge, cnn and wapo editors promoting.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 6:29 AM Katie Rosborough <[redacted]@twitter.com> wrote:  
Hi folks — Here's the piece, which I think turned out as expected. Formatted in a doc [here](#). Thanks.

**[The Washington Post: Pentagon opens sweeping review of clandestine psychological operations](#)**

*Complaints about the U.S. military's influence operations using Facebook and Twitter have raised concern in the White House and federal agencies.*

By Ellen Nakashima

September 19, 2022 at 5:00 a.m. EDT

The Pentagon has ordered a sweeping audit of how it conducts clandestine information warfare after major social media companies identified and took offline fake accounts suspected of being run by the U.S. military in violation of the platforms' rules.

Colin Kahl, the undersecretary of defense for policy, last week instructed the military commands that engage in psychological operations online to provide a full accounting of their activities by next month after the White House and some federal agencies expressed mounting concerns over the Defense Department's attempted manipulation of audiences overseas, according to several defense and administration officials familiar with the matter.

The takedowns in recent years by Twitter and Facebook of more than 150 bogus personas and media sites created in the United States was [disclosed last month](#) by internet researchers Graphika and the Stanford Internet Observatory. While the researchers did not attribute the sham accounts to the U.S. military, two officials familiar with the matter said that U.S. Central Command is among those whose activities are facing scrutiny. Like others interviewed for this report, they spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military operations.

The researchers did not specify when the takedowns occurred, but those familiar with the matter said they were within the past two or three years. Some were recent, they said, and involved posts from the summer that advanced anti-Russia narratives citing the Kremlin's "imperialist" war in Ukraine and warning of the conflict's direct impact on Central Asian countries. Significantly, they found that the pretend personas — employing tactics used by countries such as Russia and China — did not gain much traction, and that overt accounts actually attracted more followers.

Centcom, headquartered in Tampa, has purview over military operations across 21 countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Central and South Asia. A spokesman declined to comment.