

# Massive leak of US intelligence documents, armed conflict in Sudan and a furry menace

**A major new cache of classified US military documents emerged last week**, revealing sensitive western intelligence in areas such as the Ukraine war, Russia and Chinese affairs. But, just as astonishing as the information within the documents was the story of how they emerged.

This week we find out how a young, racist gun enthusiast and low-level US national guardsman came to be charged under the Espionage Act, suspected of leaking hundreds of top secret files on the gaming chat server Discord.

Guardian US reporter Edward Helmore picks up the story, while First Edition newsletter editor Archie Bland lays out what was in the documents. Then, investigations correspondent Manisha Ganguly charts the rise of Discord and its central role in the leak.

**The big story** [Page 10](#) →

**A flare-up of armed violence in Sudan last weekend** caught many observers off guard. We find out why a power struggle between the two main factions of Sudan's military regime has the potential to lead to more serious, wider consequences, in a country where Russia, the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and others are all battling for influence.

**Spotlight** [Page 15](#) →

**Continuing our Cost of the crown investigation** into the wealth of the British royal family, we look at the jewels worth hundreds of millions inherited by King Charles from his mother.

Then, the Observer's Tim Adams meets Feargal Sharkey, the former Undertones pop singer who is these days an unlikely frontman for the campaign to clean up the UK's rivers.

**Spotlight** [From page 22](#) →

**Grey squirrels can amaze and mesmerise** with their intelligence and gymnastic strength, but the damage they can cause to homes, gardens and even humans can be maddening. Zoe Williams explores our problematic love-hate relationship with the invasive rodents, and asks whether eating more of them might be a solution.

**The squirrel supremacy** [Page 40](#) →

**Eh-oh! From fashion to art and design**, the alien-like children's TV favourites Teletubbies are having a cultural revival. But why? Kyle MacNeill investigates. Also on the culture pages is an appreciation of the children's fiction author Judy Blume, whose 1970s role model for teenage girls, Margaret, is about to make a long-overdue big screen debut.

**Culture** [From page 51](#) →



### On the cover

"A top view of the Pentagon popped up seemed a good way to reveal the giant open wound in the US's security defences," writes illustrator Arthur Bonifay on his cover artwork for this week's edition. "The dark and unnatural atmosphere of the illustration reflects my feelings about these leaks and sets the tone for events yet to come."

*Illustration: Arthur Bonifay*

4-14	<b>GLOBAL REPORT</b> <i>Headlines from the last seven days</i>
10	<b>Pentagon documents</b> A leak waiting to happen
15-33	<b>SPOTLIGHT</b> <i>In-depth reporting and analysis</i>
15	<b>Sudan</b> Rival military factions battle for control
19	<b>Turkey</b> Could Erdogan lose the election?
24	<b>UK</b> From Teenage Kicks to cleaning up rivers
26	<b>France</b> Serge Gainsbourg's Parisian home open to all
30	<b>Science</b> Spending a year on Mars, in Houston
33	<b>US</b> DeSantis spreads the Florida feeling
34-44	<b>FEATURES</b> <i>Long reads, interviews and essays</i>
34	The long walk home <i>By Tom Turcich</i>
40	Nice one, squirrel <i>By Zoe Williams</i>
45-50	<b>OPINION</b>
45	<b>Kenan Malik</b> The "new elite" and power
47	<b>Anne McElvoy</b> All change for Germany
48	<b>Margaret Sullivan</b> Only Biden can beat Trump
51-59	<b>CULTURE</b> <i>TV, film, music, theatre, art, architecture &amp; more</i>
51	<b>Screen</b> The Teletubbies' weird cultural renaissance
55	<b>Books</b> Judy Blume, still making a difference
58	<b>Books</b> Exploring anorexia
60-61	<b>LIFESTYLE</b>
60	<b>Tim Dowling</b> My cat is a liar



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