

BREAKING NEWS: Trump to announce Paris climate accord decision over the next few days: [tweet](#) [VIEW MORE](#)

EDITION: UNITED STATES

NSA chief says Snowden leaked up to 200,000 secret documents

ADVERTISEMENT

TRENDING STORIES

- 1 Trump pulling U.S. out of Paris climate deal: [source](#)
- 2 Gulf Arab dispute rattles Trump's anti-Iran axis
- 3 Sewage tanker bomb kills at least 80, wounds hundreds in Afghan capital
- 4 Philippines' Duterte uses Lewinsky affair to hit back at critical Clinton
- 5 Deutsche Bank gets Polish bank sale underway - [sources](#)

POLITICS | Thu Nov 14, 2013 | 4:04pm EST

NSA chief says Snowden leaked up to 200,000 secret documents



Fugitive former U.S. spy agency contractor Edward Snowden's new refugee documents granted by Russia is seen during a news conference in Moscow August 1, 2013. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov

By **Mark Hosenball** | WASHINGTON

Former U.S. National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden leaked as many as 200,000 classified U.S. documents to the media, according to little-noticed public remarks by the eavesdropping agency's chief late last month.

In a question-and-answer session following a speech to a foreign affairs group in Baltimore on October 31, NSA Director General Keith Alexander was asked by a member of the audience what steps U.S. authorities were taking to stop Snowden from leaking additional information to journalists.

"I wish there was a way to prevent it. Snowden has shared somewhere between 50 (thousand) and 200,000 documents with reporters. These will continue to come out," Alexander said.

Alexander added that the documents were "being put out in a way that does the maximum damage to NSA and our nation," according to a transcript of his talk made available by NSA.

U.S. officials briefed on investigations into Snowden's activities have said privately for months that internal government assessments indicate that the number of classified documents to which Snowden got access as a systems operator at NSA installations ran into the hundreds of thousands.

Officials said that while investigators now believe they know the range of documents that Snowden accessed, they remain unsure which documents he downloaded for leaking to the media.

By comparison, the number of Pentagon and State Department documents leaked to WikiLeaks by a disgruntled U.S. Army private was much larger. The anti-secrecy group obtained around 400,000 Pentagon reports on the Iraq war, as well as 250,000 State

ADVERTISEMENT

BREAKING NEWS: Trump to announce Paris climate accord decision over the next few days: [tweet](#) [VIEW MORE](#)

NSA chief says Snowden leaked up to 200,000 secret documents

None of the WikiLeaks material was classified higher than "Secret" but many NSA documents leaked by Snowden were marked "Top Secret" or with an even more restrictive "Special Intelligence" stamp. The material includes highly technical details on U.S. and allied eavesdropping activities.

Snowden's revelations, which first surfaced in June, are still causing a headache for the government of President Barack Obama, particularly in its dealing with allies.

For example, Germany was outraged by reports that the NSA monitored Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone.

Matthew Olsen, director of the National Counterterrorism Center in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, said Snowden's leaks were "extremely damaging."

"There is no doubt that those disclosures have made our job harder. We've seen that terrorists or adversaries are seeking to learn about the ways that we collect intelligence and seeking to adapt and change the ways that they communicate," he told a congressional hearing on Thursday.

ALSO IN POLITICS

Trump pulling U.S. out of Paris climate deal: source

Trump blasts Russia probe, urges testimony from former adviser Page

In the past few days, U.S. officials say, a panel of former officials and experts set up by Obama to review NSA operations in the wake of Snowden's disclosures has privately reported interim conclusions to the White House. The group's final report is due on December 15.

The report, along with the White House's own review, is likely to lead to policy changes to be announced by year's end. These are expected to include some constraints on the NSA's wide-ranging eavesdropping.

Also included in documents leaked by Snowden are at least 58,000 classified documents generated by Government Communications Headquarters, the NSA's British counterpart and eavesdropping partner, according to British authorities.

Snowden is in Russia, where he was granted asylum in August for at least a year.

