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Senator hits back at Trump, Pentagon probe



U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly, Democrat from Arizona, speaks during a press conference at the U.S. Capitol on December 1 in Washington, DC. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Kelly investigated after video on soldiers’ right to disobey illegal orders

Rebecca Morin
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Sen. Mark Kelly said President Donald Trump is sending a “message” that Americans can’t criticize their government – after the Pentagon opened an investigation into the Arizona Democrat that could include recalling him to active duty for court-martial proceedings.

“They’re trying to send a message to retired service members, to government

employees, to members of the military, to elected officials, and to all Americans who are thinking about speaking up, you better keep your mouth shut, or else,” Kelly, a retired U.S. Navy captain, said at a Dec. 1 news conference on Capitol Hill.

The Pentagon recently announced it was investigating Kelly for “serious allegations of misconduct.” The move came after Kelly joined a group of Democratic lawmakers who released a video telling service members they have the right not

to obey orders they believe to be illegal.

Trump’s War Department, formerly the Defense Department, in a post on X confirmed it would begin an investigation into Kelly that could “include recall to active duty for court-martial proceedings or administrative measures.”

The post cited the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the federal law that outlines the military’s criminal code.

However, Kelly at his news conference said the Trump administration’s public comments are “the only notification that we have received to date” on a potential court martial.

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Is it legal to record videos of people in Illinois?

Tom Ackerman
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Recording videos in public seems to have become fairly socially acceptable, and somewhat equivalent to taking a photo. But is it legal in Illinois?

Based on information found in Illinois Compiled Statutes, recording videos without consent is illegal in certain situations.

Making video recordings or transmitting a video live, without consent, is illegal in certain situations, according to a section within Illinois Compiled Statutes Chapter 720, titled, “Unauthorized video recording and live video transmission.”

Here’s what the section says:

- It is illegal for any person to knowingly make a video record or transmit live video of another person without that person’s consent in a restroom, tanning bed, tanning salon, locker room, changing room, or hotel bedroom.
- It is illegal for any person to knowingly make a video record or transmit live video of another person in that other person’s residence without that person’s consent — when the recording or transmitting is being done outside the residence by use of an audio or video device that records or transmits from a remote location.
- It is illegal for any person to knowingly make a video record or transmit live video of another person’s “intimate parts” for the purpose

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Oxford says ‘rage bait’ is 2025’s Word of the Year

Melina Khan
USA TODAY

The Oxford University Press promises it’s not rage baiting with its two-word Word of the Year.

The publishing house announced on Dec. 1 that its experts have named “rage bait” the 2025 Word of the Year.

The phrase is shorthand for online content that is intentionally meant to elicit anger. The term has tripled in usage over the last year, according to Oxford.

“The fact that the word rage bait exists and has seen such a dramatic surge in usage means we’re increasingly aware of the manipulation tactics we can be drawn into online,” said Casper Grathwohl, president of Oxford Languages, in a press release. “Before, the internet was focused on grabbing our attention by sparking curiosity in ex-

change for clicks, but now we’ve seen a dramatic shift to it hijacking and influencing our emotions, and how we respond.”

The Oxford University Press defines “rage bait” as “online content deliberately designed to elicit anger or outrage by being frustrating, provocative, or offensive, typically posted in order to increase traffic to or engagement with a particular web page or social media content.”

The phrase is a combination of the words rage (meaning: a violent outburst of anger) and bait (meaning: an attractive morsel of food).

According to Oxford, the term “rage bait” was first used online in 2002 in reference to the reaction of a driver who is flashed at by another driver requesting to pass them. The phrase then evolved into internet slang and is often used to describe viral social media posts or to

critique creators and trends.

Oxford said its Word of the Year doesn’t have to be a singular word, because its experts also consider expressions as a single unit of meaning.

Like this year’s choice, last year’s Oxford Word of the Year – brain rot – was also two words.

The publishing house said it determines its annual Word of the Year by analyzing data and trends to identify new and emerging words and expressions. Once its lexicographers establish a shortlist for Word of the Year, Oxford opens voting on its website.

This year, more than 30,000 people voted on the shortlist for the Word of the Year, Oxford said.

Two other words were in the running for Oxford’s Word of the Year.

- **aura farming:** (n.) The cultivation of an impressive, attractive, or charismatic persona or public image by be-

having or presenting oneself in a way intended subtly to convey an air of confidence, coolness, or mystique.

- **biohack:** (v.) To attempt to improve or optimize one’s physical or mental performance, health, longevity, or well-being by altering one’s diet, exercise routine, or lifestyle, or by using other means such as drugs, supplements, or technological devices.

Other publishers also chose terms with references to slang and online trends for their words of the year.

Dictionary.com announced on Oct. 29 that its Word of the Year is “6-7” (also “six-seven” and “67”), a slang phrase popularly used by Gen Alpha. While some interpret the phrase to mean “so-so” or “maybe this, maybe that,” it is also used as an exclamation, according to a Dictionary.com news release.

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