


# United States, Trump appoints General Christopher LaNeve as the new Army Chief of Staff

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**WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has formally submitted to Congress the nomination of General Christopher LaNeve as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army** (*Chief of Staff of the Army*), the service's highest-ranking military position. The move comes **seven months after the dismissal of the previous chief of staff, General Randy George**, who was removed from the post last April by **Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth**.

## A leadership transition at the Pentagon

Currently the vice chief of staff, **LaNeve has already been serving as acting chief of staff** since George's removal. To formally assume full command, **his nomination must now be confirmed by the Senate**.

At the same time, the White House notified Congress of **the nomination of Lieutenant General Marcus Evans to succeed LaNeve as vice chief of staff** (*Vice Chief of Staff*).

> *«He is the right leader at the right time to modernize the Army and ensure our soldiers are ready to dominate on any battlefield. I can think of no one better to serve as our next Chief of Staff,»* ***acting Secretary of the Army Adam Telle*** *said on social media, pledging full cooperation with the Senate to complete the confirmations of both LaNeve and Evans.*

**The U.S. Army has lacked Senate-confirmed civilian and military leaders for months**: following **the resignation of former Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll in September** — amid high tensions with Hegseth — the White House has yet to name a permanent replacement to lead the service politically, leaving Adam Telle in an acting capacity.

## LaNeve’s rise and the drone controversy

**A former senior military assistant to Pete Hegseth himself**, LaNeve has risen rapidly through the Pentagon’s ranks during a period marked by major reshuffles and the **removal of more than a dozen generals and admirals**. He was appointed vice chief of staff before his predecessor, General James Mingus, completed the traditional four-year term.

During his interim tenure, LaNeve has already driven a decisive doctrinal and organizational shift:

- **The drone battalion case:** He drew bipartisan criticism in Congress for **the decision to disband the Unmanned Assault Battalion** (a 600-man assault unit based on unmanned systems, originally established within the 173ª Brigata Aviotrasportata).
- **Technological reorganization:** To reassure the defense industry of the Army’s commitment to automation, **he renamed the command responsible for designing the force of the future as U.S. Army Futures and Autonomous Systems Command (FASCOM)**.

## Profile of deputy chief candidate Marcus Evans

Promoted to lieutenant general in September last year, **Lieutenant General Marcus Evans currently serves as Director of Army Staff** (*Director of Army Staff*) in Washington. Over the

course of his career, he has gained **extensive experience in special operations and the Indo-Pacific theater**:

- Special assistant to the commanding general at **Fort Shafter, Hawaii**;
- Chief of Staff of **U.S. Special Operations Command** (2021–2023);
- Commander of **Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan** (2020–2021).

## Congressional uncertainty after the Midterm elections

The timing of the two nominations carries major political significance. The submission of the files to the Senate comes **in the wake of the heavy defeats suffered by the Republican Party in the midterm elections (Midterm)**, a result that **will give Democrats control of both the House and the Senate when the new congressional session begins in January**. The administration will therefore need to **speed up the approval process before the change in majority** to avoid a far more complex confirmation process in 2027.