

Trump fires Pentagon chief Mark Esper amid post-election chaos

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U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper speaks as President Donald Trump looks on in the Oval Office, July 23, 2019. (Photo: AFP)

Washington, November 9 (RHC)-- U.S. President Donald Trump has fired his defense secretary, Mark Esper, amid political chaos gripping his administration after his refusal to concede the election defeat.

Trump said in a tweet on Monday that Esper had been "terminated" and that Christopher Miller, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, would "immediately" assume the post.

"Mark Esper has been terminated," Trump said on Twitter. "I am pleased to announce that Christopher C. Miller, the highly respected Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (unanimously confirmed by the Senate), will be Acting Secretary of Defense, effective immediately."

Reports point to a history of rifts between the defense chief and the Commander in Chief, including in the case of Trump's insistence on using the military to suppress street protests over racial injustice and

violence against African Americans in the United States.

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