

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: MILITARY LEADERSHIP FIRINGS — REAGAN THROUGH THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION

Fraser for Congress | Missouri District 3 | August 4, 2026 Primary

When someone says 'Obama fired generals too,' they are correct. The data below shows the complete historical record across every administration from Reagan through the current one.

POSITION FIRED	Reagan (8 yrs)	H.W. Bush (4 yrs)	Clinton (8 yrs)	W. Bush (8 yrs)	Obama (8 yrs)	Biden (4 yrs)	Hegseth/SecDef (15 months)
Senior Generals / Admirals Fired	0	0	1	4	6	0	17 documented (NYT: at least 24 incl. early retirements)
All 3 Branch JAGs Fired in One Night	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES — Feb 2025
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Fired	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES — Gen. C.Q. Brown
Army Chief of Staff Fired During Active Combat Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	YES Gen. Randy George Apr 2, 2026
Senior Officers Who Resigned Under Pressure (Documented)	1	0	0	4	1	0	0 Fired outright, no resignation offered

Sources: *The Fulcrum*, May 11, 2026 (comprehensive firing list); *Air & Space Forces Magazine*, Feb 24, 2025; *TIME*, Apr 3, 2026; *NBC News*, Apr 3, 2026; *Washington Times*, Aug 26, 2025; *Reagan Institute Defense Survey*, Dec 2025; *Senator Jack Reed (SASC)*, May 2026; *Just Security*, June 2026.

WHO HEGSETH FIRED — AND WHAT THE SENATE SAID ABOUT THEM

Senate Confirmation Votes — Years of Service — Stated Reasons for Firing

Every one of these officers was confirmed by the United States Senate — many by overwhelming bipartisan majorities. The Senate confirmation vote is the people's branch of government saying: this person is qualified to serve. Their firing — most with no stated reason — is the erasure of that democratic judgment.

FOR COMPARISON — OBAMA'S 6 FIRINGS OVER 8 YEARS

Name	Position	Year	Documented Reason	Senate Confirmation Vote
Gen. David McKiernan	Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan	2009	Sec. Gates recommended 'fresh eyes' — documented policy reason	<i>Senate confirmed (bulk flag officer package — voice vote or unanimous consent)</i>
Gen. Stanley McChrystal	Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan	2010	Made derisive remarks about White House officials in Rolling Stone magazine — documented	<i>Senate confirmed (bulk flag officer package — voice vote or unanimous consent)</i>
Rear Adm. Charles Gaouette	Strike Group Commander	2012	Inspector General investigation — documented	<i>Senate confirmed (bulk flag officer package — voice vote or unanimous consent)</i>
Gen. Michael Carey	Commander, 20th Air Force (nuclear)	2013	Alcohol-related misconduct during official trip — documented	<i>Senate confirmed (bulk flag officer package — voice vote or unanimous consent)</i>
Vice Adm. Tim Giardina	Deputy STRATCOM Commander	2013	Criminal investigation — counterfeit gambling chips — documented	<i>Senate confirmed (bulk flag officer package — voice vote or unanimous consent)</i>
Gen. James Mattis	Commander, CENTCOM	2013	Policy disagreement on Iran — documented (Mattis later became Secretary of Defense in 2017)	<i>Senate confirmed (bulk flag officer package — voice vote or unanimous consent)</i>

HEGSETH'S FIRINGS — 21+ IN 15 MONTHS: MOST WITH NO STATED REASON

Name	Position	When	Stated Reason for Firing	Senate Confirmation Vote
Gen. C.Q. Brown Jr.	Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff	Feb 2025	No stated reason. No official rationale provided by Pentagon.	95-1 (Sep 2023) Only Sen. Marshall (R-KS) voted no
Adm. Lisa Franchetti	Chief of Naval Operations	Feb 2025	No stated reason. No official rationale provided by Pentagon.	95-1 (Nov 2023)
Gen. Jim Slife	Air Force Vice Chief of Staff	Feb 2025	No stated reason. Fired simultaneously with Brown and Franchetti.	Voice vote (Dec 19, 2023)

