



Just In...

Tampered Watergate door lock sells for \$62,500

[IN THE KNOW](#) — 2M 36S AGO

Poll: Melania Trump's popularity rating climbs 17 points since January

[ADMINISTRATION](#) — 7M 11S AGO

Will Omarosa land a book deal?

[IN THE KNOW](#) — 11M 23S AGO

The American dream is at stake if low-income earners can't own a home

[OPINION](#) — 16M 17S AGO

Democratic poll shows tax bill hurts GOP incumbents

[SENATE](#) — 18M 26S AGO

Tillerson returns to tough talk on North Korea at UN council

[INTERNATIONAL](#) — 23M 22S AGO

FBI chief's claim on surveillance abuse doesn't fit the evidence

[OPINION](#) — 26M 18S AGO

Some tax reform provisions might hurt universities, our country's overall competitiveness

[OPINION](#) — 31M 17S AGO

[VIEW ALL](#)

Trump 'strongly' objects to cyber provision in defense bill

BY MORGAN CHALFANT - 12/12/17 03:01 PM EST

48 SHARES



© Getty Images

President Trump is voicing strong objection to language in the defense policy bill that requires him to develop a national policy for cyberspace and cyberwarfare, charging that it and other provisions "raise constitutional concerns."

Trump issued a statement Tuesday afternoon, just hours after he [signed](#) the fiscal 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law, touting the signing as a step toward his goal of building up the U.S. military.

The provision in question [requires](#) the administration to set forth a national cyber policy that addresses the use of offensive cyber capabilities to respond to attacks in cyberspace. The law requires the administration to report the strategy to Congress and makes funding for the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) contingent on Trump doing so.

Trump argued in the statement released by the White House that the provision amounts to Congress holding "hostage" his ability to communicate on national security strategy going forward, saying the provision "threatens to undermine the effective operation of the Executive Office of the President."

"I take cyber-related issues very seriously, as demonstrated by Executive Order 13800, which has initiated strategic actions across executive departments and agencies that will improve the Nation's cyber-related capabilities," Trump said. "Among other things, WHCA plays a critical role in providing secure communications to the President and his staff."

"The Congress should not hold hostage the President's ability to communicate in furtherance of the Nation's security and foreign policy,"

he said. “I look forward to working with the Congress to address, as quickly as possible, this unprecedented and dangerous funding restriction.”

Cyber policy decisions have been a source of tension between the administration and members of Congress who have grown [frustrated](#) with a lack of comprehensive cyber policy from the Obama and now Trump administrations.

Previous iterations of the defense policy bill have included language that directed the executive branch to set a cyber warfare policy.

The original Senate-passed version of this year’s defense bill [included](#) a provision that set a distinct doctrine for cyber warfare, an effort spearheaded by Armed Services Committee Chair [John McCain](#) (R-Ariz.) that also sparked backlash from the White House.

That particular language was not ultimately included in the final compromise bill hashed out by lawmakers that passed the House and Senate in November.

Currently, cyber authorities are scattered across various federal bodies, including the Pentagon, Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice.

TAGS [DONALD TRUMP](#) [JOHN MCCAIN](#) [CYBER WARFARE](#)

