

Biden's Pentagon Transition Team Members Funded by the Arms Industry

Investigation found one third of the team worked for organizations that receive funding from weapons makers

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On Tuesday, Joe Biden released a list of transition teams for the various departments in his future White House. [The Pentagon transition team](#) for Biden consists of 23 people, many of whom hail from hawkish think tanks.

The team is led by [Kathleen Hicks](#), who worked in the Pentagon under the Obama administration. Hicks most recent employer is the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a think tank that [receives contributions from arms makers](#) like Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon, to name a few.

CSIS also receives contributions from governments. [The think tank's top government donors](#) are the US, the UAE, Taiwan, and Japan. Two other CSIS employees are on the transition team; [Andrew Hunter](#) and [Melissa Dalton](#), who both worked in the Pentagon under the Obama administration.

CSIS employees author policy papers and Op-Eds that generally call for more US involvement around the world. In August, Hicks [co-authored an Op-Ed in The Hill](#) titled, "Pentagon Action to Withdraw from Germany Benefits Our Adversaries," a piece that slammed Trump's plan to draw down troops from Germany, [which Biden could to call off](#).

Two members of the transition team come from the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), [Susanna Blume](#), a former Pentagon employee, and [Ely Ratner](#), who served as deputy national security advisor to then-vice president Joe Biden from 2015 to 2017.

CNAS is another think tank that enjoys hefty donations from weapons makers, major corporations, and governments. From 2019 to 2020, CNAS [received at least \\$500,000 from the US State Department and at least \\$500,000 from Northrop Grumman](#). Other donors include Google, Facebook, Raytheon, and Lockheed Martin.

Three more team members list their latest employer as the RAND Corporation, [Stacie Pettyjohn](#), a wargaming expert, [Christine Wormuth](#), who held a few roles in the Obama administration, and [Terri Tanielian](#), a behavioral scientist.

RAND is another hawkish think tank that [receives the bulk of its funding from the US government](#), including the US Army, Air Force, and Department of Homeland Security. RAND is also funded by the UAE, Qatar, and NATO.

[A report from *In These Times*](#) found at least eight out of the 23 team members come from organizations that receive funding from US weapons makers (not including RAND). Besides the CSIS and CNAS employees listed above, *In These Times* includes [Sharon Burke](#), who works for New America, Shawn Skelly, from [CACI International](#), and Victor Garcia, from [Rebellion Defense](#).

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