



## **MS4G Messaging Guidance: Illegal Weaponization of the National Archives against Mikie Sherrill by the Trump administration and the Jack Ciattarelli campaign**

### **BACKGROUND:**

[The National Archives under the Trump administration released Mikie's full, unredacted Navy personnel file at the request of Jack Ciattarelli's operative.](#) This file includes her Social Security Number, her personal insurance records, and her home address. This brazenly illegal act occurred after Donald Trump fired the nonpartisan professional head of the National Archives along with the Inspector General and handpicked Marco Rubio as the new head of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and installed a Trump political appointee as Rubio's senior advisor. The National Archives has numerous processes in place to prevent the release of these documents, which are only releasable to the individual or next of kin, and there are additional steps required to provide information about Members of Congress.

According to [CBS reporting](#), all of these procedures were violated. In response to a request from Jack Ciattarelli's operative, NARA improperly retrieved Mikie Sherrill's Social Security number without her permission.

It's hard to overstate how abnormal and dangerous this is for the National Archives, an institution that should be apolitical. This is an attempt to smear Mikie's name in regards to a widely reported story that took place when Mikie was an undergraduate at the Naval Academy 30 years ago. She went on to graduate, was commissioned as a Naval officer, and served honorably for nearly a decade. The Navy has commended Mikie's service over and over again.

Please help us underscore the illegal and dangerous nature of these leaks, highlight Jack's cowardice in attacking a Navy veteran for her service, and dispel any false information about Mikie's military record. See below for messaging guidelines and sample social copy. **SHARE MIKIE'S POST ON X, INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK, BLUESKY, AND THREADS**

### **MESSAGING GUIDANCE ON ARCHIVES LEAK:**

- This is a dangerous and illegal weaponization of the National Archives and private, personal records to attack a political opponent by the Trump administration. Jack Ciattarelli went right along with it.
- This is an unprecedented and disturbing breach: this file is only supposed to be released to the service member themselves or next of kin. However, Trump's National Archives and their cronies violated federal law by releasing Mikie's personal records. **And Jack and his allies are knowingly and illegally distributing them for political gain.**

- Like Trump, Jack and his campaign allies are willing to go to any length, including breaking the law, to try and sway an election.
- **This isn't just about Mikie. It's about every single veteran and every single American who stands up to the Trump administration in any way.** The administration has shown that they can and will use private personal information as a political weapon.
- **No veteran's records are safe — none of us are.**

### **MESSAGING GUIDANCE ON JACK'S SWIFTBOAT ATTACKS:**

- Jack Ciattarelli continues to try and use any avenue he can to execute the MAGA playbook of smearing military service. This is a new level of weaponizing the government and engaging in illegal activity.
- Now, his latest attempt is to go after a widely reported story at the Naval Academy that took place when Mikie was an undergraduate 30 years ago. She didn't turn in some of her classmates, so she didn't walk, but graduated and was commissioned as an officer.
- **Mikie served the Navy with tremendous honor**, including receiving the Navy Achievement Medal for saving the life of a fellow midshipman and numerous commendations describing her "selfless devotion to duty" and how she upheld "the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service." She received the Navy Distinguished Service Award, the Navy's highest civilian honor, and is featured as a [notable graduate on the U.S. Naval Academy's website](#).

### **SAMPLE SOCIAL COPY**

- Let's be clear: they're leaking veterans' private information to try and sway an election.

Everybody should be angry about the Trump admin's illegal release of @mikiesherrill's unredacted military records.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/national-archives-mikie-sherrill-military-record-jack-ciattarelli/>

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- This is a huge deal. The Trump admin illegally leaked unredacted records containing personal information to try and sway an election.

If @MikieSherrill's records aren't safe, no veterans' are.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/national-archives-mikie-sherrill-military-record-jack-ciattarelli/>

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- The federal government illegally leaked @MikieSherrill's full, unredacted personnel file, including her Social Security Number.

No veteran's privacy is safe.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/national-archives-mikie-sherrill-military-record-jack-ciattarelli/>

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- The entire country should be watching New Jersey.

The National Archives illegally leaked @MikieSherrill's records to @Jack4NJ's allies, who are using federal records to attack their political enemies.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/national-archives-mikie-sherrill-military-record-jack-ciattarelli/>

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- One thing is clear — the Trump administration is scared of @MikieSherrill and that's why they're targeting her.

They're using the full force of the federal government to try to defeat her.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/national-archives-mikie-sherrill-military-record-jack-ciattarelli/>

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- .@MikieSherrill served this country with honor and distinction.

It's shameful to see @Jack4NJ and his allies try to smear her military record for political gain.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/national-archives-mikie-sherrill-military-record-jack-ciattarelli/>

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- .@Jack4NJ and his allies are scraping the bottom of the barrel for attacks on @MikieSherrill's record.

Illegally leaked documents, and all they could come up with is an old, well-reported incident at the Academy, where Mikie didn't turn in her classmates.

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