

# Facebook hires spooks, too

 [cnav.news/2022/12/19/accountability/news-media/facebook-hire-spooks/](https://cnav.news/2022/12/19/accountability/news-media/facebook-hire-spooks/)

By Terry A. Hurlbut

December 19, 2022



The yen for investigative journalism seems to have caught on. The provocative Twitter Files series by the team of Matt Taibbi, Bari Weiss, and Mike Shellenberger has inspired others. One of these, who won't share his name even in the account name, decided to investigate Facebook. (The "he/him/his" pronouns are tentative; CNAV follows the convention of using masculine third-person singular pronouns when the gender of a living thing, especially a human being, is not clear.) Using the simplest publicly available tools, he found at least 115 former intelligence officers working at Facebook! In a sixty-tweet thread, he gave the details last night.

## The (unofficial) Facebook Files

Here is the thread:

2. All, but a few, of the former intelligence agents were hired, by Facebook after the 2016 Presidential Election & after the FBI established their social media-focused task force FTIF.

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

4. The following is a list (obtained through PUBLICLY available LinkedIn profiles) of former CIA/FBI/NSA/DHS that are currently working at Facebook, at least 10 work in the Trust & Safety (Misinfo) department. Many of the LinkedIn profiles are private so those will not be posted.

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

6. Aaron states that his experience at the CIA included writing President's Daily Brief, leading briefings for Cabinet members, senior NSC officials & members of Congress. [pic.twitter.com/34IINwG6yq](https://pic.twitter.com/34IINwG6yq)

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

8. Aaron admits to specific Facebook campaigns where he tackles "misinfo."

Re: COVID19, they allow 'health authorities' to guide what Facebook should label as misinformation <https://t.co/m8QwEWuq2Y> <https://t.co/KGZ0RsJRDg>  
[pic.twitter.com/rkfz7W9ujV](https://pic.twitter.com/rkfz7W9ujV)

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

10. Aaron discusses in detail the lengths Facebook goes to in censoring what they deem as COVID19 misinfo, specifically on Vaccines [pic.twitter.com/h6AZBi98k3](https://pic.twitter.com/h6AZBi98k3)

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

12. Brazil Election misinfo  
censorship. <https://t.co/gKZ93FyUO3> <https://t.co/PjSSJUDURX>  
[pic.twitter.com/RZmLdRrgCA](https://pic.twitter.com/RZmLdRrgCA)

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

14. Russia/Ukraine War misinfo  
censorship. <https://t.co/3pEJArNzik> <https://t.co/nrVa0mT4Ts>  
[pic.twitter.com/UC0RTC3W2w](https://pic.twitter.com/UC0RTC3W2w)

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

16. "As a current combatant against misinfo and former intelligence officer" <https://t.co/3pEJArNzik> <https://t.co/rUqfAbST8a> [pic.twitter.com/WcYHmHfyHE](https://pic.twitter.com/WcYHmHfyHE)

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

18. Deborah B. (She/Her). Current Facebook Trust & Safety. Former CIA Analyst 15 years. <https://t.co/kYrRpZqPj6>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

20. Bryan Weisbard. Current Facebook Trust & Safety. Formerly 9 years of “multiple senior level leadership positions in US Government Intelligence Community.” Former Twitter Online Safety & Security Analysis 4 years. Former Youtube Trust & Safety 1 year. <https://t.co/8Y4nn7RFHx> [pic.twitter.com/s39CD2omAo](https://pic.twitter.com/s39CD2omAo)

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

22. Jeff Lazarus. Current Facebook Trust & Safety. Former Apple Trust & Safety 1 year. Former Google Trust & Safety 4 years. Former CIA 5 years. <https://t.co/IUF4rxB8rl>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

24. Jason Barry. Current Facebook Trust & Safety Manager. Former DHS 7 years. <https://t.co/YcooyyPXFT>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

26. Sandeep A. (He/Him). Current Senior Investigator Trust & Safety. Former NSA SIGINT Lead Analyst 4 years. <https://t.co/7CfiAYeuan>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

28. Brian Kelley. Current Facebook Law Enforcement Outreach Manager. Former FBI 7 years. <https://t.co/4SPbSpwFHJ>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

30. Shawn Turskey. Current Facebook Global Director Security Investigations. Former NSA 19 years. Former US Cyber Command 4 years. <https://t.co/2ORTIGbfyU>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

32. Corey Ponder. Current Facebook Senior Strategist. Former Policy Consultant DHS 7 months. Former CIA 6 years. Former Policy Advisor Google 2 years. <https://t.co/yX5sFbBXJ2>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

34. Nick Lovrien (He/Him). Current Facebook Chief Global Security. Current Board Director US State Department. Former CIA 5 years. <https://t.co/jxiSmnLBSo>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

36. Andi Allen (She/Her). Current Facebook Senior Technical Recruiter. Current “Talent Partner” for <https://t.co/WeggKVwQhr> . Former CIA 4 years.  
<https://t.co/nlz2Oh05uV>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

38. Keith Pridgen. Current Facebook Program Manager. Former NSA 2 years. Former US Navy Information Warfare Officer 7 years. <https://t.co/pz5Wu0iwJ8>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

40. Jerrod Lowmaster. Current Facebook/Instagram Data Scientist. Former NSA 5 years. <https://t.co/F6rZh98IIX>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

42. Michael Khbeis (He/Him). Current Facebook Director of Operations. Former NSA 10 years. <https://t.co/7CkupWNj8Y>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

44. Eric Gonzalez. Current Facebook Systems Project Manager. Former NSA 3 years. Former US Navy Cryptologic Warfare Officer 2 years. <https://t.co/g5rGt740JC>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