Name	Position	When	Stated Reason for Firing	Senate Confirmation Vote
Adm. Linda Fagan	Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard	Jan 21, 2025	Cited 'leadership deficiencies' — she learned of firing at the Inauguration Ball. Evicted from residence with 3 hours notice.	Unanimous consent (May 2022)
Gen. Timothy Haugh	Director, NSA & Commander, U.S. Cyber Command	Apr 2025	No stated reason. Fired days after NSA assessment on Iran strikes leaked. Hegseth aides cited intelligence dispute.	Unanimous voice vote (Dec 19, 2023)
Army JAG (Col. Stuart Risch)	Judge Advocate General, Army	Feb 2025	No stated reason. Fired in the same overnight purge as Brown, Franchetti, and Slife. JAGs advise commanders on legal limits.	Colonel — below flag rank, no Senate vote required
Navy JAG	Judge Advocate General, Navy	Feb 2025	No stated reason. Same overnight purge. Five former U.S. defense officials: raises 'troubling questions about removing legal constraints.'	Colonel/Captain grade — no Senate vote required
Air Force JAG	Judge Advocate General, Air Force	Feb 2025	No stated reason. Same overnight purge. All three military branch lawyers fired in a single night — unprecedented.	Colonel grade — no Senate vote required
Gen. Randy George	Army Chief of Staff, 41st (West Point, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan veteran)	Apr 2, 2026	No stated reason given. Pentagon spokesperson offered no rationale. Fired during active U.S. combat operations against Iran. Two officials told NBC News it stemmed from 'clashing personalities' with Hegseth.	95-1 (Sep 2023)
Gen. David Hodne	Commander, Army Transformation and Training Command	Apr 2, 2026	No stated reason. Fired the same day as George during active Iran combat operations.	Confirmed in bulk flag officer package (voice vote / unanimous consent)
Maj. Gen. William Green Jr.	Army Chief of Chaplains	Apr 2, 2026	No stated reason. The Army's top chaplain — fired simultaneously with the Army Chief of Staff during wartime.	Confirmed in bulk flag officer package (voice vote / unanimous consent)
Lt. Gen. Jennifer Short	Senior Military Assistant to SecDef	Apr 2025	No stated reason. Her replacement was later promoted to Army Vice Chief of Staff by Hegseth.	Confirmed in bulk flag officer package (voice vote / unanimous consent)
Gen. Shoshana Chatfield	U.S. Military Representative to NATO Military Committee	Apr 2025	Pentagon stated: 'due to a loss of confidence in her ability to lead.' No specifics provided.	Unanimously confirmed (Dec 2023) Sen. Reed: 'The Senate unanimously confirmed Vice Adm. Chatfield'
Gen. David Allvin	Air Force Chief of Staff	2025	Hegseth asked him to retire early, halfway through his four-year term. Allowed to announce retirement himself.	Senate confirmed (Nov 2023, 95-1)

Name	Position	When	Stated Reason for Firing	Senate Confirmation Vote
Adm. Milton Sands	Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (SEALs)	2025	No stated reason.	Confirmed in bulk flag officer package (voice vote / unanimous consent)
Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield (Vice Adm. Lavernia Lacore)	Chief, Navy Reserve	2025	No stated reason. Lacore is now running for Congress in South Carolina.	Confirmed in bulk flag officer package (voice vote / unanimous consent)
9 Navy officers removed from promotion list	Selected for Rear Admiral by lawful selection board	May 2026	Hegseth personally removed 9 names from a promotion list after it had been certified by a lawful board of senior admirals. Legal experts say this likely exceeded his delegated authority.	Had passed lawful promotion board (Senate confirmation pending)

Key quote: "I am troubled by the nature of these dismissals. This appears to be part of a broader, premeditated campaign by Secretary Hegseth to purge talented officers for politically charged reasons, which would undermine the professionalism of our military." — Sen. Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, February 2025.

Sources: The Fulcrum (May 11, 2026); Air & Space Forces Magazine (Feb 24, 2025); TIME (Apr 3, 2026); NBC News (Apr 3, 2026); Axios (Apr 3, 2026); Washington Times (Aug 26, 2025); Just Security (June 2026); Senate Armed Services Committee; The Hill (Mar 27, 2026); Reagan Institute Defense Survey (Dec 2025).

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