

Talking Points: Reject Heather Wilson As Air Force Secretary

Donald Trump promised to drain the swamp in Washington, DC. Instead, he added to the muck by nominating Heather Wilson to be the next Air Force Secretary.

- According to two Department of Energy Inspector General reports, ex-congresswoman Heather Wilson entered into a contract with the Sandia National Laboratories while she was still in office. Sandia, which was in her district, started paying her \$10,000 a month the day after she stepped down from Congress. She then went on to get a similar contract with the Los Alamos National Laboratory, also for \$10,000 a month. These contracts were for “consulting services” that had no written work requirements, and her billing justifications did “not meet even minimum standards” for federal payments.^{1 2}
- DOE made both labs pay the government back the ~\$430,000 they paid Wilson. There is no public record of her paying back one red cent.
- According to an article by the Center for Public Integrity, Wilson was in effect double-dipping, being paid by both LANL and Sandia to be at the same meetings. The Center’s article also links to damning emails exchanged between Wilson and the manager of Sandia Labs, the defense giant Lockheed Martin, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.³
- Contrary to Wilson’s denials, a Washington Post article quoted DOE Inspector General Gregory Friedman (now retired) as saying that Wilson was “deeply, deeply involved” in illegal lobbying efforts by Lockheed Martin to extend its \$2.4 billion Sandia management contract without competition.⁴ Lockheed subsequently paid a pittance of \$4.7 million to settle those charges with the Department of Justice.

Bottom line: As Air Force Secretary, Heather Wilson would oversee Lockheed Martin’s problem-plagued \$1 trillion dollar F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, and other contracts with the

¹ *Concerns with Consulting Contract Administration at Various Department Sites* (DOE/IG-0889), June 7, 2013, <http://energy.gov/ig/downloads/inspection-report-doeig-0889>

² *Special Inquiry: Alleged Attempts by Sandia National Laboratories to Influence Congress and Federal Officials on a Contract Extension* (DOE/IG-0927), Nov. 7, 2014, <https://energy.gov/ig/downloads/special-inquiry-doeig-0927>

³ *Trump pick for Air Force boss frustrated auditors with lucrative, murky consulting for nuclear weapons labs*, Patrick Malone & R. Jeffrey Lewis, February 28, 2017, <https://www.publicintegrity.org/2017/02/28/20740/trump-pick-air-force-boss-frustrated-auditors-lucrative-murky-consulting-nuclear>

⁴ *IG: Energy contractor and ex-lawmaker lobbied officials for no-bid contract worth \$2.4 billion per year*, Josh Hicks, November 12, 2014, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/federal-eye/wp/2014/11/12/report-energy-contractor-and-former-lawmaker-lobbied-officials-for-no-bid-contract-worth-2-4-billion-per-year/>

world's largest defense contractor. Heather Wilson was a paid consultant for the Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin. In order to keep the Sandia Labs contract without competition, Lockheed Martin's Sandia Corporation violated federal anti-lobbying laws, in which the DOE Inspector General said Wilson was heavily involved (but she denies). Because of this clear conflict of interests and skirting of federal anti-lobbying law, **the Senate should help drain the swamp by rejecting Heather Wilson's nomination as Air Force Secretary.**