

TOP TAKEAWAYS FROM THE IG REPORT

This afternoon the Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General released a report about four FISA Applications and other aspects of the FBI's Investigation into President Trump's 2016 Campaign, which was entitled "Crossfire Hurricane." The report, [which can be read here](#), found "serious performance failures," in the FBI's handling of the Russia probe. See topline points below which come courtesy of Republicans on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Committee on Oversight and Reform:

TOPLINE TAKEAWAYS:

- *Crossfire Hurricane team failed to inform DOJ of "significant information", and "much of that information was inconsistent with, or undercut" assertions in the FISA applications.*
- *Information provided by Steele played a "central and essential role" in the decision to seek a FISA warrant on Carter Page.*
- *FBI ignored warnings that Steele may be working for DNC or HRC campaign, relied solely on Steele information for their assertions about Page's alleged coordination with Russians to hack the 2016 elections.*
- *FBI overstated its representations of about Steele's prior reporting*
- *IG found 17 "significant errors or omissions" in the Page FISA warrant applications and renewals, and IG did not get satisfactory explanations.*
- *Application omitted information provided to FBI about Carter Page's operational contact with another U.S. government agency and the agency's positive assessment of him.*
- *Comey and McCabe sought to include Steele's reporting in the Intelligence Community Assessment even though the CIA dismissed Steele information as "internet rumor."*
- *In FBI interviews, Steele's own sources contradicted Steele dossier information that was used in the FISA warrant.*
- *None of the Steele reporting on Carter Page used in the FISA warrant could be corroborated, and some of it contradicted other information in FBI's possession.*
- *FBI tried to remove Peter Strzok and Lisa Page from the Crossfire Hurricane Team, but the decision was overruled by Deputy Director Andrew McCabe*
- *FBI conducted a defensive briefing with the transition team for then-candidate Trump and used it as an, "opportunity to gain assessment and possibly have some level of familiarity with," Michael Flynn.*
- *FBI omitted information about Steele's bias provided by Bruce Ohr*
- *Omitted exculpatory statements by Page, Papadopoulos, and Mifsud.*

- An FBI official altered an email stating that Carter Page was a source for another government agency in order to have it read the opposite—that he was “not a source”
- “That so many basic and fundamental errors were made by three separate, hand-picked teams on one of the most sensitive FBI investigations that was briefed to the highest levels within the FBI, and that FBI officials expected would eventually be subjected to close scrutiny, raised significant questions regarding the FBI chain of command’s management and supervision of the FISA process. . . In our view, this was a failure of not only the operational team, but also of the managers and supervisors, including senior officials, in the chain of command.”
- Problems are so severe that OIG has initiated an audit to further investigate FBI’s compliance with Woods Procedures in FISA applications.

In response to the report’s release, please see these relevant statements:

Attorney General Bill Barr: “The Inspector General’s report now makes clear that the FBI launched an intrusive investigation of a U.S. presidential campaign on the thinnest of suspicions that, in my view, were insufficient to justify the steps taken. It is also clear that, from its inception, the evidence produced by the investigation was consistently exculpatory. Nevertheless, the investigation and surveillance was pushed forward for the duration of the campaign and deep into President Trump’s administration. In the rush to obtain and maintain FISA surveillance of Trump campaign associates, FBI officials misled the FISA court, omitted critical exculpatory facts from their filings, and suppressed or ignored information negating the reliability of their principal source. The Inspector General found the explanations given for these actions unsatisfactory. While most of the misconduct identified by the Inspector General was committed in 2016 and 2017 by a small group of now-former FBI officials, the malfeasance and misfeasance detailed in the Inspector General’s report reflects a clear abuse of the FISA process.”

U.S. Attorney John Durham: “I have the utmost respect for the mission of the Office of Inspector General and the comprehensive work that went into the report prepared by Mr. Horowitz and his staff. However, our investigation is not limited to developing information from within component parts of the Justice Department. Our investigation has included developing information from other persons and entities, both in the U.S. and outside of the U.S. Based on the evidence collected to date, and while our investigation is ongoing, last month we advised the Inspector General that we do not agree with some of the report’s conclusions as to predication and how the FBI case was opened.”

Rep. Jim Jordan (OH-02), Leading Republican on the House Oversight Committee: “We thought they spied on two Americans, we now know it was four. The Inspector General’s report confirms what many of us feared: James Comey’s FBI ignored guidelines and rules in spying on President Trump’s campaign in 2016. We now know that within one week of the investigation opening, the FBI was surveilling the campaign and four specific individuals associated with it. The U.S. government’s powerful tools designed and authorized for international intelligence gathering were deployed to monitor the activities of a Presidential campaign. This is a grave matter that should deeply trouble Americans of all political stripes. There are many lingering questions and I expect both Chairman Nadler and Chairwoman Maloney to convene hearings with Inspector General Horowitz as soon as possible.”