(Additional reporting by Steve Holland and Deborah Charles; Editing by Alistair Bell and Will Dunham)

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#)

NEXT IN POLITICS

No budget deal yet as Illinois nears end of legislative session

CHICAGO A deal to end Illinois' nearly two-year-old budget stalemate remained elusive on Wednesday as lawmakers faced a midnight deadline to agree on a state spending plan with simple majority votes.



Departure of communications aide could be first in Trump shake-up

WASHINGTON U.S. President Donald Trump's communications director is leaving the job, the White House said on Tuesday, as the president considers wider staff changes to try to contain political damage from investigations into Russia and his presidential campaign.



MORE FROM REUTERS

SPONSORED CONTENT

ADVERTISEMENT



1 Trump pulling U.S. out of Paris climate deal: source
Photos of the day

2 Gulf Arab dispute rattles Trump's anti-Iran axis ADVERTISEMENT

3 Sewage tanker bomb kills at least 80, wounds hundreds in Afghan capital

4 Philippines' Duterte uses Lewinsky affair to hit back at critical Clinton

5 Deutsche Bank gets Polish bank sale underway - sources

SPONSORED TOPICS

BREAKING NEWS: Trump to announce Paris climate accord decision over the next few days: [tweet](#) [VIEW MORE](#)

NSA chief says Snowden leaked up to 200,000 secret documents

Judge overturns life sentences for D.C. sniper Lee Boyd Malvo

Trump attacks 'fake news' following Kushner reports

U.S. to carry out first ICBM intercept test

Ireland looks set to elect gay premier in social, generational shift

Download Report - Capital at Risk
Guardian Stockbrokers

How can behavioral biases be eliminated in the investment process?
Invesco Asset Management

Bupa Global Travel: worldwide cover, no medical excess. Find out more
Bupa™ Global Travel

Industry takes lead role in creating low-carbon economy *Global Health Action*

Promoted by **Dianomi**

FROM AROUND THE **WEB**

Promoted by **Revcontent**

From the Web

Ads by **Revcontent**

TRENDING STORIES

- 1 Trump pulling U.S. out of Paris climate deal: [source](#)
- 2 Gulf Arab dispute rattles Trump's anti-Iran axis
- 3 Sewage tanker bomb kills at least 80, wounds hundreds in Afghan capital
- 4 Philippines' Duterte uses Lewinsky affair to hit back at critical Clinton
- 5 Deutsche Bank gets Polish bank sale underway - [sources](#)

Fazit: So Schaut Man Filme Und Serien Heute
TV Frog

Wie Man Seine Körperhaltung in 5 Tagen Verbessert
PostureFixer

1 Million People Have Fallen in Love With This Language Learning App
The Babbel Magazine

Follow Reuters:

Subscribe: [Feeds](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Apps](#)

[Reuters News Agency](#) | [Brand Attribution Guidelines](#) | [Careers](#)

Reuters is the news and media division of [Thomson Reuters](#). Thomson Reuters is the world's largest international multimedia news agency, providing investing news, world news, business news, technology news, headline news, small business news, news alerts, personal finance, stock market, and mutual funds information available on Reuters.com, video, mobile, and interactive television platforms. Learn more about Thomson Reuters products:

EIKON
Information, analytics and exclusive news on financial markets - delivered in an intuitive desktop and mobile interface

ELEKTRON
Everything you need to empower your workflow and enhance your enterprise data management

WORLD-CHECK
Screen for heightened risk individual and entities globally to help uncover hidden risks in business relationships and human networks

WESTLAW
Build the strongest argument relying on authoritative content, attorney-editor expertise, and industry defining technology

ONESOURCE
The most comprehensive solution to manage all your complex and ever-expanding tax and compliance needs

CHECKPOINT
The industry leader for online information for tax, accounting and finance professionals

All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. [See here for a complete list](#) of exchanges and delays.

[© 2017 Reuters. All Rights Reserved.](#) | [Site Feedback](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Advertising Guidelines](#) | [Cookies](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)