46. Brian McFarland (He/Him). Current Facebook Security Partner. Former NSA Cryptographer 3 years. <https://t.co/oztwwozWtU>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

48. Steve Goldman. Current Facebook Acute Issue Management. Former FBI 26 years. <https://t.co/dynQNqKNyY>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

50. Steven S. Current Facebook Director & Associate General Counsel. Former DOJ Trial Attorney 5 years. Former FBI Deputy General Counsel 8 years.  
<https://t.co/RvR7duNqdg>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

52. Tromila Maile. Current Facebook FIU Investigator. Former FBI Intelligence Analyst 3 years. <https://t.co/wrctiE31ml>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

54. Jeffrey K. Van Nest. Current Facebook In-House Counsel. Former FBI 20 years.  
<https://t.co/1eYcr13LgJ>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

56. Leo M. Current Facebook Threat Investigator. Former FBI 7 years. Former DOD 4 years.  
<https://t.co/gCFHHRPb8x>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

58. Anthony S. Current Facebook Business Integrity Specialist. Former FBI 8 years.  
<https://t.co/jX9wA5sifA>

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

60. Reminder- All of these Facebook employees publicly list their work experience. I've labeled their names "as listed" on their LinkedIn Profiles.

Anyone can do a simple LinkedIn search & find the same.

Current Company Facebook/META. Past Company FBI/CIA/DHS/NSA. 115 results.

— Name Redacted (@NameRedacted247) [December 19, 2022](#)

Notice that Facebook hired most of these employees *after* the Election of 2016 and *after* the FBI established its Foreign Influence Task Force. As one user noticed right away:

It's pretty clear that there was a concerted, cross-platform, hiring operation in 2016 to put into place what would essentially become human middleware in a permanent state operation to undermine popular democratic process in the US.

This isn't left vs right—it's wrong vs right.

— John Reston 🔥🔥 (@John\_Reston\_II) [December 19, 2022](#)

Clearly the "Intelligence Community" determined from the moment Donald Trump stood on a stage, with Jerry Goldsmith's main title theme from *Air Force One* playing to herald him, that they would have that man *out of the White House as soon as possible*. Hence his impeachment – and the censorship campaign.

Several users pointed out the relationship between government and "technology," like this one:

Our government adapted to technology by imbedding itself within relevant companies, it seems. It's how the authoritarians maintain control over us as they steer our country toward communism.

How about Google and Apple? 🙄

— Julia 🇺🇸 (@Jules31415) [December 19, 2022](#)

One person asked, “But I thought you were all pro-law enforcement!” That’s actually a contradiction, and ignores the difference between legitimate law enforcement and tyranny.

Wait, \*we\* thought \*you\* were \*against\* law enforcement – defund the police, etc. Ah, but this is about federalizing the police, and arresting those who disagree with you, is it not?

— Declarations of Truth 🇺🇸 (@DecTruth) [December 19, 2022](#)

At least some know to ask the right questions:

I think many are missing the larger concern- what is true purpose of social media and what is the government doing with the massive personal information we readily provide them through these platforms?

Isn't fairly obvious now they mine it and create campaigns to control us?

— KD (@KHDoucette) [December 19, 2022](#)

At least one person claims a possible harm from the Facebook and intelligence community association.

Of all the tweets today, this one personally impacts me the most. I'm new to Twitter. Joined 2.0. FB is where I've been expressing my views – ALOT! How do we find out if FB/FBI has been meddling in our personal lives? My career has been impacted tremendously these past 2 yrs

— theDONofECON (@don\_th3\_dragon) [December 19, 2022](#)

This user notes that many of these people have Twitter accounts – and Yoel Roth follows them.

Yeah, Yoel Roth follows a bunch of them. [pic.twitter.com/YWNVwlLwtJ](https://pic.twitter.com/YWNVwlLwtJ)

— Owen Gregorian (@OwenGregorian) [December 19, 2022](#)

Of course, Mark Zuckerberg supports this activity at Facebook with a whole heart.

The situation at Facebook/Meta is far worse because unlike Zuckerberg is fully on board with these practices. We already know he was directly coordinating with Fauci and D Party operative, Vanita Gupta. Plus, he personally pumped money into shenanigans like ballot harvesting.

— Raj S (@rajeshxsingh) [December 19, 2022](#)

Two other users suggest this has been going on for much longer, and connect it with Operation Mockingbird at CIA.

Facebook was always a CIA operation. The founding stories are lies

— Ronald Arguello (@ronaldarguello) [December 19, 2022](#)

Why is this a surprise? Just read declassified documents of Operation Mockingbird from decades ago. We have former cia and dni directors propagandizing on msnbc and cnn prime time for last 7 years. Intelligence apparatus have been infiltrating media for decades.

— radboy (@JasonRadboy) [December 19, 2022](#)

## Analysis

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So what *about* Google and Apple? One might as well ask about Amazon, also.

The worst problem with Facebook is that many companies actually use Facebook for leader-team communications. The evidence of this thread suggests that the U.S. intelligence community can see those communications. Any company that asks its staff (full-time, part-time or seasonal) to use Facebook for team comms should ask itself: do we want the FBI or other alphabet-soup agencies to see our orders to team members, or team members' messages to one another?

Now we know why President Trump proposed a seven-day moratorium before anyone retiring from intelligence work hires on at Facebook. Or at any other Big Tech firm or other social medium. This problem goes further than the intelligence community betraying a sitting President, or affecting Presidential or other elections. Might we see a private “team leader” get a call from the FBI:

We thought you ought to know that one of your associates, who is out there representing your company in public, likes to dabble in mis/dis/malinformation elsewhere on Facebook, and other places besides.

And anyone who works at such a company must now ask himself how private his “own time” still is. Suddenly the [Parallel Economy](#) looks more attractive than ever.