

A dozen Russians indicted for meddling in election

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twelve Russian military intelligence officers hacked into the Clinton presidential campaign and Democratic Party and released tens of thousands of private communications in a sweeping conspiracy by the Kremlin to meddle in the 2016 U.S. election, according to an indictment announced days before President Donald Trump's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The indictment represents special counsel Robert Mueller's first charges against Russian government officials for interfering in American politics, an effort U.S. intelligence agencies say was aimed at helping the Trump campaign and harming Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. The case follows after a separate indictment that accused Russians of using social media to sow discord among American voters.

The 29-page indictment lays out how, months before Americans went to the polls, Russians schemed to break into key Democratic email accounts, including those belonging to Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Stolen emails, many politically damaging for Clinton, appeared on WikiLeaks in the cam-

paign's final stretch.

The charges say the Russian defendants, using a persona known as Guccifer 2.0, in August 2016 contacted a person in touch with the Trump campaign to offer help. And they say that on the same day Trump said in a speech, "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing," Russian hackers tried for the first time to break into email accounts used by Clinton's personal office.

Mueller did not allege that Trump campaign associates were involved in the hacking effort, that Americans were knowingly in touch with Russian intelligence officials or that any vote tallies were altered by hacking. The White House seized on those points in a statement that offered no condemnation of Russian election interference.

It was unclear whether the indictment might factor into Trump's meeting with Putin on Monday.

He has repeatedly expressed skepticism about Russian involvement in the hacking while being accused by Democrats of cozying up to the Russian president. Trump complained about the Russia investigation hours before the indictment, saying the "stupidity" was making it "very hard to do something with Russia."

The Kremlin, meanwhile, denied anew that it tried to sway the election. "The Russian state has never interfered



Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice, Friday, July 13, 2018, in Washington.

AP Photo/Evan Vucci

and has no intention of interfering in the U.S. elections," Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Friday.

The indictment identifies the defendants as officers with Russia's Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff, also known as GRU. If that link is established, it would shatter the Kremlin denials of the Russian state's involvement in the U.S. elections given that the GRU is part of the state machine.

The Russian defendants are not in custody, and it is not clear they will ever

appear in American court, though the Justice Department has recently seen value in indicting foreign hackers in absentia as public deterrence.

The indictment accuses the Russian hackers, starting in March 2016, of covertly monitoring the computers of dozens of Democratic officials and volunteers, implanting malicious computer code known as malware to explore the networks and steal data and of phishing emails to gain access to accounts.

One attempt at interference came hours after Trump, in a July 27, 2016, speech,

suggested Russians look for emails that Clinton said she had deleted from her tenure as secretary of state.

"Russia, if you're listening," Trump said, "I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing."

That evening, the indictment says, the Russians attempted to break into email accounts used by Clinton's personal office, along with 76 Clinton campaign email addresses.

By June 2016, the defendants, relying on fictional personas like DCLeaks and Guccifer 2.0, began planning

the release of tens of thousands of stolen emails, the indictment alleges.

The Podesta emails published by WikiLeaks displayed the private communications, including deliberations about messaging that played into attacks that Clinton was calculating and a political flip-flopper. Private speeches she gave to financial industry firms were particularly damaging within the left wing of the Democratic party and among independents frustrated with the influence of Wall Street in politics.

The indictment alleges that Guccifer 2.0 was in touch with multiple Americans in the summer of 2016 about the pilfered material, including an unidentified congressional candidate who requested and then received stolen information

On Aug. 15, 2016, the indictment says, Guccifer 2.0 reached out to someone in contact with the Trump campaign and asked the person if they had seen anything "interesting in the docs I posted?" Guccifer 2.0 said it would be a "great pleasure" to help.

Prosecutors say weeks later, Guccifer 2.0 referred to a stolen DCCC document posted online and asked the person, "what do u think of the info on the turnout model for the democrats entire presidential campaign." The person responded, "(p)retty standard."

FUEL: Law went into effect in 1951, concerned with safety of drivers and passengers

Continued from 1A

mation officer for the Oregon State Fire Marshal, wrote in an email. "These are generally complaint driven."

