

9/21/09

THE LEAKED MCCHRYSTAL REPORT

SOON AFTER MIDNIGHT, the Washington Post publishes on its website General Stanley McChrystal's confidential report to the president that paints a dire picture of the state of Afghanistan and warns of "mission failure" if more troops are not deployed. A story by Bob Woodward, who obtained the report, runs on page A1 of the paper that morning. The development makes a few late editions of newspapers across the country, including that of the New York Times, and receives round-the-clock play on cable outlets. It is discussed on all the news shows and political blogs.



9/20/09 On CNN's *State of the Union*, responding to questions regarding McChrystal's rumored request, **Obama says his decision on troops will not be dictated by "the politics of the moment."**

9/18/09 CNN reports that McChrystal is not talking publicly about his desire for more troops, "because, privately, it appears he's been told by the Pentagon: **Don't call us, we'll call you.**"

9/17/09 CNN states that **McChrystal has finished his report** requesting 30,000 to 40,000 more troops but is waiting to be told that he can send it to Washington.

9/16/17/09 *The Wall Street Journal* and Fox News report that McChrystal may ask for as many as 40,000 more troops in a **formal request** later in the month.

9/16/09 Obama tells the press corps there is **no impending decision on sending more troops.**

9/17/09 McClatchy reports that a number of **military figures disagree** with the suggestion to send more troops.

9/14/09 *The Times* reports that **Obama's advisers are "split,"** with Holbrooke and Clinton advocating more troops, and Biden expressing reservations.

8/19/08 The Dallas *Morning News* quotes Fred Baron, a fund-raiser for Edwards's campaigns, who said he paid Hunter money to **get her out of North Carolina**; no credit is given to the *Enquirer's* story about the same issue ten days earlier.

8/19/08 ABC News reports that **Hunter's sister has demanded a DNA test** from Edwards; a statement from Hunter's lawyer stating she will not do so makes most papers the next day, including the *Washington Post* and the *Times*.

5/15/09 The AP quotes an Edwards statement that **his campaign finances are being investigated.**

5/17/09 On *Oprah*, Elizabeth and John Edwards discuss the affair. She says that **Hunter's baby does not resemble her own children.**

8/12/09 The *Enquirer* reports that **Edwards underwent a secret paternity test** proving that he is the father of Hunter's baby.

8/13/09 Following up on the *Enquirer's* story from 8/12, WRAL-TV of Raleigh, North Carolina, reports that **Edwards will admit paternity.**

8/14/09 Two stories from WRAL-TV and the *Enquirer*, about **Edwards's coming revelation** that he is the baby's father, make headlines in newspapers, on cable news, and on CBS's morning show.

8/15/09 Edwards's lawyer tells gathered media that **Edwards plans to make no statement** about the child.

9/21/09 **IS JOHN EDWARDS THE FATHER OF RIELLE HUNTER'S BABY?**

THE QUESTION REMAINS IN the center of the mainstream-news cycle that day following a story in the Sunday *New York Times*. That piece is discussed on NBC's *Today* show, and CNN alone covers the story on four of its programs. Jay Leno jokes about it. *The Wall Street Journal's* law blog explores the likelihood of Edwards's being indicted. Salon.com notes that the *Times* story covered the same ground as a report from WRAL-TV in North Carolina over a month before.

8/18/08 Elizabeth Edwards posts an essay on the affair on *dailykos.com*.

8/18/08 Edwards admits the affair with Hunter in a statement and on ABC's *Nightline* but denies he is the baby's father.

8/17/08 The Charlotte *Observer* reports that Democrats are pushing Edwards to address the affair and that **it could cost him his speaking slot** at the Democratic National Convention.

8/16/08 The *Enquirer* prints photos of Edwards and Hunter with the baby.

7/31/08 The Charlotte *Observer* reports that **Hunter's baby has no father listed on her birth certificate** and offers a PDF download of the certificate online.

7/30/08 The *Enquirer* reports that **Hunter had been receiving \$15,000 a month** from an Edwards colleague.

7/22/08 The *Enquirer* reports on its encounter with Edwards at the Beverly Hilton. He had been visiting Hunter and her child. When discovered, **Edwards hid in the hotel men's room.**

6/12/08 The *New York Daily News* reports that **the Enquirer is still on the Edwards story** and challenging Edwards to take a DNA test.

