Pentagon "Leaks": 5 ways to tell REAL from FAKE

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by <u>Kit Knightly</u>, <u>OffGuardian</u> April 17, 2023

We promised a longer take on the Pentagon "leaks", and here it goes. Regular readers will probably be familiar with my view on leaked documents in general, but if you're not allow me to quote my own 2019 article on the (absurd) "Afghanistan papers":

An awful lot of modern "leaks" are no such thing. They are Orwellian exercises in controlling the conversation [...] carefully making sure the "establishment" and the "alternative" are joined in the middle, controlled from the same source.

That's not to say ALL "leaks" are automatically and ubiquitously narrative control exercises, clearly some are real...but it's usually pretty easy to tell them apart. In fact here's a little checklist.

1. If your "leak" tells you stuff you already know, it's probably a fake leak.

"Leaking" widely known, publicly available information is a very common tactic. In the Pentagon "leaks", for example, it was "revealed" that the US has been spying on South Korea, Israel and Ukraine. But the US spies on everyone — allies included — and we have all known that for literal decades.

Further, everyone spies on everyone, it's just the way the

game is played. Acting like it's a big reveal, and the performative outrage of the South Korean government, is a hallmark of a fake leak.

2. If your "leak" reinforces the mainstream narrative, it's probably a fake leak.

Leaks can be used to manage and/or reinforce the mainstream narrative. The Afghanistan Papers are, again, a prime example of this. The "secret history" which did nothing but repeat myths and lies about the US war.

Or the <u>leaked Fauci emails</u>, which resurrected the lab-leak theory of Covid's origins, but reinforced that Covid existed and was dangerous.

3. If your "leak" gets MASSES of media coverage, it's probably a fake leak.

A telltale sign of the fake leak is the mainstream media carefully explaining to everyone how important it is and what it all means. The <u>BBC</u>, Sky News, <u>CNN</u> and others have all put out explainer articles and videos detailing the content of the leaks. US spokespeople, <u>like John Kirby</u>, have said the press shouldn't report on the leaks, but this has made no difference

We know the corporate media is just an extension of the Establishment, they only report what they're told to report. They have no duty to the truth, and no ties to reality. If they publicise the leaks, it's because they're instructed to, because it serves the greater narrative. Officials criticising the press for publishing the "leak" is just a utilisation of the Streisand affect, textbook "please don't throw me in the briar patch" stuff.

4. If your "leak" source is revealed immediately and publicly, it's probably a fake leak.

Within days of the recent leak the press were reporting the

name and rank of the alleged leaker, his arrest was filmed and the videos sent to the press, and he was arraigned in public. Is this how covert agencies bent on concealing important information operate?

For comparison's sake, <u>consider Seth Rich</u>. Mr Rich was alleged to be the source of leaked emails which proved the DNC was rigging votes for Hillary Clinton. He died when he was shot in the back by muggers who didn't take anything.

5. If your "leak" tells you what you want to hear, it's probably a fake leak.

Never trust anyone who tells you only what you want to hear, that goes double for media outlets or government agencies.

In the most recent "leaks", we see how they very conveniently feed both sides of the war narrative.

One of the "revelations" is that the Ukrainian military is running out of anti-air ammunition. Meaning that, in the near future, Russia could potentially flatten Ukraine with its air superiority.

This is, obviously and clearly, propaganda aimed at supporting the "Ukraine needs our help" storyline. It will be used to argue the West "has not done enough" to protect Ukraine and result in demands for more money and/or weapons to be sent over.

On the other hand the "revelations" concerning depleting ammunition stocks and higher-than-reported casualties provide, as well as the <u>presence of NATO special forces in the country</u>, fuel to the Western alternative media pro-Russia position.

"See, Russia is actually winning", they say, "And NATO forces presence shows Russia was in the right, don't believe <u>Western</u> misinformation".

All of it combines to maintain the narrative that the conflict

represents vital very real and deep-seated moral and strategic differences and isn't just a turf war between rival globalist gangsters as valuable for its distraction potential as anything else.

We saw something similar earlier this year, with the release of Sy Hersh's report on the "truth" behind the <u>Nord Stream 2 sabotage</u>, an anonymous insider claiming the US was responsible. Both sides attributing blame, both sides distracting from the real impact — and probably real purpose — of shutting down the pipeline.

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Having established how to spot a fake "leak", we can see that these "highly classified" Pentagon papers fit perfectly into the "fake leak" category.

Now, the question becomes, if the leaks are Deep State psy-op, what is the objective?

Well, we already partly covered that. Ukraine running out of missiles, for example, will be used to justify even more resources and money being sunk into the murky and bottomless pit of "military spending".

Secondly, we can already see the establishment <u>crosshairs</u> <u>centering on Discord</u> — the platform where the leaks were first published. Not just Discord, <u>but group chat services in general</u>.

As they almost always are, the fake "leak" will fuel calls for more security and greater control of online content, after all these leaks "put US assets in danger"

More broadly, it simply provides fuel for a waning narrative. So many facts to dispute, and so many arguments to be had. What special forces are in the country? What provocations are they carrying out? Who's "really" winning? Whose casulty

figures are reliable? Who staged what atrocities to discredit which side?

Are the Chinese <u>arming Russia</u> in secret? Will <u>South Korea pull</u> out?

What about the leaker — is he an <u>anti-war hero</u>? A narcissist <u>who endangered America</u>? Or a <u>racist traitor</u>? Should he go to prison? How long for?

Watch the Reds and Blues argue over that one.

It's all content designed, in the parlance of social media, to boost engagement. Because the system has adapted, they don't manufacture consent anymore — they farm participation. Angry refutation and warm praise record the same in the algorithm. They don't want your agreement, they want your attention. And when they feel the story is losing the audience, well, here's some super secret facts you aren't supposed to know.

Here's the real story behind the story, why don't you go on Facebook and tell everyone about it?

What ultimate purpose do these leaks serve? The same purpose as an end-of-season cliffhanger, or killing off a major character. It gets people talking, it pulls people into their story.

They want you to read it, debate it, and live in their created reality.

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