



Competitiveness and Sustainable Development Institute

US situation in Trump era: *no comments*

Considering it to be of international relevance and debate, we are transcribing the following articles published on *Thuve New York Times*.

NOTE: The yellow highlighting is ours..

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The Morning

October 1, 2025

Good morning. The federal government shut down overnight; we're covering that, as well as a gathering of generals.



An impasse

Tierney L. Cross/The New York Times

Last night, without much fanfare, **the federal government closed**. Neither side showed urgency in averting the shutdown. In back-to-back Senate votes, each party blocked the other's stopgap spending proposal.

The Republicans' bill did not restore Medicaid funding or extend Obamacare subsidies, so Democrats didn't sign on. The Democratic version added more than \$1 trillion in spending, so Republicans said no.

President Trump suggested he could use the shutdown to enact measures that would be "bad" for Democrats, **"like cutting vast numbers of people out, cutting things that they like, cutting programs that they like."** He later added, **"a lot of good can come down from shutdowns."**

What you need to know:

- Hundreds of thousands** of federal workers will be furloughed. [This chart gives a breakdown.](#)

Agency	Total employees	Furloughed	Share
Environmental Protection Agency	15.166	13.432	89%
Education	2447	2117	87
Commerce	42.984	34.711	81
Labor	12.916	9792	76

Housing and Urban Development	6105	4359	71
State	26.995	16.651	62
Interior	58.619	30.996	53
Agriculture	85.907	42.256	49
Defense (civilian work force)	741.477	334.904	45
Health and Human Services	79.717	32.460	41
Small Business Administration	6201	1456	23
Transportation	53.717	12.213	23
Social Security Administration	51.825	6197	12
Justice	115.131	12.840	11
Office of Personnel Management	2007	210	10
Homeland Security	271.927	14.184	5
Veterans Affairs	461.499	14.874	3

Sources: Official government agency websites

Note: Data does not necessarily reflect the most up-to-date employment numbers for an agency's total work force; some agencies provided numbers based on personnel data from as early as March 2025.

- Others, including active-duty troops and law enforcement officers, will keep working. Many workers will stop receiving paychecks.
- Airports will stay open. Air traffic controllers and T.S.A. agents will be asked to continue working. (If you're traveling soon, prepare for longer lines.)
- Social Security and Medicare benefits will continue uninterrupted. The same goes for Medicaid benefits, at least through the end of the year.

Government shutdowns don't follow a script — many agencies didn't set their plans until late yesterday — so things will change if the shutdown drags on. Some programs will strain or shutter as their funding runs out. Workers who aren't getting paychecks may stop showing up. And Trump could reshape the government in a more permanent way if he follows through on his threats of mass layoffs.

Warrior ethos

By [Adam B. Kushner](#). I'm the editor of this newsletter.



At Quantico, Va., yesterday. Doug Mills/The New York Times

Yesterday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told America's military leaders to get serious about killing people. In the name of "woke garbage," he said, they had relaxed their standards and left the country vulnerable.

In particular, Hegseth lamented "stupid rules of engagement." It's a complaint he brought into the administration from his years on Fox News, where he made a cause célèbre out of soldiers who'd been investigated, and in some cases convicted, as war criminals for what they'd done in Iraq and Afghanistan. These soldiers were not villains, he insisted. **They were heroes who got the job — killing terrorists — done, even when it meant fighting ugly.**

That style of combat is the subject of [a multi-part investigation](#) The Times Magazine has just published. Its author, **Matthieu Aikins**, spent four years reporting on elite special forces, **many of whom "came to embrace the idea that rule-breaking could be justified by the higher good of getting the mission done," he writes.** I spoke to him for today's newsletter.

What are examples of transgressions that occurred in the counterinsurgency wars that followed the Sept. 11 attacks?

I spoke with two dozen current and former members of Army Special Operations to understand how, faced with a brutal, unconventional war in Afghanistan, the Green Berets often decided the ends justified the means. I focused on two cases involving soldiers who were accused of killing detainees in Afghanistan. The first, that of Mathew Golsteyn, **became infamous after Trump pardoned him** in 2019. The second, which took place in a district called Nerkh, is barely remembered today, but **the accusations were even worse: Locals claimed the Special Forces killed nine people whose remains were found buried outside.**

Is there something new about this pattern of rule-breaking among what is, I assume, a small fraction of soldiers?

The operator — the special operations warrior — is different from previous war-hero tropes like the fighter-jet ace and the Everyman G.I. What distinguishes him is the legal and moral lines the operators had to approach, or even cross, in their battle with the terrorists. **"We do bad things to bad people," went the motto of one Special Forces battalion.** That put them at odds with the military's traditional insistence on discipline and the rule of law.

Is there anything to Hegseth's claim that the Pentagon has focused on distractions at the expense of "lethality"?

There's a reasonable argument that the military became too top-heavy and that its bureaucracy needs to be streamlined. **The business of the military is killing,** which our political leaders are often uncomfortable talking about. But **we didn't fail in Iraq and Afghanistan because of an overemphasis on "diversity."** And Hegseth is **purging lawyers, which loosens safeguards on our armed forces, both abroad and at home.**

You're drawing a line from the combat style of the war on terror to an increasingly lawless moment today.

I think this is an example of what historians call "blowback": the way that lawlessness overseas returned to the homeland. That's **the subject of this story.** **Trump and Hegseth apply the rhetoric and tactics of the war on terror in the domestic sphere to target migrants, cartels and leftist groups.** That's why it's important to have this reckoning with a secret side of the war: It allows us to understand not only history, but our present moment.

Matthieu explains his investigation in [five takeaways here](#) in <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/magazine/afghanistan-war-green-berets-trump->

Analysis

- Trump also spoke to the generals, and he said that U.S. cities should serve as “training grounds” for troops. This was a passing statement tucked into his speech — but one that is wildly revealing about where he’s taking the country, [Shawn McCreesh writes](#).
- To some, Hegseth’s speech, which focused on the kinds of issues he would have dealt with as a young platoon leader, was poorly matched to his audience of senior officers, [writes our reporter covering the military](#).
- The meeting was [fodder for the late night hosts](#).