

Musk Flouted Security Rules; Faces Reviews

SpaceX Laxity Is Said to Risk State Secrets

This article is by Kirsten Grind, Eric Lipton and Sheera Frenkel.

Elon Musk and his rocket company, SpaceX, have repeatedly failed to comply with federal reporting protocols aimed at protecting state secrets, including by not providing some details of his meetings with foreign leaders, according to people with knowledge of the company and internal documents.

Concerns about the reporting practices — and particularly about Mr. Musk, who is SpaceX's chief executive — have triggered at least three federal reviews, eight people with knowledge of the efforts said. The Defense Department's Office of Inspector General opened a review into the matter this year, and the Air Force and the Pentagon's Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security separately initiated reviews last month.

The Air Force also recently denied Mr. Musk a high-level security access, citing potential security risks associated with the billionaire. Several allied nations, including Israel, have also expressed concerns that he could share sensitive data with others, according to defense officials.

Internally, SpaceX has a team that is expected to ensure compliance with the government's national security rules. Some of those employees have complained to the Defense Department's Office of Inspector General and other agencies about the lax reporting, which goes back to at least 2021, four people with knowledge of the company said. SpaceX was awarded at least \$10 billion in federal contracts with the Pentagon and NASA from 2019 to 2023, making it a major contractor.

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The bodies of Igor Kirillov, a Russian general, and an aide on a Moscow street Tuesday. They were killed by a bomb placed in a scooter.

YURI KOCHETKOV/EPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK

Addled by Combat, Allayed by Psychedelic Trips

By DAVE PHILIPPS

TIJUANA, Mexico — A van full of U.S. Special Operations veterans crossed the border into Mexico on a sunny day in July to execute a mission that, even to them, sounded pretty far out.

Over 48 hours, they planned to swallow a psychedelic extract from the bark of a West African shrub, fall into a void of dark hallucinations and then have their consciousness shattered by smoking the poison of a desert toad. The objective was to find what they had so far been unable to locate anywhere else: relief from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury symptoms.

"It does sound a little extreme,

U.S. Veterans Take Risk Crossing Border for Toad Poison Drug

but I've tried everything else, and it didn't work," said a retired Army Green Beret named Jason, who, like others in the van, asked that his full name not be published because of the stigma associated with using psychedelics.

A long combat career exposed to weapons blasts had left him struggling with depression and anger, a frayed memory and addled concentration. He was on the verge of divorce. Recently, he said,

he had put a gun to his head.

"I don't know if this will work," Jason said of psychedelic therapy. "But at this point, I have nothing to lose."

Psychedelic therapy trips like this are increasingly common among military veterans. For years, psychedelic clinics in Mexico were a little-known last-ditch treatment for people struggling with drug addiction. More recently, veterans have found that they also got lasting relief from mental health issues they had struggled with since combat.

No one tracks how many veterans seek psychedelic treatment in Mexico. Clinic owners estimate they now treat a few thousand

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GABRIEL V. CÁRDENAS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Laura, an undocumented immigrant in South Texas, with her U.S.-born children, ages 3 and 10.

She's Undocumented. Her Children Are Citizens.

By EDGAR SANDOVAL

SAN JUAN, Texas — For the last quarter of a century, Maria's version of the American dream has been confined to a small corner of South Texas, tucked between the border with Mexico and a fortified Border Patrol checkpoint 77 miles north.

Maria, who crossed illegally from Mexico in 1998 and is the mother of two U.S.-born teen-

Families Along Border Fear Getting Split Up

agers, is one of thousands of unauthorized immigrants who have long lived in a netherworld along the Texas border, tied to family members who are citizens but trapped in an unusual part of the country where, without legal im-

migration documents, it is all but impossible for them to stray far from their adopted hometowns.

Now, with President-elect Donald J. Trump's vow to begin mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, many of those living with American family members along the border fear that they will be easy targets.

Border Patrol agents are legally able to make arrests within 100

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North Korea's Ties With Russia

Sending troops to fight against Ukraine has gotten Pyongyang much-needed cash and diplomatic leverage. But there may be hidden costs, too.

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Woman Gets Rare Transplant

The patient was in better health than other pig kidney recipients, and her case could signal progress toward solving the organ-supply shortage.

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Wall Street Upbeat on Trump

Investors and executives often emphasize what they like in the president-elect's agenda, while dismissing the rest as mere posturing.

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A Chef's Christmas Feast

Clare de Boer says both effort and bounty must be shared to create a fine holiday dinner. (A great recipe for a rice and squash bombe helps, too.)

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Michelle Goldberg

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