

Trump's Nomination for National Security Adviser

After the resignation of Michael T. Flynn, who only held the position for about a month, there were many questions regarding who would take his place as President Donald Trump's National Security Adviser. Just following Flynn's resignation, which came due to the controversy surrounding his potential connections to Russia, Keith Kellogg took over the position on an acting basis until Trump. He was later taken out of office and H.R. McMaster, who has held the position since February 20, took over.

On November 18, 2016, then-President-elect Donald Trump offered retired United States Army lieutenant general Michael T. Flynn the position mostly due to his stance on Islamist militancy, which, much like Trump, he saw as a global empirical hazard. On December 29 of the same year, around the same time that then-President Barack Obama removed suspected Russian intelligence operatives from the United States and imposed sanctions on Russia after the conclusion had been made that the country itself had ordered the hacking of the Democratic National Committee in an endeavor to tip the election to Trump, Flynn discussed these sanctions on a phone call with Sergey I. Kislyak, the Russian ambassador. This came at around the same time that then-President Barack Obama removed suspected Russian intelligence operatives from the United States and imposed sanctions on Russia. The conclusion was made that the country itself had ordered the hacking of the Democratic National Committee in an endeavor to tip the election to Trump.

On this phone call, Flynn never directly promised complete emancipation from these sanctions, but did leave a strong impression that the relief was possible. The goal of the phone call was to urge Russia not to retaliate Obama's actions in an attempt to keep a positive tie

between the two nations. He withheld information from Vice President Mike Pence about the phone call, but, despite this, on January 15, 2017, Pence defended Flynn's actions. On February 13, after weeks of conflict regarding the matter, Flynn resigned as National Security Adviser, leaving general Keith Kellogg to quickly step in and briefly take his place.

72-year-old retired lieutenant general Keith Kellogg became the Acting National Security Adviser on February 13, 2017, following Flynn's resignation. Kellogg was born in Ohio, was commissioned into the army through Army Reserve Officers Training Course at Santa Clara University, and served thirty-six years in the military before being appointed Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary of the United States National Security Council by Trump on December 15, 2016. Just a week after being named Acting National Security Adviser, Trump chose Herbert Raymond "H.R." McMaster on February 20, 2017.

52-year-old McMaster, a United States Army lieutenant general, was born in Philadelphia, graduated from military school in 1980, earned a commission as a second lieutenant upon graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and earned a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in American History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. On February 20, 2017, he became the twenty-sixth National Security Adviser of the United States. McMaster has stated that he "intends to remain on active duty while he serves as national security adviser." McMaster is widely respected by many government officials and military officials and many believe that he was an excellent choice to hold the position of National Security Adviser.

While Flynn's case is still being investigated, many believe that Trump has found a valuable and trustworthy person in McMaster to serve as National Security Adviser. Overall, the

Republican Party seems quite happy with Trump's decision, and it looks as though the United States has found someone whom many believe and hope to be a long-term, well-chosen, highly eligible individual to take on the position.