12/19/07 The *Enquirer* reports that **Hunter has said she is pregnant with Edwards's baby**, even though onetime aide Andrew Young has claimed the baby is his.

11/29/07 The *Daily News* reports that Edwards may have "stared down" the *Enquirer*, quoting an anonymous staffer that **there is "no smoking gun."**

10/12-13/07 The AP, the *Daily News*, and the Los Angeles *Times* report on **Edwards's denial that he had had an affair.**

9/19-20/09 The AP, the *Washington Post*, the *Drudge Report*, and countless other sources **repeat the Times' Sunday story.**

9/19/09 Using aide Andrew Young's book proposal as a source, the *Times* posts online a long story about the Edwards affair, hinting that **he might be preparing to admit publicly that he fathered Hunter's child.** It also talks of Edwards's early plans for a fake DNA test and marrying Hunter in New York with Dave Matthews performing, were Elizabeth Edwards to pass away. The story appears on page A1 of the Sunday paper.

8/19/09 The *Enquirer* reports that **Edwards is moving Hunter to a house in his neighborhood.**

10/10/07 The *Enquirer* reports that **Edwards is allegedly having an affair.**

10/10/07 The Huffington Post uncovers Hunter's deleted website, and notes that **Hunter once dated Jay McInerney** and was the basis for a character in his book *Story of My Life*.

9/20/09 The AP cites two unnamed advisers who say **the pressure came from "National Democratic Party leaders."**

9/19/09 The *Times*, citing anonymous sources, publishes a story on its website claiming that **the White House wants Paterson out** of the governor's race in New York in 2010; it runs on page A1 of the paper the next morning.

9/20/09 Speaking to reporters, Paterson says that **he is running for office** and won't discuss any conversations he has had about staying in the race.

9/20/09 *Newsday* and the *Post* reprint claims from a *Times* story the day before.

9/21/09 **OBAMA GIVES PATERSON THE SHOVE**

A NEW YORK *Times* article from two days earlier about the White House's attempt to kick Paterson out of the New York State governor's race fuels anticipation of President Obama's visit to Albany that morning. The *Times* reports that despite his public avowal, Governor Paterson is privately mulling withdrawal from the 2010 election. The *New York Post* reports that Paterson's August remarks about existing racial bias in the media were likely the catalyst for Obama's intervention. The *Daily News* quotes a Harlem resident who believes that Paterson should not run again. Obama's visit is dissected by the political blogs and covered in the evening news shows.

YELTSIN: DRUNK AND PANTLESS

AT 1 A.M., *USA Today* posts on its website an article about historian Taylor Branch's upcoming book, *The Clinton Tapes*. It includes Bill Clinton's recollection of a previously unreported incident from 1995: A drunk Boris Yeltsin had evaded his security detail and, wandering Pennsylvania Avenue in his underwear, attempted to hail a taxi in a search for pizza. The *Daily Beast* links to *USA Today* story, and it bounces around the blogosphere. Conan O'Brien jokes about it on the *Tonight Show*.



9/21/09 **ODDITY**

9/16/09 The *New York Daily News* reports that Branch's book will reveal that **Clinton wanted Hillary to be Al Gore's vice-president.**

9/16/09 GQ.com posts an interview with Taylor Branch in which he describes how he got involved in the project and his relationship with the Clintons.

9/14/09 The *New York Post* reports that Branch's book will reveal another tidbit: that **Jesse Jackson offered spiritual guidance to Chelsea Clinton** during the Monica Lewinsky affair.

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9/10/09 The Los Angeles *Times* reports plans to **replace support units in Afghanistan** with 14,000 "trigger-puller" combat troops.

8/31/09 McClatchy reports that the White House feels it was pressured to send 21,000 additional troops earlier in the year and quotes an anonymous military official saying that **General Jones told McChrystal not to ask for more.**

8/20/09 CBS News reports that McChrystal will recommend **15,000 to 45,000 more troops.**

8/10/09 The *Wall Street Journal* quotes McChrystal as saying that he has yet to decide on whether to request more troops, as well as sources who say **he has considered requesting as many as 40,000.**

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