He said he did not know of any law enforcement agencies that cited for those violations, and he was unsure if they even had the authority to do so.

He said citations from the fire marshal's office are "not common."

"OSFM receives very few complaints of self-serve violations," Hoover said.

While gas stations can be fined for allowing people to pump their own gas, there is nothing in the Oregon State Statutes or recent bills that specifies a fine or other penalty for someone caught pumping their own gas. Hoover confirmed that state statute only authorizes the OSFM to regulate stations and their owners, not customers.

Mike Heller, owner of Heller & Sons Distributing Inc. in Hermiston, said when

people (mostly out-of-towners) try to pump their own gas at Heller & Sons they are always asked to return to their vehicle and let an attendant take care of it so that the station can comply with the law.

"We have people try and do that, but they can't, so we have to stop them," he said.

Heller said many customers — particularly the elderly — actually prefer to stay in their car while someone pumps their gas for them, especially when the weather is bad. But others would prefer to handle it themselves. Heller said motorcycle owners tend to be particular about making sure no gas is dripped on their bikes, for example, and some riders from out of state will complain when told they aren't allowed to pump their own.

Heller said he believes the steps the legislature has taken to roll back the self-service requirement in some counties are a "stepping stone" toward eventually letting everyone in Oregon pump

their own gas. All joking aside (the rest of the country had a field day on social media earlier this year making fun of Oregonians who don't know how to pump their own gas), Heller said the 48 other states that allow self-service have shown that everyday drivers are, in fact, capable of refueling their own vehicles.

However, he also appreciates that it is easier on some people to let an attendant pump it for them and he likes the opportunity to provide more jobs in the community. Being a fuel station attendant is a good first job for teens, he said, because it teaches them how to interact with the public while on the job. He said he would keep attendants on hand even if the law changed to include Umatilla County.

"I'll offer full-serve until it's not economically feasible," he said.

The Legislature implemented Oregon's ban on self-service in 1951. Reasons listed within the bill include:

- Dispensing Class A flammable liquids without proper safety training can be dangerous.
- If customers leave their vehicles it puts them at risk of crime or personal injury such as slipping on wet pavement.
- Gas stations would have to pay higher liability insurance rates if customers are exposed to such dangers.
- Disabled and elderly customers will not be singled out in paying for the higher cost of full service.
- Exposure to toxic fumes from the gas is a health hazard, particularly to pregnant customers.
- Self-service in other states "does not provide a sustained reduction in fuel prices charged to customers."
- Self-service decreases employment opportunities for young people.
- Small children are put in danger when they are left in a vehicle while the driver goes inside to pay.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

Accepting New Patients

McEntire DENTAL

We are open from
7:30am - 4:30pm M-TH

McEntire Dental
1100 Southgate, Suite 3
Pendleton OR 97801
541.276.5272

GoodHealth LIVE

WITH JENNIFER POSTE, M.D.,
ENDOCRINOLOGIST

Endocrinology & You

Join Dr. Jennifer Poste as she shares common conditions she cares for right here in Hermiston.

SUNDAY, JULY 15th GRAND MAKEOVER EVENT!!!

Sunday 11-5PM FREE LUNCH WITH ANY PURCHASE!!!

Week Long Sale and Prize Drawings

Veggie Burger • Potato Salad • Veggies
Chips • Watermelon • Kombucha

FREE Vegan Soft Serve Cone (1 per person per day)
Goody Bag for first 100 customers (1 per family)
Hourly Drawings for Gift Baskets • Prizes • Gift Cards

COME SEE THE NEW CHANGES & NEW PRODUCTS

20% OFF STOREWIDE!!!

Health Food • Supplements • Clothing • Gifts • Books
Home Décor • Jewelry • Toys • Excludes doTERRA
Produce • Clearance & Cards

541-567-0272
2150 N. First St. • Hermiston

Wednesday, July 25

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Health Care System
Conference Center 1 and 2
610 NW 11th Street | Hermiston, OR 97838

A healthy dessert with light refreshments will be provided

Space is Limited. Register today!

Call 541.667.3509

or Register Online at www.drposte.eventbrite.com

Can't Make it to the Event?
Watch Live at www.facebook.com/gshcsnews