

Dave Smith on the Pentagon Document Leaks

The Joe Rogan experience the leaked document Like what was your thoughts on that Because the whole thing was crazy that this guy had access to it That and I guess he was showing it to his friends or something Is that what it was Well it seems that way you know a lot of people kind of were uh were criticizing the guy and they they were kind of saying like well look this guy is no Ed Snowden I mean he didn't like take this to Glenn Greenwald at the Guardian to have him vet through it and properly disclose it He's like bragging to friends on a Discord server or whatever And as essentially that seems right to me like that does kind of seem like what happened But again like that's not the interesting story here The interesting story isn't like what this guy's deal was or what his motives were The story is like oh the government's lying to you again And also that it's they have this uh information that they claim is so vital that it's so horrible He leaked it and yet you're so reckless with it that you know it's like Uh it's funny I remember Glenn Greenwald making this point when people would talk about uh like people were at the national security apparatus or whatever would be talking about how how reckless it is that Snowden just like gave all of this information out And you're like well then weren't you pretty reckless too Because like if this information is so vital you didn't even know it was gone They didn't even know it was gone until uh the Guardian published it And then they were like oh I guess this guy took all of our documents Um what another what did the documents say Well just right before that one of the the other real interesting thing is that they came out So a a couple days after uh the leak first like was getting reported the um Reuters had a piece an article uh where they had three high level us officials under anonymity said that you'll never believe this Joe It had all the hallmarks of Russian disinformation And so isn't it just amazing that they'll go And then like two days later they completely gave up on that and went let's just smear the kid who did it you know like uh forget all that stuff Um there were some some interesting uh revelations from from the documents things like uh they um they evidently there are NATO and US military embedded in Ukraine um like help assisting them basically Uh which is which is pretty dangerous Um Western special forces operating inside Ukraine One document dated 23 March refers to the presence of a small number of Western special forces operating inside Ukraine without specifying their activities or location The UK has the largest contingent 50 followed by Latvia 17 France 15 and the

US 14 The Netherlands one Western governments typically refrain from commenting on such sensitive matters but this detail is likely to be seized upon by Moscow which has in recent months argued that it is not just confronting Ukraine but NATO as well Oh and and essentially look this was the um uh uh I think what when Putin ultimately decided to invade Ukraine last year I think basically what he concluded was that they did it they brought Ukraine into NATO even though Ukraine is not an official NATO country At this point They backed the coup that overthrew the democratic uh the democratically elected government under Yanukovich They poured weapons into the country and they were doing um joint training exercises with NATO and the Ukrainian military And I think Vladimir Putin was basically like we told them this was our brightest of red lines and they crossed it and I got to do something now I'm not saying he should have done this There's other things he could have done Um the there's lots of things I mean I don't know exactly you get creative but he could have cut off all natural gas to Europe he could have dropped a nuke in the ocean I mean he could have done something before he did this you know but he basically concluded that Ukraine is is de facto a member of NATO And if you look at the way we're responding to this whole thing he's he's kind of right I mean like we're backing them all the way because they were invaded That's what we're supposed to do to a NATO country you know Um and so this is bad that this comes out Although I gotta say I'm surprised to some degree how much uh you know they've I mean nor if the nord stream bombing didn't you know like do it I don't know if just like some special forces being embedded there is gonna like you know create some big escalation