

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

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January 24, 2020

The Honorable General Paul M. Nakasone  
Director  
National Security Agency  
9800 Savage Rd., Suite 6272  
Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755

Dear General Nakasone:

I write to ask for an update on the National Security Agency (NSA)'s efforts to protect senior government officials' personal devices and accounts from foreign surveillance and hacking.

It is no secret that foreign intelligence services target senior U.S. government officials and seek to compromise their professional accounts and devices as well as their personal ones. Your predecessor acknowledged as much in an April 2018 letter to me, stating personal accounts and devices "remain prime targets for exploitation." However, U.S. government efforts thus far have focused disproportionately on professional accounts and devices, leaving personal accounts and devices vulnerable.

The American people have a right to know if their government is protecting senior officials from clear and present cyber threats — especially with an election mere months away. In a 2018 letter, Admiral Rogers committed to me that NSA personnel would "raise the issue with their DHS counterparts." It has now been two years and I am interested to learn the results of the NSA's efforts. Accordingly, please provide my office with an unclassified update on the NSA's progress since April 2018 and a plan of action for the next six months.

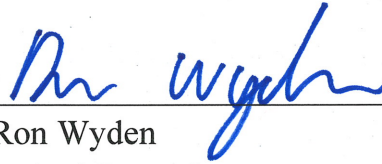
Separately, to help Congress and the American people understand NSA's approach to this issue, please also answer the following questions:

1. Dimitrios Vastakis, the chief of computer network defense at the White House resigned in October 2019, writing that "the White House is posturing itself to be electronically compromised once again." Does NSA agree with Mr. Vastakis? Does NSA believe that the White House has the cyber defenses, including skilled personnel, in place to effectively protect the President and his staff?

2. Recent media reports revealed that consultants working for Amazon Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos determined that his phone was hacked with malware delivered through a WhatsApp message from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. How confident is the NSA that the Saudi government has not also used the crown prince's WhatsApp account to hack senior U.S. government officials, such as Jared Kushner, who are also reported to communicate with Crown Prince bin Salman using WhatsApp.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Chris Soghoian in my office.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator