

Whistleblower Exposes Key Player in FBI Russia Probe It was all a Set-up

By Sara Carter |

Former DOD employee uncovered a long history of questionable behavior by FBI informant

Key player in Russia probe appears to have significant ties to Russian government



Adam Lovinger, a former Defense Department analyst, never expected that what he stumbled upon in the final months at the Pentagon would expose an integral player in the FBI's handling of President Trump's campaign and alleged Russia collusion.

Lovinger, a whistleblower, is now battling to save his career. The Pentagon suspended his security clearance May 1, 2017, when he exposed through an internal review that Stefan Halper, then an emeritus Cambridge professor, had received roughly \$1 million in tax-payer funded money to write Defense Department foreign policy reports, his attorney Sean Bigley said. Before Lovinger's clearance was suspended, he had taken a detail to the National Security Council as senior director for strategy. He was only there for a few months before he was recalled to the Pentagon, stripped of his prestigious White House detail, and ordered to do bureaucratic make-work in a Pentagon annex Bigley calls "the land of misfit toys." His security clearance was eventually revoked in March 2018, despite the Pentagon "refusing to turn over a single page of its possession of evidence of Lovinger's wrongdoing," Bigley stated. Conservative watchdog group, Judicial Watch, recently filed a federal lawsuit against the Defense Department to obtain the withheld records.

Lovinger also raised concerns about Halper's role in conducting what appeared to be diplomacy with foreigners on behalf of the U.S. government because his role as contractor forbids him from doing so according to U.S. federal law.

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An investigation by SaraACarter.com reveals that the documents and information Lovinger stumbled upon, and documents obtained by this news site, raise troubling questions about Halper, who was believed to be part of the CIA and part of the matrix of players in the bureau's 'CrossFire Hurricane' investigation into Trump's presidential campaign. Halper, who assisted the FBI in the Russia investigation, appears to also have ties to the Russian government, as well as sources connected directly to President Vladimir Putin.

Halper did not respond to requests for comment.

Mr. Lovinger simply did what all Americans should expect of our civil servants

"When Mr. Lovinger raised concerns about DoD's misuse of Stefan Halper in 2016, he did so without designs or knowledge of Mr. Halper's spying activities," Bigley told SaraACarter.com. "Instead, Mr. Lovinger did what all Americans should expect of our civil servants: he reported violations of law and a gross waste of funds to his superiors."

And for that, Bigley said, Lovinger has paid the ultimate price in his 12-year career as a strategist in the Office of Net Assessment. According to Bigley, shortly after Lovinger began reporting and asking questions about suspicious contracts given to Halper and others, including one person closely associated with Chelsea Clinton, his security clearance was suspended. Later, on April 3, 2018, the DoD's Washington Headquarters Secretary Barbara Westgate sent a letter to Lovinger indefinitely suspending him from duty and pay status after he was removed in March. The letter stated, "The purpose of this memorandum is to notify you that I am indefinitely suspending you from duty and pay status in your position as a Foreign Affairs Specialist."

Lovinger, who is married with three children and is the family's primary breadwinner, has been living on the generosity of family members since his pay was removed.

The retaliation for whistleblowing was something Bigley expected. "So, we weren't surprised when I was moved shortly thereafter to strip Mr. Lovinger of both his security clearance and his detail to the National Security Council, where he had been Senior Director for Strategy as a by-name request of the incoming Trump Administration," said the attorney.

"Yet, we were puzzled by the unprecedented ferocity of efforts to discredit Mr. Lovinger, including leaking false and defamatory information to the press," he said. "Our assumption was that the other contract that Mr. Lovinger explicitly raised concerns – a close confidante of Hillary Clinton – was the reason for the assault on Mr. Lovinger, and that certainly may have played a role."

Mr. Lovinger unwittingly shined a spotlight on the deep state's secret weapon

Bigley suspects it was more than the Clinton-connected contracts adding, "Mr. Lovinger unwittingly shined a spotlight on the deep state's secret weapon – Stefan Halper – and threatened to expose the truth about the Trump-Russia collusion narrative than being plotted: that it was all a set-up."

Halper's Ties to Russian Officials Raise Serious Questions

Halper has had a long career and worked in government with several GOP administrations. At 73, the professor spent a career developing top-level government connections—not just through academia but his work with members of the intelligence apparatus.

Those contacts and the information Halper collected along the way would eventually, through apparent circumstance, become utilized by the FBI against the Trump campaign. But, it was during his time at the Cambridge Intelligence Seminar at the University of Cambridge where Halper shifted from a professor to a government consultant to FBI informant on the Trump campaign.

In 2016, Halper was an integral part of the FBI's investigation into short-term Trump campaign adviser Michael Page. Halper first made contact with Page at his seminar in July 2016. Page, who was already on the FBI's radar, was accused of being sympathetic to Russia and sought better relations between the U.S. and Russian officials. Halper stayed in contact with Page until September 2017.

During that time, the FBI sought and obtained a warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to spy on Page and used Halper to collect information on him, according to sources. The House Intelligence Committee Russia report and documents obtained by this outlet revealed that the bulk of the warrant relied heavily on an unverified dossier compiled by Former British Spy Christopher Steele and the report was under congressional investigation. Steele, who was a former MI6 agent, also had ties to many of the attendees, like former MI6 chief Sir Richard Dearlove, who were part of the seminar.

Stefan Halper

Halper, along with Dearlove, left the Cambridge Intelligence Seminar in December 2016, saying they were concerned about Russian influence. Halper had told reporters at the time that it was due to “unacceptable Russian influence.”

Ironically, documents obtained by SaraACarter.com suggest that Halper also had invited senior Russian officials to co-teach his course on several occasions and, according to news reports, also accepted the course from a top Russian oligarch with ties to Putin.

Several course syllabi from 2012 and 2015 obtained by this outlet reveal Halper had invited and co-taught the course on intelligence with the former Director of Russian Intelligence Gen. Vladimir I. Trubnikov.

On May 4, 2012, the course syllabus states, “Ambassador Vladimir I. Trubnikov will comment on the challenges he faced while directing the Foreign Intelligence Service, his tenure as Ambassador to India, President Obama's likely course of Russia's relations with Britain and the U.S.”

In May 2015, Trubnikov returned to teach with Halper at his seminar in Cambridge on “current relations between the Russian Federation and the West.” Other notable intelligence experts attended the event in 2015, in

Gen. Peter Williams, a former British commander of the mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany.

Halper's partner in the seminar, Cambridge Professor Neil Kent has also espoused better relations with Putin in his writings and told Russia Today in a 2014 interview that "everyone is attacking and demonizing Putin." According to Kent's biography, he was a professor from 2002 to 2012 at Russia's St. Petersburg State Institute.

Even more interesting are reports from the British Media outlet, The Financial Times, that state Halper funds for the Cambridge seminar from Russian billionaire Andrey Cheglakov, who has close ties to President Vladimir Putin. Cheglakov also [funded Veruscript](#) in 2016, which raised the suspicion of those connected to the seminar. Veruscript, a publisher for a Russian academic journal, was suspected being a front for Russian intelligence. Kent also happened to be the editor and chief of the journal. His inaugural article in the journal "The Journal of Intelligence and Terrorism" blaming the West for the move into Crimea but the journal [closed down](#) due to their suspicions.

Dearlove was also concerned "that Russia may be seeking to use the seminar as an impeccably credible platform to covertly steer debate and opinion on high-level sensitive defense and security topics," according to Financial Times sources.

A former senior intelligence official told this news outlet, "It's all smoke and mirrors. Halper was in London when he was bringing in Trubnikov in 2012 that the Russians were already there at his invitation. He uses Halper to get more information on Trump aides but it's Halper who has the real connection to Russia."

Lovinger raised concerns with top officials at the Pentagon in 2016 and noted that Halper was doing his work as a contractor after he discovered that the amount of money the professor was being paid for did not make sense. Lovinger stressed his concern that Halper was not just being utilized as a contractor but was also conducting diplomatic work for the Pentagon "in violation of federal law," according to Bigle.

In one email from Stephan Halper to Andrew May, the second highest ranking official in Lovinger's command, he writes about a planned trip to conduct meetings in India.

"I am in Cambridge en route to India – arriving Saturday. So far 14 meetings have been scheduled with members of the political-military community. On Monday, a meeting is planned with the Delhi Policy Group with Brigadier Seghal who is, apparently working with ONA (Office of Net Assessment) Can you tell me about him," according to the document obtained by SaraACarter.com.

Halper and George Papadopoulos

Halper was not only spying on Page for the FBI in 2016, but he had also made contact in September with another Trump campaign volunteer, George Papadopoulos. He invited Papadopoulos to London luring him with a \$3,000 paycheck to work on a research paper under contract. By this time the young campaign volunteer had already been in contact with London-based professor, Josef Mifsud, who had been telling him that the Russians had damaging material about Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. This has also come into question by Congress.

Eventually, Papadopoulos was swept into Robert Mueller's Special Counsel investigation and pled guilty on a count of lying to the FBI. His wife, Simona Papadopoulos, who's been a vocal advocate for her husband, told SaraACarter.com that essentially he was forced to plead guilty because of threats from Mueller's team to cut off his financial resources.

After testifying behind closed doors last month to the House Intelligence Committee, Simona told that she testified to Congress "as far as George is concerned, he met with individuals following the same pattern of behavior....and all of a sudden (Halper) was asking if he was doing anything with Russians.... This is Halper, who is now proven to be a spy, possibly with (Australian Ambassador) Alexander Downer" whom she met with in London.

Halper and Michael Flynn

Before Page and Papadopoulos, there was the former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency Army Major General Michael Flynn. Flynn had been invited to Cambridge in February, 2014 for a dinner hosted by both Halper and Page.

The investigation into Trump didn't start with Page or George Papadapolous, but with Flynn

But during that time, Flynn was already walking a fine line with the Obama Administration and battling Obama and the CIA over his deep disagreement with the administration's narrative that al-Qaeda and its groups, had been defeated or were on the run. Several months later Flynn was forced to resign early in his tenure as the director of the DIA.

Stefan Halper

"Flynn was pushed out by Obama and then became a thorn in the side of Obama and the Clintons in the Trump campaign," said a former senior intelligence source with knowledge of what happened. "The investigation into Trump didn't start with Carter Page or George Papadapolous, but with Flynn. Flynn was already on the Clinton target list. Those same people sure as hell didn't want him in the White House and they sure as hell want Trump to win."

Flynn's career with Trump ended as quickly as it came. He was forced to resign as Trump's National Security Advisor 27 days after taking the job. The highly classified conversation between Flynn and former Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak was leaked to the Washington Post in January 2017 and he was later questioned about the conversation. According to former FBI Director James Comey, the agents who interviewed Flynn did not believe he was lying, but in the end, Flynn pled guilty to one count of lying to Special Counsel Robert Mueller. He

spent more than \$1 million in lawyers fees and sold his home to help with the debt. According to sources, his family was being threatened by the Mueller team.

Halper's involvement in the bureau's investigation started much earlier than the FBI's opening of its investigation into the Trump campaign on July 31, 2016. He was already providing information on Paul Manafort, Papadopolous, and Flynn earlier that year.

And it was in 2016 when Halper had told the FBI that he witnessed concerning interactions between an academic, Svetlana Lokhova, and Flynn at the February 2014 seminar dinner. This suspicion – which was then leaked to papers in London and eventually discussed in the U.S. media. Lokhova told the [New York Times](#) in [2017](#) that when she first saw the allegations raised in the media she thought it was a joke.

Numerous sources with knowledge of the allegations Halper made about Flynn, said that they were unfounded and that Flynn and Lokhova only spoke for a short time at the dinner. Several email exchanges between Flynn and his assistant that took place after the dinner were generic in nature, as Flynn had asked for a historical 1930s postcard she had brought to the seminar.

"But it didn't matter that it wasn't the truth," said the former senior intelligence official. "It was already believed because of Halper's allegations and the constant leaking and lying of false stories of those to the media."